



Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Wednesday, 31 January 2018
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 - 16)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2017, and the special meeting held on 7 December 2017.

3. NOTICE OF MOTION 'ECONOMIC VIABILITY ASSESSMENTS FROM DEVELOPERS' (Pages 17 - 20)

At the meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2017 (minute 100 refers), the attached Notice of Motion, 'Economic Viability Assessments from Developers' proposed by Councillor Stuart Kelly and seconded by Councillor Chris Carubia was referred by the Civic Mayor to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

In accordance with Standing Order 7 (6), Councillor Kelly has been

invited to attend the meeting in order for him to be given an opportunity to explain the Motion.

4. NOTICE OF MOTION 'PLANNING AHEAD TO USE THE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY' (Pages 21 - 24)

At the meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2017 (minute 100 refers), the attached Notice of Motion, 'Planning Ahead to Use the Community Infrastructure Levy' proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist and seconded by Councillor Stuart Kelly was referred by the Civic Mayor to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

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

5. CLIMATE CHANGE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACTION PLAN 2017 (Pages 25 - 114)

6. WIRRAL LOCAL PLAN - REPORT OF PROGRESS SINCE 2004 (Pages 115 - 144)

7. 2018/19 BUDGET SCRUTINY REPORT (To Follow)

8. ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (Pages 145 - 152)

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 30 November 2017

Present: Councillor P Stuart (Chair)

Councillors S Foulkes B Berry
T Jones A Hodson
B Kenny I Lewis
C Muspratt T Pilgrim
T Smith C Carubia
W Ward P Doughty (In place
A Sykes of L Reecejones)

Apologies: Councillors T Usher

26 MINUTES' SILENCE

Members stood for a minute's silence in tribute to the late Councillor Walter Smith, who had recently passed away.

27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Usher and L Reecejones who had a deputy standing in for her.

28 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 items on the 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 items to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

Councillor B Berry declared a personal interest in item 3, 'Notice of Motion: Tougher Action in Fly Tipping' by virtue of having seconded the motion at the Council meeting held on 16 October 2017.

29 **MINUTES**

Members were requested to receive the minutes of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 21 September 2017.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2017 be approved.

30 **NOTICE OF MOTION - TOUGHER ACTION IN FLY TIPPING**

Councillor B Berry declared a personal interest in this matter by virtue of having seconded the motion at the Council meeting held on 16 October 2017.

The Chair reported that at the meeting of the Council held on 16 October 2017 (minute 68 (2) refers) the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor David Burgess-Joyce and seconded by Councillor Bruce Berry was referred by the Civic Mayor to this Committee for consideration -

TOUGHER ACTION IN FLY TIPPING

“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 the 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.”

In accordance with Standing Order 7(6), Councillor David Burgess-Joyce had been invited to attend the meeting in order for him to explain the Motion.

Councillor Burgess-Joyce elaborated on the Motion and suggested that in line with other Local Authorities, heavier measures should be in place such as a ‘naming and shaming’ policy being adopted. He believed that fines of between £150 and £400 would not be effective for serial offenders and that Wirral would be blighted by fly tipping should it continue.

Members discussed encouraging residents to use the 'Eric' service. Suggestions were made in respect of offering a service to collect waste at a reasonable cost or to hold a register of contractors.

A number of Members raised concerns in respect of fully endorsing the recommendations as they considered more information and facts were required including costs, the effect of removing the brown bin, costs of CCTV and resources. Members also suggested working together with officers to identify hotspots.

Members also raised concerns around the fact that should CCTV be installed, this could result in the problem being moved elsewhere.

In response to questions from Members, the Team Leader – Environmental Enforcement confirmed that income is recouped from Fixed Penalty Notices, however if the perpetrator is taken to Court that incomes from fines etc goes to Central Government.

The Strategic Commissioner – Environment advised that the installation of CCTV would have resource implications and advised Members that work was ongoing to educate people in order to develop a complementary approach.

Members suggested a more detailed report be brought back to a future meeting of this Committee.

Councillor David Burgess-Joyce reiterated his belief that a 'naming and shaming' policy should be adopted as he believed this would result in a reduction of the £584,285.85 costs.

On a motion proposed by Councillor S Foulkes, seconded by Councillor A Sykes, it was -

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Notice of Motion be noted; and**
- (2) the Strategic Commissioner – Environment provide a more detailed report to a future meeting of the Committee.**

31 **REVIEW OF LITTER AND DOG FOULING ENFORCEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee considered a joint presentation from Sue Bannister, Team Leader for Environmental Enforcement and Sandra Lovell-Struthers, Kingdom Services Group Limited.

The Team Leader for Environmental Enforcement advised Members that incorporated within the Wirral Plan was the aim to empower residents to take more responsibility for their actions, create great neighbourhoods, encourage positive behaviour and take action against environmental crime and anti-social behaviour.

It was reported that further to a survey being carried out, the perception was that 45% of people thought litter was a problem when this was actually in excess of 92% whereas 56% believed dog fouling was a major problem, however, only 2 in every 100 people failed to pick up and compliance was better in Wirral than other Authorities. Members were advised that fines would be issued in respect of littering and dog fouling as Wirral has a zero tolerance approach. Over 20,000 Fixed Penalty Notices in respect of litter had been issued since July 2015 and over 311 for dog fouling since May 2016. A decision had been taken to engage private enforcement as environment crime needed to be tackled and this would be supported with extensive educational campaigns.

Members were informed that Kingdom Services Group Limited was the successful bidder and the Team Leader for Environmental Enforcement provided details of the service they provided and the benefits of the outsourced model which included the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued for littering offences since July which was 23,498 compared to 92 from Wirral and 311 for dog fouling compared to 5 from Wirral. The principal aim of the Contract was to change the behaviour and perception of residents and the achievement of the Wirral Plan. The reinvestment projects from Fixed Penalty income included Grot Spots and a dog fouling enforcement campaign video.

Sandra Lovell-Struthers, National Business Manager, Kingdom provided an overview of the company. She reported that there were over 350 officers in the Environmental Protection Section who worked with 45 Local Authorities. She explained that their officers acted as extra intelligence whilst on patrol and that they utilised specialised equipment. The Local Authority had full access to the system which provided data in respect of the percentages of Fixed Penalty Notices issued in specific areas, the type of offences and locations where the majority of littering occurred. It also provided the age, gender and ethnicity of the offenders. The footage would be kept safe in encrypted cameras, a complaints procedure was provided and the aim was to take as much work from the Local Authority as possible.

Members thanked Sue Bannister and Sandra Lovell-Struthers for their presentations.

In response to questions from Members, in respect of measuring whether streets in Birkenhead are any cleaner, it was reported that a further survey had been carried out and this could be compared to the perceptions of people recorded in the 2015 survey. Members were advised that the 2014 legislation

in respect of anti-social behaviour and the Police and Crime Act provided the opportunity to issue a litter Fixed Penalty Notice and this would be enacted in April 2018. It was reported that Enforcement Officers wear a uniform but that there were also some plain clothes officers and that should they encounter difficulties with people providing their details when asked they would refer to the fact that this would be an offence.

A Member raised concerns in respect of dog fouling on beaches and was advised that intelligence was relied upon to carry out operations and was assured patrols would cover these areas in future and that a Public Space Protection Order was under consideration. The fact that no feedback had been provided under the CRM system was raised and Members were advised that a better reporting system was being considered.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the officers from Environmental Enforcement and Kingdom Services Group Limited be congratulated on their excellent presentation; and**
- (2) a follow-up report in respect of whether Birkenhead is any cleaner is brought back to a future meeting of this Committee.**

32 FEEDBACK FROM SITE VISITS TO PAVILIONS IN SPORTS GROUNDS

The Chair introduced a report upon feedback from a Member visit to a selection of sports pavilions in Wirral that had taken place on Wednesday 8 November 2017.

Members considered that the site visit had been useful in order that the differences in sites could be seen and urged officers to investigate using the capital bid to improve the standards of some facilities.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted and endorsed; and**
- (2) the following recommendations be referred to the Cabinet Member for Environment:**
 - 1. Members welcomed the recent approval of the updated Playing Pitch Strategy and associated Action Plan. Members encouraged the Council to proactively seek all opportunities to secure external funding to enhance and upgrade the changing facilities at the Council's sports pitches.**

2. An update on progress made to implement the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan be added to the Committee work programme for consideration at a future meeting.
3. The use of advertising or sponsorship at pavilions be explored as a potential additional income stream. Income could be used to improve the standard of facilities.
4. A survey of pavilion users 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 and Scrutiny Committee and should inform the Libraries, Leisure and Cultural Services Review and future decisions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

be followed and that the first drive would be to educate people in respect of the issues.

RESOLVED: That

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

34 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 2 2017/2018

The Strategic Commissioner – Environment provided a report in respect of 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 provided 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.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

35 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 2 2017/2018

The Senior Manager Corporate Finance introduced the report of the Assistant Director: Finance that set out the Council's revenue and capital monitoring position as at the close of quarter 2 2017/18.

He advised Members that the revenue forecast overspend was £0.9 million and that within Waste & Environment the £0.4 million overspend related to the planned saving in the cost of the Waste contract and that officers were working on a series of options that may deliver the required saving in subsequent years. He further informed Members that there was a £0.8 million projected overspend in Sports & Recreation, income levels at golf courses continued to fall below target and that there were a number of underspends across the Environment theme.

A Member referred to a request made at the last meeting of this Committee regarding information in relation to income and income collection in respect of all Council owned golf courses and details on the Council's commercial approach and requested that a response be provided to all Members of the Committee by January 2018.

In response, the Strategic Commissioner – Environment advised that it would be an urgent priority to provide a briefing note on this issue. He further advised that new budget options were being taken in respect of waste and sports and recreation.

Members discussed the Biffa contract and it was clarified that further to preliminary discussions in respect of savings, it had not always been possible to deliver the efficiencies subsequent to ideas that had been formulated by the client side.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the financial monitoring report be noted;**
- (2) the performance of the capital projects and amendments to the programme within this area be noted; and**
- (3) the Strategic Commissioner – Environment provide further information in relation to income and income collection in respect of the Council's golf courses by January 2018.**

36 POLICY INFORM

The Chair introduced a report on the November Policy Inform Briefing paper which provided an overview of ongoing and recent national legislation, bills presented to Parliament and emerging policies.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

37 WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Chair provided a report which explained the process of developing and managing the scrutiny work programme for the municipal year. The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in cooperation with the other three Overview and Scrutiny Committees, was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual work programme.

The work programme would be formed from a combination of scrutiny reviews, standing items on committee agendas and requested officer reports. The report provided the committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

RESOLVED:

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

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ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 7 December 2017

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	P Stuart (Chair)	
	Councillors	T Jones B Kenny C Muspratt T Smith T Usher W Ward J Green (in place of T Pilgrim)	A Sykes B Berry A Hodson C Carubia G Wood (In place of S Foulkes) K Hodson (in place of I Lewis)
<u>In attendance:</u>	Councillors	P Gilchrist G Davies	
<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	S Foulkes I Lewis T Pilgrim	

38 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Foulkes, Councillor Lewis and Councillor Pilgrim.

39 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.

No such declarations were made.

WIRRAL LOCAL PLAN - LETTER FROM SECRETARY OF STATE

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the procedure to be adopted in respect of the matter under consideration, reading out the requisition notice for the benefit of those members of the public in attendance.

The Assistant Director for Environmental Services introduced his report that had been prepared in response to Members' enquiry into considering a letter from the Secretary of State seeking further information on plan-making in Wirral because of the Council's failure to adopt a 2004 Act Local Plan. The report also provided information on the timetable and target dates in providing the long term vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the borough and the framework for future Development Plans.

Members raised a number of issues. Why are we behind on our targets and reasons for not keeping to timescales stated? Why no information has been sent to The Secretary of State and his Office and have other Authorities got their plans in place?

What work has been done to meet the National Housing Policy? Any update on the Local Development Schemes status. Why unlike neighbouring authorities have we not got our plans in place and where are we in regards with political decision making process.

The Assistant Director explained that there is a Local Development Scheme in two parts which has been published and shows real time updates on progress.

The Assistant Director is to raise the question with the Secretary of State as to why this has not been referred to in the letter.

The letter refers to the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Council has plans in two areas Devonshire Park and Hoylake and 3 further areas are in the pipe line. (Birkenhead North & Tranmere, Leasowe & Beechwood)

The Assistant Director explained that meeting housing need was related to land allocation. The current analysis shows that Wirral does not have enough land to meet allocation. Work is being undertaken to establish the number of housing units to build and where they will be located. The Government has consulted on the methodology, but the consultation outcome is not known yet. The Green Belt Review Methodology Consultation closed 6 December 2017. A report is expected next June/July to establish housing number's and land allocation and will set out a 15 year supply broken down into 5 year supply.

Members questioned why the last 4 strategy timescales were not met as it was due to be completed in September 2017

The Assistant Director explained that plan making is a very slow as process. The main issue is a delay in housing needs assessment. The political decision making process also takes time. The process is set out in the timetable. The majority of the plan was already written in 2012. The critical issues are housing needs and allocations. There is an identified need for approximately 803 additional houses per year over the next 3 years. The past few years an average 500 units have been built per year.

A Member asked if the plan could be sent to Secretary of State for comment as it is.

The Assistant Director responded that if that were to happen it would be sent back as not sound.

We need to identify where we are going to build, the residential allocated land, employment need, and Brownfield sites and agree permissions to maximise density. To meet assessed need we may need to include Green Belt land.

Members requested to see what targets we have missed from the core strategy timetable. They questioned to what extent delays are due to political interventions and administration.

The Assistant Director agreed that previously dates on the timetable had not been met but he was not sure how many times this had happened, as the timetable had been revised on numerous occasions.

Members asked could the Assistant Director please list the changes. It was questioned how he would know what the political reasons for the delays were. He was requested to add the reasons why the timetable had been changed, moved or postponed. Members noted that up to 2015, the Local Plan was on track but that from July 2015 target dates started to be missed. It was also commented regarding housing needs that there are 6,000 empty properties and 13,000 with planning permission.

The Assistant Director responded that a detailed piece of work could be done which would set out the process that had been followed setting out the facts of the journey. The chronology would provide a full history from 2004.

Some Members questioned whether the delay in meeting our target build was due to a wish to save the Green Belt.

Members of the Committee wanted to raise with the Leader of the Council the ongoing political interference to officers doing their work.

A member questioned the tone of the letter from the Secretary of State regarding the information being sent and questioned whether we had been sending enough information through to his office.

The Assistant Director stated that the letter was sent to Wirral out of the blue, only half an hour before the Minister stood up in Parliament letting us know that Wirral would be named in his speech. It came as a surprise since we had been sharing all the information with them.

A Member asked since the letter had been received on 16 November 2017 who has been in contact with them to get the queries answered?

The Assistant Director stated that he is seeking clarification on the contents of the letter. A Senior Civil Servant has been appointed as main contact unfortunately this information was initially sent to the wrong email address so it hadn't reached him until yesterday and he would contact as soon as possible.

A member asked what the implications of intervention are.

The Assistant Director stated that he couldn't really comment. There was a wide range the powers of intervention could take ranging between accepting the specific circumstances made by the Authority to sending in Civil Servants to actually write the plan for Wirral. Some of the matters to be considered are however political decisions which are outside the control of the officers.

He confirmed that discussions with Central Government were taking place on a regular basis and that there had been sharing real time information. The DCLG officials know what progresses we have made to the Neighbourhood Plan, and are fully aware that we haven't met some of the timescales.

Members asked was the same letter sent to other Local Authorities.

The Assistant Director confirmed that a letter had been sent to 13 other authorities.

A Member stated that this was a non-political issue as all parties during the time had been in administration and in charge. They questioned how other authorities had been able to comply with the timescales.

The Assistant Director responded that Officers develop local plans and the Administration approves them. Officers on the technical side can keep to timescales, but he could not comment regarding the making of political decisions.

Members questioned why scrutiny is not involved in the decision making process and asked for this Committee to be involved in the process.

The Assistant Director for Environmental Services informed Members that the Leader had until the end of January 2018 to reply to the Secretary of State. Members asked that the Leader outlines any exceptional circumstances for failure to produce a Wirral Specific Plan; to draw to the attention of the Secretary of State what had been done and what we are doing. The Leader will respond to Secretary of State.

RESOLVED: (unanimously) - That

- 1) That the report is noted and Committee expressed its concern at the length of time that this process has taken.**
- 2) That the Assistant Director for Environmental Services reports to future scrutiny committee detailing timetable to date and reasons for slippage.**
- 3) That a Core Strategy Local Plan Update becomes a standing item of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee to allow effective scrutiny of the Council's progress towards adopting a Local Plan.**

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COUNCIL MINUTE EXTRACT

11 DECEMBER 2017

100 NOTICES OF MOTION

Notices of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(1) were reported to the Council. The Civic Mayor having considered each motion, in accordance with Standing Order 7(4) had decided that they would be dealt with as follows:

- (i). National Budget
To be debated.
- (ii). Preparing Communities for the Impact of New Development
To be debated.
- (iii). Reducing Single-Use Plastic (SUP) in Wirral Council
To be debated.
- (iv). Domestic Violence
To be debated.
- (v). Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign
To be debated.
- (vi). The United Kingdom's Household Debt Ticking Time-Bomb
To be debated.
- (vii). Economic Viability Assessments from Developers
To be referred to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (viii). Planning Ahead to Use the Community Infrastructure Levy
To be referred to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved – That the Notices of Motion, ‘Economic Viability Assessments from Developers’ and ‘Planning Ahead to Use the Community Infrastructure Levy’, be referred to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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Council – 11 December, 2017

Motion

7. **ECONOMIC VIABILITY ASSESSMENTS FROM DEVELOPERS**

(the Civic Mayor to refer to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

Proposed by Councillor Stuart Kelly

Seconded by Councillor Chris Carubia

This Council recognises the pressing need to provide quality homes which are affordable to those on low and middle incomes in Wirral and for transparency with regard to planning applications to ensure that the Council's own policies on affordable housing requirements are met.

Regrettably, a recent report from the housing charity, Shelter, has revealed the widespread use and abuse of Economic Viability Assessments (EVAs), resulting in thousands of affordable homes being lost every year because of viability assessments. (Slipping through the loophole: How viability assessments are reducing affordable housing supply in England)

http://england.shelter.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1434439/2017.11.01_Slipping_through_the_loophole.pdf

Council are dismayed that there are companies who are openly boasting in their promotion that they can help developers to avoid paying Section 106 monies and making appropriate levels of affordable housing provision. These companies produce EVAs in order to demonstrate that developers are not making sufficient profits to enable councils to insist on full 106 or affordable housing contributions.

<http://www.s106management.co.uk/how-it-works>

Whilst some of these EVAs are submitted in good faith, there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the reports can be prepared in such a way as to attempt to confuse local planning committees and present a misleading picture. Some London councils, such as Lambeth LBC, now insist that EVAs are no longer able to be submitted unless they are able to be viewed by members of the public and in open session at planning committee meetings. <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/pl-development-viability-spd.pdf>

Accordingly, this Council, which is committed to increasing the delivery of affordable housing, requests that the Cabinet commissions the development of a new Development Viability Supplementary Planning Document to:

1. require any planning application which does not meet the affordable housing requirement to submit an Economic Viability Assessment which must be fully public and will be published online alongside the other planning application documentation.

2. require such Economic Viability Assessments to be in a standard proforma to aid understanding and comparison by members of the planning committee and the public.
3. consider offering a 'fast-track' planning service to applications which deliver 40%, or more, affordable housing, as identified in the Wirral Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Housing needs Study (May 2016) to incentivise this behaviour by developers.
4. consider 'clawback' mechanisms where large applications cannot comply with the affordable housing thresholds, to ensure that any subsequent improvement in viability is accompanied by an appropriate increase in the affordable housing provision.

The Development Viability Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) would enable these factors to become a material consideration for the Planning Committee dependent on the circumstances of individual applications.

COUNCIL MINUTE EXTRACT

11 DECEMBER 2017

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To be debated.
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To be debated.
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To be debated.
- (iv). Domestic Violence
To be debated.
- (v). Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign
To be debated.
- (vi). The United Kingdom's Household Debt Ticking Time-Bomb
To be debated.
- (vii). Economic Viability Assessments from Developers
To be referred to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (viii). Planning Ahead to Use the Community Infrastructure Levy
To be referred to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved – That the Notices of Motion, ‘Economic Viability Assessments from Developers’ and ‘Planning Ahead to Use the Community Infrastructure Levy’, be referred to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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Council – 11 December, 2017

Motion

8. PLANNING AHEAD TO USE THE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY *(the Civic Mayor to refer to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee)*

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Stuart Kelly

Council recognises that the Cabinet last considered the use of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) at its meeting on 15 January 2015 (Minute 131 refers).

<http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50022901/Community%20Infrastructure%20Levy%20Update%20Report.pdf>

At that time, it was reported that...

'The Council's Core Strategy Local Plan is now at an advanced stage in preparation. A revised Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy is expected to be presented to the Council for approval for publication and public examination in July 2015.'

Since that study, it is worth noting that

- (a) Knowsley Council adopted a Supplementary Planning Document on developer contributions in June 2016.
- (b) Cheshire West and Chester Council adopted a full scheme in July 2017.
- (c) Sefton set out a draft charging schedule for consultation in September 2017.

Council appreciates that developer contributions can be secured by the planning system through on-site provision and design, site-specific planning obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy. Given the extent of the Budget Gap it is essential that these means are explored.

Council is also aware that documentation released at the time of the most recent Budget has laid out the Government's intention to set about speeding up the process of setting and revising CIL to make it easier to respond to changes to the market. Apparently, this will include...

'allowing a more proportionate approach than the requirement for two stages of consultation and providing greater clarity on the appropriate evidence base'.

Council believes that, whatever the outcome of the intervention by Sajid Javid (Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) on 16 November, this Council now needs to make greater progress in assessing how the use of the Community Infrastructure Levy can raise resources to assist in the provision of local facilities and services.

Accordingly, it requests that the Cabinet allocates sufficient resources to speed up the local plan making process, the use of developer contributions and examination of the use of the Community Infrastructure Levy.



Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 31 January 2018

REPORT TITLE:	CLIMATE CHANGE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACTION PLAN 2017
REPORT OF:	Strategic Commissioner for Environment

REPORT SUMMARY

1.1 The report presents an annual update on climate change action in Wirral. It introduces:-

- The function and activities of the Wirral Climate Change Group;
- The latest 'Cool Steps' report detailing recent progress with the climate change strategy;
- The most recent version of the 'rolling' action plan developed to help implement the strategy; and,
- An overview of progress made over the first three years of the five year strategy period.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Committee is requested to:

- (1) Note the work of the Wirral Climate Change Group and the progress outlined in this report to implement the climate change strategy; and
- (2) Recommend to the Cabinet Member that the 'Cool Steps' annual progress report (Appendix 1) and latest version of the climate strategy action plan (Appendix 2) are formally endorsed and used to meet the Council's Climate Local commitment.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Cabinet has requested annual reports on climate change.
- 1.2 Wirral Council is a signatory to Climate Local and is duly committed to identify actions on climate change and the public reporting of progress with respect to these.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 None.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In order to reduce the problems caused by climate change, there is an urgent need to work internationally, nationally and locally to significantly reduce 'greenhouse' pollution. In practical terms this usually means measures to cut fossil fuel use for heat, power and transport as well as steps to reduce indirect impacts through consideration of the wider influence that our decisions have (e.g. through the amount of waste we produce, or type of food we eat). There is also a need to adapt to the changes in our climate that are already unavoidable. This entails considering the main risks of these changes and putting in place plans and actions to limit them.
- 3.2 Wirral Council is publicly committed to set out its actions on climate change and to regularly review and report progress on them. It is a signatory to the Local Government Association's 'Climate Local' initiative (Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 29 January 2013, Minute 63). It has also pledged its support for the UN's Paris Agreement on climate change (Cabinet, 7 November 2016, Minute 58). In order to honour its commitment, the council supported the creation of a climate change strategy for Wirral. This was developed through a process of wider consultation and public engagement overseen via the Wirral Climate Change Group. The five year strategy, Cool (2014-2019), was subsequently endorsed by the council in October 2014. The council continues to support the Wirral Climate Change Group as a partnership to co-ordinate local action in support of the strategy.

3.3 Cool (2014-2019) sets a vision and framework for local climate action. It has two overarching goals:

- Reducing climate pollution; and
- Adapting to unavoidable change.

The following aims support these goals:

- Reducing demand for energy and making Wirral more energy efficient.
- Meeting more of our energy needs from renewable sources.
- Making use of more sustainable means for transport.
- Reducing indirect climate pollution.
- Identifying risks and developing resilience; and
- Building capacity for action.

The climate change strategy and its reporting arrangements were established prior to the creation of the Wirral Plan and the council's 20 Pledges. The later framework does not address climate change directly. Cabinet has requested annual reports on climate change (Cabinet, 9 October, 2014 minute 67; Cabinet, 7 November, 2016, minute 58). This is the third annual report since the strategy was adopted.

4.0 THE GLOBAL, NATIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL CONTEXT

4.1 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) - the international body set up to assess the science related to climate change - states in its most recent assessment (IPCC, 2014) that:

“Human influence on the climate system is clear, and recent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are the highest in history. Recent climate changes have had widespread impacts on human and natural systems...

Without additional mitigation efforts beyond those in place today, and even with adaptation, warming by the end of the 21st century will lead to

high to very high risk of severe, widespread and irreversible impacts globally”.

