



Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Wednesday, 28 March 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 - 12)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2018.

3. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 3 2017/18 (Pages 13 - 20)

4. 2017/18 QUARTER 3 WIRRAL PLAN PERFORMANCE (Pages 21 - 38)

5. ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (Pages 39 - 46)

6. ANY URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR

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ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 31 January 2018

Present:

Councillor P Stuart (Chair)

Councillors	S Foulkes	A Sykes
	T Jones	B Berry
	B Kenny	A Hodson
	C Muspratt	I Lewis
	T Smith	T Pilgrim
	T Usher	C Carubia
	W Ward	J McManus (in place of L Reecejones)

Apologies

Councillor L Reecejones

41 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 Foulkes declared a personal interest in item 3, 'Notice of Motion: Economic Viability Assessments form Developers' by virtue of his position on the Board of Magenta Living. However, on the raising of an issue related to a particular development during debate on that item, he left the room while that issue was considered by the Committee, returning for the remainder of the debate.

42 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair advised that this would be the last meeting of the Committee attended by Patrick Torpey, Scrutiny Officer before he left the Council to take up a new position.

Members of the Committee thanked Patrick for his work in support of the Committee and wished him well for the future.

The Chair, with the concurrence of the Committee, advised that due to the nature of the business under consideration, agenda item 4 'Notice of Motion 'Planning Ahead to use the Community Infrastructure Levy"' would follow consideration of agenda item 6 'Wirral Local Plan – Report of Progress Since 2004'.

43 **MINUTES**

Members were requested to receive the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 30 November 2017 and of the special meeting of the Committee held on 7th December 2017.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 30 November and 7 December 2017 be approved.

44 **NOTICE OF MOTION 'ECONOMIC VIABILITY ASSESSMENTS FROM DEVELOPERS'**

At the meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2017 (Minute 100 refers) the following 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 –

Economic Viability Assessments from Developers

"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/pldevelopment-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”.

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

Councillor Kelly advised that the housing charity Shelter had issued a report on the use of Economic Viability Assessments (EVAs) by developers to avoid provision of affordable housing within developments and that he had also been made aware of companies who specialised in producing such

assessments for developers. Further research indicated that some Councils now required EVAs to be made public. Noting the Plan timetable submitted elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting, it was suggested there was now time for the Committee to consider the issue.

Councillor Kelly made further reference to the Strategic Housing Market Assessment which while recommending that 40% of new housing should be affordable had recognised that viability made this a challenging figure. He further noted that the Council already recognises viability issues and sought provision of 10% within areas of greatest need and 20% outside areas of greatest need. Given that viability was already being addressed, it was suggested to the Committee that Officers be asked to look at the approaches of identified Councils in respect of EVAs.

Members acknowledged that while the Council could do better in this area, there was insufficient information available at the meeting and that inputs from Officers were required. It was noted that as issues might arise around competitiveness with other areas for development, and that viability had the potential to prevent schemes, any policy considered needed to have some flexibility. The need for affordable housing within the Borough was stressed by Members, and the view expressed that developers should not be shirking their responsibilities in this regard.

Officers confirmed that affordable housing provision was contained within the Local Plan, but the legal issues around confidentiality of information within EVAs required more detailed consideration. In response to a query, it was advised that the publication of EVAs was not currently set out as a requirement of developers/applicants at this time, but could be included in a future Local Plan. The Council's current approach was to refer EVAs for independent assessment, the results only of such assessments being reported to Planning Committee. A Member requested that a statement indicating whether or not an EVA had been made on any application submitted to the Planning Committee be included in the Officer's report.

Councillor Foulkes left the room on the raising of an issue related to a particular development during the debate while that issue was considered by the Committee, returning for the remainder of the debate.

In discussion, Members of the Committee considered that further information, including detail on the approach of other local authorities referred to in Councillor Kelly's presentation and confirmation of the associated legal issues was required and, on the Motion of Councillor Carubia, seconded by Councillor Sykes, it was –

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Notice of Motion be referred to a Task and Finish Group for consideration of further information; and**
- (2) the item be included in the Committee Work Programme and be discussed further by the Chair and Spokespersons.**

45

CLIMATE CHANGE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACTION PLAN 2017

The Strategic Commissioner for Environment provided a report presenting the annual update on climate change action in Wirral. Wirral Council is a signatory to the Local Government Association's 'Climate Local' initiative and is duly committed to identify actions on climate change and to the public reporting of progress with respect to such actions. The Cabinet had requested that annual reports be made on climate change.

