



## Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** Thursday, 30 November 2017

**Time:** 6.00 pm

**Venue:** Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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### AGENDA

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

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

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

**2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 10)**

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 21 September, 2017.

**3. NOTICE OF MOTION - TOUGHER ACTION IN FLY TIPPING  
(Pages 11 - 12)**

At the meeting of the Council held on 16 October 2017 (minute 68 (2) refers), the attached Notice of Motion, 'Tougher Action in Fly Tipping' proposed by Councillor David Burgess-Joyce and seconded by Councillor Bruce Berry was referred by the Civic Mayor to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

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

**4. REVIEW OF LITTER AND DOG FOULING ENFORCEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

To receive a joint presentation from Sue Bannister, Team leader for Environmental Enforcement and Kingdom representatives.

**5. FEEDBACK FROM SITE VISITS TO PAVILIONS IN SPORTS GROUNDS (Pages 13 - 20)**

**6. LOCAL AUTHORITY POWERS TO REQUIRE DRIVERS TO SWITCH OFF ENGINES WHEN PARKED (Pages 21 - 28)**

**7. PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 2 2017/2018 (Pages 29 - 34)**

**8. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 2 2017/2018 (Pages 35 - 42)**

**9. POLICY INFORM (Pages 43 - 66)**

**10. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (Pages 67 - 74)**

## ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 21 September 2017

Present: Councillor P Stuart (Chair)

Councillors	S Foulkes	A Sykes
	T Jones	B Berry
	C Muspratt	I Lewis
	L Reecejones	C Carubia
	T Smith	M Sullivan (In place of B Kenny)
	T Usher	

### 15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from; Councillors A Hodson, B Kenny, T Pilgrim and W Ward.

### 16 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / PARTY WHIP

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

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

Councillor B Berry declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 4, 'Notice of Motion: Pavilions in Sports Grounds', by virtue of him being a Member of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He declared that he would introduce the item but take no part in the discussion or vote thereon.

### 17 MINUTES

Members were requested to receive the minutes of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 19 June 2017 (Call-In) and 5 July 2017.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the meetings held on 19 June 2017 (Call-In) and 5 July 2017 be approved.**

18 **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair indicated that with the agreement of Committee Members he would like to introduce an item of urgent business and requested that this be considered prior to item 4 on the agenda. The item related to the Libraries, Leisure and Culture Transformation Scrutiny Workshop.

The reason for the addition of the item was to update Members of the outcomes of the workshop and inform Members that a further scrutiny session to consider these proposals was likely to be arranged prior to the next committee in November.

He reiterated that for transparency, the interim report had been circulated to Members and would be published alongside the minutes of the meeting.

Following the agreement from the Members present, the Chair introduced the interim report following the workshop held to scrutinise the leisure, libraries and culture services which welcomed Members comments.

He expressed his disappointment by the lack of attendance at the workshop given that it had stemmed from a call-in in June 2017. He stressed the importance of such workshops and how vital member attendance to these sessions to enable appropriate scrutiny.

The Strategic Commissioner – Environment thanked Members for their attendance and suggested that a second scrutiny workshop be held. He commented that the business case was due to be submitted to the Cabinet in October 2017, however following discussions this had now been postponed till November 2017 which meant that Members could be afforded more time to scrutinise and feedback their comments to officers. All feedback received would be fed in to the business case report to include a revised timescale.

In response to a Member, The Strategic Commissioner – Environment indicated that the notes of the meeting were not verbatim but gave a broad example of what was discussed, he assured Members that all made comments were noted and following on from feedback received advice and guidance would be provided to Members as to how issues raised could form part of the strategic plan.

A Member commented that the issue of missed income/income collections had been discussed as part of the commercialisation agenda at a recent Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting. He suggested that

comments raised at the recent workshop regarding this issue be shared with the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the outcomes of the Libraries, Leisure and Culture Transformation Scrutiny Workshop be noted; and**
- (2) the Scrutiny Support Officer be requested to arrange a further workshop for Members.**

19 **NOTICE OF MOTION - PAVILIONS IN SPORTS GROUNDS**

Having previously declared a prejudicial interest in the item by virtue of being a Member of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Bruce Berry introduced the item but took no part in the discussion or voted thereon.

The Chair reported that at the meeting of the Council held on 20 March 2017 (minute 152 (2) refers) the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Paul Hayes and seconded by Councillor Bruce Berry was referred by the Civic Mayor to this Committee for consideration -

**PAVILIONS IN SPORTS GROUNDS**

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

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

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

In accordance with Standing Order 7(6), Councillor Bruce Berry had been invited to attend the meeting in order for him to explain the Motion

Councillor Berry elaborated on the Motion and highlighted the appalling condition of sports grounds and inadequate facilities within the Borough. He reiterated that this encompassed one of the Council’s 2020 Pledges and required the Council’s urgent attention.

Prior to the discussion on the item, Councillor Leech declared a personal interest by virtue of her grandson who played for a Wirral School Football Club.

Members echoed the comments made by Councillor Berry and highlighted that due to poor facilities football teams had been forced outside of the borough to train and play matches at alternative venues due to the lack of adequate facilities.

Members suggested that meetings be held with service users to see what improvements could be made and it was further suggested that local businesses be approached to sponsor facilities.

A Member commented that this issue should be looked at as part of the ongoing leisure review and form part of the commercialisation agenda in relation to income maximisation.

It was suggested that Members undertake a “mystery shopper” exercise to fully understand the issues concerning the borough’s pavilions. It was further suggested that a task and finish group be undertaken to allow further work to be carried out.

Members requested that further reports from officers be submitted to the Committee for discussion and it was further suggested that a site visit be undertaken.

In response to Members, the scrutiny support officer indicated the Children’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee had previously undertaken “reality check visits” which could be arranged for Members to look at facilities.

On a motion proposed by Councillor I Lewis, seconded by Councillor M Sullivan, it was -

**RESOLVED: (unanimously) That**

- (1) the ongoing review be noted and the Strategic Commissioner – Environment be requested to provide an officer report in relation to the specific issues raised by Members to a future meeting of the Committee; and**
- (2) the Scrutiny Support officer be requested to arrange site visits for Members of the Committee to undertake a review of the Borough’s facilities.**

## 20 NOTICE OF MOTION - FAIR VOTES

The Chair reported that at the meeting of the Council held on 10 July 2017 (minute 34 refers) the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Pat Cleary and seconded by Councillor Stuart Kelly was referred by the Civic Mayor to this Committee for consideration -

### **FAIR VOTES**

“Council believes that a Parliament that more accurately reflects the views of the nation, enabling people to feel that their votes count, is more likely to develop an economic, social and environmental agenda that benefits Wirral’s residents.

Following the recent general election, this Council agrees that the 'First Past the Post' voting system:

- has again failed to live up to its reputation to provide strong and stable government;
- has again yielded a wildly disproportionate allocation of seats with, for example, the Democratic Unionist Party gaining 10 seats from 292,316 votes compared with 12 seats from 2.4 million votes for the Liberal Democrats;
- has spectacularly failed to match votes to seats with 27,930 votes required to elect one MP from the Scottish National Party compared with 525,371 votes to elect one Green Party MP.

This Council:

- (a) recognises that a robust democracy must include a fair voting system and that nobody should be disenfranchised because of where they live;
- (b) applauds the many groups and organisations campaigning for fair votes including the Electoral Reform Society, Make Votes Matter and the Labour Campaign for PR;
- (c) notes that the Single Transferable Vote system is already used for local elections in Scotland and in both Northern Irish local elections and the Northern Ireland Assembly while proportional electoral systems are used to elect the devolved parliaments and assemblies in Scotland, Wales and London;
- (d) therefore calls for the introduction of a proportional voting system
  - (i) for local elections in England and Wales;
  - (ii) for Westminster elections; and

(e) directs that a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Leaders of all political parties represented in the UK Parliament”.

In accordance with Standing Order 7(6) Councillor Pat Cleary had been invited to attend the meeting in order for him to explain the Motion.

Councillor Cleary elaborated on the Motion and highlighted the need for a fairer voting system and increased representation from women and those from an ethnic minority background into politics.

Members debated the Motion and a number of views, both for and against proportional representation were expressed.

**RESOLVED:**

**(7:6 on the Chair’s casting vote) (One abstention) the Motion was put and lost.**

21 **THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR IMPROVING AIR QUALITY AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR WIRRAL**

The Committee considered a presentation from the Lead Commissioner – Environment and officers from the Environmental Health Department in relation to the Government’s plans for improving air quality highlighting the implications for Wirral.

Introduced by Mr M Cockburn, Lead Commissioner – Environment, the presentation highlighted the strategic overview; Wirral’s Air Quality monitoring arrangements; latest position across the Liverpool City Region; Government’s plans for improving air quality and the opportunities and issues in relation to air quality.

Mr K Smith, Environmental Health indicated that as part of its obligations, the Council produced an Air Quality Annual Status Report which was submitted to DEFRA. The current report had been submitted and once finalised would be shared with Members.

In relation to ‘hotspots’ Members raised concerns in relation to Singleton Avenue in particular, the effects air quality would have on the school in the area and asked if the monitoring undertaken took into account peak times such as children going to and from school and during break and lunchtimes.

In response Mr Smith indicated that work is currently being undertaken in conjunction with Public Health and officers within the department on pilot scheme to look at ways in which schools could influence parents to improve air quality.



In relation Singleton Avenue it was reported that there were no hourly harmful levels. In response, Members as a matter of urgency requested that further air quality monitoring be undertaken in particular at peak times at the school and surrounding area. The Lead Commissioner in response indicated that work could be undertaken with identified schools through the Eco Schools Officer to do some self-monitoring projects.