- 4.2 In response to the threat of climate change, the international community adopted the Paris Agreement in December 2015. This agreement formally came into force in November 2016 after being ratified by the requisite number of countries. It sets a goal to limit global temperature rise this century to ‘well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels’ while pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees. Under the agreement, countries formulate and submit their own “nationally determined contribution” towards meeting this goal.
- 4.3 The Paris Agreement was a major step forward for international climate diplomacy coming into force relatively swiftly as well as securing the support of the two largest emitters, China and the USA. Following a change in President, the US Government has since signalled its intent to withdraw. It is still unclear how much impact this announcement will have, or if and how it will be followed through. Other parties remain committed. There is also momentum behind the global shift to cleaner energy.
- 4.4 In the UK, the Climate Change Act 2008 creates a framework for action with legally binding targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The long term target is for an 80% reduction by 2050 compared to 1990 levels with a series of five year ‘carbon budgets’ as steps towards this. Whilst there has been good progress with emissions which are already down by 42%, the UK’s independent committee on climate change has recently raised concerns about progress stalling and the need to identify further measures to maintain momentum (Committee on Climate Change, 2017). The UK Government was expected to have produced a plan in 2016 to set out its intended path to meet future carbon budgets. A Clean Growth Strategy was eventually released in October 2017. This new strategy clearly positions decarbonisation as a major economic opportunity rather than a cost. It charts a broad approach to low carbon growth including a planned new measure of performance - an annual Emissions Intensity Ratio to indicate the amount of greenhouse gases produced for each unit of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) created. Being a broad strategy rather

than a detailed plan of action, not all outcomes are quantifiable and a gap still remains with respect to meeting future carbon budgets. Future updates will need to account for this and the committee on climate change will provide feedback to the Government in due course. The release of the strategy reaffirms Government commitment towards deep decarbonisation across the economy. It underlines that radical transformation is expected. It highlights the need for innovation and signals corresponding investment in key sectors.

4.5 At the Liverpool City Region (LCR) level, the new metro-Mayor has signalled intent to ensure the area makes its contribution to tackling climate change. The original devolution deal did not mention climate change directly but the subsequent 100 Day Plan issued by the Mayor and Combined Authority includes a commitment to sign up to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, and the UN Compact Cities Programme. Several aspects of the devolution deal such as transport and energy have a direct bearing on the achievement of local climate strategy objectives.

5.0 THE WORK OF THE WIRRAL CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

5.1 Climate change work in Wirral is based on a partnership approach. The Wirral Climate Change Group includes councillor representation from the three main political groups, key public sector bodies, voluntary and business interests.

Those who have played a recent part in include:

- Magenta Living
- Energy Projects Plus
- Faiths4Change
- Wirral Environment Network
- Peel Holdings
- LCR Local Enterprise Partnership
- Merseyside Police
- Merseyside Recycling and Waste Disposal Authority
- Community Action Wirral
- Planet Heswall

- 5.2 Since last year's annual report, the Wirral Climate Change Group has met four times - in December 2016 and April, September and December, 2017. The group has received presentations and updates on:
- 5.2.1 Peel Holdings' plans for Wirral Waters as an exemplar sustainable city extension. Peel has the aspiration to make Wirral Waters the most sustainable redevelopment project in the UK. The climate change strategy recognises this opportunity. Following the presentation, Peel Holdings is now represented on the climate group. A bid has since been submitted that involves Peel to bring further investment for improvements in sustainable transport and green infrastructure in the Wirral Waters area.
- 5.2.2 The work of the LCR Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) on sustainable energy. LEPs have a role mediating between different energy interests to help meet a variety of objectives including productivity improvements, jobs and inward investment, upskilling the workforce, increasing resilience of cities, reducing fuel poverty, local ownership of energy infrastructure, a reduction in climate pollution and transport-related air quality amongst others. Building a relationship with the LCR LEP is identified in the climate strategy as a means to progress it. Following the presentation, the LEP is now represented on the climate group. A LEP energy strategy is now under development. This will seek to draw on experience from Wirral.
- 5.2.3 Local work on home energy efficiency. Considerable improvements have been achieved in Wirral through past interventions. Recently, the scale of programmes has diminished as funding from energy companies has reduced. That which is available is now often targeted at alleviating fuel poverty. A variety of interventions are being pursued locally including free advice, loans, targeted grants, and work with landlords to improve housing standards.
- 5.2.4 A study into potential sites for community-owned solar energy developments in Wirral. Wirral Community Renewables is now formally constituted as a Community Benefit Society. It has appointed consultants to conduct a feasibility study into potential sites for it to develop community-owned solar power plant

with a short-list of the most promising sites subject to more detailed investigation.

5.2.5 The Refresh Project. This is a project developed in partnership between Wirral Environment Network, Wirral Council and Magenta Living. The project promotes skills in refurbishment and upcycling to help prevent surplus furniture and materials from being wasted. The pilot phase, now complete, involved the refurbishment and furnishing of a flat in Seacombe. The flat formed a temporary base for community courses to promote re-use and up-cycling.

5.2.6 The Government's Clean Growth Strategy (see paragraph 4.4)

5.2.7 The work of the Wirral Chamber of Commerce in support of the climate change strategy. In addition to work to encourage local inter-trading and promote local businesses from the environment sector at trade shows, the Chamber has recently established a business-led energy and environment forum.

5.2.8 The 'World Faiths, Climate Change and Community Influence' event held in Wirral during Interfaith Week in November 2017. The event, organised by Faiths4Change, attracted representatives from Christian, Muslim and Hindu communities from across the Liverpool City Region to learn and share experiences about faith community responses to climate change. It is anticipated that the event will be the first step in building an active network of local faith communities working on climate change issues.

5.3 Since the last progress report the Wirral Climate Change Group has:

5.3.1 Maintained a rolling action plan in support of the climate strategy. Actions are recorded via an on-line platform to enable updates to be made directly at any time. A snap-shot of this action plan as at August 2017 is reproduced in Appendix 2. Over 200 actions have been identified so far, with around 50% completed.

- 5.3.2 Revised its terms of reference. This is in line with the climate strategy's intent that the group evolves as a partnership to champion the strategy and local climate change action.
- 5.3.3 Produced the third annual progress report on the climate strategy (Appendix 1). This summary report for public consumption details recent steps to help advance climate objectives. It also includes indicators of progress and highlights changing circumstances that may have an influence. The report indicates that progress is being made but there is much still to do to achieve the strategy's objectives. It underlines the importance of action over the remaining two years towards the strategy's overall success.

6.0 AN ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS TO DATE

- 6.1 To inform action over the remaining two years of Cool (2014-2019), a wider assessment of progress has also been made. The nature of the climate problem makes it difficult to measure local progress with the strategy's goals over a relatively short time scale. The scope of the strategy is also broad and cross-cutting with six aims and over 70 objectives to support its goals. The assessment thus focuses on progress to meet these objectives rather than their ultimate impact.
- 6.1.1 *Reducing demand for energy and making Wirral more energy efficient.*
Although there has been progress on the majority of the energy efficiency objectives, it is unlikely that local ambitions to improve domestic energy efficiency will be achieved over the life of the strategy. Good progress has been made to upgrade outdoor street lights with a street lighting strategy in place and a sizable first phase of upgrades implemented. A major investment in the NHS estate has resulted in the installation of an efficient combined heat and power system. The Wirral Waters regeneration remains a major strategic opportunity to develop sustainable energy. A substantial reduction in funding from energy companies has limited progress to improve the energy efficiency of domestic properties. Interventions are being advanced but the number of upgrades to hard-to-treat homes is below that anticipated. Delays with the development

plan make it unlikely higher energy efficiency standards for new developments will be demanded in the short-term. Funding to support energy efficiency improvements in community buildings has yet to be secured. It remains unclear what, if any, opportunities exist to advance smart networks locally. The national roll-out of domestic smart meters remains a potential opportunity to promote energy efficiency but initial prospects for local involvement were very limited. More recently Energy Projects Plus has secured some funding to assist raising awareness about smart meters.

6.1.2 *Meeting more of our energy needs from renewable sources.* Several renewable energy objectives have already been met. Wirral is a recognised centre of excellence for off-shore wind with investment secured to support growth in this sector. The creation of Wirral Community Renewables has established a co-operative entity capable of pooling local resources for investment in renewable energy schemes. The LCR collective switch now includes a renewable energy option. Some changes in government policy have frustrated the realisation of local objectives. Prospects for an on-shore wind trial are far less likely following changes in Government planning policies to limit on-shore wind. Local sites that had been identified as having potential for solar schemes may no longer be feasible in the immediate future following changes to the incentive regime. The evidence available suggests that the early growth in micro-renewable energy installations - particularly solar power - has been curtailed following cuts to incentive rates. In the face of falling incentives, the feasibility study currently in progress for Wirral Community Renewables is significant. A timely response to its recommendations may determine whether community owned renewable energy plays a part in the local energy mix as anticipated in the strategy.

6.1.3 *Making use of more sustainable means for transport.* There has been progress towards achieving some sustainable transport objectives. Secure cycle parking is now in place at all local Merseyrail stations bar one. A cycle route map has been produced and improvements to cycle routes are being advanced with a particular focus on areas around Wirral Waters and the A41 corridor. There has also been progress to establish a network of electric vehicle charging points with public facilities now established at Seacombe Ferry Terminal, Birkenhead North

Park & Ride and Elgin Way car parks. The recent government announcement about phasing out diesel and petrol vehicles by 2040 presents an opportunity to further promote electric vehicles and associated infrastructure. Prospects to better integrate bus services and introduce more flexible ticketing may improve following the Liverpool City Region devolution deal. Some local programmes to support sustainable transport choices have now ceased having reached the end of their funding period. The absence of these programmes may limit achieving related objectives.

6.1.4 *Reducing indirect climate pollution.* This aim covers a diverse set of objectives spanning food, local trade, waste reduction and sustainability appraisal amongst others. 'Better Food Wirral' has been established as the brand to promote the value of local and seasonal food. A website has been created along with a social media presence to support networking amongst local food interests. Several local food projects have also been supported via Better Food Wirral innovation grants. The wider benefit of reducing meat consumption has featured as a topic in local Eco Schools work resulting in meat-free menu choices being introduced in local schools. Work to encourage local inter-trading is being advanced by Wirral Chamber with a meet the buyer/local supplier event for the construction sector held recently. With respect to waste minimisation a new waste strategy for Wirral has been adopted. The 'Warp-it' service has also been adopted by CWP NHS Trust, Wirral Council, Community Action Wirral and local schools to facilitate the re-use of surplus resources. It has taken longer than anticipated to introduce the council and community sector on-line Warp-it portals, but now they are in place there is an opportunity to promote re-use within and between local organisations. There has been little or no work to encourage sustainability appraisal of decisions or to organise a green procurement fair.

6.1.5 *Adapting to unavoidable changes in Wirral's climate.* Although work to support climate adaptation objectives is more limited, there has been progress in some areas. Wirral's Local Climate Impact Profile has been updated. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment now includes a regularly-updated section on climate change and health. The Wirral resilient parks project reported on ways

local parks might need to adapt in the face of climate change. A surface water investigation has since been undertaken at Coronation Park to test some of the proposals to limit flood risk arising from it. The closure of the Environment Agency's 'climate ready' programme removed a key opportunity for business engagement with the adaptation agenda. Nevertheless a guide to climate resilience has been produced aimed at small and medium enterprises in the Liverpool City Region. A planned local workshop on this topic did not take place with too few bookings. There has been little work to promote the use of porous materials, green roofs and walls. A recent funding bid to support further green streets-type interventions in the Wirral Waters area was successful.

- 6.1.6 *Building capacity for action.* This aim underpins all the others and is therefore pivotal to the strategy's success. Progress is not as well advanced as it could be with some of the related objectives. Climate change work with schools is well developed via the Eco Schools programme. Progress is less well developed with respect to life-long learning opportunities. Exemplar eco-buildings exist but not in all constituency areas. Work is in progress to establish a Planet Heswall group, to join Transition Town West Kirby as a focus for local community action on climate change; the strategy anticipates similar groups in each of the four constituency areas. Plans for a Cool Wirral campaign and network are less well developed. The campaign has a brand and social media presence and belatedly an on-line mailing list. Earlier plans to establish a website were thwarted and this has hampered related objectives including that to expand the number of good practice case studies on-line. The Wirral Climate Change Group has recently adopted new terms of reference in line with the climate strategy objective that it evolve in to a partnership with a more independent voice. There are now provisions for the group to select a chair from within its number. Up until now the group has been chaired by a senior council officer. Participation by member organisations has fluctuated over time, including changes in staff stemming from rationalisation in the face of austerity.
- 6.2 Whilst the full impact of local climate interventions remains to be seen and there is much to do to achieve strategy objectives, a broad and outwardly focused programme of activity has been maintained in accordance with the council's

public commitments. In the face of austerity, the amount of local authority supported climate change activity has diminished. The LGA's own web site now refers to the Climate Local programme in the past tense following the withdrawal of staff resources to support it from the Environment Agency. The Climate Local online hub remains for signatory authorities to share information and post the required updates. The most recent overview of Climate Local activity from January 2016 recorded Wirral as one of the 50 authorities - from a total of 120 signatories - to have submitted action plans and progress reports in accordance with the commitment made. Locally, at this time, Knowsley and Sefton Councils had also submitted both an action plan and progress report; Cheshire West and Chester Council had submitted an action plan. Liverpool was listed as a signatory but had yet to submit an action plan or progress report. Neither St. Helens nor Halton Councils were listed as signatories. Since regular meetings of local authority officers working on climate change in the LCR no longer take place, it is difficult to provide an up-to-date local comparison. A one-off meeting has been requested to remedy this and is likely to take place in January. Early indications from the contact made to arrange this meeting suggests that climate work may have stalled, fragmented or narrowed in scope in some neighbouring authorities. In contrast, in Wirral it has been sustained through a partnership approach.

- 6.3 To make a greater impact over the remaining two years of the strategy, attention to climate change needs to extend further beyond the Wirral Climate Change Group. Decisions taken on a wide range of matters may hinder or present opportunities to achieve climate objectives. Long term investments need to be 'future proofed' anticipating both the radical shift required for a low carbon future and the implications of changing weather patterns. Extending the use of sustainability appraisal and related techniques and tools should help alongside efforts to raise awareness and build capacity for action within the Council and with partners.
- 6.4 At the time of the development and establishment of Cool (2014-2019), environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation came under the management function of Assets Management. However as part of the creation

of the Strategic Hub the function, including the role of Sustainability Liaison Officer, was moved into the Strategic Environment Team with new reporting lines created. Work has been undertaken since to align climate change work with other environmental service functions and strategy. The Strategic Environment Team has also created a linkage between the work undertaken to deliver the Attractive Local Environment (ALE) Pledge of the Wirral Plan and Cool (2014-2019). As a result of this Cool is now part of the performance reporting arrangements for the ALE Pledge Delivery Plan. It is proposed that the work to create closer alignment between Cool and the Council's corporate framework should continue ahead of and as part of the development of the next corporate plan.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The action plan does not commit the Council to any additional expenditure. It includes actions that promote the efficient use of energy and water that help ensure the Council does not waste money.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no legal issues foreseen associated with the recommendation.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

9.1 The action plan does not commit the Council to any additional staffing or ICT infrastructure. It supports the efficient use of assets to reduce the use of energy and water and promote more sustainable patterns of transportation.

10.0 RELEVANT RISKS

10.1 A failure to develop and pursue a local response to climate change will likely increase the risk of negative impacts locally and further afield.

10.2 A failure to fulfil obligations under Climate Local could pose reputational risk for the Council

11.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

11.1 The latest annual progress report and action plan have been developed via the Wirral Climate Change Group which includes representation from numerous partner organisations spanning the public, private and voluntary sectors.

11.2 The climate change strategy 2014-2019, which this report concerns was developed through a wider public consultation process.

12.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 The impacts of climate change will affect everyone but are expected to be more severe for vulnerable groups.
- 12.2 The climate change strategy was subject to an equality impact assessment

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Cool Steps: Wirral Climate Change Strategy 2014-2019 3rd Annual Progress Report July 2017

Appendix 2: Climate Change Strategy Action Plan, August 2017 version

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Wirral Climate Change Group (2014) Cool: Wirral Climate Change Strategy- 2014-2019
(<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/climatestrategy>)

IPCC (2014) Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland

United Nations (2015) The Paris Agreement
http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php

Committee on Climate Change (2017) 2017 Report to Parliament – Meeting Carbon Budgets: Closing the policy gap
(<https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/2017-report-to-parliament-meeting-carbon-budgets-closing-the-policy-gap/>)

HM Government (2017) The Clean Growth Strategy - Leading the way to a low carbon future
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-growth-strategy>)

Liverpool City Region Mayor (2017) Mayoral Combined Authority 100 Day Plan
(<http://liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/100-day-plan>)

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
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CABINET	07/11/2016
CABINET	08/10/2015
REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE	15/09/2015
CABINET	09/10/2014
REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE	22/09/2014

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COOL

STEPS

WIRRAL CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2014-2019

3rd Annual Progress report - July 2017



Background

Cool - Wirral's climate change strategy 2014-19 - seeks to encourage and co-ordinate climate change-related action and investment by people and organisations with an interest in Wirral. Its goals are to cut local climate pollution and to adapt Wirral to unavoidable change.

This report is the third in a series of annual progress reports about *Cool*. It outlines some recent steps taken under each the strategy's six aims. It also highlights where there have been changes in context that have had an impact on progress or that present new opportunities. The format continues to evolve. This year several indicators have been included to help present a wider picture.

The actions highlighted in this report have been advanced by organisations directly involved in the Wirral Climate Change Group – the partnership tasked with co-ordinating local climate-related action. This in itself is not enough. The importance of widespread action from all quarters is vital to the success of our collective response to climate change. Readers are thus asked to take stock of their own actions and reflect on their potential role to help take the strategy forward. *Have you done what you can to help advance the aims of the strategy at home, at work and in your community? What are the best ways you can help over the two remaining years of the strategy?*

The bigger picture

The two main goals of the *Cool* strategy mirror global and national priorities for climate change. Globally there is a need to reduce climate pollution to stop further temperature rises that will drive potentially catastrophic climate disruption. There is also a need to prepare for changes that are now unavoidable.

At present humanity is not doing enough to curb climate-related pollution - primarily carbon dioxide that arises from burning fossil fuels. Emissions remain higher than those considered to be acceptable to avoid dangerous change. The impacts of present extreme weather events serve to illustrate the vulnerability of the human and natural world to a changing climate.

In order to address climate change at the international level, the Paris Agreement formally came into force in November 2016. The new framework applies to more countries – both developed and developing - and has arguably a more ambitious goal than the Kyoto Protocol it replaces. The agreement seeks to keep the average global temperature rise this century to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 °C. It relies on countries submitting plans for their 'nationally determined contribution' to achieve this.

The Paris Agreement appeared to be a major step forward for international climate diplomacy with the support of the two largest emitters China and the USA. However, the US Government has since signalled its intent to withdraw from the agreement following a change in administration¹. With momentum now firmly behind a global shift to cleaner energy it is unclear how much impact US withdrawal will have. Other parties remain committed to the agreement.

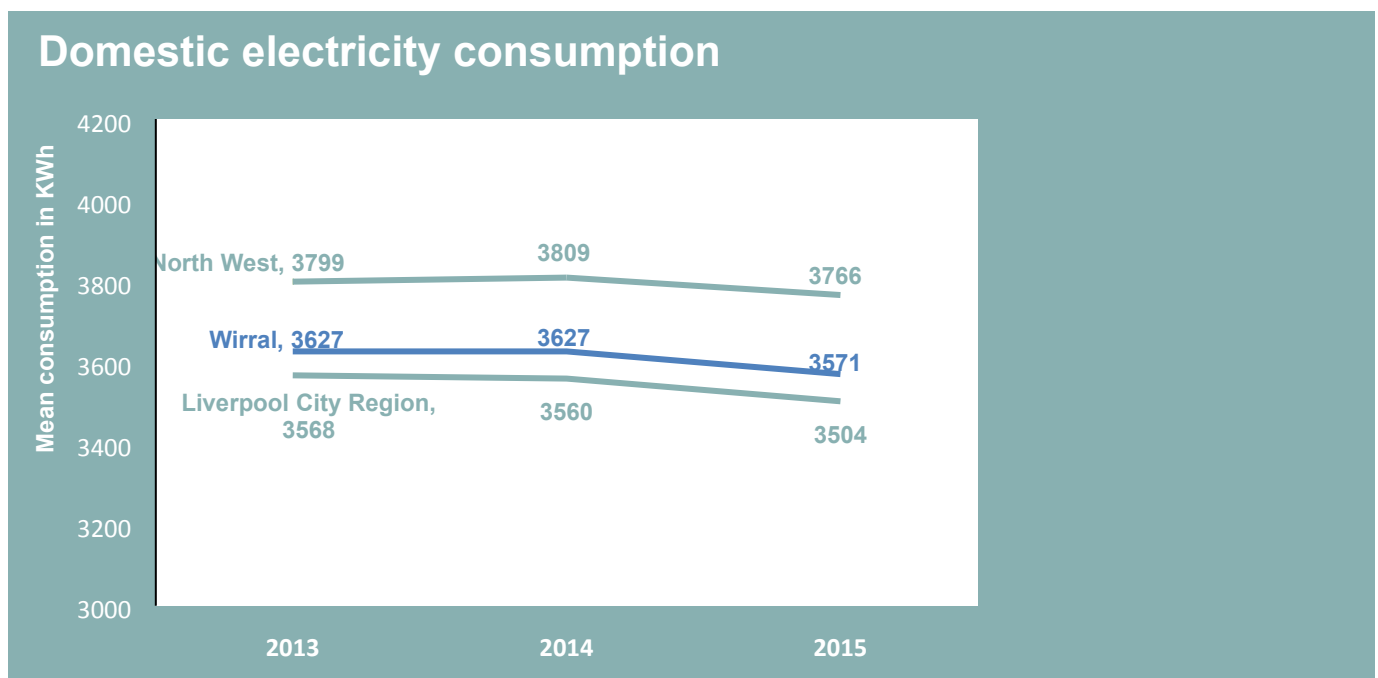
¹ Such a move is not without precedence; the United States previously withdrew support for the Kyoto Protocol - also following a change in political administration.

At the national level, emissions of greenhouse gases are already about 42% lower than in 1990 which is just over half-way towards the 80% reduction in emissions envisaged by 2050. However, progress is at risk of stalling without the identification of new measures. The UK's independent climate change committee has raised concerns about this in its latest report to parliament. It has called for the identification of new strategies and policies to maintain momentum.

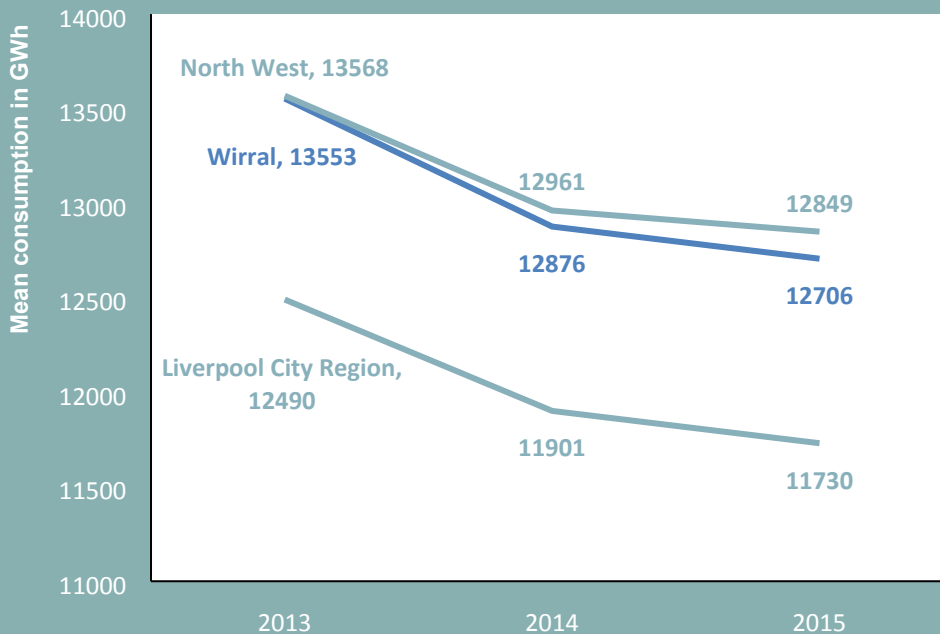
At the local level, progress is being made but there remains much more to do to achieve the objectives set out in the Cool framework. There has been activity in relation to each of the six aims of the strategy but not uniformly across these. In some cases objectives have already been achieved and in several they are well advanced. In others progress is being made in spite of more hostile conditions but the outcome remains uncertain. In a few cases changes in context have rendered the achievement of objectives obsolete or unrealistic. In others action can still not be confirmed due to insufficient information. Three years in, in spite of the difficulties, more has happened to tackle climate change locally than would likely have been the case without the strategy. Actions over the next two years will be crucial in determining how much of a difference the strategy actually makes.

Aim 1: Reducing demand for energy and making Wirral more energy efficient

Local energy consumption in focus ...



Domestic gas consumption



Recent steps...