The report and a supporting presentation made to the Committee introduced and provided updates on –

- the function and activities of the Wirral Climate Change Group;
- the latest 'Cool Steps' report detailing recent progress of the Council endorsed Climate Change Strategy 2014-19;
- 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.

Members thanked Officers for a thorough and interesting presentation, making comments and seeking clarification on a number of issues raised.

In response to a query as to linkage between 'Better Food Wirral' referenced in the report, and the Eat Well Wirral initiative, it was advised that Better Food Wirral sought to build networks around food producers and others with an interest in food and to promote local businesses. Reference was made to the activities targeted at reducing meat consumption, and initiatives such as 'meat free Mondays' were suggested; Officers indicated that this would be referred to Public Health colleagues. A Member suggested that people were pressured through advertising to use supermarkets, though these shops tended to use more excessive packaging than local suppliers. Members were reminded that a report on single use plastic policy, which might pick up this issue alongside fill up water bottle provision and related infrastructure, was due for submission to the next meeting of the Committee.

Members noted the success of the eco-schools in the Borough, including increased recycling, and queried whether work was being undertaken with parents, for example in reducing packaging in packed lunches, and travel to school. It was acknowledged that influencing parents through school activity was important, particularly around walking to school.

Members noted the need to get more done on recycling, particularly as this was an area of council responsibility. Officers noted that recycling performance was plateauing and acknowledged more work needed to be done in this area.

Progress within the strategy action plan was noted and welcomed by Members, but given the passing of time it was suggested that big actions were now needed. It was suggested that all major decisions should have climate change issues as a consideration, for example considering the 'green' credentials of any contractor. A Member referenced the experience of a local organisation moving to the local supply of fresh food as one which had several positive benefits.

A Member suggested that the number of initiatives linked to climate change might risk the core message of the need to reduce carbon emissions arising from use of fossil fuels for energy and transport getting lost. It was suggested that many people did not want to change their lifestyle radically, but did want to make a contribution to combat climate change. In this regard there might be a benefit in developing a 'five things we could all do' message or campaign.

A concern was expressed at talk of energy companies reducing their funding for energy conservation measures but who were promoting smart meters, the benefits of which needed better explaining. It was also considered that such meters appeared to be the 'in thing', as had been the case with diesel cars. Officers noted that things changed, that initiatives often had pros and cons and needed consideration on balance, and that there was need to continue to learn and develop.

Recent changes in lifestyle were commented on, and it was queried whether any assessment had been made on the climate implications of people making purchases on line which then required home delivery.

Members again welcomed and supported the report and, on the Motion of the Chair and seconded by Councillor Muspratt, it was -

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the work of the Wirral Climate Change Group and the progress outlined in the submitted report to implement the Climate Change Strategy be noted; and**
- (2) it be recommended to the Cabinet Member that the 'Cool Steps' annual progress report (Appendix 1 to the submitted report) and the latest version of the Wirral Climate Strategy Action Plan (Appendix 2 to the submitted report) be formally endorsed and used to meet the Council's Climate Local commitment.**

Further to Minute 40(2) of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 December 2017, the Committee received a report of the Assistant Director Environmental Services setting out further detail about previous progress on the Local Plan, including the reasons that had been published in previous Local Development Schemes and Annual Monitoring Reports. The report further provided an update on current progress and a revised timetable for the Core Strategy, to be included in the new 2018 Local Development Scheme, was set out in Appendix 3 to the submitted report.

Further to the submitted report, the Committee was advised that the Leader of the Council had earlier in the day signed a letter in response to the letter of the Secretary of State dated 16 November 2017. Key points within the letter of the Leader of the Council -

- set out the current position of the Council with regard to preparation of a Local Plan;
- considered the planning history on housing development, with performance figures included;
- noted that there were now more new homes on site under construction than in previous years;
- noted that a timescale to develop the Plan had been agreed in June 2017 and published on the Council's website, and that a revised Local Development Scheme would be submitted to Council in March 2018 for formal adoption; and
- explained the key steps needed to reach the next key stages.

A Member expressed the hope that the response provided would satisfy the Secretary of State that intervention would not be required. In response to comments, Officers noted that the Leader's response sought to respond to the Secretary of State's letter by presenting the circumstances leading to delay and the measures now being taken. It was noted that it was now the responsibility of this Committee, through receipt of regular monitoring reports as a standing item on the Committee agenda, to ensure that timescales were adhered to.