A further request was made by a Member for information in relation to air quality in and around St Albans Primary School and the current pilot scheme being undertaken by Liverpool John Moore's University in relation to better routes to school.

Members highlighted the conflict between road safety and air quality in that some of decisions taken to improve road safety and asked if this had had an impact on air quality and how as a Council could this be managed. In response, Mr Smith indicated that officers worked alongside transportation colleagues to ensure that air quality management did not compromise traffic safety.

In response to questions raised regarding planning applications it was reported that developers were expected to submit Air Quality Action Plan to ensure risks and impacts were identified this allowed for developers to be challenged on the information provided if necessary, prior to planning permission being considered.

In relation to the development containing 140 homes to be built in Upton, a Member indicated that residents had raised concerns regarding the impact on air quality given the increase to traffic to the area which already had a high volume of traffic travelling to the hospital and retail park, similar comments were raised by a Member in relation to a development proposed for Acre Lane. In response it was explained that it would be difficult to ascertain if air quality had been affected and further investigations of both developments would need to be sought and if necessary monitored to ensure identification of future risk.

A Member asked about Wallasey Road and how if it exceeded the national figure it was shown to not have relevant exposure. In response it was explained that this was in line with DEFRA guidance in relation to exposure considerations. Monitoring had been put in place due to the issues of idling taxi vehicles and officers were working with Licensing colleagues to raise awareness amongst taxi license holders and imposing a possible anti-idling law.

In relation to funding, it was confirmed that the Council had received some funding to improve air quality and other available funding streams were sought.

In response to Member, it was reported that there were currently two monitoring stations and Members of the Air Quality Liaison Group were looking at the development of further stations.

In terms of the introduction of real time or a more accurate monitoring system, it was stated that Government had no immediate plans and had given no instruction to Councils to change the current monitoring systems nationally, but as part of the Council's Strategic Review on Air Quality, officers would be exploring this.

The Lead Commissioner- Environment indicated that a report on the Strategic Review would be submitted to Cabinet in November and suggested that this be brought to a future meeting of this Committee.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the officers be thanked for their informative presentation;**
- (2) the report on the Strategic Review be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee;**
- (3) the Lead Commissioner – Environment be requested to investigate issues raised in relation to St Albans Primary School and report back to the Member in writing; and**
- (4) the Lead Commissioner – Environment be requested to work with identified schools through the Eco Schools Officer to undertake some self-monitoring projects.**

**22 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 1 2017/18**

The Strategic Commissioner – Environment introduced the report of the Assistant Director: Finance (Section 151 Officer) that set out the Council's revenue and capital monitoring position as at the close of quarter 1 2017/18

He informed that the revenue forecasts overspend was at £1.1 million. In relation to Environment, he reported that officers were looking at options to reduce costs in relation to the waste contract: improve the quality of golf courses and enhance the Council's golf offer.

A Member indicated that she had been promised and was still awaiting information in relation to the report on trees on the highway and feedback from the survey work.

A Member further requested information in relation income and income collection in relation to golf courses and details on the Council's commercial approach.

In response to a question in relation to the Waste Management Business Plan, the Strategic Commissioner – Environment indicated that the Council had to find efficiency savings and officers were in discussions with Biffa to discuss options. A further report would be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the financial monitoring report be noted;**
- (2) the Strategic Commissioner – Environment be requested to provide information in relation to trees on the highway and feedback from the survey work to the Member as requested;**
- (3) the Strategic Commissioner – Environment be requested to provide information in relation income and income collection in relation to the Council's golf courses and details on the Council's commercial approach: and**
- (4) the Strategic Commissioner – Environment be requested to provide a further report on the Waste Management Business Case to a future meeting of the Committee.**

**23 2017/18 QUARTER 1 WIRRAL PLAN PERFORMANCE**

The Strategic Commissioner - Environment introduced the report of the Executive Director for Strategy that provided the 2016/17 Quarter 1 (April – June 2017) performance report for Wirral Plan pledges under the People theme. The Quarter 1 report was included as Appendix 1 to the report, and provided a description of the progress in Quarter 1 that included available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

Members asked for further information on the activities undertaken in relation to homeless prevention and completion of home adaptations and the Council's Diabetes Programme.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the report be noted; and**
- (2) the Strategic Commissioner, Environment be requested to provide further information in relation to activities undertaken in relation to homeless prevention and completion of home adaptations and**

**the Council's Diabetes Programme and report back in writing to the Members concerned.**

24 **POLICY INFORM**

The Chair introduced a report on the September Policy Inform Briefing paper which provided an overview of ongoing and recent national legislation, bills presented to Parliament and emerging policies from September, 2017 and which were relevant to this Committee's remit.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the report be noted.**

25 **ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Prior to the meeting an updated version of the work programme had been circulated to Members for their consideration.

The Chair introduced his report that set out the process of developing and managing the scrutiny work programme for the municipal year. The report informed that the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in cooperation with the other three Overview and Scrutiny Committees, were responsible for the proposing and delivery of an annual scrutiny work programme.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2017/18 be approved.**

**NOTICE OF MOTION: TOUGHER ACTION ON FLY-TIPPING** *(as referred by the Civic Mayor to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee)*

**Proposed** by Councillor David Burgess-Joyce

**Seconded** by Councillor Bruce Berry

Council notes that between 2013 and 2016 3,648 tonnes of fly tipped waste was removed costing the Council taxpayer £584,285.85.

Council further notes the damage that fly-tipping causes to Wirral's natural environment and wildlife and the statement from Keep Britain Tidy imploring that "It's got to be easy for people to do the right thing otherwise we will see an increase in fly-tipping".

Therefore Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Environment considers:

1. Investing in CCTV and automatic number plate recognition technology (ANPR) to help police fly tipping hotspots, such as Carr Lane and Lingham Lane in Moreton.
2. Instructing officers to ensure that all fly tipped waste, whether hazardous or non-hazardous is removed within three working days.

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

<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>Reality Check visit to Sports Pavilions - Feedback Report</b>
<b>Report Of:</b>	<b>The Chair of the Committee – Councillor Paul Stuart</b>

## **Report Summary**

This report provides feedback from a Member visit to a selection of sports pavilions in Wirral on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

## **Recommendation/s**

It is recommended that:

1. Committee notes and endorses the content of the report.
2. Committee agrees to refer the recommendations detailed in section 3.4 to the Cabinet Member for Environment.

## Supporting Information

### 1.0 Reason/s For Recommendation/s

The reality check visit and subsequent recommendations will enable Committee members to complete part of the Committee's work programme.

### 2.0 Other Options Considered

Not Applicable

### 3.0 Background Information

At the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017, a Notice of Motion on 'Pavilions in Sports Grounds' was proposed by Cllr Bruce Berry.

Committee agreed to arrange a site visit so that scrutiny members could independently evaluate conditions in Wirral sports pavilions and engage directly with frontline staff.

#### 3.1 Background information on Sports Pavilions in Wirral

The Council provides pitch and pavilion hire to sports teams on occasional or season long terms. There are three cost categories which are determined by the standard of the changing facilities. The 2017/18 categories and costs for men's and junior's football are described below:

Football Pitches Adult Charge - per season alternate weekly use <b>Class A</b> - Modern changing accommodation with hot and cold showers	£605.00
Football Pitches Adult Charge - per season alternate weekly use <b>Class B</b> - Adequate or older changing accommodation with hot and cold showers	£487.00
Football Pitches Adult Charge - per season alternate weekly use <b>Class C</b> - Adequate changing accommodation with no showers	£383.00
Football Pitches Junior Charge - per season alternate weekly use (VAT Exempt) Class A	£322.00
Football Pitches Junior Charge - per season alternate weekly use (VAT Exempt) Class B	£243.00
Football Pitches Junior Charge - per season alternate weekly use (VAT Exempt) Class C	£189.00
Football Pitches Junior Charge - per season alternate weekly use (VAT Exempt) Mini Soccer (per pitch)	£116.00

Officers provided benchmark information comparing the Wirral season long adult charge (£487, based on Category B facilities) with thirteen other local authorities based on their grade 2 pitches / facilities. Of the directly comparable authorities who offer a 15 game season charge, Sefton Council charges £600 per season and Liverpool Council charges £450 per season.



The below table shows the benchmarked charges in full:

<b>Local Authority football pitch and facility (changing rooms) hire. Data obtained 1st November 2017</b>			
<b>Authority</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Cost per 15 Games</b>
Wirral Council	£487	Per season based on 15 games	£487
Wigan MBC	£750	Based on 12 home games plus cup fixtures. Average 15 games	£750
Sandwell Council	£70	Per match no seasonal option	£1,050
Sefton Council	£600	Per season based on 15 games	£600
Tameside Council	£516	Per season based on 15 games	£516
Wolverhampton Council	£41	Per match no seasonal option	£615
Leeds MBC	£521	Per season based on 15 games	£521
Kirklees MBC	£70	Per match no seasonal option per hour charge	£2,100
Nottingham Council	£72	Per match no seasonal option	£1,080
Bristol Council	£672	Per season based on 12 games. Additional games £56 each	£840
Vale of Glamorgan MBC	£50	Per match no seasonal option	£750
Elmbridge Council	£73	Per match no seasonal option	£1,095
Liverpool	£450	Per season based on 15 games	£450
<b>Average Cost</b>			<b>£835</b>

Officers provided information about the costs to maintain playing pitches. On average it costs the Council around £2500 to maintain one pitch per season. This does not include pavilion maintenance and repair, utility costs or pavilion attendant costs. Full income for a 'Category A' pitch, based on two teams alternating usage over a season, is £1210.