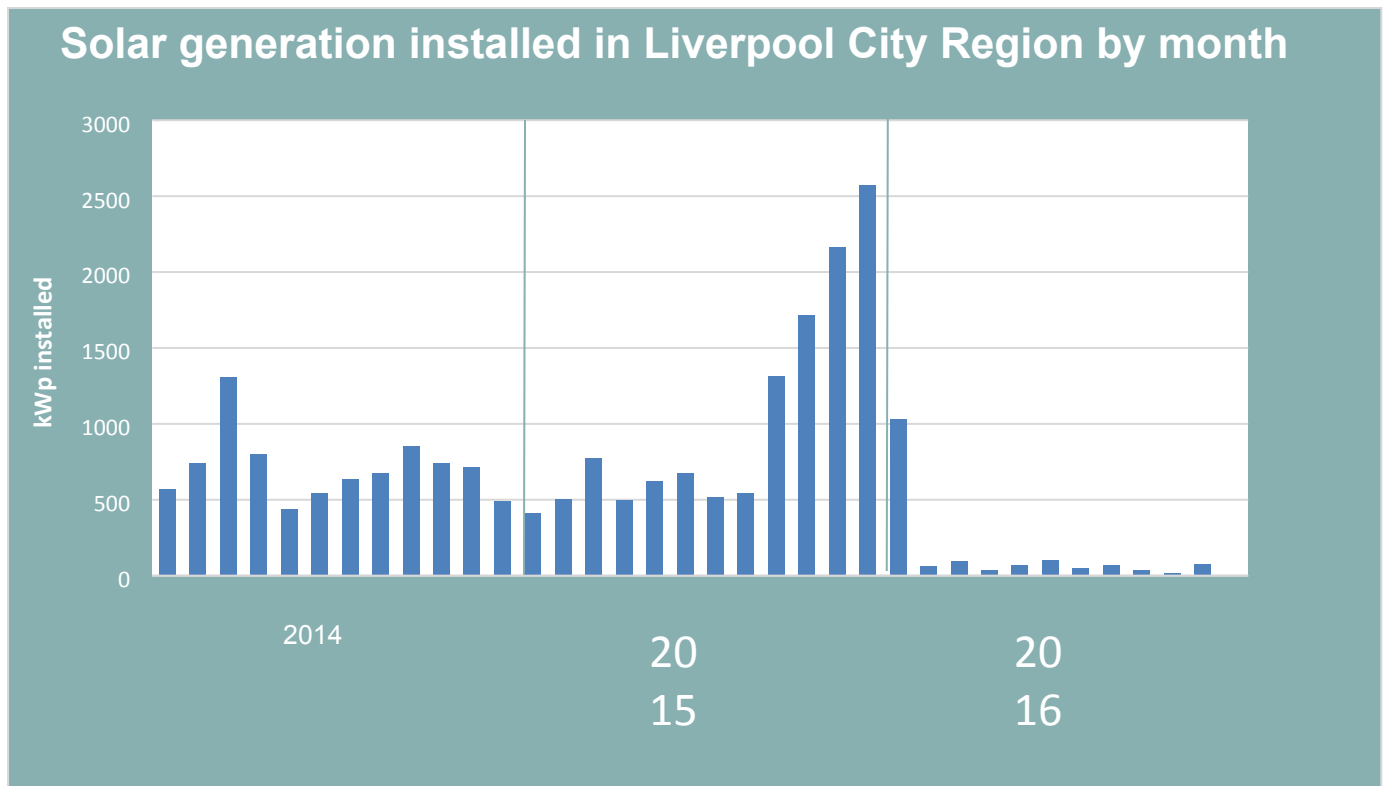
- 26 grants were given to support installation of insulation in solid walled properties
- The installation of a new solid wall insulation system was successfully trialled by Magenta Living on two houses in Bromborough
- A condition survey of remaining less energy efficient street lighting assets is underway and nearing completion with £500,000 funding secured to begin the replacement of life-expired and condemned lighting equipment with LED units

The number of new energy efficiency measures being installed in homes in Wirral is below that expected when the strategy was developed. This is primarily due to a reduction in funding following a refocus in the obligations of energy companies to support energy efficiency. With more limited support on offer it is now targeted at specific areas and focused on alleviating fuel poverty. In the face of a reduction in anticipated funds it has been necessary to seek funding from different sources. This is both time consuming and unpredictable.

Last year's report highlighted that the Government had withdrawn funding for the Green Deal Finance Company after the 'Green Deal' mechanism established to fund energy efficiency improvements had failed to meet expectations. The strategy had initially envisaged that Green Deal loans would be an opportunity for householders particularly in the west of Wirral where other means of support were limited. The Green Deal Finance Company has now been sold on with Green Deal loans now an opportunity again. It remains unclear what the overall impact of this development will have, but an option now appears open that previously seemed to be closed.

Aim 2: Meeting more of our energy needs from renewable sources

Local solar installations in focus ...



Recent steps...

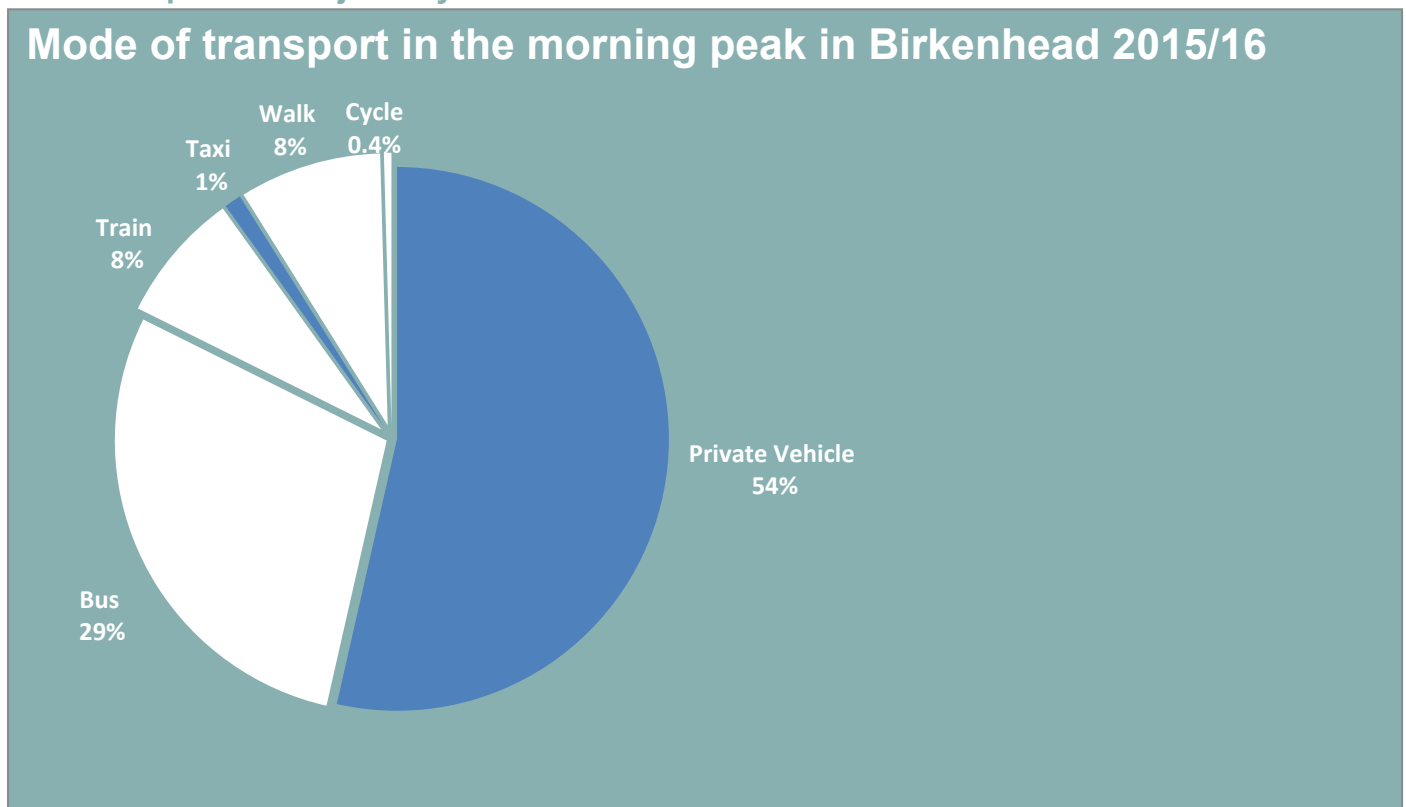
- 248 kWp of solar photo voltaic (PV) panels were installed (registered for Feed in Tariff (FiT)) in 2016/17, bringing the total installed capacity to 8,525 kWp. (DECC, Sub-regional Feed-in Tariffs statistics, April 2016).
- Wirral Community Renewables is now formally constituted as a Community Benefit Society and has appointed a consultant to conduct a feasibility investigation for potential solar schemes. This investigation follows a successful bid for support from the Urban Community Energy Fund.



As anticipated in last year's progress report, the growth in PV installations fell back sharply after a reduction to the Government's Feed in Tariff (FiTs) incentive rate. It will be important to continue to highlight the existence of incentives albeit now at a lower level. These incentives will likely continue to be offered for installations up to 2019. In the face of less fertile ground for new community renewable energy initiatives, the present investigation being undertaken for Wirral Community Renewables is significant. Assuming that the investigation identifies some feasible solar developments, there will likely be a need act swiftly to progress them.

Aim 3: Making use of more sustainable means for transport

Local composition of journeys in focus...



Recent steps...

- Investment in infrastructure for cyclists continued with schemes progressed in the Wirral Waters area and A41 corridor
- Merseytravel, Arriva and Stagecoach made a new Bus Alliance agreement that will deliver more than £25m worth of investment in bus services in year one of the five year partnership
- There were 18 'Dr Bike' events held in 2016/17



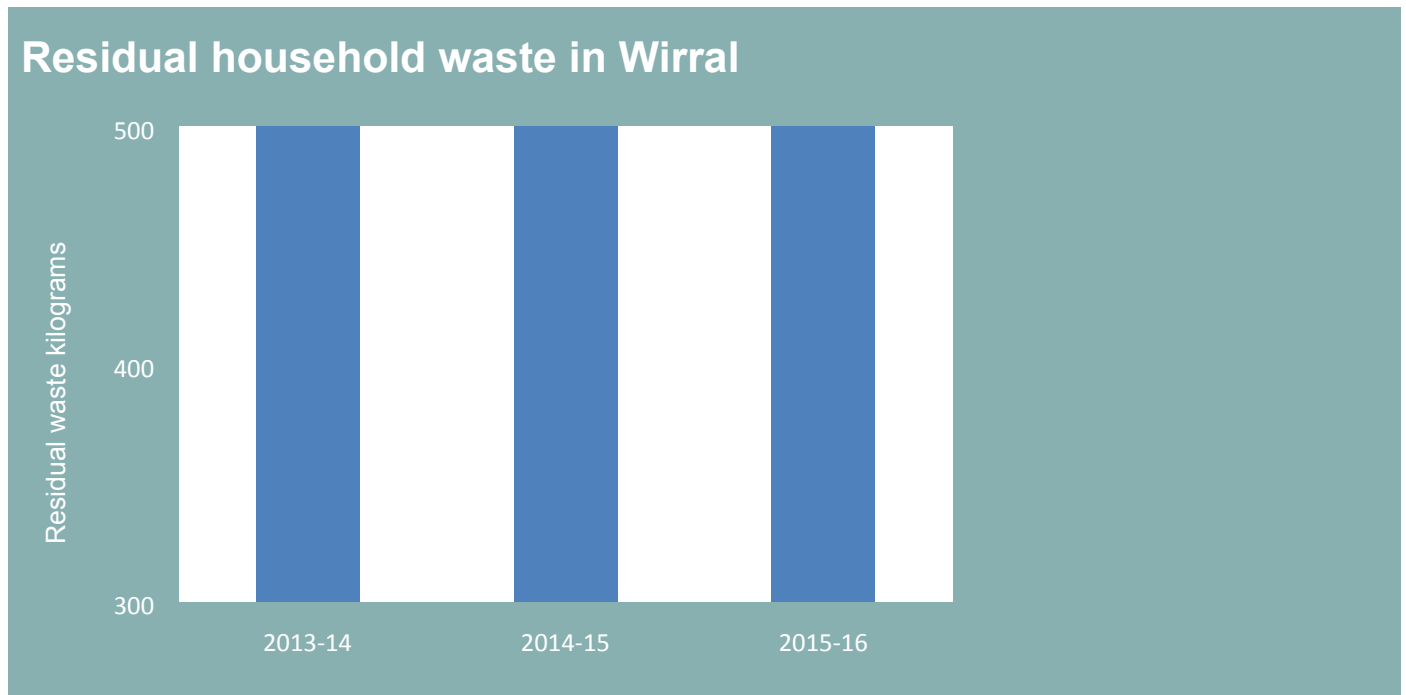
Several local travel support programmes have ceased with funding no longer in place to sustain them. Work under the Wirral Business Travel Support service and local Living Streets programme finished at the end of March 2017.

Progress with some sustainable transport objectives will depend on decisions taken at a national and regional level. In areas such as public transport integration and smart ticketing the implications of the devolution of powers to the city region and developments in the wider region are likely to be significant. For strategy objectives to be realised in these areas, opportunities at the local level may be restricted to restating local ambitions through appropriate regional and sub-regional platforms.

Whilst the number of electric vehicles in the vehicle fleet remains small, there appears to be growing momentum towards the electrification of motor transport. With heightened interest in this area the local economic opportunity is now more obvious.

Aim 4: Reducing indirect climate pollution

Local household waste in focus...



Recent steps...

- 75% of Wirral schools now recycle 50% or more following a ‘big bin challenge’. This compares with only 19% of schools who did so two years ago.
- A ‘warp-it’ portal has been established by Community Action Wirral to encourage the re-use of surplus items amongst local community and voluntary sector organisations. Similar portals have already been created for Cheshire and Wirral NHS Partnership, Wirral Council and for local schools.

The strategy seeks to minimise waste and encourage re-use of materials. At present the statutory powers and obligations available to key partners in the climate group focus on the collection and disposal of domestic waste. It is recognised that this is only part of the picture but it can be difficult to sustain activity in areas beyond, for example, efforts to ‘design out waste’ and promote the development of a ‘circular economy’. At present residual waste is actually increasing and recycling is stagnating both locally and nationally.

Aim 5: Adapting to unavoidable changes in Wirral’s climate

Recent steps

- A survey of topography and drainage features has been undertaken in Coronation Park to investigate the prospect to progress ideas to limit flooding arising from the resilient parks project.
- A further update to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Climate and Health paper has been completed.

At present efforts to progress local co-ordinated work on climate adaptation seem less well developed than in other areas. Work that relates to aspects of adaptation is being progressed but the overall picture is less clear.

Aim 6: Building capacity for action

Recent steps

- Transition Town West Kirby and partners held a successful Wirral Earth Fest event in September 2016



- There have been regular updates for the @CoolWirral twitter feed. There were 569 tweets during 2016/17 financial year with 111,882 tweet impressions recorded.
- A series of events were held as part of the Wirral Festival in October 2016 to promote the formation of a new sustainability focused community group called 'Planet Heswall'.
- The 'light's out' project involved 15 schools working with artists to create artworks to highlight local species under pressure from climate change and habitat loss.
- A school 'Cool Climate Challenge' event was held in June 2017 with ten schools taking part.

The strategy anticipates the evolution of the Wirral Climate Change Group to champion climate change work. To this end, the group is in the process of sharpening its terms of reference. The group continues to meet to promote and co-ordinate climate action². Over the life of the strategy there has been some turn-over in participants in the climate group, often following staff changes

² Not all places have created or been able to sustain forums to co-ordinate local climate action in the face of limited resources and competing priorities.

some as a result of organisational rationalisation. As a consequence some organisations that were very active when the climate strategy was developed are no longer represented on a regular basis or at all.

Next steps

The Wirral Climate Change Group maintains a rolling plan of action in support of the strategy. A 'snap shot' of this plan is reported to Wirral Council each year. This is available publicly. Success will ultimately depend on a combination of the implementation of this plan and wider support and action beyond. To get involved and find out how you can help put Cool into practice, at home in your community and in your workplace:

- Read the strategy available at: www.wirral.gov.uk/climatestrategy
- Join the free mailing list to keep in touch via www.wirral.gov.uk/coolwirral
 - Follow @CoolWirral on twitter.
- Connect with others via our Cool Wirral group at www.projectdirt.com.



Wirral Climate Strategy Action Plan – August 2017

APPENDIX 2

<p>Key</p> <p>Status = No change reported since August 2016 * Progress update/s added since August 2016 + Action added to rolling action plan since August 2016</p>
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Goal: Substantially cut climate pollution associated with Wirral

Aim 1: Make Wirral more energy efficient

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S t a t u s	Objective 1:01 Contact the owners/occupiers of at least 95% of the remaining “easy to treat” homes to highlight the opportunities for improvement		Justification: There remain around 26,000 residential properties with un-insulated cavities and 4,700 with less than 100 mm of loft insulation. These measures are relatively easy to implement and are thus usually amongst the most cost effective.		
	Action	Lead	Measure	Timescale	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
	* Publicise national and local energy efficiency initiatives in priority areas.	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	No. of phone calls to freephone advice line	Nov 2017	Two publicity campaigns took place in priority areas in 2016/17: 1) a targeted mailshot to 12,000 homes to promote the Collective Energy Switch; 2) a targeted mailshot to 800 households in receipt of welfare benefits in the Selective Licensing areas to promote the availability of the Warm Home Discount. Another Warm Home Discount mailshot is planned for Autumn 2017.
	<i>Completed</i>				
= Identify areas where easy to treat homes are concentrated	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	List of priority areas	Dec 2014	A list has been compiled based on energy company funding data and	

					estimates of cavity walled properties.
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S t a t u s	Objective 1:02 Improve a minimum of 200 properties each year mainly in the east of Wirral using a range of funding streams including ECO investment		Justification: The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is a key current investment stream for improving residential energy efficiency. The properties and households most likely to benefit from ECO are more concentrated in the east of Wirral.		
	Change in context since strategy adopted: Reduced funding via the Energy Company Obligation.				
	Action	Lead	Measure	Timescale	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
	+	Seek funding to install external wall insulation at remaining properties on Bromborough estate.	Magenta Living VIRIDIS	Funding secured	Autumn 2017
<i>Completed</i>					
=	Appoint delivery partner to engage households in areas of high fuel poverty with advice and referrals to reduce energy bills.	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	Contractor appointed Contract outputs met	Sep 2014 Aug 2015	Contract awarded to Energy Projects Plus (EPPlus) to concentrate work in fuel poor areas. At August 2015, EPPlus had: provided telephone support to 380 clients; attended 17 community events; engaged with community groups across the target Ward of Birkenhead & Tranmere working with three social housing providers and giving talks to five community groups; worked with St. Werburgh's Primary School; delivered three training sessions, engaged 676 residents directly at home and delivered four campaigns to 2,508 homes. Referrals for support led to over

					£18,000 of fuel debt being removed from residents bills and over £1,000 being saved on bills through the collective switch campaign.
=	Work with Housing Associations to provide cross-tenure offer for areas where they are installing solid wall insulation	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	Private households benefit from economies of scale	Mar 2016	Funding opportunities for schemes reduced significantly due to reduced funding from ECO and the need for Registered Providers to cut budgets as a result of the Government imposing a 1% rent reduction each year over the next four years. Despite this, Magenta Living installed solid wall insulation in 191 of their properties in 2015/16 (157 in Bromborough and 34 in Moreton).
*	Provide grants to allow a minimum of 55 households in the Selective Licensing (of private landlords) areas to install solid wall insulation	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	No. of households receiving grants	March 2017	A total of 26 grants were provided. Unfortunately the scheme manager went into voluntary liquidation at the end of January, limiting the number of grants that could be completed before the budget expenditure deadline.
*	Explore innovation to deliver schemes to target solid wall properties	Magenta Living			Pilot scheme completed utilising a prototype external wall insulation system. The prototype system was installed at two properties in Bromborough. Following the success of the pilot a wider Liverpool City Region funding bid involving VIRIDIS partners has been developed.

S t a t u s	Objective 1:03 Identify and refer vulnerable and ‘fuel poor’ households to available support via social, health, housing and education services and community and faith groups		Justification: Support is often available for vulnerable and fuel poor households, but it can be difficult to identify those eligible for support. Those who work in community settings have an important potential role in helping to refer those who could benefit to such support.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				

Wirral Climate Change Group – rolling Action Plan – Version at August 2017

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+	Complete Year 2 of Warmer Wirral Fuel Poverty Contract through Energy Projects Plus	Housing Strategy. Wirral Council Energy Projects Plus	Sept 2017	Contract delivered	Year 1 completed in Sept 2016.
	Completed				
+	Complete "Energy Efficiency & Fuel Poverty in Selective Licensing Areas" contract through Energy Projects Plus	Housing Strategy. Wirral Council Energy Projects Plus	March 2017	Contract delivered	Contract complete. Project report in draft.
=	Appoint delivery partner to deliver training sessions to front-line organisations, talks to community organisations and work with primary school.	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	Sep 2014 Aug 2015	Contractor appointed Two training sessions and four talks and partnership with primary school	Energy Projects Plus appointed in September 2014. Training session delivered to councillors in February 2015. Two training sessions for Fire Service and Age UK Wirral booked for June 2015. Drop-in sessions held for parents in St Werburgh's Primary, Birkenhead.
=	Energy Champions training programme delivered through Liverpool City Region Viridis partnership with largest housing associations.	Housing Strategy Wirral Council	Mar 2015	Training sessions delivered	Training sessions completed.
=	Work with the child poverty group to identify families who may be in need of support	Public Health, Wirral Council	June 2015	Number of families identified as fuel poor	Item at child poverty group on 16 th June 2015

S t a t u s	Objective 1:04 Lobby Government for support to improve take-up of energy efficiency measures including steps to make the Green Deal more attractive	Justification: The Green Deal is the government's flag ship energy efficiency initiative offering loans to support investment in energy efficiency at no upfront cost. The initiative has had a relatively slow start and it is not yet delivering levels of investment widely considered necessary.			
	Change in context since strategy adopted: <i>The Green Deal failed to meet expectations and the Government stopped funding the Green Deal Finance Company</i>				
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				

*	Contribute to any Government consultations relating to Green Deal, ECO and the Fuel Poverty Strategy	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	When required by Government	Consultation responses	Responses submitted to consultations as follows: Private Rented Sector Energy Efficiency Regulations (Domestic) Aug 14, Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy Oct 2014, Housing Standards Nov 2014. Contributed to: LCR Viridis response to Government's Feed-in Tariff consultation October 2015 Meeting with Viridis representatives on 1st August 2016 to submit joint response to ECO 3 consultation Assisted in the development of Flexible Eligibility under the Help to Heat portion of ECO3 as part of the Liverpool City Region.
=	Provide opinions to Government through NEA membership and the North West Carbon Action Network	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	Ongoing	Attendance at meetings or respond to calls for evidence	NEA membership renewed for 2015/16, NW Carbon Action Network and Association of Local Energy Officers responses to Government's Warm Home Discount consultation April 2015

S t a t u s	Objective 1:05 Target high energy use households in the west of Wirral with information about the Green Deal and other energy efficiency opportunities		Justification: There is a greater concentration of high energy use households in the west of Wirral, although the relative affluence of this part of the Wirral make it less likely benefit from ECO investment. It thus makes sense to target efforts to raise awareness about the Green Deal here.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>Completed</i>				
=	Publicise national and local energy efficiency initiatives utilising the free phone advice line	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	August 2015	No. of phone calls to freephone advice line	Energy Projects Plus' Save Energy Advice Line provided telephone advice to 380 Wirral clients in the 12 months to August 2015, covering a broad range of issues including fuel debt, energy tariff switching, grants for measures, and renewable energy options.
=	Assist people to calculate their carbon footprint at Wirral Earth Fest	TTWK Energy Group	September 2015	Number of people	Event held

				calculating their carbon footprint	
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S t a t u s	Objective 1:06 Create targeted locally relevant support to complement national energy efficiency opportunities taking into consideration existing barriers to local participation		Justification: The take up of national support opportunities varies. Targeted interventions can be more sensitive to local needs.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>Completed</i>				
=	Appoint delivery partner to engage households in areas of high fuel poverty with advice and referrals to reduce energy bills.	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	September 2014	Contractor appointed	Contract awarded to Energy Projects Plus to concentrate work in fuel poor areas.

S t a t u s	Objective 1:07 Develop local capacity in the skills to design, build and refurbish buildings to the highest energy efficiency standards by promoting education and training opportunities and linking them with local building programmes		Justification: If the local area is to benefit fully from investments needed in energy efficiency, it makes sense to ensure the skills to design, build and refurbish buildings to the highest standards are available locally		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
=	Engagement with businesses regarding their skills and training requirements. Linking this activity to work of economic policy (skills) team.	Wirral Chamber of Commerce	Ongoing		
<i>Completed</i>					
=	Work with City Region REECH programme and partner housing associations to continue to develop local capacity for energy efficiency refurbishment of social housing	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	End of 2014 for bid outcome.	Successful City Region bid for ERDF funds for energy efficiency	The REECH programme has now ended. Although the number of social housing properties in Wirral which directly benefited from REECH funding was low (around 40), local companies such as Thextons engaged with the programme and increased their installation capacity

				improvements to social housing. Outputs dependent on funding awarded.	directly by being contracted for works in other Merseyside areas.
+	Production of sustainability implementation plan as a guide for refurbishment of police buildings. The framework is designed to ensure refurbishment achieves more than minimum standards.	Merseyside Police		Production and use of the sustainability implementation plan	The implementation plan has been created and used to guide contractors in the refurbishment of Bebington Police station

S t a t u s	Objective 1:08 Bid to the LCR Local Enterprise Partnership or other sources of funding to work up the feasibility of potential heat networks in Wirral in support of the LCR SEAP		Justification: Heat networks can deliver major energy efficiency benefits. The Liverpool City Region (LCR) Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) identifies the potential for heat networks locally. The Local Enterprise Partnership endorses the SEAP and may be a source of support to develop heat networks in Wirral		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
	=	Work with Peel Holdings to understand the timing & phasing of the Wirral Waters scheme such that an assessment could be made of the potential for a heat network to serve the entirety of the site.	Regeneration and Environment, Wirral Council working via Wirral Waters S106 “Sustainability, Energy and Waste Working Group”		
<i>Completed</i>					
=	Introduce CHP-based network at Trust hospital campuses utilising NHS carbon and energy fund mechanism.	WUTH NHS Trust	January 2015	Scheme implemented	Scheme implemented. £5.6M capital investment secured and invested in Combined Heat and Power (CHP), energy efficient lighting and insulation

S t a t u s	Objective 1:09 Promote investment in ‘Wirral Waters’ as an exemplar sustainable energy opportunity		Justification: ‘Wirral Waters’ is a major development proposal centred on the regeneration of dock lands into mixed residential commercial and leisure uses. It is anticipated that the development will be an exemplar sustainable community. The LCR Sustainable Energy Action Plan identifies Wirral Waters a key opportunity for a major district heating scheme.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
=	Work with Peel Holdings to understand the timing & phasing of the Wirral Waters scheme such that an assessment could be made of the potential for the incorporation of sustainable energy measures within the scheme.	Regeneration and Environment, Wirral Council working via Wirral Waters S106 “Sustainability, Energy and Waste Working Group”			

S t a t u s	Objective 1:10 Assemble the market evidence to identify areas where it is feasible to demand more than minimum energy efficiency standards through the planning system		Justification: There is a need for evidence to justify ‘more than minimum’ energy efficiency standards through land use planning. Without such evidence it is likely that policies to support them will not be upheld at appeal.		
	Change in context since strategy adopted: <i>The Deregulation Act 2015 removed a clause from the Planning and Energy Act 2008 that enabled Local Authorities to require new housing developments to reach higher energy efficiency standards. A ministerial statement sets out guidance to local planning authorities. For energy performance, authorities will continue to be able to ask for energy performance standards that exceed the Building Regulations until the national zero carbon homes policy is introduced, expected to be in late 2016. Until that time, authorities should not ask for developments to achieve energy standards higher than a Code Level 4 equivalent. Local authorities will still be able to ask for BREEAM standards on non-residential development.</i>				
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
*	Viability Assessment in preparation to support the Core Strategy Local Plan	Planning, Wirral Council	Adoption of Core Strategy Local Plan and SPDs before end of 2016. Site specific Local Plan to follow.	Core Strategy found “sound” at Examination	A baseline Local Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy Economic Viability Study was published in 2014. This work is to be updated in early 2018 as part of current development options review. Core Strategy Local Plan and accompanying draft Supplementary Planning Documents are due to be re-published for public consultation in 2019

					and adopted by 2020.
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S t a t u s	Objective 1:11 Develop targeted energy efficiency campaigns for places of work, leisure, education and worship		Justification: Different settings raise different energy efficiency issues. Targeted campaigns can have a greater impact.			
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress	
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>					
	+	Promote Green Office Week 2018	Energy, Wirral Council	May 2018	Items posted	
	*	Seek funding to develop climate-related work with faith communities in Wirral	Faiths4Change	Autumn 2017	Funding secured	Support in principle in place to part-fund an event to be hosted in Wirral but open to interested parties from faith communities across Merseyside. A funding bid is now under development to secure the balance needed. The event will address managing energy water and waste associated with faith buildings.
	+	Promote switch off fortnight 2017	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	November 2017	Number of schools participating	
	<i>Completed</i>					
	=	Promote 'Switch off fortnight' 2014 and associated assessments as part of Eco schools	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	November 2014	Number of schools participating	
	=	Promote Green Office 2015 Week via Council intranet	Sustainability, Wirral Council	May 2015	Items posted	Items posted
	=	Promote 'Switch off' fortnight 2015 and associated assessments as part of Eco Schools	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	November 2015		All eco schools took part in Switch off fortnight which had a spy theme in 2015.
=	Promote Green Office 2016 Week via Council intranet	Sustainability, Wirral Council	May 2016	Items posted	Items posted	

=	Initiate student project to investigate existing resources aimed at places of worship	Sustainability, Wirral Council	June 2016	Investigation completed	Student project initiated and completed looking at church communities. The investigation included a focus group session to explore the type of interventions favoured for energy efficiency and climate change interventions. The favoured approach recommended was to organise a church conference on the topic to bring together interested parties from across the church community.
+	Promote Switch off fortnight 2016 as part of eco schools	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	November 2016	Number of schools participating	Run in November with spy theme again. All eco-schools participated. It will no longer be compulsory for eco schools in 2017
+	Promote Green Office 2017 Week via Council intranet	Sustainability, Wirral Council	May 2017	Items posted	Ran an intranet story for green office week 2017 which included a link to 21 videos presented by Primary School children which revealed easy but eco-friendly ideas that the children had learnt about at home or school.
+	Explore opportunity to organise a multi faith conference on energy efficiency and climate change	Sustainability, Wirral Council	July 2017	Opportunities identified.	Outline for potential event agreed with Faiths4Change. Short-list of venues in Wirral produced. Existing faith and climate related resources available via the internet identified.