In response to a Member's query concerning staffing resources, the Committee was advised that it was considered the planning service should have sufficient resources to deal with the volume of work, noting that the Government's increase of planning fees was premised on the re-investment of fee income, which could include staffing, in the planning service.

Note: Further to the meeting, copies of the response to the Secretary of State and supporting documentation, as circulated to the committee, have been appended to the Council website:

<http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=759&MId=6058>

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

47 **NOTICE OF MOTION 'PLANNING AHEAD TO USE THE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY'**

At the meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2017 (minute 100 refers) the following 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 –

Planning Ahead to use the Community Infrastructure Levy

"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”.

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

Councillor Gilchrist advised the Committee he felt better informed following consideration of the previous item (Wirral Local Plan – Report of Progress Since 2004), having submitted his Motion around the time of receipt of the Secretary of State’s letter. He was hopeful that the timetable would allow for identification of sites, and felt reassured in respect of staffing resources.

Councillor Gilchrist acknowledged that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) process was not an easy one, but noted the significant resources achieved or anticipated by some local authorities who had pursued the CIL and suggested amounts that might have accrued to this Council from two recent large scale developments had a CIL been in place here. He noted that the Council’s report from 2015 had indicated that a CIL was unlikely to put development in the Borough at risk. He noted that in December the Government had indicated speeding up of the CIL process, referred to documentation produced by Knowsley Council, and asked the Committee to consider how the Council might proceed in the future.

A Member commented that developers were not rushing to the Borough and queried whether there would be any benefit, suggesting that the CIL would be more useful for areas with a lot of development demand. Further comment was made that this item was of a similar nature to the earlier consideration by the Committee of the Motion on Economic Viability Assessments, insofar as both issues placed a demand on developers. The Council, it was suggested, did need to consider such options given the need to identify alternate income when the Revenue Support Grant was ceased and that this particular proposal could be progressed with other matters related to the Local Plan.

On the Motion of Councillor Carubia and seconded by Councillor Muspratt it was –

RESOLVED: That the Notice of Motion be referred for consideration to the Task and Finish Group established to consider Economic Viability Assessments.

48 **2018/19 BUDGET SCRUTINY REPORT**

A report from the Chair presented the work of Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the scrutinising of budget proposals for 2018/19. A workshop had been held on 10 January for Members to explore in more detail the various budget proposals being put forward that fell under the remit of this Committee and a report on the workshop considerations was included as an appendix to the submitted report.

Further to paragraph 10 of the appended workshop report and the request for additional information to be provided, it was confirmed that further information requested had been forwarded to Members of the Committee.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the submitted report on the workshop considerations of budget proposals under the remit of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee be agreed as the response of the Committee to the 2018/19 budget proposals; and**
- (2) the report be referred to Cabinet as part of its considerations in developing any budget recommendation to Council.**

49 **ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 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 which should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of Wirral Plan pledges relevant to the work of the Committee.

The work programme was formed from a combination of scrutiny reviews, standing items on committee agenda and reports requested from Officers. The report provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the Municipal Year.

Further to the submitted report, the following amendments to the attached work programme were considered:

- the need to include the agreed Task and Finish Group to consider Economic Viability Assessments and the Community Infrastructure Levy, with a consideration to be given to one or two members of the Planning Committee joining the Group;
- comments of Members that the suggested date of March 2018 for submission of a final report from the Modern Slavery Scrutiny Review (paragraph 3.4 to the submitted report refers) was not realistic, and that the Group needed to re-convene to clarify the current position and consider where to go next; and
- Officers indicated that they would report to the next meeting of the Committee in March 2018 in respect of the Notice of Motion on the use of Single Use Plastics (paragraph 3.4 to the submitted report refers).

RESOLVED:

That, subject to amendments as indicated within the preamble to this Minute relating to a Task and Finish Group to consider Economic Viability Assessments and the Community Infrastructure Levy, the Modern Slavery Scrutiny Review, and the progression of the Notice of Motion on the use of Single Use Plastics, the submitted Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2017/18, be approved.

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Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 28 March 2018

REPORT TITLE:	Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2017/18
REPORT OF:	Director of Finance and Investment

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the financial monitoring information for Environment in a format consistent across the Overview & Scrutiny Committees. The report provides Members with detail to scrutinise budget performance for this area of activity. The financial information is at close of quarter 3 2017/18.