Officers explained that a full breakdown of income and costs for playing pitch and pavilion provision could be provided. A similar exercise has recently been conducted for the cemeteries and crematoria, and golf course provision.

Officers commented on general trends regarding use of facilities. Based on officer experience it was apparent that female and junior teams do not use changing room facilities as widely as men's football teams. As the number of men's teams in Wirral has declined recently, this has impacted on pavilion use. Female and junior players tend to arrive at pitches already changed and leave afterwards without using facilities. There was speculation regarding the reasons for this and Members believe that a full survey of users and sports groups should be carried out to understand preferences and behaviour.

Officers explained that funding may be available from the Football Association, Sport England and other bodies to improve the standard of facilities. The presence of a current Playing Pitch Strategy would be a pre-requisite for consideration of funding bids as these bodies would examine the Council

Playing Pitch Strategy alongside any bids. This strategy has recently been updated and approved.

### **3.2 Findings from the Members' visit to Pavilions.**

The visit to the sports pavilions took place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Cllrs Paul Stuart (Chair), Bruce Berry, Brian Kenny, Ian Lewis and Adam Sykes took part in the visit, which was hosted by Darran Marquiss, Martin Grayshon and Anthony Beswick (Area Managers, Parks, Countryside and Allotments). A briefing note was provided, containing background information about the pavilions and facilities which Members were due to visit. This included some information on current usage, management and operational arrangements, and the history of repairs and renovations at these sites.

The following sites were visited:

1. Belvidere Road Playing Fields, Belvidere Road, Wallasey
2. Wallacre Playing Fields, Mosslands Drive, Wallasey
3. Lingham Playing Fields, Edgehill Road, Moreton
4. Arrowe Park Playing Fields, Arrowe Park Road, Birkenhead
5. Irby Park Pavilion, Mill Hill Road, Irby
6. Plymyard Playing Fields, Bridle Road, Eastham
7. The Oval, Old Chester Road, Bebington
8. Birkenhead Park, Ashville Road, Birkenhead

During the visit members had the opportunity to view the facilities at each site and to ask questions of officers. Members would like to thank officers for taking the time to provide a tour of sites and answering questions. Members would also like to thank Steve Preston from Community Patrol for driving the group around the sites.

### **3.3 Site Information and Member Feedback**

#### **3.3.1 Belvidere Road Playing Fields**

##### Site Information

One senior football pitch with pavilion. Two rugby pitches and a clubhouse are leased by Oldershaw Rugby Club.

There is no Games Attendant and the teams using facilities hold keys to the pavilion. A new roof was installed in 2011 and an internal refurbishment took place in 2013.

##### Member Observations

Members were concerned about the general internal condition at Belvidere and believe that there should be a minimum standard of internal decoration at sites.

#### **3.3.2 Wallacre Playing Fields**

##### Site Information

Two senior football pitches with pavilion. One rugby pitch hired by Mosslands School. This pitch is also used for summer sports markings.

There is no Games Attendant at this site and the teams using facilities hold keys to the pavilion.

A new roof was installed and a store room removed in 2015.

#### Member Observations

Members again were concerned with the internal condition, standard of decoration and cleanliness at Wallacre. It was accepted that these facilities are not a priority for Council funding but it was suggested that capital or grant funding bids to improve conditions at both Belvidere and Wallacre be considered, alongside discussions with the key holding sports teams regarding their use and treatment of the facilities.

### **3.3.3 Lingham Playing Fields**

#### Site Information

Four senior football pitches with pavilion. One Games Attendant works on Sunday AM only. Junior teams use the facilities on Saturdays and have keys to the pavilion. This site had a new roof and internal refurbishment in 2011.

#### Member Observations

Members were pleasantly surprised at the internal condition of the facilities at Lingham and the showers and toilets appeared to be well maintained. The level of signage and cleanliness may indicate a greater degree of ownership of the site by the sports groups, compared with the previous two sites. The presence of a Games Attendant on match days may also have a positive impact on how teams treat the facilities.

### **3.3.4 Arrowe Park Playing Fields**

#### Site Information

Various size football pitches with pavilion. The site is currently under subscribed and there is no Games Attendant.

A full renovation including a new extension took place in 2013 following extensive fire damage. This was funded partly through Capital funding and a Football Association grant. Officers explained that this site is currently underutilised due to a decline in men's football and existing teams preferring to play at sites closer to home. Additionally, the junior teams which use the playing pitches do not pay for, or use the pavilion facilities. Officers had been hopeful that this site could be used in future as a 'hub venue' for girl's and women's football in Wirral due to the quality of the facilities, the central location and large number of pitches and changing rooms. Girl's football is currently based largely in Wallasey, across four locations. However, recent discussions with the Cheshire Football Association suggest that a different venue in Wirral may be preferred by the CFA for a girl's football hub, and there are currently no other proposals to increase usage at Arrowe Park.

#### Member Observations

Members were impressed by the high standard of facilities at Arrowe Park and believe that this should be the aspirational standard at all pavilions. It was clear to members that this site was under-utilised as some areas appeared to be very recently renovated, when the actual renovation took place in 2013.

Members were disappointed that this site was under-utilised as it seemed to be a waste of a very good facility.

Members hoped that officers would explore alternative options for encouraging use at this site, including other sports.

### **3.3.5 Irby Park Pavilion**

#### Site Information

One senior football pitch with pavilion. Irby Football Club has two junior teams, which use the pitch only. There is no Games Attendant. The pavilion was recently vandalised and suffered fire damage. It is currently out of operation and a decision has been taken to demolish the pavilion.

#### Member Observations

Members did go into the pavilion due to the fire damage. There were no comments regarding Irby Park due to the under use, fire damage and resulting decision to demolish the pavilion.

### **3.3.6 Plymyard Playing Fields**

#### Site Information

Eight senior football pitches, three nine a side pitches and three seven a side pitches with pavilion. One Games Attendant works Saturday AM and all day Sunday. This site had a new roof and internal refurbishment in 2011. The pavilion has central heating and kitchen facilities. Until recently the pavilion was used on weekdays as a crèche.

#### Member Observations

Members were impressed with the condition of this building, which had been maintained internally to a very high standard. It was agreed that the high standard was a result of its daily use as a crèche and the kitchen and heating facilities added to the versatility of this site.

Members viewed this as a good example of how additional, or multiple uses of sites could be a way of improving the overall standard. Members asked officers if other venues in Wirral were used in similar ways, or if benchmarking with other local authorities provided examples of multiple uses by other groups. Officers explained that Harrison Park pavilion is used by Friends of Harrison Park for meetings and some events and this group help to maintain the pavilion. Other community groups had contacted officers previously regarding using pavilions, but this had not been actively pursued by the Council. It was acknowledged that most pavilions are basic buildings with changing facilities, showers and toilets and most would not easily lend themselves to being used as venues for meetings, coffee-mornings or similar gatherings. Nevertheless it was agreed that use of pavilions by community groups could be explored more actively.

### **3.3.7 The Oval**

#### Site Information

This is a multi-use site with five senior football pitches, a number of flood-lit nine-a-side and seven-a-side pitches, a cricket pitch, athletics track and field with pavilion. Athletics facilities are used by Wirral Athletics Club, Wirral Elite Sports Performance Academy and for school competitions. The pavilion and changing facilities are open daily until 10pm. There are three full time staff at the site, part of the Sport and Recreation department. Playing pitch maintenance is carried out by Parks and Countryside staff under contract to Sports and Recreation.

#### Member Observations

Despite being an older facility, members were impressed with the internal condition of the pavilion, which was very well used by a variety of sports clubs and users. It was acknowledged that the income from use of the majority of facilities goes to the Sport and Recreation budget

### **3.3.8 Birkenhead Park**

#### Site Information

Three senior pitches and one youth dual sports pitch with pavilion.  
There is no Games Attendant at the site. A new roof was installed in 2015.

#### Member Observations

Members were satisfied with the standard of facilities in Birkenhead Park, despite some minor repair issues. Officers agreed to investigate any alleged incidents of vandalism or damage by users and would write to sports clubs to re-iterate expected standards of conduct whilst using the pavilion.

### **3.4 Recommendations**

1. Members welcome the recent approval of the updated Playing Pitch Strategy and associated Action Plan. Members encourage the Council to proactively seek all opportunities to secure external funding to enhance and upgrade the changing facilities at the borough's sports pitches.
2. An update on progress made to implement the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan should be added to the Committee work programme for consideration at a future meeting.
3. The use of advertising or sponsorship at pavilions could be explored as a potential additional income stream. Income could be used to improve the standard of facilities.
4. A survey of pavilion users should be conducted to give Wirral sports clubs and others an opportunity to contribute views and opinions on the current and future use of pavilions. This may be used in order to better understand attitudes and behaviours and highlight any barriers to use. The results of this survey should be reported to the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee and should inform the Libraries, Leisure and Cultural Services review and future decisions.