S t a t u s	Objective 1:12 Seek support for improving the energy efficiency of community buildings		Justification: The consultation flagged up that those who run community buildings often struggle to fund building improvements including energy efficiency measures. Local grant support has been available in the past. Improvements to community buildings not only benefit climate change but can help groups cut running costs enabling community buildings to operate on a more sustainable basis.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
	*	Seek opportunities and	Community Action	Ongoing	Support

	develop/encourage bids for support where appropriate	Wirral		secured	contract with Wirral Council to continue to provide infrastructure support. This will allow CAW to support groups and organisations to work together to draft bids for projects which support delivery of the strategy.
=	Provide funding advice to groups seeking to make community building improvements	Community Action Wirral	Ongoing		

S t a t u s	Objective 1:13 Assemble a set of “good house-keeping” promotional resources to support energy awareness campaigns		Justification: It makes sense to pool existing promotional resources to avoid the ‘re-inventing the wheel’ and to make it easier to run energy awareness campaigns.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress

S t a t u s	Objective 1:14 Create a mechanism to promote voluntary peer review of energy efficiency efforts in different organisations and to encourage the sharing of resources to support the work of energy/eco champions		Justification: With finite resources available, it makes sense to work together and share good practice.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Timescale
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
+	Organise peer-sharing session	Sustainability, Wirral Council	Autumn 2017	Session held	Energy & Building Services to host session

S t a	Objective 1:15 Create a directory of local suppliers of accredited energy efficient goods and services and promote these through an expo event		Justification: If the local area is to benefit fully from investments in energy efficiency, it makes sense to highlight local suppliers offering energy efficient goods and services		

t u s					
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>Completed</i>				
=	Investigation by University of Chester students	Sustainability Wirral Council			Survey undertaken but limited response
=	Showcase Wirral's low carbon and environmental goods and services companies at IFB2016	Wirral Chamber of Commerce			Nine Wirral businesses with goods and services in the environment sector were showcased at the International Festival for Business 2016. Wirral Chamber of Commerce partnered with Wirral Council to showcase these businesses on 21st June during the Festival's 'Energy and Environment Week'. Products and promotional materials were on display utilising exhibition space at Exhibition Centre Liverpool. Between 1500 and 2000 business people attended that day. The Business showcased were: Inteb Managed Services, Stiebel Eltron Ecogrid, Mole Group, Bibby HydroMap LEClight Ltd, B&M Waste Services, Feedwater and Aqualogic

S t a t u s	Objective 1:16 Upgrade outdoor lighting fixtures and controls including street lights		Justification: Outdoor lighting presents an opportunity to introduce energy saving fixtures and controls.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
+	Commence replacement of life expired/condemned street lighting equipment with LED units	Highway Management Wirral Council	March 2018	Number of LED units	Funding application approved for £500k (with a further £500k in principle) to replace a quantity of life

					expired/condemned lighting equipment. Tender for replacement work due out summer 2017. Aim to appoint contractor for September 2017. Anticipated completion date for works March 2018. Works will involve either full replacement of residential columns complete with a new LED lantern, or, a direct lantern upgrade from HID to LED. It is anticipated that in the region of 1500 – 2000 units will be implemented for the level of approved funding.
	Completed				
=	Develop street lighting strategy	Highway Management Wirral Council	2014	Strategy in place	Street lighting strategy and action plan 2014 approved by Wirral Council in October 2014
=	Implement retrofit and replacement LED lanterns with a wireless central management systems to the 7,553 high energy consuming street lights across Wirral in line with the street lighting strategy.	Highway Management Wirral Council	July 2015 – March 2016	Number of lanterns to be replaced is 7553	Completed. 7553 lanterns replaced
*	Commission investigation into column condition for all the remaining street lights in order to determine their suitability to support new LED lanterns. Subject to the results of the investigation which will determine the extent of the lamp column asset that could require removal and replacement the cost of this work will determine whether further phases of retrofit and replacement with LED lanterns are affordable	Highway Management Wirral Council	Estimated start November 2016 for completion by the end April 2017.	Column condition report	Investigation commissioned. Column condition survey near completion.

S	Objective 1:17 Create a Wirral-focussed energy efficiency campaign linked to the roll out of smart meters	Justification: Utility companies will be rolling out new smart meters to their customers over coming years. This presents a potential opportunity
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a t t e n t i o n					
	to engage people about energy saving practices				
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress, or on-going</i>				
*	Explore the potential for piggy-backing on the marketing messages of energy companies linked to their smart meter roll outs	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council Energy projects Plus	2016	Opportunities identified	Web page created on Council website to support promotion of Smart Meters (https://www.wirral.gov.uk/housing/help-your-home/energy-efficiency/smart-meters) Smart Energy GB installation campaign is focusing on "the end of estimated readings", with energy saving getting little attention. An initial bid submitted by EPPlus to Smart Energy GB for awareness raising of smart meter roll-out was unsuccessful. A subsequent bid has been submitted to target over 65s without internet access. If successful this will allow EPPus to promote energy efficiency measures also.
	<i>Completed</i>				
=	Obtain timetable for roll-out in Wirral	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	2015	Plan activity around timetable	Roll-out began early 2015. Each individual energy company decides when it will roll-out to Wirral households and so the ability to have a high profile localised campaign over a short time-frame is no longer possible. May be opportunities to piggy-back on marketing messages.
	<i>Abandoned</i>				
=	Create plan of engagement around key milestones for roll-out	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	2015	Activity plan	See above. Because of roll out by individual companies this action was abandoned

S	Objective 1:18: Pilot a 'smart grid' in at least one Wirral	Justification: Electricity networks are critical to achieving climate
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t a t u s	community		change objectives. A shift from a tradition grid designed to distribute energy one-way from large centralised power stations, to smart grids is anticipated. Smart grids utilise information and communication technologies in an automated way to improve reliability; efficiency and flexibility of the electricity distribution network– including coping with two way flows from more decentralised smaller scale generation sources including renewable energy sources. The transition to a smarter grid presents opportunities to pilot new technologies.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
+	Meet with Scottish Power Energy Networks to discuss Smart-Grid	Sustainability, Wirral Council			Meeting requested. Awaiting response

Goal: Substantially cut climate pollution associated with Wirral

Aim 2: Generate and source more of our local energy needs from renewable sources

S t a t u s	Objective 2:01: Create a renewable energy co-operative to pool local investment		Justification: Incentives are in place to make investment in renewable energy attractive, but not everyone is in a position to exploit the technology directly. Co-operatives have been used elsewhere to enable those who support renewable energy to pool their resources and develop community renewable energy projects. Community-led projects give local people a stake in projects and help ensure the benefits are enjoyed locally.		
	Change in context since strategy adopted: The business model adopted by many community-based renewable energy co-operatives elsewhere in the country is based on income from the Feed-in-Tariff. Changes in the Feed-in-Tariff have undermined this model.				
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
*	Manage consultant to conduct feasibility study in accordance with UCEF terms	Wirral Community Renewables	December 2017	Bid outcomes achieved.	Consultants have been appointed and the feasibility study is underway. The investigation is focused on finding potential viable sites for community-owned solar PV. At the time of writing a shortlist of potential sites had been identified that merited further detailed investigation. A final report is due Autumn 2017 to recommend the most

					promising sites to develop.
+	Prepare detailed proposal for first community owned photovoltaic development utilising outputs from the UCEF supported feasibility study	Wirral Community Renewables	Subject to outcome of UCEF funding feasibility study	Scheme proposal prepared	
Completed					
=	Gather information about renewable energy co-operatives elsewhere and support for the creation of community renewable energy schemes	Sustainability, Wirral Council		Information held	Information gathered and used at public event held in March 2015
=	Convene a meeting of interested parties	Sustainability, Wirral Council	February 2015	Meeting held	Public event “Community Energy for Wirral & Liverpool City Region” held in in partnership with LCR Local Enterprise Partnership and hosted by Magenta in March 2015. 41 people took part. The event featured presentations from Lymm Community Energy, Liverpool Community Renewables and MORE (Morecombe Bay Renewables) in Lancaster. 16 people recorded their interest in setting up a similar Wirral initiative.
=	Follow-up contact with interested parties	Energy Projects Plus	March 2015	Contact made	Contact made to identify ‘core group’.
=	Bid for support from the Co-operatives UK Energy Mentoring programme to develop a community energy group	Energy Projects Plus	April 2015	Bid progress	Bid submitted. Mentoring support secured June 2015
*	Facilitate meetings to encourage formation of Wirral Community Renewables as a Community Benefit Society	Energy Projects Plus	June -October 2015	Meetings held. Community Benefit Society Formed	Group now registered as a community benefit society following numerous meetings including meetings to develop bids for support and funding.
=	Promote “Solar Enlightenment” bid to M&S Community Energy Fund	Wirral Community Renewables with support from EPPlus TTWK Energy Group,	August-September 2015	Support secured for bid	Proposal for installation of 4KWp Solar PV array at Pensby Library submitted and shortlisted for the public vote. The bid was ultimately unsuccessful finishing

		Wirral Council			in second place in the Merseyside, Cheshire and North Wales area - approximate 40 votes short of the winners. Wirral Council eventually implemented a 11KWp scheme at Pensby Library.
*	Seek to mount a bid to the urban community energy fund (UCEF)	Wirral Community Renewables with support from EPPlus and Sustainability, Wirral Council	March 2016	Support secured	A bid was submitted to the UCEF in 2016. The bid was successful resulting in a conditional grant offer to support a feasibility study. After meeting the conditions the group has now initiated the study.
=	Support formation of Wirral Community Renewables Group	TTWK Energy Group	August 2015- August 2016		Promotion of Wirral Community Renewables M&S Community Energy Bid at Wirral Earth Fest 2015

S t a t u s	Objective 2:02: Identify potential sites for solar energy investment		Justification: Solar energy proved to be one of the more popular types of renewable energy in the climate strategy consultation process. Wirral enjoys sufficient sunlight (solar insolation) to make solar energy viable in the right locations both to capture heat (solar thermal) and generate electricity (solar thermal). National Planning Policy Guidance indicates that large scale solar farms should be focused on previously developed and non-agricultural land, provided that it is not of high environmental value. This is likely to limit the potential for large scale solar farms within Wirral.		
	Change in context since strategy adopted: Changes in the Feed-in-Tariff have had an impact on potential income generation which is a factor in investment decisions				
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
<i>To progress or on-going</i>					
+	Meet with representatives from local community renewable energy sector to explore prospects for hosting community-owned solar PV on police estate	Merseyside Police	Autumn 2017	Meeting held. Viable sites identified.	
*	Encourage the incorporation of active solar and Solar PV in new	Planning, Wirral Council	Adoption of Core Strategy	Core Strategy	Core Strategy at Pre-Submission Stage, Scope of SPDs subject to consultation in

	developments, including through inclusion of appropriate policies in Wirral’s Local Plan and guidance in Supplementary Planning Documents		Local Plan and SPDs before end of 2016. Site specific Local Plan to follow	found “sound” at Examination	2013. Following further consultation on housing needs and land supply, the Council is undertaking a wider review of development options before deciding on the final sites to be included for development in the Core Strategy Local Plan The Core Strategy Local Plan and accompanying draft Supplementary Planning Documents are due to be re-published for public consultation in 2019 and adopted by 2020
*	Seek investment in solar PV projects on schools	Sustainability, Wirral Council	Ongoing	Number of schools with installations and kWp installed	Advice has been given to individual schools concerning the installation of solar pv through third-party ‘offers’.
Completed					
=	Review potential for solar PV on Wirral Schools owned by Wirral Council	Sustainability, Wirral Council	September 2015	Priority sites identified	Desk-top review of 90 primary schools and three Early Years Centres completed to identify top 20 sites for further investigation
=	Seek investment in solar PV projects on Wirral Council buildings with most potential to exploit solar energy	Sustainability, Wirral Council	-	Number of sites with installations and kWp installed	Final planned installation stage (phase-3) now completed. A total of 24 installations are now operating at 24 locations across Wirral. All installations are registered to receive the 'Feed in Tariff' and will reduce reliance on imported electricity and carbon emissions. The total installed capacity on council property 571 kWp

S t a t u s	Objective 2:03: Establish a small-scale wind turbine trial	Justification: Parts of Wirral have a suitable wind conditions to make wind turbines viable, although constraints exist. In the strategy consultation process wind energy was supported although opinion was more divided. Investigating the potential of wind through a small-scale wind turbine trial will enable local experience to be built.
	Change in context since strategy adopted: A ministerial statement issued in June 2015 changed planning criteria for on shore wind. The	

	statement indicates that local planning authorities should only grant planning permission for on-shore wind developments if in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in a local or neighbourhood plan. There are no such allocations at present in Wirral.				
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>Completed</i>				
=	Research existing wind turbines in Wirral as a basis for consideration of developing a potential small-scale wind turbine trial	Sustainability, Wirral Council	June 2015	Report produced	Report presented to Wirral Climate Change Group June 2015. Subsequent Government Ministerial Statement appears to limit opportunity to develop a trial.

S t a t u s	Objective 2:04: Identify the potential for the use of bio-mass heat and power in parks and countryside facilities		Justification: The consultation workshop included a presentation that featured an example of the use of bio-mass heat and power in parks and countryside facilities. This proved to be popular in subsequent discussion and merits some further investigation.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
*	Consider implementing household and/or commercial food waste collection schemes to provide source of biomass energy	MRWA	To be determined		The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for the Liverpool City Region has been reviewed. Joint working is now underway including modelling for food waste collection options

S t a t u s	Objective 2:05: Promote the availability of support to establish the feasibility of on farm anaerobic digestion plant and explore other opportunities to produce biogas from wastes		Justification: The On-Farm Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Fund administered by WRAP exists to help farmers build AD plants on their farms. There may be other opportunities to produce biogas from different waste streams.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress

S	Objective 2:06: Highlight the availability of incentives to support	Justification: Incentive payments – The Feed-in-Tariff (FITs) for
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t a t u s	installation of micro-renewable energy including FiTs and RHI		renewable electricity and more recently Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) for renewable heat - are a major driver in the uptake of renewable energy.			
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress	
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>					
	*	Promote the availability of FiTs and RHI via relevant social media channels and web pages	Sustainability Wirral Council	Ongoing		Council website links to Energy Saving Trust information about generating your own energy
	<i>Completed</i>					
*	Awareness raising among businesses by email, online and during face-to-face meetings	Wirral Chamber of Commerce		Emails sent to all members of Businesswirral.com	Email sent. Businesswirral.com no longer managed by Wirral Chamber. Information is still provided to companies asking for support face-to-face	

S t a t u s	Objective 2:07: Promote the use of biomass fuels in off-grid locations and raise awareness about the use of correct appliances in smoke control areas		Justification: Biomass-based fuels, e.g. wood pellets and logs, are an important potential renewable derived heating source. Biomass boilers are a good low carbon alternative for those with heating needs off the gas grid that currently rely on bottled gas, oil or coal fired systems. Much of Wirral is a smoke control area where only smokeless fuels can be burnt unless they are burnt in an exempted appliance		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
*	Promote biomass fuels and awareness via relevant social media channels and web pages	Sustainability, Wirral Council			No progress.

S t a t u s	Objective 2:08: Win further resources to develop Wirral as a centre of excellence for wind energy		Justification: Wirral's existing dock and maritime industrial assets make it an obvious location for supporting the development of off-shore wind farms. There has already been some public and private sector investment to make Wirral a centre of excellence in this growing industry.		

s	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>Completed</i>				
=	New infrastructure projects for development of offshore wind cluster.	Investment Strategy Wirral Council	Complete expenditure by end of March 2015.	Invest £5m in supporting low carbon offshore energy supply chain projects in Wirral.	Entire £5m budget spent - supporting offshore energy and related projects. Leveraging £8.6m million private sector investment, creating 67 jobs and safeguarding 483. The £2.5m Lightbox development in Birkenhead comprises six super energy efficient commercial units, including research, laboratory, and development space, which are now available to lease. The development will be able to support more than 50 jobs. Turbine Business Park will attract £7m of private investment in offshore wind supply chain and related sectors. DONG energy is to create 50 jobs in Birkenhead at new offshore wind facility to service Burbo Bank wind farm extension.

S	Objective 2:09: Promote Wirral's value as a location for investment in emerging renewable energy technologies		Justification: Wirral's location, skill base and proximity to existing centres of research make it a potentially attractive location for investment in emerging renewable energy technologies		
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	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or ongoing</i>				
+	Contribute to the formation of an LCR combined authority energy strategy	LEP	Spring 2018		

S	Objective 2:10: Build local skills to assess, install and service	Justification: If the local area is to benefit fully from investments in			
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t a t u s	renewable energy equipment by promoting education and training opportunities and linking them with local renewable energy investments		renewable energy, it makes sense to ensure the skills to assess, install and service renewable energy equipment are available locally.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
	=	Skills and education shows to have a low carbon element	Economic Policy Team, Wirral Council		
	<i>Completed</i>				
=	New infrastructure projects for development of offshore wind cluster.	Investment Strategy Wirral Council	Complete expenditure by end of March 2015.	Invest £5m in supporting low carbon offshore energy supply chain projects in Wirral.	Entire £5m budget spent - supporting offshore energy and related projects. Leveraging £8.6m million private sector investment, creating 67 jobs and safeguarding 483. DONG energy is to create 50 jobs in Birkenhead at new offshore wind facility to service Burbo Bank wind farm extension.

S t a t u s	Objective 2:11: Create a directory of local suppliers and installers and promote them through an expo event		Justification: If the local area is to benefit fully from investments in renewable energy, it makes sense to highlight local suppliers and installers.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>Completed</i>				
	=	Investigation by University of Chester Students	Sustainability, Wirral Council		Survey undertaken but limited response

S t a	Objective 2:12: Highlight renewable energy tariffs in collective switching and related campaigns		Justification: There have been some recent collective switching campaigns designed to help consumers get a better deal from utility companies. There appears to be an opportunity to promote switching to		

t u s			renewable energy tariffs.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>Completed</i>				
*	Specify a renewable energy tariff be provided as part of collective switching offers	Housing Strategy Wirral Council	Next collective switch Sep 14	Tariff offered in every collective switch	A renewable energy ("Green") tariff was offered in the Collective Switch in February 2016. Out of 178 Wirral households that switched to one of the tariffs offered three opted for the renewable energy tariff. There were 34 switches by Wirral households to Green Tariffs during the period June 16 to July 17 via the local switching campaigns. 24% of all switches in Wirral through the last Collective Switch in March 2017 were to the Green Tariff.

Goal: Substantially cut climate pollution associated with Wirral

Aim 3: Use more sustainable modes of transport, more fuel efficient vehicles and less polluting means of getting around

S t a t u s	Objective 3:01: Establish a Wirral cycle route network map and develop the network		Justification: The creation of - and awareness about - a cycle network is an important element in supporting cycle journeys		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
*	Construction of cycle pathways / crossings etc. funded through the Integrated Transport Block (ITB)	Cycling, Wirral Council	Annual budget allocation	Construction completed	The following schemes were in the 2015/16 programme: Improved crossing facilities A41 / Pool Lane, Bromborough 770m of new cycleway and Improved crossing facilities A41 - Pool

					Lane to Port Causeway, Bromborough
+	Construction of cycle pathways / crossings etc. funded through the Sustainable Transport Enhancement Package (STEP) funding. Cycle funding to regeneration and growth	Cycling, Wirral Council	-	Construction completed	The following schemes were in the 2015/16 programme: Dibbin Bridge Link; Wirral Waters Eastern Portal (Rendel Street); and Wirral Waters Eastern Sustainable Travel Links (Duke Street)
Completed					
=	Wirral Cycle map published and regularly updated	Cycling, Wirral Council	Map to be re-printed Sept '14	Published map	Map re-printed
*	Construction of cycle pathways through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. Cycle links to businesses and to tourism sites	Cycling, Wirral Council	Until end of funding 2014/15	Construction completed	LSTF finished year end 2014/15. Construction completed on schemes Woodchurch Rd / Singleton Ave, Ellens Lane, Lever Causeway, A41 Croft Retail Link, A41 Torr Rd, A41 Caldbeck Rd, Pasture Road Link, The Fender, Boundary Rd, Birkenhead Road, Ivy Street, Bidston Link, Borough Road / Balls Road, New Brighton Marine Lake, and Bayswater Rd. Current cycle schemes are being funded through STEP (Sustainable Transport Enhancements Package).

S t a t u s	Objective 3:02: Promote cycle skills training, cycle maintenance and cycle security measures		Justification: Concerns about safety and security can be a barrier to the more widespread use of cycles.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	To progress, or on-going				
*	Dr Bike maintenance sessions held at businesses to provide a free service to employees bikes	Sustainable Travel Wirral Council	Initially to funding period March 2015	Number of sessions provided at	Project funding finished in March 2017.

			Programme extended to March 2017	businesses	
=	Bikeright to deliver Bikeability to National Standards in Wirral Schools.	Bike Right/ Road Safety Team, Wirral Council	Until end of school year summer 2016. Funding in place to end of school year 2017	Numbers of pupils trained	In 2015-16 academic year: SEN pupils: 67 pupils Level 2: 2028 pupils Level 3: 311 pupils Bikeability Catch up: 117 pupils Bikeability Plus: 227 pupils Bikeability Fix: 66 pupils Bikeability Learn to Ride: 64 pupils Bikeability Ride: 40 pupils

S t a t u s	Objective 3:03: New 20 MPH zones in residential areas to improve pedestrian and cycle safety		Justification: The speed of motor traffic can be a deterrent to pedestrians and cyclists.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress, or on-going</i>				
*	Instigate 20mph zones as casualty reduction schemes or via Constituency Committees.	Road Safety Wirral Council	As required	Number of schemes implemented	20 MPH zones now in place in eight areas: Ridgewood Drive area, Pensby Kylemore Drive area, Pensby Blackheath Drive area, Leasowe Sandbrook Lane area, Moreton Whitfield Lane area, Heswall Mill Park Drive (Part), Eastham Ingleborough Road area, Tranmere Church Road area, Upton.

S t a	Objective 3:04: Run an awareness campaign to discourage pavement parking and take enforcement action where necessary to improve the pedestrian environment	Justification: Pavement parking can create a more dangerous and restricted environment and act as a deterrent for walking journeys
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	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress

S t a t u s	Direction of travel: Safer and more convenient routes for pedestrians		Justification: Creating safer and more convenient routes for pedestrians is likely to make walking a more attractive option		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>Completed</i>				
=	Meet with local groups to promote walking and look at ways of overcoming challenges	Living Streets	March 2016	Questionnaires	Community Street Audits have taken place with 5 community groups across the Wirral between April 15 and March 16. Black and Ethnic minority groups were consulted through focus groups and questionnaires to establish barriers to walking in December 2015. Work with communities was funded to the end of March 2016 and has now ended.
*	Work with community groups, businesses or schools where a need for improvements has been highlighted or where existing issues exist.	Living Streets	Initial work funded to March 2016 Extended for businesses and schools to March 2017	Improvements identified	Project funding to support local Living Streets work finished March 2017 Five additional route audits were carried out between April 16 and March 17 to identify improvements in to help increase walking rates in the area (adding to the five audits previously completed). The recent audits included the areas around: Child Maintenance Group, Birkenhead 6th Form College, Summerhill Nursery, Parkwood Nursey and DWP Horden House.