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

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1 The quarter 3 revenue forecast overspend of £1.0 million be noted.
- 2 The performance of the capital projects and amendments to the programme within this area be noted.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Not applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 PERFORMANCE AGAINST REVENUE BUDGETS QUARTER 3 (OCTOBER 2017- DECEMBER 2017)

3.1.0 CHANGES TO THE AGREED BUDGET

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

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

Theme	Portfolio	Original Net Budget	Budget Change Quarter 1 Use of Contingency	Budget Change Quarter 1 Use of Balances	Approved Budget Changes Qtr 3	Revised Net Budget
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Environment	Environment	38,243		1,225	7,164	46,632
	Housing and Community Safety	21,460			347	21,807
	Localism and Engagement	1,016			75	1,091
Net Cost of Services		60,719	-	1,225	7,586	69,530

Budget movements in quarter three cover a number of issues. Integrated transport moved from Children and Families to Environment. This has a budget of £5.6 million. There have also been adjustments to recharge bases that have shown movements between a number of themes. These movements have no effect on the bottom line budget of the Council and are just adjustments to better reflect where budgets should be placed.

3.2.0 PROJECTIONS AND KEY ISSUES

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

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

Theme	Portfolio	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	(Under) Overspend Quarter 3	RAGBY Class
Environment	Environment	46,632	47,859	1,227	R
	Housing and Community Safety	21,807	21,414	-393	Y
	Localism and Engagement	1,091	1,238	147	A
TOTAL		69,530	70,511	981	

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

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

Environment

- 3.2.2 **Environment** - Within Waste & Environment there is a £0.4 million overspend relating to the planned saving in the cost of the Waste contract. Whilst unlikely to be realised in year, officers are working on a series of options that may deliver the required saving in subsequent years.

There is a £0.85 million projected overspend within Sports & Recreation. This is largely due to slippage in implementing savings options. Consultation is underway around the operational changes at Woodchurch Leisure Centre. There will similarly be savings slippage owing to delays in the capital works at Leasowe Recreation Centre. Leisure Centre income is also down on anticipated levels.

A freeze on all non-critical expenditure has been implemented which is estimated to save £140,000 by the end of the year and revised pricing structures have been implemented in January 2018 to generate approximately £50,000 of additional income in year.

Housing and Community Safety - Housing Strategy is forecasting an underspend of £0.08 million this is a combination of a staffing vacancy (one off saving) within the Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency Programme plus expected rental income due on our Challenge Fund Properties. .

Within the Homelessness area there is a staff saving due to current vacancies and a saving across the repairs budgets for dispersed properties. This provides an underspend of £0.06 million.

Housing benefit assessments teams are showing an underspend of £0.2 million. This is due to employee vacancies and employees who are not at top of grade leaving a one off underspend in 2017-18.

Localism and Engagement – There is a £0.2 million pound overspend due to a short fall in advertising income within Comms, Marketing, Press & PR.

3.3.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF SAVINGS

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

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

Theme	Number of Options	Approved Budget Reduction	Amount Delivered at Q3	Amount covered by contingency budget	To be Delivered
Environment	23	5,300	3,400	200	1,700
Total at Quarter 3 2017-18	23	5,300	3,400	200	1,700

3.3.2 Environment

- At quarter 3 the forecasted achievement of the savings options is 64.2%. The main areas of under achievement in this theme are a £500k non achievement of a waste contract saving option combined with a general underachievement across a number of leisure based income target uplift savings options.

3.4.0 INCOME AND DEBT

3.4.1 The table shows the outstanding debt for the whole of the council, value of debtors raised in year and the value that has been paid in 2017/18. This is different from previous quarter in an effort to show the amount of debt that is recovered each year. This year has seen £62 million of net invoices raised but has seen £68 million of payments. This will be across 2017/18 but also invoices raised in previous years.

Table 4: Accounts Receivable Debtor Cycle Analysis

	2017/18 £000
Arrears Brought Forward	£26,465
Net Invoices Value Raised in Year	£62,498
Invoices Value Paid in Year	-£68,219
Total Remaining Debt	£20,744

3.4.2 The above debt reflects the Council's significant responsibilities in respect of social care activity. Elements of the debt will only be recoverable once clients are no longer in need of care.