### **4.0 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **5.0 Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **6.0 Resource Implications: ICT, Staffing And Assets**

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

### **7.0 Relevant Risks**

Not Applicable

### **8.0 Engagement/Consultation**

Not Applicable

## 9.0 Equality Implications

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

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**Appendices: None**  
**Reference Material**  
**Subject History (last 3 years)**

Council Meeting	Date



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

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Local Authority powers to require drivers to switch off engines when parked</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<i>Colin Clayton, Senior Manager Environmental Health &amp; 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 Councils 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<sup>1,2</sup>.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> Environmental Equity, Air Quality, Socioeconomic Status and Respiratory Health, 2010

<sup>2</sup> 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 ( $\text{NO}_2$ ).  $\text{NO}_2$  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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## Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 30 November 2017

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>2017/18 Quarter 2 Wirral Plan Performance</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Strategic Commissioner - Environment</b>

### REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the 2017/18 Quarter 2 (July – September 2017) performance report for the Wirral Plan pledges under the remit of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report, which is included as Appendix 1, provides a description of the progress in Quarter 2 as well as providing available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

### Quarter Two Wirral Plan Performance Summary

- 184 events were held in Wirral’s parks, beaches and open spaces in Quarter 2, a significant increase on the 137 for the same period last year.
- Smoking prevalence has reduced from 18.9% 2015 to 15.7% in the latest survey (2016). Prevalence in Wirral has reduced more than the North West average and has seen more than double the improvement than the national average for the same period. We still have areas of the borough with smoking rates above 30%; it is these areas that activity is focused on
- Admissions to hospital for alcohol related conditions have increased from the previous reporting period (a rate of 901 compared to 853 per 100,000) and are higher than national and regional figures. Wirral's Alcohol Strategy action plan with an aim of reducing alcohol consumption to improve public health outcomes is being delivered.
- Community Action Wirral and Wirral Chamber of Commerce are now collaborating on a new local authority funded Third Sector Support contract which will drive forward volunteering in Wirral in partnership with the public sector and local businesses.
- The ‘Connect Us’ project is supporting local volunteering networks to grow, with 125 people linked by the community connectors into some form of purposeful and meaningful social activity or formal volunteering in Quarter 2.
- Bringing back 60 empty properties into use during Quarter 2 means we have again exceeded our expectations and remain on track to achieve our goal for the year and our target by 2020.

- For home adaptations completed although data is less than performance achieved when compared to the same time last year (1,529), performance still exceeds the target set for Quarter 2 2017-18.
- Homelessness prevention performance has decreased compared to the same period last year. There has been an increase in the number of clients with complex issues and the effect of welfare reforms and reduced access to accommodation provision whilst refurbishment works are underway have impacted the service provision this quarter.
- For Community Safety although significant success has been achieved at Quarter 2 with a 9% reduction of anti-social incidents recorded, there has been an increase by 16% of the number of crimes reported to the Police. Despite this, Wirral has maintained the lowest crime rate in Merseyside.
- For recycling of domestic waste performance has been lower than expected, but similar to last year. The tonnage of dry recycling continues to fall, whereas the tonnage of general waste is still increasing. Wirral is not alone in seeing this decrease in recycling; over half of the local authorities in North West have also seen a decrease compared with last year. .We will be building on the campaign from Recycling Week to help our residents understand that their recycling does make a difference.

#### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the content of the report and highlight any areas requiring further clarification or action.



## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to scrutinise the performance of the Council and partners in relation to delivering the Wirral Plan Environment Theme.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 This report has been developed in line with the approved performance management framework for the Wirral Plan. As such, no other options were considered.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Wirral Plan is an outcome-focussed, partnership plan which has 18 supporting strategies that set out how each of the 20 pledges will be delivered. For each pledge, a partnership group has been established to drive forward delivery of the action plans set out in each of the supporting strategies.
- 3.2 A Wirral Plan Performance Management Framework has been developed to ensure robust monitoring arrangements are in place. The Wirral Partnership has a robust approach to performance management to ensure all activity is regularly monitored and reviewed.
- 3.3 Data for the identified indicators is released at different times during the year. As a result of this, not all Pledges will have results each quarterly reporting period. Some indicators can be reported quarterly and some only on an annual basis. Annual figures are reported in the quarter they become available against the 2017/18 year end column.
- 3.4 For each of the indicators, a trend is shown (better, same or worse). In most cases, this is determined by comparing the latest data with the previous reporting period i.e. 2016/17 year end. In some cases, i.e. where data accumulates during the year or is subject to seasonal fluctuations, the trend is shown against the same time the previous year. This is indicated in the key at the end of the report.
- 3.5 For some indicators, targets have been set. Where this is the case, a RAGB (red, amber, green, blue) rating is provided against the target and tolerance levels set at the start of the reporting period, with blue indicating performance targets being exceeded.
- 3.6 All Wirral Plan performance reports are published on the performance page of the Council's website. This includes the high level Wirral Plan overview report and the detailed pledge reports which include updates on progress on all activities set out in the supporting strategy action plans. The link to this web page is set out below:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/council-performance>

3.7 Each of the Wirral Plan Pledges has a Lead Commissioner responsible for overseeing effective delivery. The Lead Commissioners for the Pledges in the report at Appendix 1 are as follows:

- Leisure and culture opportunities for all – Mark Smith
- Wirral residents live healthier lives – Julie Webster
- Community services are joined up and accessible – Julie Webster
- Good quality housing that meets the needs of residents – Graham Hodgkinson
- Wirral's neighbourhoods are safe – Mark Smith
- Attractive Local Environment for Wirral residents – Mark Smith

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no legal implications 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 The performance management framework is aligned to the Council's risk management strategy and both are regularly reviewed as part of corporate management processes.

#### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

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

#### **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The Wirral Plan equality impact assessment can be found at:

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

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Wirral Plan – 2017/18 Quarter 2 Pledge Report

## **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

N/A

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>21 September 2016</b>
<b>Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>30 November 2016</b>
<b>Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>28 March 2017</b>
<b>Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>4 July 2017</b>
<b>Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>21 September 2017</b>

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

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 2 2017/18</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Assistant Director: Finance</b>

### REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the financial monitoring information for Environment in a format consistent across the Overview & Scrutiny Committees. The report provides Members with detail to scrutinise budget performance for this area of activity. The financial information is at close of quarter 2 2017/18.

Information has been drawn from the relevant sections of the most recent Cabinet revenue and capital monitoring reports and combined with additional relevant service information to produce a bespoke report for this Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The report includes the following:

- Performance against the revenue budget (including savings, income and debt)
- Performance against the capital budget

### RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1 The quarter 2 revenue forecast overspend of £0.9 million be noted.
- 2 The performance of the capital projects and amendments to the programme within this area be noted.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

1.1 To provide members with details of the financial performance of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's area.

### 2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 Not applicable

### 3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### 3.1 PERFORMANCE AGAINST REVENUE BUDGETS QUARTER 2 (JULY 2017- SEPTEMBER 2017)

##### 3.1.0 CHANGES TO THE AGREED BUDGET

3.1.1 The 2017/18 Budget was agreed by Council on 6 March 2017. Any increase to the overall Council Budget (but not use of the existing budget contingency) requires agreement by full Council. Changes to the Budget since it was set are summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1: 2017/18 Original & Revised Net Budget by Wirral Plan Themes**

	Original Net Budget	Budget Change Quarter 1 Use of Contingency	Budget Change Quarter 1 Use of Balances	Approved Budget Changes Qtr 2	Revised Net Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Environment	60,719	-	1,225	0	61,944
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>60,719</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>61,944</b>

##### 3.2.0 PROJECTIONS AND KEY ISSUES

3.2.1 The projected outturn position as at the end of September 2017 and Wirral Plan: 2020 Vision Themes updates are detailed in the following sections.

**Table 2: 2017/18 Projected Budget variations by Wirral Plan Themes**

Directorates	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	(Under) Overspend Quarter 2	RAGBY Class	Change from prev
Environment	61,944	62,839	895	R	-194
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61,944</b>	<b>62,839</b>	<b>895</b>		<b>-194</b>

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

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

### 3.3.3 Environment

- Within Waste & Environment the £0.4 million overspend relates to the planned saving in the cost of the Waste contract. Whilst unlikely to be realised in year, officers are working on a series of options that may deliver the required saving in subsequent years.
- There is a £0.8 million projected overspend in Sports & Recreation. This is largely due to slippage in implementing savings options. Consultation is underway around the operational changes at Woodchurch Leisure Centre. There will similarly be savings slippage owing to delays in the capital works at Leasowe Recreation Centre. Leisure Centre income is down on anticipated levels with work ongoing to investigate and understand the reasons behind the shortfalls.
- Income levels at Golf Courses continue to fall below target and Parks & Countryside staff are working closely with Leisure Officers to improve the quality of the golf courses and enhance the golf offering. Actions to mitigate the pressures include holding all non-critical expenditure and alternative income arrangements are being explored.
- There are a number of underspends across the Environment theme. Housing Strategy is forecasting an underspend of £0.1 million this is a combination of a staffing vacancy (one off saving) within the Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency Programme. Highways Management is reporting a £0.1 million underspend. This is due to an increased demand for professional services in relation to third party developments this has helped generate additional income for this service area. Within the Homelessness area there is a saving within staffing due to current vacancies and a saving across the repairs budgets for dispersed properties. This provides an underspend of £0.08 million.

### 3.3.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF SAVINGS

3.3.1 A summary of the position of 2017/18 Environment savings at 30 September 2017 is below.

**Table 3: Savings Implementation 2017/18 (£000's)**

BRAG	Number of Options	Approved Budget Reduction	Amount Delivered at Q2	To be Delivered
B - delivered	8	1,500	1,500	0
G – on track	5	1,625	1,230	395
A - concerns	7	1,530	100	1,430
R - high risk/ not achieved	3	640	0	640
<b>Total at Quarter 2 2017-18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5,295</b>	<b>2,830</b>	<b>2,465</b>

3.3.2 The savings tracker contains an assessment of the 2017/18 savings by the ratings below.

- **Blue:** Represents savings which have already been realised.
- **Green:** Savings on track to deliver.
- **Amber:** Some concerns regarding delivery and will require closer scrutiny and monitoring.
- **Red:** High risk of not being achieved.