					Living Streets previously worked with over 60 Primary Schools, 13 secondary schools, 6 workplaces and 5 community groups to encourage more people to walk and improve walking routes.
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S t a t u s	Objective 3:05: Ensure that the majority of households are aware of journey planning tools		Justification: Increasing access to information about transport options and connections between them should help support more sustainable travel choices.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>In progress or on-going</i>				
*	Merseytravel roadshows and education programme	Merseytravel	Ongoing	Merseytravel road shows Via Employers Network to Wirral organisations Via Education programme to secondary schools	Merseytravel's engagement team promote sustainable travel behaviour to a wide audience, specific programmes engage newly employed jobseekers, major and smaller employers, educational establishments including apprenticeship providers. This work is core and ongoing year on year. Journey planning tools are a key part of the offer promoted. The team also engage with the public via 50 roadshows per year, targeted to reach a Merseyside population of 5,000 individuals. This work is all on target for this year. There are now 73 organisations from Wirral in the employers network up from 41
<i>Completed</i>					
*	Travel solutions – Team provides bespoke advice and information on travel from and within the East Wirral area, to help people who are entering employment. This could be:	Wirral Travel Solutions, Wirral Council	Initially funding period to 2014/15 Programme extended to	Number of solutions provided	Project funding finished March 2017 In 2016/17 Travel Solutions received 1606 referrals. From the 1606 referrals, 1455 (91%) of these were accepted as

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personalised journey planning Help with travel costs Bike to work scheme Scooter Commuter Travel Training 		16/17		<p>meeting the criteria. Number of people receiving a travel card 833 Number of people receiving a cycle 296 Number of people receiving a Personal Journey Plan or Info / Advice 373 Number of people receiving Travel Training 46</p> <p>In 2015/16 Travel Solutions received 2201 referrals, 2008 (91%) met the criteria. Number of people receiving a travel card 1085 Number of people receiving a cycle 484 Number of people receiving a Personal Journey Plan or Info / Advice 392 Number of people receiving Travel Training 47</p> <p>2014/15 figures Total individual engagements: 2720 Total travel passes given out: 1252 Total bikes given out: 593 Total scooters given out: 9 Number of job seekers receiving personal journey plans: 474 Number of individuals receiving travel training: 45 Number of Maxi Taxi cards issued: 57</p>
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S t a t u s	<p>Objective 3:06:Develop travel plans at key employment sites, leisure facilities and retail centres</p>	<p>Justification: Travel Plans are a way to manage travel to and from a site more effectively. They are commonly used to address growing congestion and improve travel choices.</p>			
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress

<i>To progress or on-going</i>					
=	Consider travel plans received with planning applications	Planning, Wirral Council	Ongoing		
<i>Completed</i>					
*	Hold Walk Doctor events, walking challenges and do walking promotion in at least 5 local businesses before March 2016, engaging an average of 60 employees at each site.	Living Streets	Initially funded to March 16 Extended to March 17	Target achieved and evaluation completed	<p>Project funding to support local Living Streets work finished in March 2017 Over 250 walking pledges were signed across seven workplaces between April 2016 and March 2017. Walking promotion events were held at the Child Maintenance Group, Wirral Met College, Land Registry, Autism Together, Cherry Tree Shopping Centre, The Pyramids Shopping Centre and Dept of Work and Pensions (Horden House).</p> <p>Previously a Walk Doctor event at Premier Foods engaged 50 staff, walking promotions had taken place in at least five other business and online challenges promoted during walk to work week in May.</p> <p>Over 350 employees had been directly engaged in walking activities throughout Living Streets 'Walk to' project funded by the LSTF extension fund until March 2016.</p>
*	Promote walking maps during business engagement events	Living Streets	Until end of funding 31st March 16 General employers walking programme extended to March 2017	Uptake of maps	<p>Project funding to support local living streets work finished in March 2017 Previously Living Streets helped to distribute the Council's walking maps at activities and events throughout the year.</p>
*	Run WoW (Walk once a Week) in 55 primary schools	Living Streets	Until end of school year	Hands up questionnai	Project funding to support local living streets work finished in March 2017

			summer 2016 Extended to July 2017	res	A further 11 primary schools were recruited to take part in the WOW year round walk to school programme between April 16 and March 17. The total number of Wirral Primary schools that have taken part in WOW since funding began in Sept 2012 is over 90.
=	Run (FyF) Free your Feet walking challenge in 10 secondary schools	Living Streets	Until end of funding 31st March 16 Extended to March 17	Hands up questionnaires	Project funding to support local living streets work finished in March 2017 A further five secondary schools took part in FYF between April 16 and March 17. Previously 10 Secondary schools had run Free your Feet events between April 2015 and March 2016. The average increase in walking rates during the week of the challenge was 20% (3 mins per person). Wirral Grammar (Girls) and Calday Grammar increased their walking rates by 31% (5 mins per person).
*	Baseline travel surveys	Sustainable Travel, Wirral Council	Until end of funding 2014/15 Programme extended to 2015/16	22 surveys undertaken (782 staff a 19.5% response rate)	The Business Travel Support team worked with employers up until March 2017. During 2016/17 they engaged with 62 businesses. 27 surveys undertaken (2764 staff a 19% response rate) SOV 57.9% Car share 13.7% Bus 10.9% Walk 6.7% Train 4.8% Bicycle 4.2% Follow up surveys with 6 businesses with 329 participants
=	Travel plans developed with businesses through business travel support funded by the LSTF/Public Health	Sustainable Travel, Wirral Council	Until end of funding LSTF 2014/15. Programme extended with	20 travel plans developed	21 Travel plans completed and signed off

			support from Public Health March 2017		
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S t a t u s	Objective 3:07: Complete the introduction of secure cycle parking at all Wirral railway stations		Justification: Improvements in cycle parking facilities at stations make it more convenient for combined cycle and rail journeys			
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress	
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>					
	+	Explore the prospects for bike stores similar to those installed on the Merseyrail network at Wirral stations on the Bidston line	Transport, Wirral Council	2017/18	Feasibility of bike stores confirmed	
	<i>Completed</i>					
=	Introduction of secure and sheltered cycle parking at Wirral stations	Merseyrail	2014/15	Bike stores built	Bike stores now at Bebington, Bidston, Birkenhead Central, Birkenhead North, Birkenhead Park, Bromborough, Bromborough Rake, Conway Park, Eastham Rake, Green Lane, Hamilton Square, Hoylake, Leasowe, Manor Road Meols, Moreton, New Brighton, Port Sunlight, Rock Ferry, Spital Cycle, Wallasey Grove Road and West Kirkby.	
=	Bike hire at select Wirral stations	Merseyrail	Ongoing	Bikes hire facilities introduced	'Bike and Go' introduced at Bidston, New Brighton, West Kirby, Port Sunlight. Plans for Hamilton Square abandoned	

S t a t u s	Objective 3:08 Introduce local bus quality partnerships to extend the co-ordination of timetables and ticketing between operators		Justification: Bus quality partnerships provide a means to better integrate services provided by rival operators to make them more convenient and attractive to users		
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	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>Completed</i>				
+	Bus alliance agreement	Arriva, Stagecoach and Merseytravel	Sept 2016	Agreement in place	Arriva, Stagecoach and Merseytravel have signed a new Bus Alliance agreement in Sept 2016 that will deliver more than £25m worth of investment in bus services in year one of the five year partnership

S t a t u s	Objective 3:09: Promote the development and uptake of flexible ticketing options and ensure the introduction of new ticket systems include consideration of the opportunities for new flexible ticket products.		Justification: Convenient and flexible ticketing can make public transport journeys more attractive		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
=	Implementation of 'Walrus' travel card system - an electronic version of the Saveaway ticket is being rolled out initially	Merseytravel	Autumn 2014	Use of cards	Merseytravel's smart ticketing scheme is already the most active outside London: over a million tickets have been sold on Walrus cards since they launched in November 2014. The tickets currently available include pre-paid weekly and adult four-weekly Solo tickets which can be used on any bus across Merseyside, and Saveaways – the off-peak day ticket for buses trains and ferries. There are plans for more tickets to go 'smart' including some commercial operators' weekly bus tickets and Merseyrail tickets. There are also plans for the introduction of carnet tickets for bus travel. These will allow people to load a number of tickets on their cards for use on non-consecutive days, making them particularly suitable for part time

					workers. Walrus cards can be 'loaded' at around 800 PayPoint outlets across Merseyside, which has more than doubled the number of places from which Saveaways can be purchased and has significantly increased the availability of Solos, which were originally available from only 50 outlets.
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S t a t u s	Objective 3:10 Establish a network of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points with at least one rapid charger to serve the strategic road network		Justification: If electric vehicle use is to grow, there is a need for an adequate network of charging facilities. Electric vehicle use can help reduce climate pollution – assuming the carbon intensity of grid supplied electricity continues to fall.			
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress	
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>					
	*	Investigate the potential for future bids / funding streams	Sustainable Travel, Wirral Council	Ongoing	Successful bids	Merseytravel are considering putting the recharge network out to tender for a third party to run, expanding the network will be reviewed as part of the tender process
	*	E-Vehicle Charging Strategy to establish 11 publicly available electric charging points	Merseytravel	On-going		There now 40 publically available Recharge posts in the Liverpool City Region
<i>Completed</i>						
=	Implement OLEV funded charging points on public sector estate	Sustainable Travel, Wirral Council	Until end of funding 2014/15	Introduction of charging points. Measure use of charging points	Charging points have been put in at: Cleveland Street (x2), Treasury Building Elgin Way and Wallasey Town Hall. Plans for charging points at Marine Promenade, Green Lane and West Kirby Concourse were abandoned. 348 charging sessions had been recorded at end of August 2016	

+	Implement charging points on police estate initially to support introduction of electric despatch vans. Whilst not for public use, the programme contributes to supporting electrification of the vehicle fleet.	Merseyside Police		Charging points established	In Wirral, charging posts established at Bromborough and Wallasey Police Stations for police use
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S t a t u s	Objective 3:11: Promote the availability of 'alternative' fuels at filling stations through online maps		Justification: Alternatives fuelled vehicles can help reduce climate pollution. Increasing knowledge about the location of filling stations that offer alternative fuels makes the use of alternative fuelled vehicles more likely.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>Completed</i>				
=	Back office and online support for public electric charging points so that the public can see whether a car charging point is available.	Merseytravel	On-going	Website hits / use of charging points	All Recharge posts are linked to the 'Charge Your Car' back office portal which means any EV driver can use the posts

S t a t u s	Objective 3:12: Create a directory of local suppliers of alternative fuelled vehicles and vehicle convertors and promote these through an expo event		Justification: If Wirral is to benefit fully from investments in the transition to more sustainable travel, it makes sense to highlight local suppliers and convertors of alternative fuelled vehicles and fuels/charging points		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or ongoing</i>				
+	Explore potential for electric vehicle showcase via the low carbon sector forum	Wirral Chamber of Commerce	December 2017		
<i>Completed</i>					
=	Investigation by University of Chester Students	Sustainability, Wirral Council			Survey undertaken but limited response

<i>Abandoned</i>					
=	Hold an event for electric vehicle expo for taxi drivers	Merseytravel	N/A	Expo held	Taxi expo was planned but never held. Green fuel event took place at Aintree in Feb 2015, although this wasn't explicitly aimed at taxi drivers. No current plans to pursue an electric vehicle expo for taxi drivers as feasibility study into EVs was quite negative.

S t a t u s	Objective 3:13: Promote smarter driving tips and techniques		Justification: The manner in which people drive can make a big difference to fuel use and resultant pollution produced. Promoting smarter driving should help improve efficiency and reduce pollution.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
=	Mind Your Business Project– offers driver training sessions (practical and theory) which include safer and more economical driving advice	Road Safety, Wirral Council	Until end of funding March 2016. Extended to March 2017 (funded by Public Health)	Take up of sessions	The project showed impressive growth in engagement between 2015/16 and 2016/17 In 2015/16, 190 attended theory sessions and 260 attended lunch time learning sessions. In 2016/17 this had grown to 470 for theory and 2100 for lunch time learning Funding ended in March 2017 but in view of the importance of the initiative and to build on the good work to date, it is still being developed with a charging structure introduced for attendance at seminars.
<i>Completed</i>					
=	Smarter driver leaflet produced	Sustainable travel, Wirral Council	Ongoing	Number of leaflets	Distributed through ongoing business travel support engagement

				distributed	
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S t a t u s	Objective 3:14: Promote car sharing for journeys when applicable		Justification: Sharing journeys can help cut traffic congestion and the associated pollution		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
	* Car sharing promoted where applicable through business travel support team	Sustainable Travel, Wirral Council	Until end of funding 2014/15 Extended for 2015/16	Mode share of staff car sharing will be measured through travel surveys	Funding for the Business Travel Support team ended in March 17 2014/15 stats, driving assessments offered: 2235 sessions offered 5 delivered
+	Introduce car sharing database as a trial at new facility in Speke with a view to wider roll out across the Merseyside police.	Merseyside police	2018	Database established	

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Goal: Substantially cut climate pollution associated with Wirral

Aim 4: Reducing the indirect negative impacts that our decisions have for climate pollution in Wirral and elsewhere

S t a t u s	Objective 4:01: Host a green procurement fair to promote the greening of local supply chains and encourage the spread of environmentally sensitive procurement practice		Justification: Purchasing decisions can have many indirect impacts including those on climate pollution.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>Abandoned</i>				

*	SME engagement regarding event. Support with promotion and venue.	Wirral Chamber of Commerce	To be determined		No lead to organise the event. Should a lead be identified support could be provided.
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S t a t u s	Objective 4:02: Promote local inter-trading to shorten supply chains through Invest Wirral and local trade associations		Justification: Shortening supply chains can limit climate pollution by reducing unnecessary transportation.			
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress	
	<i>To progress, or on-going</i>					
	*	Promote business to business inter-trading and collaborations via Wirral Chamber of Commerce relationship managers	Wirral Chamber of Commerce	Ongoing		Developing local connections is core to Wirral Chamber business engagement work. In financial year 2016/2017 the chamber engaged with 647 businesses. These meetings are used to discuss business support, growth projects and opportunities for local trading and collaboration.
	+	Organise 'Meet the buyer' events	Wirral Chamber of Commerce	Ongoing		A 'meet the buyer/local supplier' event for the construction sector was organised in January 2017. This event attracted 85 attendees from local construction businesses, allowing them to find out about opportunities in the sector and to understand the requirements for local businesses to enter these supply chains
	<i>Completed</i>					
*	Businesswirral.com online platform exists to promote and support local inter-trading. Businesses can use this to find local providers of goods and services. Improvements to this system will enable greater number and range of	Wirral Chamber of Commerce	Completed		Wirral Chamber no longer manages Businesswirral.com	

opportunities to be realised.				
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S t a t u s	Objective 4:03: Reduce the need to travel through online working or online meetings		Justification: Modern technologies enable transactions and interactions to take place on-line reducing the need to travel along with the associated climate impacts of this travel.			
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress	
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>					
	+	Implement Skype to business to enable Merseyside police to conduct more business through online video communication	Merseyside Police	2018	Video communication facility enabled	
	<i>Completed</i>					
=	Leaflet for businesses	Sustainable Travel Wirral Council	Until end of funding 2014/15	Dissemination of leaflets	Leaflet produced and ongoing dissemination	

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S t a t u s	Objective 4:04: Create a recognisable brand to aid the development of Wirral’s local food movement and promote the consumption of local and seasonal produce		Justification: Wirral has an emergent local food movement. Developing a clear brand should help develop this movement and promote the consumption of local and seasonal produce.			
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress	
	<i>In progress or on-going</i>					
	+	Initiate discussions with Wirral Food & Drink network concerning future development of Better Food Wirral	Public Health			
	*	Monthly West Kirby farmers’ market and local food newsletter	TTWK Core Group & Mellow Yellow	Ongoing	Number attending farmers’ market	Market now has 30 regular stalls, and the newsletter has a monthly circulation of about 1500

				Number of downloads of local food newsletter	
=	Promote local food foraging, seed swaps and re-skilling	TTWK Food Group, Incredible Edible Mellow Yellow	Ongoing		ongoing
*	Love Food Hate Waste [Campaign objective is to get people to reduce the amount of food they waste]	MRWA	2012 onwards	Tonnes	MRWA continues to promote food waste reduction through the national LoveFoodHateWaste campaign. The current campaign is all about lonely food and maybe organising a date with other lonely food? Like single spud would like to meet up with leftover cheese - that would be grate! http://recycleformerseyside.com/food-waste/find-food-perfect-match/ A Waste Composition Analysis (2010) identified that 109,000 tonnes (28%) of food waste was disposed in household bins. The 2016 analysis identified that food waste in household bins has increased to 39% (148,000 tonnes). For Wirral, this means that in the residual (28,228 tonnes), dry recycling (265 tonnes) and garden waste (156 tonnes) bins collectively, there was a total of 28,649 tonnes of food waste discarded. Equivalent to 19,195 tonnes of carbon emissions as most would have ended up in landfill.
*	Mersey Munchers	Children's Food Trust/MRWA	2015 onwards	Tonnes	Mersey Munchers, the local food group of the national Children's Food Trust, successfully bid into MRWA's Community Fund for 2017/18. They will be delivering cascade training, cookery skills and helping people to prevent food waste and save money at the same time.

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<i>Completed</i>					
*	Better Food Wirral identified as brand for local food movement	Public Health, Wirral Council	April 2014		Brand now established. A company called SO-MO was commissioned in June 2015 to start to further promote the work of Better Food Wirral. Better Food Wirral is now established as a brand with website and active social media. Funding is in place to continue this work through 2017/18
=	Priorities identified as – increase access to good food, supporting the local food market to thrive, allowing people to make good food choices	Public Health, Wirral Council	April 2014		Priorities are still relevant- move to look at adapting these priorities in different settings e.g. hospitals, care homes, schools etc.
=	Great Grove Street ‘eco pie’ harvest event	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	October 2014		Successful event held. To be followed up October 2015 with an ‘eco pudding’ event
=	Eco-pudding harvest event	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	October 2015		Successful event held.
<i>Abandoned</i>					
*	‘Eco pie’ harvest event 2016	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	October 2016		Abandoned due to too many eco projects taking place in 2016/17
*	Work with VCFS such as luncheon clubs, to source food locally	Community Action Wirral			CAW is still looking to secure support to work with luncheon clubs. Due to changes to DASS funding this has been postponed.
*	Establish Better Food Wirral Steering Group to influence agenda.	Public Health, Wirral Council	On-going		Establishing this group has proved difficult. Focus is now to progress Better Food Wirral agenda via Food and Drink network

S t a t u s	Objective 4:05: Develop community cultivation on suitable vacant or underutilised land through: asset transfer to create allotments, land sharing and cultivation agreements	Justification: Growing demand for allotments has seen new sites brought into use - although Wirral still has below average allotment provision. The demand for land for growing might also be met through land sharing and cultivation agreements
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	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
*	Better Food Wirral Innovation Fund available to community groups to promote innovate projects such as land sharing etc.	Public Health, Wirral Council, Community Action Wirral	August 2014 Second round of funding in 2016/17		A further six food projects were funded in 2016/17 round following support for six projects in the first funding round
*	Seek funding opportunities for tarmac to cultivation raised beds project	Eco Schools, Wirral Council		Opportunities identified	School grounds workshop 'making the most of your space' held in April 2017. Have now developed moveable allotments (boxes on wheels). Developed Ugandan gardens for schools to grow and compost efficiently utilising up-cycled materials
=	Promote locally grown food through Incredible Edible, Apple avenue and allotments	TTWK Food Group, Incredible Edible, Mellow Yellow	Ongoing		Ongoing
	<i>Completed</i>				
=	Public Health meeting with Local Authority colleagues re: better use of allotments and green spaces	Public Health, Wirral Council	Ongoing		A meeting has been held with a view to developing a strategy on this.
=	Big Picnic Project in West Wirral distributing baskets of seeds and plants for schools and community groups to grow, culminating in a big picnic at Thurstaston	Eco School, Wirral Council	October 2015		Event held July 2015 in Thursaston Country park
	<i>Abandoned</i>				
*	Seek to develop council managed land situated at Slatey Rd as a teaching centre for cultivation for both adults and children.	Wirral Environment Network			Abandoned due to lack of progress resolving legal matters to enable the use of the land by WEN

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S t a t	Objective 4:06: Create a directory of local food producers and promote these through an expo event.	Justification: If Wirral is to benefit fully from the transition to more local and seasonal food system it makes sense to highlight local producers
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	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
+	Develop profiles of local food producers on Better Food Wirral website through stories and other content	Public Health, Wirral Council			The website is being maintained by So-mo with regular content and features added
*	Monthly West Kirby farmers' market and local food newsletter	TTWK Core Group & Mellow Yellow	Ongoing	Number attending farmers' market Number of downloads of local food newsletter	Market now has 30 regular stalls, and the newsletter has a monthly circulation of about 1500 (1484 in Aug 17).
	<i>Complete</i>				
*	Investigation by University of Chester Students	Invest Wirral, Wirral Council			Survey undertaken but limited response
	<i>Abandoned</i>				
=	Better Food Wirral to hold four food exchange events in September with the idea of promoting local community projects and creating a network/directory of food producers/ suppliers etc.	Public Health, Wirral Council	September 2014		The food exchange events did not happen, due to the contract for the communications plan going out to tender. A company called SO-MO was successful and have held a co-production event looking at how the network would like to communicate.

S t a t u s	Objective 4:07: Ensure climate change issues are reflected in Wirral's local food programme	Justification: There are many connections between climate and food. Our current energy intense food system is a problem for climate pollution and changes in the climate will have an impact on food production. The creation of a local food programme presents an opportunity to consider and address food-related climate issues			
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
*	Develop Better Food Wirral network	Public Health, Wirral	Ongoing		Contract awarded to SO-MO is to

		Council			establish a network both physically and virtually - to include the sustainability officer - and to focus on developing sustainable cities agenda locally through the Better Food Wirral network. Public Health is regularly represented at the climate change group so issues can be reflected in food work as appropriate. Funding in place to maintain networking via website and social media for 2017/18
=	Make the connection between local food and the distance (Food miles) that some produce travels with respect to carbon emissions	MRWA	On-going	CO2 emissions	Supported university food technology modules
=	Promotion of OLIO.		Start date Sept 16	Tonnes of food diverted / CO2-e avoided	OLIO is an online Food Sharing App that connects people with unwanted food to those that would like to make use of it. https://olioex.com/

S t a t u s	Objective 4:08: Highlight the benefits of reducing consumption of meat		Justification: Meat forms an important part in the nation’s diet. However, there are some concerns about excessive meat consumption and its consequences. The energy intensity of dominant meat production processes and emissions from ruminant livestock pose some climate concerns.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>In progress or ongoing</i>				
*	Highlight links to relevant resources and materials via social media and web pages	Sustainability, Wirral Council	ongoing		Nine tweets posted during 2016/17
*	Encourage take up of Meatless meals work developed at St George’s Primary	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	ongoing		On-going project across eco schools Meat free meals work has spread across most primary schools. Edsential now offer a meat free Monday option.