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

3.5.0 PERFORMANCE AGAINST CAPITAL BUDGETS QUARTER 3 (October-December 2017)

3.5.1 Capital Programme 2017/18 at end of Quarter 3 (31 December)

	Revised Programme	Spend to Date December 2017	Funded by: Council Resources	Funded by: Grants
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Environment	5,375	2,648	2,735	2,640
Total expenditure	5,375	2,648	2,735	2,640

3.5.2 The largest areas of spend so far this year relate to Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facilities Grants (£1.1 million) with a further £0.6m of adaptation schemes currently approved.

3.5.3 £0.3 million has been spent on home improvements. This is by way of financial assistance and intervention to remedy poor housing conditions in the private sector, including serious disrepair/hazards, poor or no heating provision, low market demand and bringing long term empty properties back into productive use.

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

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

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

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

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

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

REPORT AUTHOR: *(Christopher Kelly*
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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Capital Programme and Funding 2017/18

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Budget Council	6 March 2017
Cabinet – Revenue Monitoring 2017/18 Quarter 1	17 July 2017
Cabinet – Capital Monitoring 2017/18 Quarter 1	17 July 2017
Cabinet – Revenue Monitoring 2017/18 Quarter 2	6 November 2017
Cabinet – Capital Monitoring 2017/18 Quarter 2	6 November 2017
Cabinet – Revenue Monitoring 2017/18 Quarter 3	19 February 2018
Cabinet – Capital Monitoring 2017/18 Quarter 3	19 February 2018

Capital Programme and Funding 2017/18

APPENDIX 1

Environment Theme	Revised Programme £000	Spend to Date £000	Council Resources £000	Reserves £000	Business Rates £000	Grants £000	Total Funding £000
Park depot rationalisation	260	153	260	-	-	-	260
Parks vehicles replacement	47	15	47	-	-	-	47
Cemetery extensions and improvements	260	5	260	-	-	-	260
Transport museum	180	2	180	-	-	-	180
Flaybrick cemetery	-	82	-	-	-	-	-
Soft play areas at leisure centres	300	-	300	-	-	-	300
W.K. Marine Lake integrated accommodation	200	133	200	-	-	-	200
Bidston tennis centre re-roofing	21	11	21	-	-	-	21
Leasowe Leisure Centre outdoor 3G	100	-	100	-	-	-	100
Oval Sports Centre redevelopment	105	80	105	-	-	-	105
Thermal Pool Covers	150	-	150	-	-	-	150
Beechwood skate park	80	75	-	-	-	80	80
West Kirby flood alleviation	100	22	100	-	-	-	100
CCTV cameras and other equipment	100	12	100	-	-	-	100
Aids, adaptations and DFGs	1,700	1,129	-	-	-	1,700	1,700
Enhanced Sheltered Housing	306	-	-	-	-	306	306
Restore empty homes	354	246	-	-	-	354	354
Clearance	200	80	-	-	-	200	200
Home improvements	500	342	500	-	-	-	500
New house building	350	247	350	-	-	-	350
Housing infrastructure fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wirral sailing centre	62	14	62	-	-	-	62
	5,375	2,648	2,735	-	-	2,640	5,375



Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 28 March 2018

REPORT TITLE:	2017/18 Quarter 3 Wirral Plan Performance
REPORT OF:	Strategic Commissioner for Environment

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the 2017/18 Quarter 3 (October - December 2017) performance report for the Wirral Plan pledges under the remit of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report, which is included as Appendix 1, provides a description of the progress in Quarter 3 as well as providing available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

Quarter Three Wirral Plan Performance Summary

- 317 events have been held in Wirral's parks, beaches and open spaces so far this year compared to 292 at this stage last year, indicating we are on track to increase the number of events held compared to the previous year.
- The percentage of Wirral Residents who say they use the boroughs parks and green spaces at least once a month decreased slightly from 67% reported in the previous survey in 2016. A marketing plan commenced in January 2018 including promotion of events, facilities and volunteering programmes in place at a large number of our parks, coasts and countryside sites.
- The number of national quality awards for Wirral's parks and outdoor spaces has increased to 29 in 2017/18 with Birkenhead Park receiving the World Urban Parks Gold Award following the success of the World Urban Parks Congress.
- In November, the second River of Light Festival was held in New Brighton. 54,000 people enjoyed a world-class display of fireworks and complimentary events such as street performers and food and drink with very positive feedback through social media.
- At the end of quarter 3 our Stop Smoking Service helped 1454 people to stop smoking, including 75 pregnant women, with 672 still quit at 4 weeks and is on track to improve on last year.
- The "Drink Less, Enjoy More" campaign successfully reduced the number of bars in the project found to be serving "drunks" from 90% to 35%. Further engagement is underway to improve practice in the remaining establishments.