### 3.4.0 INCOME AND DEBT

3.4.1 The table below shows the outstanding debt by Wirral Plan Theme category and then by invoice raised date. At the end of September 2017 total Council arrears stood at £24.7 million with £1.1 million of this relating to Environment. In overall terms 37,723 invoices have been issued in the year by the council with a value of £43 million raised. £44 million of payments including amounts for prior years have been collected.

**Table 4: Accounts Receivable Outstanding Arrears Analysis**

Theme	Less than 30 days	More than 30 days	2016/2017	2015/16	Pre 2015/16	Total at 30.09.17
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Environment	255,222	45,752	190,783	41,000	213,714	<b>746,471</b>

3.4.2 In accordance with proper accounting practice, income is credited to the relevant financial year's accounts of the service area at the point invoices are raised. A provision for bad debt is maintained and is assessed each year. Should non-payment occur after proceeding through all necessary recovery procedures, any properly authorised write off will be charged against the bad debt provision.

### 3.5.0 PERFORMANCE AGAINST CAPITAL BUDGETS QUARTER 2 (July-September 2017)

#### 3.5.1 Capital Programme 2017/18 at end of Quarter 2 (30 September)

	Revised Programme	Spend to Date September 2017	Funded by: Council Resources	Funded by: Grants
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Environment	<b>6,419</b>	<b>1,739</b>	<b>3,285</b>	<b>3,134</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>6,419</b>	<b>1,739</b>	<b>3,285</b>	<b>3,134</b>

3.5.2 Since quarter 1 there has been a re-profiling of the Environment capital program. The program has reduced from £17 million to £6.4 million. The main movements are:

- Waste Vehicles £5.7 million reduction - original scheme involved the Council borrowing on behalf of Biffa, with all associated costs being reimbursed. The return to the Council was low and BIFFA can now obtain more competitive financing so scheme is no longer required.



- Clearance £1.1 million reduction - currently working on a programme to commit the remaining funding. As this is not certain this area has been re-profiled in 17/18 into 18/19.
- Aids, adaptations and DFGs £1.1 million reduction - spend is influenced by a number of external factors such as the extent, complexity and value of the adaptations required. Due to this the programme has been re-profiled down into 18/19.
- Leasowe Leisure Centre outdoor 3G pitches £0.7 million reduction - there are a number of drainage issues which will require further investigation and a review of ground works. Re-profiled into 18/19.
- West Kirby Marine Lake integrated accommodation £0.5 million reduction - tenders agreed but commencement for the rest of the works is likely to be March 2018. Re-profiled into 18/19.
- Housing Infrastructure Fund £0.5 million reduction - Viability assessments and scoping now commenced but will not be fully committed this year. Re-profiled into 18/19.

3.5.3 The largest areas of spend so far this year relate to Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facilities Grants (£0.7 million) with a further £0.7m of adaptation schemes currently approved.

3.5.4 £0.2 million has been incurred on restoring empty homes. The Old Court House scheme completed in September and it is expected that the Ark will complete in January 2018.

3.5.5 Enabling works are complete in respect of the Integrated Accommodation scheme at West Kirby Marine Lake. The building is now DDA compliant and meets Health & Safety and Fire Safety standards for the coming season. Tenders for the full scheme have now been agreed with commencement expected March 2018.

3.5.6 Further detail of the capital programme can be found in Appendix 1 of this report

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The financial implications of this report are discussed throughout the report. This is essentially a financial monitoring performance update report.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

6.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

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

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

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

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

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### **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Capital Programme and Funding 2017/18

### **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Budget Council	6 March 2017
Cabinet – Revenue Monitoring 2017/18 Quarter 1	17 July 2017
Cabinet – Capital Monitoring 2017/18 Quarter 1	17 July 2017
Cabinet – Revenue Monitoring 2017/18 Quarter 2	6 November 2017
Cabinet – Capital Monitoring 2017/18 Quarter 2	6 November 2017

**Capital Programme and Funding 2017/18****Environment Theme**

	<b>Revised Programme £000</b>	<b>Spend to Date £000</b>	<b>Council Resources £000</b>	<b>Reserves £000</b>	<b>APPENDIX 1 Business Rates £000</b>	<b>Grants £000</b>	<b>Total Funding £000</b>
Park depot rationalisation	260	123	260	-	-	-	260
Parks vehicles replacement	47	15	47	-	-	-	47
Cemetery extensions and improvements	260	-	260	-	-	-	260
Transport museum	180	2	180	-	-	-	180
Flaybrick cemetery	-	82	-	-	-	-	-
Soft play areas at leisure centres	300	-	300	-	-	-	300
W.K. Marine Lake integrated accommodation	200	129	200	-	-	-	200
Bidston tennis centre re-roofing	21	11	21	-	-	-	21
Leasowe Leisure Centre outdoor 3G	100	-	100	-	-	-	100
Oval Sports Centre redevelopment	105	80	105	-	-	-	105
Thermal Pool Covers	150	-	150	-	-	-	150
Beechwood skate park	80	75	-	-	-	80	80
West Kirby flood alleviation	100	14	100	-	-	-	100
CCTV cameras and other equipment	100	-	100	-	-	-	100
Aids, adaptations and DFGs	2,500	715	-	-	-	2,500	2,500
Restore empty homes	354	200	-	-	-	354	354
Clearance	200	45	-	-	-	200	200
Home improvements	550	198	550	-	-	-	550
New house building	350	36	350	-	-	-	350
Housing infrastructure fund	500	-	500	-	-	-	500
Wirral sailing centre	62	14	62	-	-	-	62
Waste vehicles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>6,419</b>	<b>1,739</b>	<b>3,285</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,134</b>	<b>6,419</b>

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# POLICY INFORM: Environment



## Policy Inform- November 2017

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

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

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# INTRODUCTION

## The Wirral Plan:

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

## The Plan focuses on three key theme areas:



## The Wirral Plan Environment Theme states:

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

## Environment Policy Briefing:

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

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

Overview & Scrutiny Briefings	
<b>September 2017</b>	This policy briefing will provide an overview of emerging policy and legislation outlined within the Queen’s Speech, with a particular focus on legislation emerging as a result of the UK’s exit from the European Union. This policy briefing will also provide an initial analysis of any opportunities and implications for Wirral as a result of emerging policy and legislation.
<b>November 2017</b>	This policy briefing will provide an update on policy and legislation and will consider relevant opportunities and implications for Wirral.

<b>January 2018</b>	This policy briefing will provide an update on emerging on policy and legislation and will further consider any relevant opportunities or implications for Wirral.
<b>March 2018</b>	This policy briefing will provide an update on emerging on policy and legislation and will further consider any relevant opportunities or implications for Wirral.

The November policy briefing focuses on the key announcements from the Queen’s Speech and provides an overview of emerging policy and legislative developments that have been aligned to the Wirral Plan pledges for consideration.

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



## QUEEN'S SPEECH 2017

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017, the Queens Speech was delivered, outlining the Government's programme of legislation and policies for the coming year.

Below is a list of each individual Bill that will have implications for local government that was announced during the speech, including those Bills carried over from the 2016-17 session. The list identifies the Overview and Scrutiny Committee remit that the legislation most closely aligns:

Legislative Plans	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Repeal Bill	<p><b>Developments relating to these Bills will be reported within the Council's EU Exit Report. If you wish to request a copy of these reports please contact:</b>  <a href="mailto:rachelhowey@wirral.gov.uk" style="color: red;"><u>rachelhowey@wirral.gov.uk</u></a></p>
Customs Bill	
Trade Bill	
Immigration Bill	
Fisheries Bill	
Agriculture Bill	
Nuclear Safeguards Bill	
International Sanctions Bill	
Automated and Electric Vehicles Bill	<b>Business</b>
High Speed 2 Phase 2A Bill	<b>Business</b>
Good Mortgages Bill	<b>Environment</b>
Smart Meter Bill	<b>Environment</b>
Draft Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill	<b>Children and Families</b>
Courts Bill	<b>Environment</b>
Data Protection Bill	<b>Business</b>
Draft Patient Protection Bill	<b>Care and Health</b>

Draft Tenants' Fees Bill	<b>Environment</b>
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Additional Bills that have been announced are outlined below. These will be monitored in relation to any emerging implications for Local Government and reported to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee as appropriate.

Additional Legislative Plans
Space Industry Bill
National Insurance Contributions Bill
Travel Protection Bill
Civil Liability Bill
Financial Guidance and Claims Bill
Armed Forces Bill

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

## WIRRAL PLAN ENVIRONMENT PLEDGES- POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

### GOOD QUALITY HOUSING THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS

*A safe and secure home is vital to all Wirral residents. We are working to improve the quality and supply of Wirral's housing stock, providing more affordable homes and specialist housing solutions, including extra care homes and supported living accommodation*

#### **Our Pledge Ambition:**

We will build and improve 7,000 houses over the lifetime of this five year plan. Our plans include building 3,500 new homes, improving 2,250 private sector properties and bringing 1,250 empty homes back into use by 2020. We will also continue to tackle the challenges and causes of homelessness in Wirral.