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<i>Completed</i>					
=	Presentation to Wirral Climate Change Group on Meatless meals work developed at St George’s Primary	Wirral Climate Change Group	December 2015	Presentation given	Presentation given

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S t a t u s	Objective 4:09: Bring forward new initiatives - and strengthen existing ones - to reduce waste and encourage the re-use of materials		Justification: The ‘waste hierarchy’ highlights the importance of waste reduction and re-use.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress of on-going</i>				
=	Use WARP-IT portal to reduce waste of surplus Trust materials and furniture	CWP NHS Trust	Ongoing	-	The introduction of WARP-IT has seen savings of over £178,000 in avoided costs and related waste savings in the last two years at Cheshire and Wirral NHS Foundation Trust. Staff are starting to put items they no longer need on the system themselves for other staff to

					claim. The Trust has 10 charity partners who have benefited from donations of surplus items. The Trust is introducing a loan facility via WARP-IT for high value items that can be shared with teams for events, e.g. Mascot costumes and bikes, gazebos etc.
*	Merseyside Textile Forum Events. Partners include MRWA, national and local charities and local community groups	Merseyside Textile Forum	On-going	Tonnes	In late 2016, The Merseyside Textile Forum became an interactive online portal for members old and new. MRWA no longer leads the forum. The recent 2016 Waste Compositional Analysis identified that textile material being disposed of via the household bin has fallen by almost 4,000 tonnes to 17,000 tonnes. This remains too much and could go to better uses.
=	Promote national 'Love your clothes' and 'Pass it on' campaigns that encourage repair and re-styling of old clothes.	MRWA		Tonnes	
=	Develop Really Useful Skills Hubs (RUSH) across the region. RUSH will include re-use, repair and upcycling of unwanted household items. A networks of third sector organisations, community groups and volunteers will come together to swap ideas and support skills and training opportunities.	MRWA	April 2015	Tonnes	A pilot study is in progress to seek partners and develop the project
*	To continue to distribute 'Junk the Junk Mail stickers at events and via requests.	MRWA	April 2014	Tonnes	Junk mail continues to be a particular pet hate of residents. MRWA still get regular requests at events and by phone and email.
=	Publishing Wirral recycling directory	TTWK core group in association with Wirral Environment Network	Ongoing		Ongoing

*	Carry out audit of current schools waste collection provision and develop plan for future collections.	Waste & Environmental Services, Wirral Council	End March 2017	Audit completed, plan developed and approved for implementation.	Audits have been completed at the majority of schools, with just those with more complex issues left. 75% of Wirral's schools are now recycling at least 50% of their waste, compared with only 19% in 2015/16. Next steps to include completing the audits still outstanding and promotion of the ReFood collections of food waste from schools, to further increase diversion from landfill.
+	Establish relationship with service provider to maximise re-use of surplus furniture arising from estate rationalisation	Merseyside Police			Contract established with 'Total re-use CIC
+	Promotion of linked council, school and voluntary sector Warp-it portals to encourage growth in participation and use.	Wirral Council, Community Action Wirral, eco schools	August 17- July 18	Growth in membership and transactions	
+	Maintain WARP-IT portal for voluntary and community sector organisations in Wirral	Community Action Wirral			
Completed					
*	'Donate and Create Change' project to utilise four community hubs to act as 'pop up' charity shops to resell donated goods and stop them going to landfill	Community Action Wirral			Donate and Create change ended in September 2015 but during its 1 year it engaged 2127 people in recycling goods. Since then some of the hubs have closed as the pilot helped us realise that the location wasn't ideal but the Wallasey shop continues to go from strength to strength.
=	Develop a Wirral Waste Strategy – setting out Wirral's aim of recycling 50% of household waste by 2020	Waste & Environmental Services, Wirral Council	End 2015	Strategy agreed by Cabinet	Completed – approved at Cabinet, 17th December 2015
+	Commence options appraisal exercise, to consider future waste management arrangements for households in Wirral	Waste & Environmental Services, Wirral	FBC due to Cabinet	Preferred option agreed by	Options appraisal completed and full business case has been written with an accompanying report. Currently

		Council		Council for implementation	scheduled to be heard by Cabinet in Autumn 2017 for a decision on Wirral's future domestic waste management preferred option.
+	Full public consultation regarding shortlisted final two waste management options	Waste & Environmental Services, Wirral Council	25th July 2016 – 9th September 2016	Report results of consultation as part of FBC	Consultation was completed in September 2016, for inclusion in the Full Business Case for the Future of the Domestic Waste Management System. This is now awaiting publication.
+	Launch a new 18-month recycling information campaign based on WRAP's "Good to Know" campaign.	Recycling Team and PR, Wirral Council	November 2015 – March 2017	Recycling %	Good to Know campaign has finished. Unfortunately, there has been no increase in recycling and in fact, recycling has decreased again in 2016/17 to 35.9%. This is a national trend and is further evidence that service change will be required for Wirral to reach 50% recycling by 2020. Contamination at the sorting facility has decreased however, from an average of 10.05% in 2015/16 to 9.9% in 2016/17. A targeted communications campaign will be launched in 2017/18.
*	Develop school 'Big Bin' challenge	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	July 2017	Number of schools reducing waste collection.	75% of schools at 50% recycling or above - was 19% two years ago
*	Introduce WARP-IT portal to reduce waste of surplus council materials and furniture	Facilities management and Sustainability, Wirral Council	September 2015 – 2016	-	The system went 'live' in December 2016 with publication of information about Warp-it on the Council's intranet. At July 2017 80 staff had registered. Following the launch there were several transactions recorded in December 2016 and January 2017 but there has been limited activity since. Surplus items from storage that had initially been listed had 'expired' and were not immediately re-listed. This meant little was available to claim. Surplus stock held in storage has

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					recently been added in July 2017. Further promotions are now planned.
*	Establish a WARP-IT portal for voluntary and community sector organisations in Wirral	Sustainability, Wirral Council and Community Action Wirral	Autumn 2016	-	After some delays due to staff changes the portal went live in July 2017. Promotion of the portal at www.warp-it.co.uk/caw is now planned
*	Establish a WARP-IT portal for Wirral Schools	Sustainability and Eco Schools, Wirral Council		-	39 people registered on portal at July 2017. 4 interactions recorded with surplus claimed between schools and between council and schools portal
=	Wirral Earth Fest focus on not using plastic bottles, recycling and activities such as the community art project which will reuse plastic to make a banner	TTWK core group. Mellow Yellow	September 2015	Uptake of water from sources provided. Successful recycling	Wirral Earth Fest 2015 held. Recycled banner made. Festival included a dedicated recycling and rubbish area and a water station do dispense water into compostable cups, rather the disposable plastic bottles.

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S t a t u s	Objective 4:10: Encourage the use of sustainability appraisal to ensure climate sensitive decision making and utilise the skills of stakeholders in the Wirral Climate Change Group		Justification: Concerns were expressed during the consultation process that some strategies, plans and decisions are contradictory. Sustainability appraisal is a means to check the compatibility of strategies, plans and policies with commonly accepted sustainability criteria		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress

S t a t u s	Objective 4:11: Ensure the policies of Wirral’s Core Strategy Local Plan (and related supporting documents) that help minimise climate pollution are implemented		Justification: The Local Plan has several policies that can help minimise climate pollution. Some concerns were expressed during the consultation that these need to be implemented.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
	*	Progress the Core Strategy Local Plan	Planning, Wirral	Adoption of	Core

	and supporting Supplementary Planning Documents to adoption	Council	Core Strategy Local Plan and SPDs before end of 2016. Site specific Local Plan to follow	Strategy found “sound” at Examination	Scope of SPDs subject to consultation in 2013. Following further consultation on housing needs and land supply, the Council is undertaking a wider review of development options before deciding on the final sites to be included for development in the Core Strategy Local Plan. The Core Strategy Local Plan and accompanying draft Supplementary Planning Documents are due to be re-published for public consultation in the first half of 2019 and adopted by 2020
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Goal: Adapt Wirral to unavoidable climate change

Aim 5: Identify risks and vulnerabilities from expected changes and bring forward plans and actions to limit negative impacts and improve resilience

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S t a t u s	Objective 5:01: Develop a co-ordinated adaptation response through Wirral’s climate partnership		Justification: Co-ordinated work on adaptation is less well developed than that on mitigation. It makes sense to utilise the existing partnership to develop coordinated adaptation work further.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	Completed				
=	Present results of updated local climate impact profile to Wirral Climate Change Group	Sustainability, Wirral Council	June 2015	Presentation	Updated LCIP was presented in June 2015
=	Present emerging Wirral Council Severe Weather Action Plan to Wirral Climate Change Group	Health, Safety and Resilience, Wirral Council	To be determined	Presentation	A presentation was due to be given to the group in June 2016 but was cancelled and a short written report tabled instead.
S t	Objective 5:02: Engage key stakeholders in a risk assessment process using UKCIP’s adaptation wizard to identify risks,		Justification: One of the key initial steps in any adaptation response is to consider existing risks and vulnerabilities. The UK Climate Impacts		

a t t e n t i o n	vulnerabilities and priority actions		Programme has developed a variety of tools to assist such an assessment		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
*	Organise climate change resilience event	Sustainability, Wirral Council, Chamber of Commerce	2017		Following the cancellation of the workshop for SMEs planned for June 2016 due to limited bookings, work is now in progress with a view to running the workshop in autumn 2017
+	Update Wirral Council severe weather 'concept of operation' to include proactive actions for the medium and longer terms to cover adaptation to climate change.	Health Safety and Resilience, Wirral Council		Updated concept of operation	
*	Consider potential for using the tool as part of the Local Plan evidence base	Planning, Wirral Council	Adoption of Core Strategy Local Plan and SPDs before end of 2016. Site specific Local Plan to follow	Core Strategy found "sound" at Examination	Core Strategy at Pre-Submission Stage, Scope of SPDs subject to consultation in 2013. Following further consultation on housing needs and land supply, the Council is undertaking a wider review of development options before deciding on the final sites to be included for development in the Core Strategy Local Plan. The Core Strategy Local Plan and accompanying draft Supplementary Planning Documents are due to be re-published for public consultation in 2019 and adopted by 2020
	<i>Completed</i>				
=	Share updated local climate impacts profile with key stakeholders	Sustainability, Wirral Council	June 1015	Update shared	Updated draft produced and shared at June 2015 Wirral Climate Change Group meeting. Local climate impact profile also featured in Wirral JSNA
*	Develop severe weather plan for Wirral Council to manage risks to service disruption from severe weather episodes	Health Safety and Resilience, Wirral Council	August 2015	Plan in place	A severe weather plan 'concept of operation' was developed. Following staff changes this concept of operation will now be revisited with a view to an

					update that includes proactive action in the medium and longer terms to adapt to climate change.
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S t a t u s	Objective 5:03: Produce community-specific adaptation information		Justification: Climate adaptation requires a response from households, business and community organisations. Different communities in Wirral may face specific climate-linked challenges. For example, some may be at risk of flood others vulnerable to transport disruption. The provision of community specific information should help encourage an appropriate adaptation response.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or ongoing</i>				
	* Maintain and develop the Climate & Health content in Wirral JSNA	Public Health / Sustainability, Wirral Council	On going Bi-annual	JSNA section is updated periodically based upon contributions and active involvement of Climate Change Strategy Group and others	2 nd update completed and published
	* School flood risk project - Schools in flood risk areas will take part in a day long workshop looking at issues and ways they can mitigate problems such as sustainable drainage, swales, flood zones, wetland areas, community hubs. Schools will experiment in the morning then draw up plans in the afternoon.	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	To be determined	Workshop held	Postponed subject to seeking agreement from Merseyside forum to ensure project has maximum benefit across the city region
<i>Completed</i>					
* Explore potential to use capital programme funding to implement ideas	Sustainability and Parks & Countryside,			Agreement in principle to explore design options for education centre for	

	from Resilient Parks Project	Wirral Council			Birkenhead Park. Surface water investigation at Coronation Park completed to help examine ideas from resilient parks project
=	Implement the CLASP funded Wirral Resilient Parks project to survey five sites with existing weather impacts in order to develop potential alternative management regimes that might be applied more widely in anticipation of further impacts from climate change	Parks & Countryside, Wirral Council	March 2015		Five sites reviewed Friends groups involved. Project report completed and disseminated
=	Develop schools climate convention workshop linked to Resilient Parks project	Eco Schools Wirral Council	December 2014		Workshop held. St Alban's and Heswall Primary took part in Resilient Parks session

S t a t u s	Objective 5:04: Promote awareness of the links between climate change and health so that local health planning takes climate issues into account		Justification: Anticipated unavoidable changes in the climate will have implications for health and health provision. The links between health and climate change and the need for action in these areas were both highlighted in the strategy consultation.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
*	Maintain and develop the Climate & Health content in Wirral JSNA	Public Health / Sustainability, Wirral Council	Ongoing Bi-annual	JSNA section is updated periodically based upon contributions and active involvement of Climate Change Strategy Group and others	2nd update completed and published

S t a t u s	Objective 5:05: Promote the use of porous materials in gardens, driveways and landscaping schemes and the use of green roofs and walls in buildings to limit run-off, provide shade and ameliorate temperatures		Justification: ‘Hard’ impermeable building and surfacing materials can speed rainfall run-off so contributing to flooding. Such materials can also store heat energy contributing to an ‘urban heat island’ effect where urban areas become hotter than the surrounding rural hinterland. Alternative porous surfaces and ‘living’ structures that incorporate plant life can help reduce these problems. Planning regulations already cover use of impermeable materials for paving over front gardens. From April 2015 the Government requires that Local Planning Authorities ensure that for developments of 10 dwellings or more; or equivalent non-residential or mixed development, sustainable drainage systems for the management of run-off are put in place, unless demonstrated to be inappropriate.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
*	Implement the new requirements for Sustainable Drainage Systems in new developments	Planning, Wirral Council	From April 2015		On-going. Detailed technical guidance for developers on sustainable drainage and surface water management now on planning pages of Council web site.

S t a t u s	Objective 5:06: Promote water saving practices and the use of rainwater harvesting systems		Justification: The importance of water saving was highlighted through the consultation process. With longer dry spells and the potential for drought anticipated, there is a need to adopt water saving practices. Rainwater harvesting systems can reduce demand for mains supplied water and divert rainfall to storage during periods of intense rain.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or ongoing</i>				
*	Promote water saving as part of eco schools review	Eco Schools, Wirral Council			Water saving featured as part of the 2016/17 cool climate challenge
*	Incorporate findings of Wirral Water Cycle study 2013 into Planning Policies in Core Strategy Local Plan and guidance in Supplementary Planning Documents as appropriate	Planning, Wirral Council	Adoption of Core Strategy Local Plan and SPDs before end of 2016. Site	Core Strategy found “sound” at Examination	Core Strategy at Pre-Submission Stage, Scope of SPDs subject to consultation in 2013. Following further consultation on housing needs and land supply, the Council is undertaking a wider review of development options before deciding on

			specific Local Plan to follow		the final sites to be included for development in the Core Strategy Local Plan. The Core Strategy Local Plan and accompanying draft Supplementary Planning Documents are due to be re-published for public consultation in 2019 and adopted by 2020. A baseline Local Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy Economic Viability Study was published in 2014. This work is to be updated in early 2018 as part of current development options review.
+	Schools leak detection programme 2017/18	Building Services, Wirral Council	School summer holidays 2017		
+	Wirral Council Water Management Programme 2017/18	Building services, Wirral Council			
Completed					
=	Schools leak detection programme 2015/16	Sustainability, Wirral Council	School summer holidays 2015		Schools were visited and water meter readings taken. This highlighted some schools with higher usage including a site which needed the urinals controls replacing. Also bursts were highlighted during this monitoring process.
*	Schools leak detection programme 2016/17		School summer holidays 2016		School readings were taken over the holidays and sites with higher usage were highlighted via this process. Leak detection was carried out and burst claims were submitted when possible.
=	Wirral Council Water Management Programme 2015/16	Sustainability, Wirral Council			Ongoing water monitoring has been carried out by looking at the billing data and focusing on water consumption then reacting when higher usage is identified.
+	Wirral Council Water Management Programme 2016/17	Sustainability, Wirral Council			Ongoing water monitoring has been carried out by looking at the billing data and focusing on water consumption then reacting when higher usage is identified.

S t a t u s	Objective 5:07: Raise awareness of the role of the natural environment in combating adverse impacts in order to support investment in Wirral’s green infrastructure and green and open spaces strategies		Justification: Local green infrastructure and parks and open spaces strategies have an important role to play in local adaptation to a changing climate. Green and blue ‘infrastructure’ (e.g. gardens, parks, verges, trees and hedges; ponds, lakes, rivers and streams) provide a range ‘services’ important in climate adaptation (e.g. managing flooding by reducing surface runoff, providing natural storage and slowing water movement; and managing temperatures through evaporative cooling and shade).		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or ongoing</i>				
*	Planning Policies in Core Strategy Local Plan and guidance in Supplementary Planning Documents to provide guidance to plan positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure	Planning, Wirral Council	Adoption of Core Strategy Local Plan and SPDs before end of 2016. Site specific Local Plan to follow	Core Strategy found “sound” at Examination	Core Strategy at Pre-Submission Stage, Scope of SPDs subject to consultation in 2013. Following further consultation on housing needs and land supply, the Council is undertaking a wider review of development options before deciding on the final sites to be included for development in the Core Strategy Local Plan. The Core Strategy Local Plan and accompanying draft Supplementary Planning Documents are due to be re-published for public consultation in 2019 and adopted by 2020.

S t a t u s	Objective 5:08: Seek funding to extend Wirral Green Streets-type projects in the east of Wirral		Justification: The east of Wirral is less well served with ‘green infrastructure’ than other parts of the borough. The Wirral Green Streets programme has seen major investment in street trees helping to address this imbalance.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or ongoing</i>				
	Develop ESIF bid	Peel Holdings via Mersey Forest	July 2017	Bid submitted	Bid Submitted. Awaiting outcome

S	Objective 5:09: Run a campaign to promote engagement with	Justification: The climate ready programme, led by the Environment
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t a t u s	the Environment Agency's 'Climate Ready' programme	Agency, provides advice and support to the public, private and voluntary sectors to enable them to adapt to the changing climate			
	Change in context since strategy adopted: The 'climate ready' programme to encourage businesses and councils to prepare for climate-related risk was closed in March 2016.				
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>Abandoned</i>				
=	Highlight 'Climate Ready' support via social media	Sustainability Wirral Council	To be determined		
=	SME engagement regarding programme.	Wirral Chamber of Commerce	To be determined		See SME event under Objective 5:02

S t a t u s	Objective 5:10: Develop community capacity to respond to weather events.	Justification: Communities can be more resilient to extreme weather if they can harness resources from within the community to help prepare for, respond to and recover from such weather events. Building community capacity promotes self-help in ways that complement responses from local agencies and emergency services.			
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>Completed</i>				
*	Develop Wirral Emergency Volunteers scheme	Health Safety and Resilience, Wirral Council	Ongoing		Wirral Emergency Volunteer scheme (WEVs) was established. Induction training was provided which covered the expectations of the volunteer role, Health & Safety awareness and emergency notification arrangements including specific response roles such as Rest Centre support. The scheme also encouraged volunteer roles such as Flood, Snow and Ice Wardens, which would see volunteers assisting the council within their communities before and during such adverse weather events.

					Due to staffing changes and operational circumstances the scheme lost momentum. Planning is underway to rejuvenate the Wirral Local Resilience Action Group, which will engage with businesses and communities to encourage and support preparedness, response and recovery activities and will hopefully see the WEV and other community volunteer schemes at the forefront of enhancing resilience across the borough
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S t a t u s	Objective 5:11: Create a directory of local firms that provide goods and services that help with adapting to climate change and promote them at an expo event		Justification: If Wirral is to benefit fully from investment in adaptation it makes sense to highlight local providers of good and services that may help producers		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	=	Investigation by University of Chester students	Sustainability Wirral Council		

Building capacity for action in support of both goals

Aim 6: Building capacity for action by strengthening local networks and partnerships and by developing wider awareness and education initiatives

S t a t u s	Objective 6:01: Create an independent Cool Wirral Partnership from the Wirral Climate Change Group		Justification: It is important that the strategy is seen to be a strategy for Wirral, not a Wirral Council strategy. The existing climate change group has evolved over time from an internal council officer group to a wider forum with representatives from various groups. The further evolution of the group into an appropriately constituted partnership appears to be a logical next step consistent with fostering wider ownership. Such a move could also present new opportunities to		

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		develop action.			
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
<i>To progress or ongoing</i>					
+	Develop new terms of reference	Sustainability, Wirral Council	September 2017		Task and finish group established to draft new terms of reference based on preferred option previously identified.
<i>Completed</i>					
*	Consult on future direction and format of Wirral Climate Change Group	Sustainability, Wirral Council	Autumn 2016	Report identifying options for development	Options identified. Preferred option agreed at Wirral Climate Group meeting.

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S t a t u s	Objective 6:02: Develop a Cool Wirral campaign to promote the desirability of climate actions and gather pledges in support of the strategy from individuals and from organisations in the public, private, voluntary, community and faith sectors		Justification: The success of the climate change strategy rests on its uptake more widely across Wirral. A local ‘carbon reduction’ pledge campaign (CRed Wirral) has previously been developed, but the system upon which it was based is no longer supported. There is an opportunity to build on work undertaken on the CRed Wirral campaign in support of the wider strategy.			
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress	
	<i>To progress, or on-going</i>					
	*	Maintain @CoolWirral twitter feed	Sustainability, Wirral Council	Ongoing	Monthly number of follows	548 tweets during 2016 calendar year with 112574 tweet impressions recorded 569 tweets during 2016/17 financial year with 111,882 tweet impressions recorded 601 tweets during 2015 calendar year with 115,529 tweet impressions. 584 tweets during 2015/16 financial year with 116,748 tweet impressions recorded.
	=	Develop content for Cool Wirral group on ‘Project Dirt’ networking website	Sustainability, Wirral Council	Ongoing	Number of group members	Five journal blogs added to Cool Wirral group during 2015. Listed on Project Dirt as a ‘top blogger’
<i>Completed</i>						
=	Develop Cool Wirral ‘brand’ for online media	Sustainability, Wirral Council	October 2014	Logo, web banners, and social	Logo developed for twitter and project dirt profiles. Banners developed for web site but not implemented	

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				media styles developed	
=	Agree final Wirral climate strategy	Sustainability, Wirral Council	July 2014	Final version agreed	Final strategy agreed by Wirral Climate Change Group July 2014
=	Seek endorsement of final Wirral climate strategy	Sustainability, Wirral Council	Autumn 2014		Climate strategy endorsed by Wirral Council
=	Develop and implement launch programme for Wirral climate strategy	Sustainability, Wirral Council	Winter 2014/Spring 2015	Launch programme implemented	Launch events held and press release issued December 2014
=	Promote Cool Wirral team in national Big Energy Race 2015	Community Action Wirral	February 2015-April 2015		Cool Wirral team came third on the national leader board and was second in the region to the ultimate national winner
=	Establish 'Cool Wirral' web presence building on material developed for CRed Wirral campaign	Sustainability, Wirral Council	January 2015	Web presence established Statistics collected via Google analytics	Cool Wirral pages included at: www.wirral.gov.uk/coolwirral Limited content and functionality. The council's website has subsequently been redesigned and the amount of climate change information cut further.

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S t a t u s	Objective 6:03: Develop a network in support of Cool (building on existing networks) and provide opportunities for interaction between participants through an e-bulletin, social media and public events		Justification: The success of the climate change strategy rests on its uptake more widely across Wirral. Growing a supportive network and using this to share information and learning is seen as an important foundation for encouraging action. Electronic communication, social media and face-to-face meetings all have a part to play			
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress	
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>					
	*	Establish and maintain general Cool Wirral mailing list	Sustainability, Wirral Council			Cool Wirral mailing list option created on Wirral Council website. First mailing planned October 2017
	+	Develop Low Carbon Sector Forum	Wirral Chamber of Commerce	December 2017		
=	Transition Town West Kirby lecture	TTWK Energy Group	June 2015	Numbers	In progress. Talk on Cool Strategy held in	

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	series on energy and climate change		and ongoing	attending event	May 2016.
+	Wirral Earth Fest 2017	Transition Town West Kirby, St Bridget's Church	Sept 2017	Event Held	
Completed					
=	Organise a 'Cool Yule' Christmas event linked with strategy launch activities	Eco Schools/ Sustainability, Wirral Council	December 2014		Cool Yule launch event held
=	Organise Festi-velo as part of Festival of Firsts	TTWK Core Group	July 2014 July 2015	Number participating	2014 event 130 cyclists took part 2015 event 200 cyclists took part
=	Wirral Earth Fest 2015	TTWK Core group and Mellow Yellow in partnership with St Bridget's Church	10-12 th September 2015		Event held
=	Collaboration with Sustrans/Wirral Bike Hubs at Wirral Earth Fest	TTWK Core Group	12 th September 2015		
=	Wirral Earth Fest Climate Change Walk to Hilbre Islands	TTWK	November 2015		Approximately 70 people took part in the walk to coincide with the UN climate change conference in Paris
=	Organise a 'Cool Yule' catch-up event to celebrate progress during first year to coincide with COP21 in Paris	Sustainability and Eco Schools Wirral Council	December 2015	Event held	Event held. Media release issued gaining coverage.
=	Cool Wirral stall at Road Safety Team's Mock Trial 17 March 2016 to engage with local Wirral Businesses	Sustainability, Wirral Council	March 2016	Stall held	Stall held
=	Wirral Earth Fest 2016	Transition Town West Kirby, St Bridget's Church	Sept 2016	Event Held	
Abandoned					
*	Organise a 'Cool Yule' catch-up 2016 event to celebrate two years of progress	Sustainability and Eco Schools Wirral Council	December 2016	Event held	Separate Cool Yule event not progressed. Instead the climate group meeting in December 2016 was timed to coincide with eco-school Christmas fair

S t a t u s	Objective 6:04: Encourage the formation of low carbon communities/transition towns-type groups to promote climate action at community level with at least one group in each constituency committee area		Justification: Community led 'Transition town' and low carbon community-type groups have been set up around the country and are often at the forefront of local climate initiatives. Not all parts of Wirral have such groups in place. The consultation flagged up the need to support the formation of such groups in different parts of the Wirral.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
	=	Provide infrastructure support to new groups	Community Action Wirral		
	=	Develop Transition Town West Kirby activities	TTWK core group and all subgroups	Ongoing	Ongoing
<i>Completed</i>					
*	Support efforts to establish a Planet Heswall group with a planned event on 3rd October 2016	Planet Heswall and Sustainability, Wirral Council			Various activities organised as part of Wirral Festival.

S t a t u s	Objective 6:05: Develop a network of exemplar eco buildings including examples of different building types with at least one Superhome in each constituency committee area and promote 'open house'-type events		Justification: Visible and accessible examples of good practice can provide a powerful catalyst for wider change. The consultation workshops identified exemplar eco buildings as having an important role to play.		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress of on-going</i>				
=	Identify and promote existing exemplar buildings		Ongoing	Exemplar buildings identified	One 'Superhome' has been identified in Eastham. Open days during SuperHomes week were promoted via twitter. Contact has been established with owner and designer of an award winning passivhaus. A presentation on the property was given to the climate change group with the invitation extended to a wider audience

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=	Seek opportunities to develop new exemplar buildings				
+	Explore opportunity to develop exemplar public sector office accommodation through work to rationalise the public sector estate	Asset Management, Wirral Council	Spring/Summer 2018	Opportunity identified	

S t a t u s	Objective 6:06: Expand the number of good practice case studies on-line and encourage connections between organisations in different parts of the borough to spread good practice and avoid 'reinventing the wheel'		Justification: There are already a number of examples of good practice and associated experience although this practice is not always visible. The importance of showcasing good practice and sharing experience to help avoid reinventing the wheel was a common theme to emerge in workshop discussions		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or ongoing</i>				
*	Establish case studies section as part of 'Cool Wirral' web presence utilising material collected for CRed Wirral campaign and updating to include new examples	Building Services and Sustainability, Wirral Council	January 2015	Web presence established Statistics collected via Google analytics	Revisions to council website have prevented this. Opportunity to include case studies as stories on the new Wirral view platform.