- 70 retail outlets are complying with the “Reducing the Strength” project which means that Super Strength Lager/Cider is no longer being sold in Birkenhead Town Centre. Some retailers have become agents for harm reduction in their communities by offering “Identification and Brief Advice” to any customers they have concerns about regarding alcohol abuse. The scheme is now being spread out to new areas.
- The 2017 Wirral Residents Survey reported 24% of people regularly volunteer/ support community groups at least once a month which is 2% lower than the previous 2015 resident survey. Community Action Wirral and Wirral Chamber of Commerce are now collaborating on a new local authority funded Third Sector Support contract which will drive forward volunteering in Wirral in partnership with the public sector and local businesses.
- A further 60 properties have been brought back into use during Quarter 3 and we remain on track to achieve our goal for the year and overall target by 2020.
- Positive progress is being made in new home building with 490 housing completions up to quarter three including 181 new affordable homes, funded by a mix of the Government’s Help to Buy initiative, the Council’s Affordable Homes Programme and the resources of Registered Providers of social housing.
- Homelessness prevention performance has decreased compared to the same period last year. There has been an increase in the number of clients with complex issues and the effect of welfare reforms and reduced access to accommodation provision whilst refurbishment works are underway have impacted the service provision this quarter.
- For Community Safety although significant success has been achieved at Quarter 3 with an 11% reduction of anti-social incidents compared to the same time last year there has been an increase by 16% of the number of crimes reported to the Police. Despite this, Wirral has maintained the lowest crime rate in Merseyside.
- For recycling of domestic waste performance has been lower than expected, with both the quantity of garden waste and dry recycling collected less than the same period last year. The tonnage of general (non-recycling) waste is still increasing. Over half of the local authorities in North West have also seen a decrease in recycling compared with last year. We are building on the campaign from Recycling Week to help our residents understand that their recycling does make a difference.
- The increase in the number of people who think dog fouling is a problem in their local area (62% in 2017 compared to 56% in 2015), reflects the heightened awareness associated with dog owners not picking up after their dog. The Council has been receiving less complaints or reports about dog fouling from residents and our own environmental monitoring arrangements conclude that dog fouling instances are not increasing. The Council has

embarked on a long term targeted approach to achieving behaviour change amongst dog owners who don't pick up after their dog.

RECOMMENDATION/S

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

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

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

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

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

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

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

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Wirral Plan – 2017/18 Quarter 3 Pledge Report

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

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

Appendix 1

Wirral Plan Environment Theme

2017-18 Quarter 3 Reports

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Leisure and cultural opportunities for all

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Leisure Strategy

With 317 events being held this year already we're on track to increase the total number of events this year however the adverse weather conditions in quarter 3 meant that 30 events were held in Wirral's parks, beaches and open spaces compared to 54 events in quarter 3 last year. That being said, 66% of Wirral Residents say they use the boroughs parks and green spaces at least once a month which is a slight reduction from 67% reported in the previous survey in 2016. The percentage of Wirral Residents who say they volunteer at least once a month also decreased marginally from 26% reported in 2016 to 24%.

A marketing plan, due to start in January 2018, will include promotion of events, facilities and things to do across Wirral, along with promoting the volunteering programmes in place at a large number of our parks, coasts and countryside sites. This will run alongside the Active Wirral campaign, This Girl Can: a grant scheme which aims to increase physical activity in girls (aged 11-16) and the Active Ageing campaign. We're also working with Age UK Wirral to deliver an Older People's Olympics in 2018.

There has been a delay in completing the Leisure and Culture Review. A major engagement exercise undertaken in the summer was reported to Cabinet in November. This report shared in detail all of the feedback we received and based on that information officers are to report back in the New Year setting out proposals to take the programme forward.

Birkenhead Park received the World Urban Parks Gold Award following the success of the World Urban Parks Congress. This is a fantastic achievement and the Congress garnered positive support for Birkenhead Park to have World Heritage Status. Work is ongoing to provide a submission explaining why the site meets World Heritage criteria and perform lobbying with a report going to the Strategic Leadership Group in January. Wallasey Beach's water quality was excellent in 2017 on all but one of the occasions tested by the Environment Agency. On one occasion it dipped to 'good' in September 2017, which unfortunately means it cannot be entered for a Blue Flag award in 2018. The control of water quality is outside of Wirral Council's remit to control.