#### **Outcome Strategy:**

**Wirral Housing Strategy Priorities:** 1 Building more homes in Wirral to meet our economic growth ambitions 2. Improving the quality of Wirral's housing offer for our residents 3. Meeting the housing and support needs of our most vulnerable people to enable them to live independently



#### **Associated Legislation:**

##### **Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation and Liability for Housing Standards) Bill**

**Reporting stage:** The Bill is expected to have its second reading debate on Friday 19 January 2018.

#### **The purpose of the Bill is to:**

To amend the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 to require that residential rented accommodation is provided and maintained in a state of fitness for human habitation; to amend the Building Act 1984 to make provision about the liability for works on residential accommodation that do not comply with Building Regulations; and for connected purposes.

#### **Concerns and progress so far:**

The Bill was presented to Parliament through the ballot procedure on Wednesday 19 July 2017. The Bill was presented by Ms Karen Buck, supported by Luciana Berger, Jess Phillips, Matthew Pennycook, Shabana Mahmood, Heidi Allen, Marsha De Cordova, Andy Slaughter, Alex Sobel, Kate Green, Diana Johnson and Clive Efford. As a Private Member's Bill, it is unlikely to be enacted into legislation.

**Associated Legislation:**

**Local Housing Authority Debt Bill**

**Report Stage:** Second reading of the Bill is yet to be scheduled.

**The purpose of the Bill is to:**

A Bill to replace the current regime of limits on local housing authorities' debt with limits determined by the existing prudential regime for local authority borrowing for non-housing-related purposes.

**Concerns and progress so far:**

The Bill was presented to the House of Lords by Lord Sharkey on Tuesday 4 July 2017. It was read a first time and ordered to be printed.

**Associated Legislation – Royal Assent:**

**Neighbourhood Planning Act**

Following agreement by both Houses on the text of the Bill it received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017. The Bill is now an Act of Parliament (law).

**The purpose of the Bill is to:**

A Bill to make provision about planning and compulsory purchase; and for connected purposes.

**Summary:**

The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 brings into law changes to neighbourhood planning, local development documents, compulsory purchase and planning conditions. The Act comes into force on such day as the Secretary of States appoints by regulations, apart from provisions set out in the Act.

Full details of the Act, including explanatory notes, are available at Legislation.gov.uk through the following link: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/20/contents/enacted>

**Associated Legislation – Royal Assent:**

**Homelessness Reduction Act 2017**

Following agreement by both Houses on the text of the Bill it received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017. The Bill is now an Act of Parliament (law).

**The purpose of the Bill is to:**

A Bill to make provision about measures for reducing homelessness; and for connected purposes.

**Summary:**

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 enacts and amends legislation in respects to the following:

- meaning of “threatened with homelessness”
- advisory services
- assessment and plans
- duties to those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness
- failure to co-operate by an applicant for assistance
- local connection of a care leaver
- reviews of local housing authority decisions
- duty on public authorities in England to refer cases
- codes of practice, and suitability of accommodation.

The Act comes into force on such day or days as the Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instruments appoint.

Full details of the Act are available at Legislation.gov.uk through the following link:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/13/contents/enacted>

**Associated Emerging Policy:**

**Houses in Multiple Occupation**

In November 2015 the Conservative Government published Extending mandatory licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in which it set out options for extending the requirement for an HMO licence, proposals to introduce national minimum room size standards, and proposals to streamline the process for licence applications.

A further consultation paper was published alongside the Government response: Houses in multiple occupation and residential property licensing reforms. In addition to the proposals above, this paper sought views on the Government’s detailed proposals for how the extended HMO scheme would operate, the fit and proper person test; refuse disposal facilities; and purpose built student accommodation.

There is currently no timescale for changes, but it could be as early as April 2018 as changes can be introduced through amendments to Regulations without the need for any further primary legislation.

## **Associated Emerging Policy:**

### **Briefing: National Audit Office Report on Homelessness [LGiU Oct 2017](#)**

This NAO report is concerned with how effectively the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) is working with local authorities to ensure that they maximise their ability to prevent and tackle homelessness.

The report deals with the causes and costs of homelessness, the response of local government to homelessness, and DCLG's leadership in reducing homelessness.

Homelessness by all measures, including those housed in temporary accommodation, has increased since 2010-11; this includes a rise in the number of homeless people in the annual autumn snapshot of rough sleeping of 134 per cent since 2010, and an increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation of 60 per cent since March 2011 to the end of the financial year 2016-17.

DCLG data on the reported reason for all households who qualify for temporary accommodation owing to homelessness shows "a substantial and unprecedented rise" since 2010 in the proportion of households who qualified after the end of an assured shorthold tenancy (AST); In England, the proportion varied between 11 per cent and 15 per cent before 2011-12, but has since risen to 32 per cent.

Local authority housing staff interviewed for the study said that the key reason why people were presenting as homeless was the end of tenancies in the private rented sector; they said that this was due to increases in rents in the private sector, and a decline in people's ability to pay these rents.

Local authority spending on homelessness services increased in real terms from £940m in 2010-11 to £1,148m in 2015-16. The single largest component of this spending was on temporary accommodation, which increased by 39 per cent in real terms between 2010-11 and 2015-16, from £606m million to £845m.

Local authority spending on homelessness services increased in real terms from £940m in 2010-11 to £1,148m in 2015-16. The single largest component of this spending was on temporary accommodation, which increased by 39 per cent in real terms between 2010-11 and 2015-16, from £606m million to £845m

Over the same period spending on components of homelessness services other than temporary accommodation, mainly prevention, support, and administration, fell by 9 per cent in real terms from £334m to £303m.

Local authorities interviewed by the NAO reported that they found it difficult to provide temporary accommodation to homeless households because of both lack of supply (of housing) and rising demand.

The NAO says there are further unquantified costs of homelessness and an additional burden on public services of homeless people who require more public sector intervention than the average person; it says the DCLG does not have a robust estimate of these costs.

The DCLG chairs a Ministerial Working Group on Preventing and Tackling Homelessness for this purpose, but was not able to tell the NAO what actions have been agreed or what would change as a result.

The DCLG accepts that the new duties accompanying The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 will increase the burden on local authorities; it is reallocating funding of £61m over two years to meet this burden, after which it expects the savings to local authorities to be greater than the costs.

**Update:**

**Nation faces older people homelessness ‘time bomb’ – councils warn [LGA Oct 2017](#)**

The nation is facing a “ticking time bomb” in the number of homeless older people after latest figures showed an alarming rise of 130 per cent since its lowest point eight years ago, councils warn today.

The Local Government Association says that older homelessness is a growing hidden phenomenon that needs greater understanding.

Latest figures show that between April and June this year, councils accepted 620 people aged over 60 as homeless – at a rate of nearly 10 a day. This is up from the 270 accepted between October and December 2009, which was the lowest number since records began in 2005.

**Update:**

**Councils respond to Theresa May's housebuilding announcement [LGA Oct 2017](#)**

Responding to the Prime Minister’s speech to the Conservative Party Conference on council housebuilding, Lord Porter, Chairman of the Local Government Association, said:

“It is good that the Government has accepted our argument that councils must be part of the solution to our chronic housing shortage and able to resume their historic role as a major builder of affordable homes. We hope that today’s speech by the Prime Minister signals an important shift in the Government’s housing vision and are pleased that there will be additional funding for affordable homes.

“Councils are working with communities to approve nine in 10 planning applications but it is clear that only an increase of all types of housing – including those for affordable or social rent – will solve the housing crisis. A genuine renaissance in council housebuilding would increase housing supply, boost home ownership and reduce homelessness.

“The last time the country was building more than 250,000 houses was in 1978 - when councils built 44 per cent of new homes. Councils want to get on with the job of building the new homes that people in their areas desperately need.

“Every housing market is different and the only way councils will be able to significantly deliver the new homes we need is if they are given genuine powers to invest in housing that meets the needs of communities in every town and city across the country.

“This means the ability to borrow to invest in new council housing, to keep 100 per cent of Right to Buy receipts to replace sold homes, certainty over future rents, powers to make sure developers build approved homes in a timely fashion, and adequately funded planning departments so that they can cover the cost of processing applications.”

## **Potential implications for the Wirral Plan as a result of emerging legislation and policy:**

### **Homeless Reduction Act 2017:**

Homeless Reduction Act in Wirral will require us to restructure housing services to enable us to respond to the increased number of cases which the local authority will have a statutory duty to assist. This will see a significant rise in footfall of clients accessing the service, many who previously the authority did not have to provide an intensive service as they were not eligible for priority need and others in priority need who will now receive additional support from April 2018 in the form of personalised plans. The Act now places a duty for the LA to work with clients for a longer period than the current legislation requires and extends the period a duty is owed from 28 days to up to 56 days.

### **Houses in Multiple Occupation:**

This is likely to increase the number of HMOs which required a mandatory licence on Wirral to increase threefold from 80 mandatory HMO licenses to between 200-300 properties. This will require full inspections and schedules of work to bring these properties up to the required standard and ensure they have adequate fire safety, together with checks that all of the correct documentation is in place.



## LEISURE AND CULTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

*We will encourage more people to enjoy the wide range of leisure, culture and sporting opportunities on offer across Wirral. We will listen to residents' ideas and requests, and by 2020, will have increased access to events and activities to all our residents, regardless of age or income.*

### **Our Pledge Ambition:**

We will review the borough's leisure and cultural offer to make it fit for the future, and optimise the use of public spaces, parks and gardens across Wirral as community assets.