S t a t u s	Objective 6:07: Develop climate change-related resources to support local 'eco' work in schools		Justification: Wirral has a successful eco schools programme. This presents an opportunity to engage school communities in climate related-action and learning		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>Completed</i>				
*	Develop 'Cool Science' resources	Eco Schools Wirral Council	July 2016		Training session delivered to local teachers. Pack developed given to participants

S t a t u s	Objective 6:08: Develop leading schools and community buildings as hubs for wider community learning on climate change		Justification: Schools and community buildings (often run by community or faith groups) can act as hubs for wider community learning. They thus present an opportunity to facilitate wider learning on climate change and the actions which can be taken		
	Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<i>To progress or on-going</i>				
+	School Cool Climate Challenge 2018	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	Spring term 2018	Event held	
	<i>Completed</i>				
=	Run school climate workshops as part of strategy launch activities to initiate school projects linked to strategy themes	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	December 2016	Event held Number of schools involved	Workshop held on 10 th December as part of launch programme. Topics covered included energy efficiency (LED lighting); adaptation (resilient parks, coastal management); renewable energy (scope for solar PV); waste reduction (composting and waste electrical equipment)
=	Hold school climate convention at which schools taking part in the climate workshops will share their projects and lead activities with other schools	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	July 2015	Event held	Event held
=	School Climate Challenge 2016	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	March 2016	Event held	Climate challenge event rebranded as Cool Climate Challenge. Successful event held. Nine schools took part
*	“Lights Out” project - Schools will be given an old bell shaped street light and a species that is in decline in Wirral due to habitat loss or climate change. The	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	Autumn term 2016	Project complete	Project completed. Art works displayed at event at WEN. Schools now have the artworks and posters created

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	school will create a fact file and work with an artist to create an installation in their light about that species. The lights will be exhibited with a booklet showing the schools fact files.				
*	School Cool Climate Challenge 2017	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	Spring term 2017	Event held	Event held. 10 schools took part. Well Lane won.
*	“Making the most out of your space” A one day workshop for schools to consider their school grounds including use for teaching and learning, play, curriculum use, biodiversity, water, climate mitigation and zoning.	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	Spring term 2017	Workshop held	Workshop held. Demonstration moveable gardens created
<i>Abandoned</i>					
*	Utilise the CAW community shops in Prenton, Overchurch, West Kirby and Bromborough	Community Action Wirral			The location of the shops wasn't popular with third sector organisation to sell unwanted goods and take up form statutory partners was extremely low. The shops were not viable under these conditions.



**Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday 31 January 2018**

REPORT TITLE:	WIRRAL LOCAL PLAN – REPORT OF PROGRESS SINCE 2004
REPORT OF:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

REPORT SUMMARY

Sajid Javed, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, wrote to the Leader of the Council on 16 November 2017, to express concern about the Council’s lack of progress on plan-making, which is particularly directed toward increasing the national delivery of housing.

The letter sets out the Secretary of State’s previously expressed intention, in a White Paper in February 2017, to intervene in areas where the least progress in plan-making has been made; policies in plans had not been kept up-to-date; there was higher housing pressure; and intervention would have the greatest impact in accelerating Local Plan production. He has written to Wirral because of the failure to meet the deadlines to prepare an up-to-date Local Plan set out in the Council’s Local Development Scheme.

The Secretary of State has asked the Council to outline any exceptional circumstances that would justify the failure of the Council to produce a Local Plan and any measures that the authority has taken to accelerate plan publication. A response is required by 31 January 2018.

What constitutes an exceptional circumstance is not defined but the general tests that will be applied are whether the issue significantly affects the reasonableness of the conclusions that can be drawn from the data and criteria used to inform decisions on intervention; and whether the issue had a significant impact on the authority’s ability to produce a local plan, for reasons that were entirely beyond its control.

The Environment and Overview Scrutiny Committee considered this letter at a Special Meeting on 7 December 2017 and resolved that the Assistant Director for Environmental Services report to a future Scrutiny Committee detailing the timetable to date and reasons for slippage (Minute 40 refers).

This report therefore sets out further detail about previous progress on the Local Plan, including the reasons that have been published in previous Local Development Schemes and Annual Monitoring Reports.

This report also provides a further update of current progress. A copy of the reply sent by the Council Leader to the Secretary of State will be provided to the Committee when it becomes available.

The Local Plan is the responsibility of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety and could support a wide range of Wirral Plan pledges related to People, Business and Environment, including good quality housing which meets the needs of residents; and Wirral Plan Housing Strategy objectives to build more homes to meet our economic growth ambitions and improve the quality of Wirral's housing offer for our residents.

RECOMMENDATION

- (1) That the report is noted**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To allow the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the issues arising from a letter from the Secretary of State, attached as Appendix 1, with regard to progress on plan-making in Wirral.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 There are no alternative options. A further report on progress in plan making was requested by the Committee on 7 December 2017. A reply to the Secretary of State is required to be submitted by 31 January 2018.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Council has been preparing a Local Plan to replace the Unitary Development Plan adopted in February 2000, since the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act was enacted in May 2004.

- 3.2 Progress on the Local Plan has been regularly publicly reported in a statutory monitoring report, published in December each year. Copies of the monitoring reports published since December 2005 have been published on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/development-monitoring>

- 3.3 Statements of current progress have also been continuously updated on the Council's website on the pages for:

- local plans at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans>;
- the local development scheme at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans>; and
- the Core Strategy at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/core-strategy-local-plan>

- 3.4 Members have, in addition, been notified individually, as each stage has been reached. A detailed timeline of previous activity associated with the preparation of the Council's local plans is included as Appendix 2.

- 3.5 Section 15 of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act requires the Council to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme, to set out the documents that will comprise their local plan and the timetable for their preparation and revision. Until the Localism Act 2011, Local Development Schemes had to be approved by the Secretary of State before they could come into effect. Since then, they need only be approved at a local level. In Wirral's case, this requires a resolution of full Council.

- 3.6 The current action by the Secretary of State has focused on those local authorities who have yet to adopt a post-2004 Act Local Plan and where current Local Development Schemes have been assessed by his officials as being out of date when measured against actual progress in Local Plan preparation.

- 3.7 The Council has undertaken six reviews of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) for Wirral since the first LDS was adopted in May 2005.
- 3.8 The following paragraphs summarise the changes in the timetable for the production of a Core Strategy Local Plan as recorded in the five adopted LDSs to date. They also summarise the reasons for the revisions to the timetable as reported in the LDS documents themselves and in the yearly reviews of progress set out in the Council's published monitoring reports.

FIRST LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR WIRRAL (EFFECTIVE FROM MAY 2005)

- 3.9 The Council's first LDS was adopted, following prior approval by the Secretary of State, by Council in May 2005 (Minute 7 refers). The target date for the adoption of the Core Strategy was April 2008.
- 3.10 Initial consultation on the content of the Core Strategy was undertaken between October and December 2005 with a report of consultation published in July 2006.

FIRST REVIEW (EFFECTIVE FROM JULY 2006)

- 3.11 The first review of the LDS was adopted by Council on 10 July 2006 (Minute 30 refers). The target date for adoption of the Core Strategy was amended to October 2008 (a delay of six months on the May 2005 LDS timetable).
- 3.12 The Core Strategy timetable was adjusted to accommodate delays in the preparation of a new Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), with which the new Core Strategy needed to conform.
- 3.13 The Draft RSS was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent public examination in January 2006 (rather than in September 2005 as originally intended). Public consultation did not begin until March 2006, with the final RSS expected to be published in September 2007 (rather than May 2007). The final RSS was not, however, issued by the Secretary of State until September 2008.
- 3.14 Later in 2006 (effective from December 2006), a further amendment was made to the LDS, to incorporate Halton Borough Council as a partner in the preparation of the Merseyside Joint Waste Development Plan Document – there was no change to the Core Strategy timetable (effective from December 2006).
- 3.15 Two public workshops were held in November 2006, to consider the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and needs of the Borough and the potential vision, objectives and indicators for the Core Strategy and a report of consultation was circulated for public comment in January and February 2007.
- 3.16 A Statement of Community Involvement was approved by Council on 18 December 2006 (Minute 86), following public consultation between May and July 2006 and public examination by a Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State in September and October 2006.

- 3.17 Supplementary planning documents for flats, hot food takeaways, telecommunications and parking, linked to the previous Unitary Development Plan, were adopted in October 2006 and June 2007.

SECOND REVIEW (EFFECTIVE FROM JULY 2007)

- 3.18 The second full review of the LDS was adopted by Council on 16 July 2007 (Minute 30 refers). The target date for the adoption of the Core Strategy was amended to October 2009 (with all stages after Preferred Options pushed back by 12 months on the July 2006 LDS timetable).

- 3.19 The revised timetable took account of the need to:

- respond to progress on the draft RSS;
- provide evidence to a public inquiry into housing development at Reeds Lane;
- ensure that the potential priorities and objectives for the Core Strategy, identified through public consultation, were properly appraised;
- complete more detailed technical studies, originally planned for later on in the process, arising from the experience of the first authorities to pass through the new-style public examination process, where Core Strategies were rejected by Planning Inspectors as unsound because of deficiencies in their evidence base; and
- undertake additional work to respond to the emerging proposals for Wirral Waters.

- 3.20 Further consultation with under-represented groups was undertaken between June and October 2007 and evidence base studies for housing; employment land and premises; flood risk; retail, town centres and leisure; biodiversity; landscape; renewable energy; and cultural services were commissioned.

- 3.21 Public consultation on the Issues, Vision and Objectives for the Core Strategy was undertaken in February and March 2009 and reported in November 2009.

THIRD REVIEW (EFFECTIVE FROM FEBRUARY 2010)

- 3.22 The third review of the LDS was adopted by Council on 15 February 2010 (Minute 97). The target date for adoption of the Core Strategy was put back to June 2011 (a delay of a further 20 months on the July 2007 LDS timetable). The revised timetable took account of:

- the delays to the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS);
- the need to consult on Spatial Options before consulting on the Preferred Options for the Core Strategy;
- progress on the necessary evidence base studies;
- revised guidance from the Planning Inspectorate on the minimum achievable timescales following submission; and
- changes to national Regulations, in June 2008, which combined the previous Issues and Options and Preferred Options stages of consultation into a single un-regulated stage and moved the statutory period for making

representations to be made before rather than after submission to the Secretary of State.

- 3.23 Consultation on the Spatial Options for the Core Strategy was undertaken between January and March 2010; and on the Council's Preferred Options between November 2010 and January 2011, which was reported in July 2011.
- 3.24 Additional evidence was commissioned on sub-regional capacity; water cycle; and habitats regulations impacts; and a review of sites of biological and geological importance.

FOURTH REVIEW (EFFECTIVE FROM FEBRUARY 2012)

- 3.25 The fourth review of the LDS was adopted by Council on 15 February 2012 (Minute 111 refers). The target date for the adoption of the Core Strategy was put back to August 2013 (a delay of 26 months on the February 2010 LDS timetable). The revised timetable took account of:
- an additional round of public consultation on emerging Settlement Area Policies, which took place between January and March 2012;
 - the major national planning reforms, introduced by the Coalition Government, including the intention to revoke the Regional Spatial Strategy, (initially expected in 2012 but eventually delayed until May 2013); the introduction of 'soundness tests' for local plans; new Local Planning Regulations; and the issuing of the National Planning Policy Framework (in March 2012); and
 - the commissioning of updated employment forecasts and retail capacity figures and additional work on housing viability and transport capacity modelling.
- 3.26 The LDS no longer needed to be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval before it could be adopted by the Council
- 3.27 A Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy was approved by Cabinet in July and September 2012 (Minutes 61 and 92 refer); approved for publication by Council on 15 October 2012 (Minute 60); and was published for public comment between December 2012 and February 2013, with a view to submitting it to the Secretary of State for public examination during 2013.
- 3.28 The issues surrounding publication and submission were set out in the report to Cabinet on 27 September 2012 (Minute 92), including the relationship with the Regional Spatial Strategy, which still remained in force pending revocation; the unexpected increase in population and households recorded in the 2011 Census; and the need for additional housing evidence once RSS had been revoked.
- 3.29 The comments received were reported in a Delegated Decision published on 20 June 2013, which recommended further consultation on a series of proposed modifications; the need for further up-to-date evidence to support issues related to housing, Green Belt, gypsies and travellers, development viability and retail floorspace thresholds; and that any further modifications necessary to address these issues would be reported back to Cabinet before Council was recommended to approve the final text for submission to the Secretary of State.

- 3.30 The initial modifications were published for public comment between July and September 2013; and a series of further modifications to policies for town centres and for gypsies and travellers were published for consultation between December 2014 and February 2015, following a Delegated Decision published on 25 November 2014.
- 3.31 A revised Statement of Community Involvement, to take account of the national reforms, was also approved by Council on 10 March 2014 (Minute 90), following public consultation between July and September 2013.
- 3.32 The additional information on retail floorspace thresholds was completed in January 2014. The additional evidence related to gypsies and travellers was reported to Cabinet in September 2014 (Minute 51) and on development viability in January 2015 (Minute 131).

FIFTH REVIEW (EFFECTIVE FROM JULY 2015)

- 3.33 This is the Council's current LDS, which was approved by Council on 6 July 2015 (Minute 23 refers). A copy of the approved Scheme can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/local-development-scheme>
- 3.34 The target date for the adoption of the Core Strategy was put back to December 2016 (a further delay of 40 months on the February 2012 LDS timetable). The revised timetable took account of:
- the delay in the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS);
 - the publication of the proposed modifications, in July 2013 and December 2014; and
 - the need to complete the additional housing evidence (referred to in the approved LDS at paragraph 5.9).
- 3.35 The revised housing needs assessment was not, however, completed until May 2016.
- 3.36 The preparation of the assessment was complicated by the unexpected increase in population and households from the 2011 Census, which rendered previous projections unreliable, with high levels of unattributed change; nationally acknowledged limitations in the subsequent 2011-based interim household projections; and the late publication of stage two 2012-based household projections, in December 2015.

4.0 THE CURRENT POSITION AND SIXTH REVIEW

- 4.1 The findings of the completed housing needs assessment and the issues surrounding its preparation were reported to Cabinet on 18 July 2016 (Minute 31 refers), who resolved that further consultation should be undertaken on the Borough's housing needs and land supply. Consultation took place in August and September 2016.

- 4.2 The results of consultation were reported to Cabinet on 27 February 2017 (Minute 96 refers), who resolved to undertake a wider review of development options, before deciding on the sites that will need to be allocated for development in the Core Strategy. The review, which is currently underway, includes:
- a revised methodology for assessing the suitability of potential housing sites (the SHLAA), which was published for public consultation between July and September 2017;
 - the preparation of a Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA) for the Liverpool City Region, to consider the need for new housing and employment land across the City Region as a whole, which was published for consultation in October 2017;
 - an initial review of land in the Green Belt, for which a proposed methodology was published for public consultation between October and December 2017;
 - a new Brownfield Land Register, which was published in December 2017, following public consultation in October 2017;
 - a Playing Pitch Strategy Update, which was published in November 2017;
 - an Employment Land and Premises Study Update, which is due to report in early 2018;
 - a Development Viability Study Update, which will report in early 2018; and
 - a new SHLAA, applying the revised methodology, prepared for April 2018.
- 4.3 The results of the review will be reported to Cabinet in July 2018, with a view to consulting on any new sites in September 2018 and agreeing an informal draft plan for approval for statutory appraisal in December 2018.
- 4.4 The final Core Strategy, for approval for publication and submission to the Secretary of State, would then be presented to Cabinet in July 2019 and, subject to the approval of Full Council, would be published for final public comment in October 2019, with potential submission to the Secretary of State in early 2020 and a target date for adoption of January 2021.
- 4.5 As previously indicated, progress on the Local Plan has been regularly and publicly reported, in addition to reports to Cabinet, in a statutory monitoring report, published in December each year.
- 4.6 The monitoring report for 2017 was approved by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety in a Delegated Decision published on 21 December 2017, which can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=4365>
- 4.7 The monitoring report for December 2017 was also accompanied by a formal update to the Local Development Scheme, which will be presented for approval to Council on 19 March 2018.
- 4.8 The proposed timetable was previously set out in Frequently Asked Questions, as part of public consultation on the proposed methodology for the initial review of the Green Belt, in October 2017, which can currently be viewed in public libraries and on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and->

- 4.9 The revised timetable for the Core Strategy, to be included in the new 2018 Local Development Scheme, is set out in Appendix 3 to this report.

5.0 FUTURE DECISION MAKING

- 5.1 National legislation states that planning applications must be determined in accordance with the adopted Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 5.2 The statutory Development Plan for Wirral currently comprises the Council's Unitary Development Plan, adopted in February 2000; the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton, adopted in July 2013; the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Devonshire Park, made in December 2015; and the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Hoylake, made in December 2016.
- 5.3 The National Planning Policy Framework states that local planning authorities should approve development proposals that accord with the development plan without delay and where the development plan is absent, silent or relevant policies are out-of-date, grant permission unless any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the Framework taken as a whole or specific policies in the Framework indicate development should be restricted (NPPF, paragraph 14, sometimes known as 'the presumption in favour of sustainable development').
- 5.4 Relevant policies for the supply of housing should not be considered up-to-date if the local planning authority cannot demonstrate a 5-year supply of deliverable housing sites, which remains a key issue in the preparation of the Core Strategy Local Plan (NPPF, paragraph 49 refers), as reported in previous annual monitoring reports.
- 5.5 With regard to the Green Belt, national policy currently states that Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances through the preparation or review of the Local Plan and that inappropriate development in the Green Belt should not be approved except in very special circumstances (NPPF paragraphs 83 and 87 refer).
- 5.6 National practice guidance currently indicates that unmet housing need is unlikely to outweigh the harm to the Green Belt and other harm to constitute the very special circumstances justifying inappropriate development on a site within the Green Belt (NPPG Paragraph: 034 Reference ID: 3-034-20141006).
- 5.7 Decisions to refuse planning applications for new housing development in the Green Belt have continued, on this basis, to be supported by Planning Inspectors at appeal.
- 5.8 The Housing White Paper, published in February 2017, indicated that the Government proposed to amend the National Planning Policy Framework, to make clear that authorities should amend Green Belt boundaries only when they

can demonstrate they have examined fully all other reasonable options for meeting their identified development requirements, which has not yet been implemented.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The potential interventions by the Secretary of State, set out in further detail in section 7.0 below, could have financial consequences, which are as yet unknown.
- 6.2 The Council may be required to reimburse the Secretary of State for any expenditure incurred in relation to an intervention.
- 6.3 The delivery of new housing, in particular, has implications for income from Council Tax and New Homes Bonus and could have implications for the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 6.4 The national allocation of New Homes Bonus has already been restricted, to incentivise the impact of the Bonus, to a national baseline of 0.4% of dwelling stock, below which allocations will not be made, equivalent in Wirral to 602 dwellings in 2017/18.
- 6.5 Technical consultation, in December 2015, also proposed to withhold the allocation of New Homes Bonus from areas where no Local Plan has been produced, which has not yet been implemented but is to be reviewed from 2018/19, for authorities that were not planning effectively, making positive decisions on planning applications and delivering housing growth.
- 6.6 The Government are also considering withholding payments for homes that are built following a successful appeal against a refusal of planning permission.
- 6.7 The absence of an up-to-date Local Plan also has implications for the ability of the Council to apply a Community Infrastructure Levy.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Council is currently required to keep under review the matters which may be expected to affect the development of their area or the planning of its development and to prepare a local plan under Part 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 7.2 The Local Plan must be prepared in line with the statutory process set out in national legislation and can only be adopted by the Council if it is found to be legally compliant and sound by a Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.
- 7.3 To be sound, a local plan must be: positively prepared, to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements; justified, in terms of being the most appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable alternatives; effective, in terms of being deliverable and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities; and be consistent with national

policy, by delivering sustainable development in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, paragraph 182).

- 7.4 To be legally compliant, the local plan must be prepared to fully comply with national legislation and regulations.
- 7.5 The Council will not be able to successfully submit a Core Strategy Local Plan to public examination without basing its housing requirement on up-to-date evidence of objectively assessed need or without being able to demonstrate a credible five-year housing land supply and the broad locations for future housing land supply over the rest of a fifteen-year plan period, in line with the requirements of national policy.
- 7.6 Section 8 of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017, once formally commenced, will, in particular, require local planning authorities to have plans in place which set out their strategic policies for:
- the homes and jobs needed in the area;
 - the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
 - the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
 - the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
 - climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.
- 7.7 The Housing and Planning Act 2016 significantly increased the powers of the Secretary of State to intervene in plan-making, at any stage in the plan making process.
- 7.8 The Secretary of State can now intervene if he thinks that a local planning authority are failing or omitting to do anything it is necessary for them to do in connection with the preparation, revision or adoption of a local plan and may prepare or revise the document or give directions to the authority in relation to the preparation or revision of the document but must give reasons for any action that he takes (section 146 refers).
- 7.9 The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 also enables the Secretary of State to make regulations to require a local planning authority to review local development documents at prescribed times; and extended powers over their content, with which the Council must comply (sections 11 and 12 refer).
- 7.10 Regulations under section 12, which will come into force from April 2018, will require local planning authorities to review their local plans at least every five years.
- 7.11 The Secretary of State can also direct two or more local planning authorities to prepare a joint local plan, if this would facilitate the more effective planning of the development and use of land in one or more of their areas, including setting a timetable and specifying the areas and matters to be covered. The Secretary of

State or combined authority will then be able to apportion liability for expenditure on joint plan preparation as the Secretary of State considers appropriate (section 9 refers).

- 7.12 Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act requires the Council to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme, to set out the documents that will comprise their local plan and the timetable for their preparation and revision. The Scheme must be brought into effect by a resolution of Council.
- 7.13 The requirement for a Local Development Scheme to be approved by the Secretary of State before being brought into effect, was withdrawn by the Localism Act 2011 but the local planning authority must still revise their Scheme when directed to do so by the Secretary of State (section 15 (8) refers).
- 7.14 The Localism Act 2011 also requires the Council to publish up to date information on their compliance with the timetable set out within the Scheme (section 111 refers).
- 7.15 Under the Housing and Planning Act 2016, the Secretary of State can prepare a Local Development Scheme for a local planning authority, if one has not been prepared and direct that the local planning authority bring it into effect and can direct a local planning authority to make such amendments as he thinks appropriate to ensure the full and effective coverage of the area, with regard to both geography and content (section 143 refers).
- 7.16 Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act requires the Council to prepare and publish monitoring reports, on at least an annual basis, to set out progress on the preparation of local development documents and the extent to which the policies within them are being achieved.
- 7.17 The requirement to submit monitoring reports to the Secretary of State was withdrawn by the Localism Act 2011.
- 7.18 Planning applications must be determined in accordance with the adopted Development Plan unless material considerations, which include national policy and guidance, indicate otherwise.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 8.1 The preparation of the Core Strategy Local Plan is undertaken by the Forward Planning Team in Environmental Services.
- 8.2 The preparation of the Core Strategy must be supported by IT and staffing sufficient to meet statutory requirements and maintain an appropriate up-to-date evidence-base, including co-operation with specified bodies and consultation with key stakeholders, sufficient to demonstrate the soundness and legal compliance of any proposed policies and land allocations to a Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.
- 8.3 Under a new Housing Delivery Test, announced in the Housing White Paper in February 2017, the Council will be required to produce an action plan for

boosting housing delivery, where the number of homes being built falls below 95 percent of the local target; and will be required to plan for an additional 20 percent of housing land where the number of homes being built falls below 85 percent of the local target, to ensure that further land is brought forward where targets are not being met. Wirral is currently building, during 2016/17, at 41 percent of the Government's indicative figure of 803 additional dwellings each year between 2016 and 2026.

- 8.4 Following the Budget Statement in November 2017, the Government is proposing to consult on measures to further strengthen the Housing Delivery Test, with tougher consequences where planned homes are not being built, by raising threshold at which the presumption in favour of sustainable development (NPPF, paragraph 14) applies, to 75 percent by 2020, rather than the 65 percent proposed in the Housing White Paper.

9.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 9.1 The principal risks to the Council are reputational and financial.
- 9.2 The letter attached at Appendix 1 to this report is the beginning of the process of potential intervention but does not specify the type of intervention that the Secretary of State will envisage as suitable for Wirral.
- 9.3 The Secretary of State has indicated that his decision to intervene will be informed by the wider planning context of the area, including the extent to which authorities are working co-operatively to put strategic plans in place and the potential impact that not having a plan has on neighbourhood planning activity; and that he will take into account any slippage against the timetable that authorities have set for themselves.
- 9.4 Subject to the outcome of the development options review, the delivery of a sound up-to-date Local Plan may involve the allocation of land for new housing development in the existing Green Belt.
- 9.5 The Government has indicated that further changes to national planning policy are expected to be published in early 2018, with which the Council will also need to comply.

10.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

- 10.1 The Core Strategy Local Plan is being prepared subject to a statutory process, including public consultation.
- 10.2 The timetable for the preparation of the Core Strategy has been continuously publicly reported as set out in section 3.0 of this report

11.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 This report does not have any equality implications.

11.2 This preparation of the Core Strategy Local Plan is subject to an ongoing equality impact assessment which can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/core-strategy-local-plan>

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Letter from Secretary of State dated 16 November 2017

Appendix 2 – Local Plan Timeline Since 2004

Appendix 3 – Proposed Timetable for the Core Strategy Local Plan

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as originally enacted, (Part 2 refers) can be viewed at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/contents>

Localism Act 2011 (Part 6, sections 109 to 113 refer) can be viewed at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted>

Housing and Planning Act 2016 (sections 143 to 148 refer) can be viewed at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/22/contents/enacted>

Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 (sections 8 to 13 refer) can be viewed at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/20/contents/enacted>

The Council's existing adopted Unitary Development Plan, the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton and the Neighbourhood Development Plans for Devonshire Park and Hoylake can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans>

The content of previous stages in the preparation of the Council's Core Strategy Local Plan can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/core-strategy-local-plan>

Frequently Asked Questions for the Council's Initial Green Belt Review (October 2017 – page 4, Q13. When will a final decision be taken? refers) can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/core-strategy-local-plan-6>

The Secretary of State's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) can be viewed at <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/>

The Secretary of State's National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) can be viewed at <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space/>

Technical Consultation on Implementation of Planning Changes (February 2016, Chapter 6 Local plans refers) can be viewed at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/507019/160310_planning_consultation.pdf

New Homes Bonus Sharpening the Incentive Government Response (December 2016) can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-homes-bonus-sharpening-the-incentive-technical-consultation>

The Government's Housing White Paper (February 2017) can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/housing-white-paper>

Further consultation on 'Planning for the right homes in the right places' (September 2017) can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-right-homes-in-the-right-places-consultation-proposals>

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet – Core Strategy Local Plan – Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update	18 July 2016 (Minute 31)
Cabinet – Core Strategy Local Plan – Report of Further Consultation on Housing Need and Land Supply	27 February 2017 (Minute 96)
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Wirral Local Plan – Letter from Secretary of State	7 December 2017 (Minute 40)
Delegated Decision - Local Development Framework for Wirral – Monitoring Report 2016/17	21 December 2017

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Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Cllr Phil Davies

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP

*Secretary of State for Communities and Local
Government*

***Department for Communities and Local
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16 November 2017

Dear Phil

LOCAL PLAN INTERVENTION

On 7 February we published our housing White Paper in which we made clear that the housing market in this country is broken, and the cause is very simple: for too long, we haven't built enough homes. We have identified three systemic problems: not enough local authorities planning for the homes they need; house building that is simply too slow; and a construction industry that is too reliant on a small number of big players.