### **Outcome Strategy:**

**Wirral Leisure Strategy Priorities:** 1. Promote and celebrate Wirral's parks, coast and countryside for leisure activities 2. Encourage people to take part in sports, leisure and social activities 3. Increase pride in Wirral's communities and encourage more residents to volunteer

**Wirral Culture Strategy Priorities:** 1. Develop creative partnerships and a cultural events programme to promote arts, culture and heritage in Wirral 2. Increase resident and visitor participation in Wirral's arts, culture and heritage offer to promote its educational, social and wellbeing benefits 3. Promote Wirral on a global stage as part of the Liverpool City Region to attract world class arts, culture and heritage events and exhibitions 4. Maximise the contribution of the arts, culture and heritage to the local economy.



### **Associated Legislation – Royal Assent:**

#### **National Citizen Service Act**

This Act was granted Royal Assent on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

#### **Summary:**

The National Citizen Service Act is designed to make sure NCS is delivered efficiently, effectively and transparently. The NCS programme brings young people from different backgrounds together and gives them the opportunity to take part in new experiences, develop skills and volunteer in communities across England. The Act will enable the staff and assets of the NCS Trust to transfer to a Royal Charter Body, allowing government to provide grant-in-aid funding to the NCS Trust. It will also promote NCS by giving Government the power to send a letter to young people as they turn 16 on behalf of the NCS Trust.

**Potential implications for the Wirral Plan as a result of emerging legislation and policy:**

Wirral Council are one of four providers on Wirral delivering the NCS programme. Others include the Youth Federation, Tranmere Rovers FC and Catch-22.

The National Audit office confirms that NCS is a valued and worthwhile programme, but the value for money ratio of cost per head is being scrutinised. This impacts locally where Wirral has already been served with at least two financial variation notices with a third likely before the end March 2018. Each time the funding reduces.

# WIRRAL RESIDENTS LIVE HEALTHIER LIVES

*We want all of our residents to have a good quality of life and lead healthy lifestyles in clean and safe environments*

## **Our Pledge Ambition:**

We remain committed to addressing health inequalities in Wirral through encouraging residents to lead healthier lifestyles, and promoting physical activity and healthy eating. We will also continue to reduce the prevalence of smoking amongst our residents and the level of alcohol related ill-health and anti-social behaviour through restricting availability of 'super-strength' alcohol. We want to see 30% of Wirral off licences retailers sign up to the council supports 'reduce the strength' campaign.

## **Outcome Strategy:**

**Wirral Healthier Lives Strategy Priorities:** Reduce the number of smokers in Wirral 2. Reduce the impact of alcohol misuse on individuals and communities 3. Promote healthy eating 4. Support local people to take control over their own wellbeing.



## **Associated Legislation**

*There are currently no associated legislation emerging from this pledge.*

## **Associated Legislation – Royal Assent**

### **Soft Drinks Industry Levy**

The Soft Drinks Levy was granted Royal Assent on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

#### **Summary -**

This is a new levy, under the Finance Act 2017, that applies to the production and importation of soft drinks containing added sugar. The levy applies to the producers and importers of these types of drinks; it entails a lower rate which will apply to added sugar drinks with a total sugar content of 5 grams or more per 100 millilitres and a higher rate for drinks with 8 grams or more per 100 millilitres, but will not apply to any drink where no sugar is added. Alcoholic drinks with an Alcohol by volume of up to 1.2% are also included in the levy.

**Update:**

**Being mindful of mental health - The role of local government in mental health and wellbeing**

LGA June 2017

This report explores how councils influence the mental wellbeing of our communities and how council services, from social care to parks to open spaces to education to housing, help to make up the fabric of mental health support for the people in our communities.

**Associated Emerging Policy:**

**PHE launches Rise Above for schools programme PHE Sep 2017**

**Summary:**

Dynamic new resources for teachers will help build crucial life-skills for young people to boost their resilience and improve their mental health and wellbeing, as part of a new evidence-based programme for schools unveiled by Public Health England (PHE). PHE has developed a series of new resources for secondary school teachers to use in their lesson plans as part of the Rise Above for Schools programme. The resources will help teachers to engage pupils with coping strategies about 'traditional' health issues, like smoking and alcohol, while also addressing some of the most challenging pressures young people face today in an 'always on' social media generation.

**Potential implications for the Wirral Plan as a result of emerging legislation and policy:**

No immediate implications from the above in relation to achieving this pledge. Implications emerging from Universal Credit and emerging air quality improvement legislation are picked up in 'Children and Families' and Attractive Local Environment respectively.

## ATTRACTIVE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT FOR WIRRAL RESIDENTS

*We are committed to empowering residents to help them create great neighbourhoods where communities are proud of their area and love where they live. We will work with communities to develop locations, taking advantage of assets and local characteristics to create a sense of identity that people can relate to and want to uphold.*

### **Our Pledge Ambition:**

We want to increase residents' pride in their local communities, and increase personal responsibility to keep Wirral 'clean and green'. We will listen to local residents and act on their suggestions to ensure more residents see their quality of life improve over the five years of this plan by supporting communities to deal with local environmental issues such as litter, fly-tipping and dog fouling.

### **Outcome Strategy:**

**Wirral Environment Strategy Priorities:** 1. Love where you live  
2. Driving behaviour change 3. Put resources where they are needed  
4. Tackle untidy land

**Wirral Waste Strategy Priorities:** 1. Waste prevention & reuse  
2. Residual collections 3. Kerbside recycling collections 4. Food & garden waste collections



### **Associated Legislation:**

#### **Carbon Emission Reductions Bill**

**Second Reading Debate Stage:** Second reading in the House of Lords is yet to be scheduled.

#### **The purpose of the Bill is to:**

A Bill to amend the target for reducing net carbon emissions in the UK to 100% by 2050.

#### **Concerns and progress so far:**

The Bill was presented to the House of Lords by Baroness Featherstone on Tuesday 18 July 2017. It was read a first time and ordered to be printed.

**Update:**

**Briefing: The future of the natural environment after the EU referendum: a report from the Environmental Audit Committee** [LGiU Feb 2017](#)

This briefing provides an overview of a report on the future of the natural environment after the EU referendum published by the Environmental Audit Committee in January 2017.

The report examines the implications of leaving the EU for the UK's environmental and land management policies and discusses the potential impact of Brexit on farming and the natural environment in the UK.

The Committee is calling on the Government to introduce a new Environmental Protection Act whilst Article 50 negotiations are ongoing and to assess the resources needed to replace existing EU environmental funding.

This briefing will be of interest to elected members and officers with responsibility for land management and environmental policy, and it likely to be of particular interest to those from rural authorities. It will be followed by another briefing covering several reports on the impact of Brexit on environmental issues.

**Associated Emerging Policy:**

**Air quality plan for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in UK (2017)**

**Defra July 2017**

Statutory air quality plan for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), setting out how the UK will be reducing roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations.

Establishes UK approach to meeting the statutory limits for nitrogen dioxide, and the policy background.

The Direction requires specified local authorities to carry out studies to identify how to meet legal limits for nitrogen dioxide in the shortest possible time, and sets deadlines.

**Potential implications for the Wirral Plan as a result of emerging legislation and policy:**

The new air quality improvement legislation launched by the Government has implications for the Council. The Government's Plan to Improve Air Quality in the UK was launched in July this year and puts focus on the most polluted locations across the country. Wirral is not one of these locations and has never had to declare an Air Quality Management Area to address exceedances. However these are air quality issues in Wirral and future development set out in the Wirral Plan could adversely affect air quality if not effectively planned. Therefore Wirral should attempt to access funding available through the Air Quality Plan to make interventions for providing infrastructure for alternative fuels and improving traffic flow to help reduce pollutants.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES ARE JOINED UP AND ACCESSIBLE

*We are already integrating public sector and community services to make sure they are fully joined up, but we will integrate more services with our partners, and work with voluntary and community groups to transfer local assets for them to manage directly, providing the services residents need.*

### **Our Pledge Ambition:**

We will enable our already thriving communities to realise their full potential and unlock the skills and expertise within them to deliver more for themselves.

### **Associated Legislation or Associated Emerging Policy:**

*At present there are no policy or legislative developments as associated with this pledge. We will continue to monitor any developments in legislation or emerging policy.*





## WIRRAL'S NEIGHBOURHOODS ARE SAFE

*Unfortunately, the actions of a small minority can have a negative impact on the majority of residents. We are increasing our efforts to quickly and effectively deal with anti-social behaviour, including street drinking and neighbourhood noise issues.*

### **Our Pledge Ambition:**

Over the next five years we will place a greater emphasis on activities which will positively engage young people and communities to prevent anti-social behaviour, and support people that have been affected. We will also look at improving potential licensing and planning enforcement powers.

### **Outcome Strategy:**

**Wirral Safer Neighbourhoods Strategy Priorities:** 1 Build stronger and more confident communities where people feel safe. 2. Improve Community Safety by tackling the cause and impact of crime and anti-social behaviour. 3. Protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities. 4. Deliver greater integration with all relevant partner agencies to achieve a Safer Wirral.



### **Associated Legislation:**

#### **The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015**

This Act contains a range of Local Authority (LA) statutory duties collectively known as the “Prevent Duty” which requires Local Authorities, both upper and lower tier councils, and other specific bodies to act to “prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

The Home Office is implementing changes to the Channel process where resource will be provided to Local Authorities to undertake the management and administration of the Channel process. Rollout is commencing in late autumn of 2017 starting with:

- i. The South West region;
- ii. The North West region; and
- iii. Wales.

**Associated Emerging Policy:**

**Operation Dovetail – Pilot Project**

Operation Dovetail was put in place to assess the feasibility of transferring the resources and responsibility for administering the programme and case management aspects of Channel from the police to local authorities by the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) and was completed in August 2017.

There were nine pilot areas where funding was provided for 12 months for Local Authority Channel Coordinators (LACC) to lead on managing the Channel process (assessing referrals, managing cases and the administration of the programme). For Merseyside the LACC was sited Liverpool.

**Potential implications for the Wirral Plan as a result of emerging legislation and policy:**

The results of Operation Dovetail were published in August 2017 with a number of positive observations and recommendations. The timetable is unaltered whilst OSCT continue to consult on the exact method for the handover. It is most likely the LACC for Wirral will be sited in Liverpool as was the case during the assessment period.

## SOURCES

UK Parliament: Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation and Liability for Housing Standards) Bill [HL] 2017-19; <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/homesfitnessforhumanhabitationandliabilityforhousingstandards.html>

UK Parliament: *Local Housing Authority Debt Bill [HL] 2017-19*; <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/localhousingauthoritydebt.html>

UK Parliament: *Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017*; <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/20/contents/enacted>

UK Parliament: *Homelessness Reduction Act 2017*; <https://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/homelessnessreduction.html>

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**Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
30<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Environment Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme Update</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Paul Stuart</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

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

It is envisaged that the work programme will be formed from a combination of scrutiny reviews, standing items on committee agendas and requested officer reports. This report provides the committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

Members are requested to:

1. Approve the proposed Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2017/18, making any required amendments.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

### 2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

### 3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### 3.1 THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND THE WIRRAL PLAN

The work programme should align with the priorities of the Council and its partners. The programme will be informed by:

- The Wirral Plan pledges
- The Council's transformation programme
- The Council's Forward Plan
- Service performance information
- Risk management information
- Public or service user feedback
- Referrals from Cabinet / Council

The Wirral Plan pledges and strategies of particular relevance to the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee are:

<b>Pledge</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
Leisure and cultural opportunities for all	Wirral's Leisure Strategy Wirral's Culture Strategy
Wirral residents live healthier lives	Wirral's Residents Live Healthier Lives Strategy
Community services are joined up and accessible	Wirral Together Strategy
Good quality housing that meets the needs of residents	Housing Strategy
Wirral's neighbourhoods are safe	Ensuring Wirral's Neighbourhoods are Safe Strategy
Attractive local environment for Wirral residents	Managing our Waste Strategy Loving our Environment Strategy

### 3.2 PRINCIPLES FOR PRIORITISATION

Good practice suggests that, in order to maximise the impact of scrutiny, it is necessary to prioritise proposed topics within the work programme. Members may find the following criteria helpful in providing a guideline towards ensuring that the most significant topics are prioritised:

<b>Principles for Prioritisation</b>	
Wirral Plan	Does the topic have a direct link with one of the 2020 pledges?
	Will the review lead to improved outcomes for Wirral residents?
Public Interest	Does the topic have particular importance for Wirral Residents?
Transformation	Will the review support the transformation of the Council?
Financial Significance	Is the subject matter an area of significant spend or potential saving?
	Will the review support the Council in achieving its savings targets?
Timeliness / Effectiveness	Is this the most appropriate time for this topic to be scrutinised?
	Will the review be a good use of Council resources?

By assessing prospective topics using these criteria, the Committee can prioritise an effective work programme that ensures relevance and the highest potential to enhance outcomes for residents.

### 3.3 DELIVERING THE WORK PROGRAMME

It is anticipated that the work programme will be delivered through a combination of:

- Scrutiny reviews undertaken by task & finish groups
- Evidence days and workshops
- Committee reports provided by officers
- Standing committee agenda items, for example, performance monitoring and financial monitoring
- Spotlight sessions
- Standing panels (where deemed necessary)

As some of the selected topics may cut across the Wirral Plan themes, it is anticipated they may be of interest to members of more than one committee. In these circumstances, opportunities for members of more than one committee to work jointly on an item of scrutiny will be explored.

Regular work programme update reports will provide the committee with an opportunity to plan and review its work across the municipal year.

### **3.4 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS**

#### Modern Slavery Scrutiny Review

The Panel has scheduled an evidence session with officers from the Council's Environmental Health and Licencing departments for Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. The purpose of the first evidence sessions is to understand current strategies and approaches to the detection and prevention of modern slavery and human trafficking, and to explore the extent to which front line officers may come into contact with potential victims or perpetrators of modern slavery. Further evidence sessions are planned with other Council departments, partner organisations, local charities and voluntary groups. It is anticipated that the final report will be presented to Committee in March 2018.

#### Reality Check Visits

Committee members recently conducted a Reality Check Visit to assess the condition of sports pavilions in Wirral. A feedback report from this visit is included as a separate item on the committee agenda.

Members are invited to consider the value of this approach to scrutinising services within the Environment O&S Committee remit and to suggest other departments or services to be considered for a Reality Check Visit in future.

#### Budget Scrutiny

In line with previous municipal years, it is anticipated that workshops will be held for members of each of the scrutiny committees to review proposals as the 2018 / 19 budget is being developed. Dates and format for these sessions have yet to be finalised.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not Applicable

### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not Applicable

### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

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

### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

Not Applicable

### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

Not Applicable

### **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

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**APPENDICES:**



**Appendix 1: Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work programme**

**REFERENCE MATERIAL**

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
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**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

Item	Format	Officer
Notice of Motion –Tougher action on Fly Tipping	Notice of Motion	Cllrs David Burgess –Joyce and Bruce Berry
Review of litter and dog fouling enforcement arrangements	Presentation	Sue Bannister – Team Leader for Environmental Enforcement, and Kingdom representatives
Local Authority powers to require drivers to switch off engines when parked	Officer Report	Colin Clayton
Report on condition of sports pavilions in Wirral	Officer Report	Mary Worrall
Feedback from Site visits to pavilions in sports grounds	Officer Report	Report of the Chair / members in attendance
Performance monitoring Q2 Report	Report	Mark Smith – Strategic Commissioner, Environment
Financial monitoring Q2 Report	Report	Peter Molyneux - Senior Manager, Finance
Policy Inform	Report	Policy Team
Scrutiny Work Programme Update	Report	Report of the Chair
Deadline for reports to be with Committee Services: Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2017		

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS – Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018**

Item	Format	Officer
Climate Change Strategy	Report / Presentation	Mike Cockburn – Lead Commissioner, Environment
Performance monitoring – 2017/18 Q2	Report	Mark Smith – Strategic Commissioner, Environment
Financial monitoring – 2017/18 Q4	Report	Peter Molyneux - Senior Manager, Finance
Policy Inform	Report	Policy Team
Scrutiny Work Programme Update	Report	Report of the Chair
Deadline for reports to be with Committee Services: Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2018		

**ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS – TO BE SCHEDULED**

Item	Format	Approximate timescale	Lead Officer
Wirral’s Waste Management Strategy	Committee Report / Presentation	TBC	TBC
<b>Wirral Together Strategy</b>	<b>Committee Report / Presentation</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>TBC</b>
Coastal Strategy Scrutiny Review follow-up report	Officer Report	TBC	TBC

Item	Format	Approximate timescale	Lead Officer
<b>Fly Tipping - extent of issue in Wirral, current and potential actions to tackle fly tipping</b>	<b>Committee Report / Presentation</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>TBC</b>
<b>Review of litter and dog fouling enforcement operational arrangements (partner update)</b>	<b>Committee Report / Presentation</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>TBC</b>
<b>Social Isolation - (Review of social isolation and loneliness in Wirral - current approaches and interventions)</b>	<b>Committee Report / Presentation</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>TBC</b>
Healthier Lives Strategy / Action Plan update	Committee Report / Presentation	TBC	TBC
Alcohol Strategy update	Committee Report / Presentation	TBC	TBC
Smoking Strategy update	Committee Report / Presentation	TBC	TBC
<b>Management and Regulation of Private Sector Housing (selective licensing scheme)</b>	<b>Committee Report / Presentation</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>TBC</b>
Housing Partner Update	Committee Report / Presentation	TBC	TBC
<b>Safer Wirral Hub update (progress on phase 2 implementation)</b>	<b>Committee Report / Presentation</b>	<b>March 2018 tbc</b>	<b>TBC</b>
<b>Current strategies to prevent and reduce Crime and ASB /Assessment of Restorative Justice approaches in Wirral</b>	<b>Committee Report / Presentation</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>TBC</b>
New Ferry Explosion - update of housing and support arrangements for affected residents and businesses	Committee Report	TBC	TBC

#### WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE COMMITTEE

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress / Comments
Wirral Flood & Water Risk Management Partnership	Standing Panel	2017	David Ball	Next partnership meeting Oct 2017
Modern Slavery Act	Task & finish group	2017	Andrew Elkington	Meetings re-commenced 04/09/17
Libraries (deferred pending outcome of transformation scrutiny)	Task & finish group	TBC	TBC	
Transforming Wirral – Libraries, Leisure and Cultural Services, Future Provision of Services	Workshop	TBC	Mark Smith	1 <sup>st</sup> Session 11/09/17 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session TBC
Transforming Wirral – further business cases	Workshops	TBC	TBC	
Budget Scrutiny	Workshop	TBC	TBC	
Mystery Shopping Exercises	TBC	TBC	TBC	Template to be drafted
<b>Site visits to pavilions in sports grounds</b>	<b>Reality Check / Site Visit</b>	<b>08/11/17</b>	<b>Mary Worrall</b>	<b>Outcomes to inform LLCS transformation project</b>
<b>Core Strategy Local Plan</b>	<b>Pre-decision scrutiny session</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>TBC</b>	