Up-to-date plans, including local plans are essential because they provide clarity to communities and developers about where homes should be built and where not, so that development is planned rather than the result of speculative applications. At present too few places have an up-to-date plan.

On 21 July 2015 we made a Written Ministerial Statement to the House on this same subject. I am writing to you as your authority has yet to adopt a 2004 Act Local Plan and to express my concerns about the lack of progress your authority has made on plan-making.

Local planning authorities are required to publish a Local Development Scheme (LDS) which sets out when an authority expects to reach key milestones in the plan-making process, and the timetable for producing documents to maintain an up to date plan. In the 13 years that have passed since the 2004 Act was introduced your Council has failed to meet the deadlines set out in that timetable.

The February 2017 Housing White Paper set out that we will prioritise intervention

where:

- the least progress in plan-making has been made
- policies in plans had not been kept up to date
- there was higher housing pressure; and
- intervention would have the greatest impact in accelerating Local Plan production

My decisions on intervention will also be informed by the wider planning context in each area (specifically, the extent to which authorities are working cooperatively to put strategic plans in place, and the potential impact that not having a plan has on neighbourhood planning activity).

I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to outline any exceptional circumstances, by 31st January 2018, which, in your view, justify the failure of your Council to produce a Local Plan. In addition to this explanation, I would like to hear of any measures that the authority has taken, or intends to take, to accelerate plan publication.

My officials have been engaging with your officers to discuss the progression of your Plan and they will write to set out further detail and next steps.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Javid', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

THE RT HON SAJID JAVID MP

Local Plan Time Line	Minute
UDP – Approval of Withdrawal of Alterations LDF – Authorisation to Commence LDS – Authorisation to Prepare	Cabinet - 26 January 2005 419
UDP – Alterations Formally Withdrawn	9 February 2005
LDS – Approval of Draft LDS	Cabinet - 16 February 2005 452
LDS – Approval by SoS	31 March 2005
LDS – Approval of Revised Approved LDS	Cabinet - 11 May 2005 622
LDS – Resolution to bring into effect	Council - 23 May 2005 7(2)
LDS – in effect	30 May 2005
SCI – Initial Consultation	27 June 2005 – 5 August 2005
Approval of SEA protocols Approval of Draft Sustainability Appraisal Framework	Cabinet - 18 July 2005 99 98
Draft Sustainability Appraisal Framework – Consultation	2 August 2005 – 9 September 2005
Core Strategy – SEA Consultation	11 August 2005 – 19 September 2005
SCI – Approval of Draft SCI	Cabinet - 5 October 2005 Council - 17 October 2005 242
Core Strategy – Initial Consultation	17 October 2005 – 2 December 2005
SCI – Consultation on Draft SCI	16 November 2005 – 30 December 2005
AMR – Approval of Draft AMR	Cabinet - 1 December 2005 348
AMR – Submission to SoS	15 December 2005
LDS – Approval of Draft First Review	Cabinet - 9 February 2006 487
SCI – Approval for Submission	Cabinet - 25 April 2006 560
LDS – Approval by SoS	15 May 2006
SCI – Submission to SoS	31 May 2006 – 12 July 2006
LDS - Approval of Revised Approved LDS	Executive Board - 19 June 2006 64
LDS – Resolution to bring into effect	Council - 10 July 2006 30
Core Strategy – Final SEA Determination Core Strategy – Report of Initial Consultation Core Strategy – Draft SA Scoping Report Sustainability Appraisal Framework Sustainability Appraisal Panel	Executive Board - 12 July 2006 114

Local Plan Time Line	Minute	
Revised LDS - in effect	17 July 2006	
Core Strategy - SA Scoping Consultation	31 July 2006 – 22 September 2006	
SCI – Submission Statement	11 September 2006	
SCI – Further Information	29 September 2006	
SA Panel – Inception Meeting	5 October 2006	
SCI – Inspector’s Preliminary Report	17 October 2006	
LDS – Approval of Waste DPD Amendments	Cabinet – 19 October 2006	126
SCI – Reply to Inspector	25 October 2006	
AMR – Approval of Draft AMR	Executive Board – 15 November 2006	158
Core Strategy – Initial Consultation Workshop	17 November 2006	
Core Strategy – Initial Consultation Workshop	22 November 2006	
LDS – Approval of Waste DPD Amends by SoS	27 November 2006	
AMR – Submission to SoS	6 December 2006	
LDS – Approval of Approved Amendment SCI – Approval of Adoption	Cabinet – 14 December 2006	187 186
LDS – Resolution to bring into effect SCI – Resolution to Adopt	Council – 18 December 2006	87 86
Revised LDS – in effect	25 December 2006	
LDS Review – Initial Consultation	19 January 2007 – 2 March 2007	
Core Strategy – Consultation on Draft Report of Workshops	22 January 2007 – 7 February 2007	
Evidence Base – Cultural Facilities Forward Plan Evidence Base - Employment Land Study	Cabinet – 24 January 2007	232 245
Evidence Base – Retail & Town Centres Evidence Base – Flood Risk Assessment Evidence Base – Landscape Character Assessment Evidence Base – Social Infrastructure Evidence Base – Open Space Assessment Evidence Base – SHLAA Evidence Base – Habitats Regulations Assessment Evidence Base – Biodiversity Audit	Cabinet – 15 March 2007	284
LDS – Approval of Draft Revised LDS UDP – Approval of Saved Policies	Cabinet – 28 March 2007	314 314
UDP – Saved Policies - Submission	29 March 2007	

Local Plan Time Line	Minute	
Evidence Base – Pre-Consultation – Call for Sites	10 April 2007 – 25 May 2007	
LDS – Approval of Revised LDS by SoS	24 April 2007	
LDS – Approval of Revised Approved LDS	Cabinet – 24 May 2007	30
LDS – Resolution to bring into effect	Council – 16 July 2007	30
Evidence Base – Cultural Services Review – Inception Meeting	27 June 2007	
Revised LDS – in effect	23 July 2007	
Core Strategy – Approval of SA Scoping Report	Cabinet – 26 July 2007	144
Evidence Base – Employment Land Study – Request for Quotation	1 August 2007	
Evidence Base – Flood Risk – Request for Quotation	31 August 2007	
Evidence Base – Employment Land Study – Inception Meeting	18 September 2007	
UDP - Saved Policies Direction	18 September 2007	
Evidence Base – Employment Land Study – Confirmation of Appointment	Regeneration and Planning Strategy Overview – 8 October 2007	17
Evidence Base – Flood Risk – Inception Meeting	19 November 2007	
AMR – Approval of Draft AMR	Cabinet – 12 December 2007	400
AMR – Submission to SoS	24 December 2007	
Evidence Base – Flood Risk – Confirmation of Appointment	Regeneration and Planning Strategy Overview – 31 January 2008	37
Evidence Base – Amended Financial Provisions Evidence Base – Retail & Town Centres Evidence Base – Biodiversity Audit Evidence Base – Habitats Regulations Assessment Evidence Base – Open Space Audit Evidence Base – Landscape Character Assessment Evidence Base – SHLAA	Cabinet - 7 February 2008	502
Evidence Base – Retail, Town Centres & Leisure – Request for Quotation	14 February 2008	
Evidence Base – Retail, Town Centres & Leisure – Inception Meeting	1 April 2008	
Evidence Base – Biodiversity Audit – Request for Quotation	15 February 2008	
Evidence Base – Biodiversity Audit – Inception	28 April 2008	

Local Plan Time Line	Minute	
Evidence Base – Landscape - Request for Quotation	1 April 2008	
Evidence Base – Landscape – Inception Meeting	25 June 2008	
Evidence Base – Flood Risk Assessment Extension Evidence Base – Landscape Character Assessment Evidence Base – Retail & Town Centres	Regeneration and Planning Strategy Overview - 10 September 2008	5
Evidence Base – SHLAA Funding	Cabinet – 16 October 2008	234
Core Strategy – Approval of Issues, Vision and Objectives Evidence Base – Renewable Energy Study	Cabinet – 27 November 2008	274
AMR – Approval of Draft AMR	Cabinet – 10 December 2008	302
AMR – Submission to SoS	12 December 2008	
Core Strategy – Consultation on Issues, Vision and Objectives	2 February 2009 – 27 March 2009	
Evidence Base – Birkenhead Study	Cabinet - 5 February 2009	352
Evidence Base – Retail & Town Centres Extension Evidence Base – SHMA Update Evidence Base – Affordable Housing Viability	Cabinet – 19 March 2009	396 426 426
Evidence Base – SHLAA – Request for Quotation	16 March 2009	
Evidence Base – SHLAA – Call for Sites	16 March 2009 - 1 May 2009	
Evidence Base – SHLAA - Inception	7 May 2009	
LDS – Annual Review	Cabinet – 23 July 2009	63
LDS – Submission to SoS	10 August 2009	
Evidence Base – Landscape Character Assessment Extension	Delegated – 7 September 2009	
Evidence Base – Employment Land Study	Cabinet – 15 October 2009	157
LDS – Approved by SoS	23 November 2009	
Core Strategy – Approval of Spatial Options Evidence Base – Landscape Character Assessment Evidence Base – Flood Risk Assessment Evidence Base – Mineral Resource Study Evidence Base – Biodiversity Audit Evidence Base – Renewable Energy Study Stage 2 Evidence Base – Habitats Regulations Support	Cabinet – 26 November 2009	200
AMR – Approval of Draft AMR	Cabinet – 9 December 2009	234
AMR – Submission to SoS	29 December 2009	

Local Plan Time Line	Minute	
Core Strategy – Spatial Options Consultation	11 January 2010 to 5 March 2010	
LDS – Approval of Approved LDS Evidence Base – Retail & Town Centres	Cabinet – 14 January 2010	260 261
Core Strategy – Spatial Options – Open Day	22 January 2010	
Evidence Base – Open Space Audit	Cabinet – 4 February 2010	308
LDS – Resolution to bring into effect Evidence Base – Retail & Town Centres Evidence Base – Open Space Assessment	Council - 15 February 2010	97
Revised LDS – in effect	22 February 2010	
Evidence Base – Renewable Energy Study Phase 2 - Inception	12 March 2010	
Evidence Base – LCR Overview Study - Inception	18 May 2010	
Evidence Base – Birkenhead Study	Cabinet – 24 June 2010	43
Core Strategy - Preferred Options Principles Evidence Base - Renewable Energy Study Phase 2 Evidence Base – Habitats Regulations Assessment Evidence Base – LCR Overview Study	Cabinet – 22 July 2010	89
Evidence Base – SHLAA	Cabinet – 2 September 2010	121
Core Strategy – Approval of Preferred Options Evidence Base – Habitats Regulations Assessment	Cabinet – 23 September 2010	143
Evidence Base – SHMA Update Evidence Base – Affordable Housing Viability Evidence Base – Water Cycle Study	Cabinet – 14 October 2010	171 171 176
Core Strategy – Approval of Preferred Options	Council – 18 October 2010	36
Evidence Base – Water Cycle Study – Request for Quotation	5 November 2010	
Core Strategy – Preferred Options – Open Day	15 November 2010	
Core Strategy - Preferred Options Consultation Evidence Base – Open Space Audit Consultation Evidence Base – SHLAA Consultation	15 November 2010 – 7 January 2011	
AMR – Approval of Draft AMR	Cabinet – 25 November 2010	229
AMR – Submission to SoS	14 December 2010	
Evidence Base – Water Cycle Study – Inception	6 January 2011	
Evidence Base – Sites of Biological Importance Evidence Base – Green Infrastructure Strategy	Cabinet – 13 January 2011	282 283

Local Plan Time Line	Minute
Evidence Base – Water Cycle Study	Overview – 14 March 2011 80
Evidence Base - Renewable Energy Studies	Cabinet – 14 April 2011 398
Core Strategy – Preferred Options Consultation Evidence Base - Open Space Audit Consultation Evidence Base - SHLAA Consultation Evidence Base – LCR Overview Study Evidence Base – Town Centre Study & Framework	Cabinet – 21 July 2011 80 80 80 76 75
Evidence Base – Sites of Geological Importance	Cabinet – 1 September 2011 96
Evidence Base – SHLAA Viability - Inception	2 September 2011
Evidence Base – Retail Capacity Update – Inception	1 November 2011
Evidence Base – Employment Forecasts Update - Inception	22 November 2011
AMR - Approval of Draft AMR Evidence Base – CIL Preliminary	Cabinet – 8 December 2011 224 225
AMR – Submission to SoS	23 December 2011
Core Strategy – Settlement Area Consultation	30 January – 12 March 2012
LDS – Approval of Revised LDS Evidence Base – SHLAA Update	Cabinet - 2 February 2012 284
LDS – Resolution to bring into effect	Council - 13 February 2012 111
LDS – In effect	20 February 2012
Evidence Base – SHLAA Consultation	22 February – 4 April 2012
Core Strategy – Proposed Submission Draft	Cabinet - 19 July 2012 61
Core Strategy – Approval for Publication Evidence Base – Employment Land Update Evidence Base – SHLAA 2012 Evidence Base – Retail Strategy Update Evidence Base – Open Space Assessment Evidence Base – Transport Impacts Study Interim Housing Policy – revocation Evidence Base – Viability Study Evidence Base – Gypsy and Traveller Study Evidence Base – SHMA Revision	Cabinet – 27 September 2012 Council – 15 October 2012 92 60
AMR – Approval of Draft AMR	Cabinet – 20 December 2012 156
Core Strategy – Consultation on Proposed Submission Draft	12 December 2012 - 11 February 2013
Evidence Base – Viability Study – Request for Quotation	15 January 2013

Local Plan Time Line	Minute	
Evidence Base – Joint Gypsy and Traveller Study – Request for Quotation	1 March 2013	
Evidence Base – Viability Study – Inception Meeting	12 April 2013	
Evidence Base – Joint Gypsy and Traveller Study – Inception Meeting	17 April 2013	
Evidence Base – SHMA Revision – Request for Quotation	10 May 2013	
SCI – Revised Draft for Consultation	Delegated – 18 June 2013	
Core Strategy – Approval of Initial Modifications	Delegated – 20 June 2013	
Evidence Base – Viability Study Technical Workshop	27 June 2013	
Revised Draft SCI – Consultation Core Strategy – Initial Modifications – Consultation	29 July - 13 September 2013	
Evidence Base – SHMA Revision – Inception Meeting	6 August 2013	
Evidence Base – Viability Study Workshop	17 September 2013	
Evidence Base – Retail Thresholds – Inception Meeting	5 December 2013	
SCI – Recommendation to Adopt	Planning Committee – 19 December 2013 Delegated – 24 January 2014	187
AMR – Approval of Draft AMR	Delegated – 23 December 2013	
Evidence Base – SHLAA Update Methodology Evidence Base – SHLAA Call for Sites	6 January – 21 February 2014	
Evidence Base – Water Cycle Study	Delegated – 26 February 2014 Council – 10 March 2014	90
SCI – Adoption	Council – 10 March 2014	90
Evidence Base – Joint Gypsy and Traveller Study	Cabinet – 11 September 2014 Council – 20 October 2014	51 43
Core Strategy – Approval of Further Modifications – Gypsies and Travellers and Town Centres	Delegated – 25 November 2014	
Core Strategy – Further Modifications – Consultation	8 December 2014 – 6 February 2015	
AMR – Approval of Draft AMR Evidence Base – SHLAA 2014 Evidence Base – Waste Local Plan Monitoring LDS – Approval of Revised LDS	Delegated – 17 December 2014	

Local Plan Time Line	Minute
CIL Progress Report Evidence Base – Viability Study Baseline Report	Cabinet – 15 January 2015 131
Evidence Base – Retail Study Update - Inception	14 April 2015
AMR – Updated for 2012-based Household Projections	15 April 2015
Evidence Base – Pitch Strategy - Inception	28 April 2015
LDS – Resolution to bring into effect	Council – 6 July 2015 23
LDS – In effect	7 July 2015
Evidence Base – LCR Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment	Delegated – 24 November 2015
AMR – Approval of Draft AMR Evidence Base – SHLAA 2015 Evidence Base – Waste Local Plan Monitoring	Delegated – 17 December 2015
Evidence Base – LCR SHELMA - Inception	10 March 2016
Liverpool City Region – Approval of Statement of Co-operation on Local Planning	Combined Authority – 15 July 2016
Evidence Base – Approval of SHMA 2016 Evidence Base – Approval of SHLAA 2016	Cabinet – 18 July 2016 31
Evidence Base – Approval of Retail Study 2016	Cabinet – 18 July 2016 Council – 17 October 2016 32 62
Consultation on SHMA 2016 and SHLAA 2016	10 August – 23 September 2016
Wirral Approval of LCR Statement of Cooperation	Delegated – 27 September 2016 Council – 17 October 2016 64
AMR – Approval of Draft AMR Evidence Base – Waste Local Plan Monitoring	Delegated - 22 December 2016
Employment Land and Premises Study Update – Inception Meeting	16 January 2017
Report of Consultation on SHMA and SHLAA 2016	Cabinet - 27 February 2017 96
Evidence Base – Local Wildlife Sites Review	Delegated – 26 June 2017 Council – 10 July 2017 30
Evidence Base – Revised SHLAA Methodology - Consultation	12 July – 18 September 2017
Evidence Base – LCR SHELMA Consultation	2 October – 31 October 2017
Evidence Base – Strategic Regeneration Framework	Cabinet – 2 October 2017 Council – 16 October 2017 41 61

Local Plan Time Line		Minute
Wirral Brownfield Land Register – Part One	Delegated – 12 October 2017 Planning Committee – 16 November 2017 Council – 11 December 2017	93 96
Evidence Base – Green Belt Review Methodology – Consultation	23 October – 6 December 2017	
Wirral Brownfield Land Register – Part One Sites - Consultation	23 October – 6 December 2017	
Evidence Base – Playing Pitch Strategy Update	Delegated – 27 October 2017 Council – 11 December 2017	97
Overview and Scrutiny – Local Plan Progress	7 December 2017	40
Evidence Base – LCR Visitor Management Study - Inception	15 December 2017	
Wirral Brownfield Land Register – Publication of Part One Sites	21 December 2017	
LDS – Approval of Revised LDS	Delegated – 21 December 2017	
Evidence Base – Viability Study Update - Inception	8 January 2018	

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Core Strategy Timetable

Document Name: Core Strategy Local Plan		Status: Development Plan Document
Purpose: To provide the long-term vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the Borough and the framework for future Development Plan Documents		
Coverage: Borough wide		Time Period: 15 years
Chain of Conformity: National Planning Policy Framework		Post Adoption Monitoring & Review: Annual Monitoring Report 5 Yearly Assessment
Departmental Responsibility: Environmental Services (Forward Planning)		Contact: Andrew Fraser, Forward Planning Manager forwardplanning@wirral.gov.uk
Key Milestones		Key Stakeholders (Regulation 2 bodies): Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Sefton Borough Council Liverpool City Council Cheshire West and Chester Council Flintshire County Council Other Liverpool City Region Authorities Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership Liverpool City Region Local Nature Partnership Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service Homes and Communities Agency Highways England Merseytravel Environment Agency Natural England Natural Resources Wales Marine Management Organisation Historic England Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner North West Ambulance Service Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service HM Coastguard and RNLI Office of Rail Regulation and Network Rail Civil Aviation Authority Health and Safety Executive National Health Service Organisations Conservation Area Advisory Committees Local Amenity Societies and Friends Groups Wirral Community Networks Wirral Wildlife Developers and Landowners Utilities and Infrastructure Providers Local Business Organisations Neighbourhood Forums Other General Consultation Bodies
Preparation (Regulation 18):		
Commencement:	July 2005*	
SA Scoping:	July 2006*	
Initial Consultation:	September 2007*	
Issues Vision and Objectives:	February 2009*	
Spatial Options: (Regulation 18)	January 2010*	
Preferred Options: (Regulation 18)	November 2010*	
Settlement Areas: (Regulation 18)	January 2012*	
Publication (Regulation 19)		
Proposed Submission Draft:	December 2012*	
Initial Modifications:	July 2013*	
Further Modifications:	December 2014*	
Further consultation on housing needs and land supply	August 2016*	
Development Options Review	July 2017 to July 2019	
Re-Publication: (Regulation 19)	September 2019	
Representations: (Regulation 20)	September/ October 2019	
Submission (Regulation 22)		
Submission: (Regulation 22)	January 2020	
Pre-Hearing Meeting:	March 2020	
Hearing: (Regulation 24)	May 2020	
Main Modifications (if required)	September 2020	
Inspectors Report: (Regulation 25)	December 2020	
Adoption: (Regulation 26)	January 2021	

An asterisk (*) indicates stages that have already been completed.

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Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee 31st January 2018

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

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:

Pledge	Strategies
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:

Principles for Prioritisation	
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

An evidence session with officers from the Council's Environmental Health and Licencing departments took place in November. 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.

Budget Scrutiny 2018 / 19

In line with previous municipal years, workshops were held for members of each of the scrutiny committees to review proposals as the 2018 / 19 budget is being developed. The workshop relating to the remit of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 10th January. A report regarding the outcomes of the workshop is included as a separate item on this Committee agenda.

Notice of Motion on use of Single Use Plastics

At Council on 11th December 2017, Members discussed a Notice of Motion on Reducing Single Use Plastic in Wirral. Council resolved to refer all of the recommendations in this motion to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a view to advising Cabinet how they can most effectively be delivered. Members are requested to consider an appropriate method of progressing with this work item.

3.2 FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

Universal Credit

At a meeting of the Chairs of the four Overview & Scrutiny Committees, it was agreed to undertake further scrutiny of Universal Credit in February 2018 when the implications of implementing Universal Credit may be better known and the relevant data could be made available to Members. Although not formally part of this Committee's work programme, it is anticipated that members of all four scrutiny committees will be invited to participate. The following approach was agreed in principle:

- A workshop style approach to be adopted with dates for a series of workshops to be scheduled for February 2018.
- Workshops to cover the wide ranging themes extending across all four O&S committees, such as IT, housing and homelessness.
- The workshops would be open to all Members who sit on any of the four O&S Committees to ensure inclusivity and to reflect the wider-ranging views and experiences of these Members.
- The Business O&S Committee would 'own' this piece of work to ensure that there is no overlap or duplication. Consideration can be given for these workshops to be chaired by different O&S Chairs relevant to the themes of the workshop.
- A report to be completed and reported to the Business O&S Committee in March 2018 to ensure that the work remains current.

As part of scrutiny work planning sessions for the next municipal year, each committee will be better informed as to where the issues lie in respect to their remit and can then focus further scrutiny activity as appropriate.

This approach ensures inclusivity for all O&S Members as it has an impact for all wards in Wirral. It is also a theme that cuts across the remit of all four O&S Committees due to the wide-ranging impact affecting a number of service delivery areas. It also mitigates the risk of duplication and overlap in scrutiny work if each O&S committee unilaterally agrees to carry out scrutiny of Universal Credit at this time. Further information will be provided to Members when the arrangements have been 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)

Council Meeting	Date

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PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS – Wednesday 31st January 2018

Item	Format	Officer
Notice of Motion - Economic Viability Assessments from Developers	Notice of Motion	CLlrs Stuart Kelly and Chris Carubia
Notice of Motion - Planning Ahead to Use the Community Infrastructure Levy	Notice of Motion	CLlrs Phil Gilchrist and Dave Mitchell
Climate Change Strategy	Report / Presentation	Mike Cockburn – Lead Commissioner, Environment
Core Strategy Local Plan Progress Update – Standing Item (as per Committee request until the adoption of Local Plan)	Report	David Ball - Assistant Director Environmental Services
Budget Scrutiny Feedback Report	Report	Report of the Chair
Scrutiny Work Programme Update	Report	Report of the Chair
Deadline for reports to be with Committee Services: Monday 15 ^h January 2018		

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS – Wednesday 28th March 2018

Item	Format	Officer
Fly-Tipping	Officer Report – Follow-up report requested as part of Notice of Motion at November 2017 OSC	Mark Smith – Strategic Commissioner, Environment
Performance monitoring – 2017/18 Q3	Report	Mark Smith – Strategic Commissioner, Environment
Financial monitoring – 2017/18 Q3	Report	Peter Molyneux - Senior Manager, Finance
Core Strategy Local Plan Progress Update – Standing Item (as per Committee request until the adoption of Local Plan)	Report	David Ball - Assistant Director Environmental Services
Policy Inform	Report	Policy Team
Scrutiny Work Programme Update	Report	Report of the Chair
Deadline for reports to be with Committee Services: Monday 12 th March 2018		

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS – TO BE SCHEDULED

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

Item	Format	Approximate timescale	Lead Officer
Social Isolation - (Review of social isolation and loneliness in Wirral - current approaches and interventions)	Committee Report / Presentation	TBC	TBC
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
Management and Regulation of Private Sector Housing (selective licensing scheme)	Committee Report / Presentation	TBC	TBC
Housing Partner Update	Committee Report / Presentation	TBC	TBC
Safer Wirral Hub update (progress on phase 2 implementation)	Committee Report / Presentation	March 2018 tbc	TBC
Current strategies to prevent and reduce Crime and ASB /Assessment of Restorative Justice approaches in Wirral	Committee Report / Presentation	TBC	TBC
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 st Session 11/09/17 2 nd Session TBC
Transforming Wirral – further business cases	Workshops	TBC	TBC	
Budget Scrutiny	Workshop	11.01.18	Mark Smith	Complete
Mystery Shopping Exercises	TBC	TBC	TBC	Template to be drafted
Core Strategy Local Plan	Pre-decision scrutiny session	TBC	TBC	
Single Use Plastics	TBC	TBC	TBC	Referred to Committee by Council on 11/12/2017