Four staff achieved NVQ Level 3 in horticulture in Quarter 3 and commercialisation training was provided for Parks & Countryside Staff in December 2017.

Also an expression of interest has been send out to all Wirral GP's to co-design the Physical Activity in Primary Care pilot with a deadline of the end of January 2018.

Culture Strategy

We've had some fantastic successes to shout about across the last quarter. October was a busy month with the World Urban Parks Congress hosted in Wirral with some elite guests such as Doug Blonsky, CEO of New York's Central Park and a Gold Award recognising the Parks international significance. Also in October, the Wirral Society of Arts held their 8th Annual Open Exhibition which attracted participation from across the country. The first prize competition winner was awarded to young local artist X from Wallasey which just goes to show the abundance of home-grown artistic talent here in Wirral. The exhibition also helped to raise £3,000 in commission for the Williamson Art Gallery demonstrating how the arts support our local economy.

In November, the second River of Light Festival was held in New Brighton. The event was a big success with hundreds of positive comments feeding through our social media channels. The event saw 54,000 people come together and enjoy a world-class display of fireworks and also complimentary events such as street performers and a food and drink offer.

Next year we really want to get behind our local cultural and creative offer and celebrate all that happens in Wirral through our Imagine Wirral 2018 campaign. This brand will aim to supporting organisations through promoting all on offer and draw more resident and visitor attention to the vast array of exhibitions, performances, music, artisan events and such like across the year. We will also be launching a number of key, exciting events for the borough, more details of which will be released in the coming months.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	Year End 2017-18	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Increase the number of people who regularly use the boroughs parks and open spaces	Annual Higher is better	67% (Oct 2015)						66% (Dec 2017)	Worse	The percentage of Wirral Residents who say they use the boroughs parks and green spaces at least once a month decreased slightly from 67% reported in the previous survey in 2016.
Increase the number of events in Wirral's parks, beaches and open spaces	Quarterly Higher is better	300 (2014-15)		332 (2016-17)	103 (Q1 2017-18)	287 (Q2 2017-18)	317 (Q3 2017-18)		Better	30 events where held in Wirral's parks, beaches and open spaces in quarter 3 which is less than 54 held during the same period last year. This was possibly due to the adverse weather conditions in Wirral during the period. At this stage last year there had been 292 events held so we're still on track to increase the number of events this year.
Adult (14+) Participation in sport (at least once per week)	Annual Higher is better	38.2% (2014-15)	England: 36.9% (2015-16) North West: 36.3% (2015-16)	39.2% (2015-16)					n/a	The 2017-18 will be available from The Active Lives Survey results which are due to be published by Sport England on 22nd March 2018. It's encouraging that the latest available figures show adult participation in sport in Wirral has increased from the start of the Wirral Plan and is also higher than participation nationally and across the North West region.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	Year End 2017-18	Trend	Comment
Increase the number of national quality awards for Wirral's parks, coastal sites and open spaces: Green Flags	Annual Higher is better	22 (2015-16)		24 (2016-17)				29 (2017-18)	Better	The number of national quality awards remains at 29. We're delighted that Birkenhead Park received the World Urban Parks Gold Award following hosting the World Urban Parks Congress however the Blue Flag Award for Wallasey Beach has been lost due to a poor water quality sample. The control of water quality is outside of Wirral Council's remit to control.
Utilisation of outdoor space for exercise / health reasons	Annual Higher is better	20.7% (2013-14)	England: 17.9% (Mar 15-Feb 16) North West: 17.5% (Mar 15-Feb 16)	26.5% (2014-15)				23.4% (Mar 15-Feb 16)	Worse	Utilisation of outdoor space for exercise / health reasons continues to improve on the baseline figure from the start of the plan and is also performing considerably better than North West and nationally despite decreasing since the previous period. It's worth noting that there is a time lag for this data which comes from the Public Health Outcomes Framework. The data released in quarter 1 was for March 2015 to February 2016. Also, the data comes from a relatively small sample size (less than 100) which may not give an accurate representation of overall activity in Wirral. This measure should therefore be viewed alongside other data for an overall picture of progress.
Increase the number of residents who say they regularly volunteer / support community groups in Wirral	Annual Higher is better	26% (Oct 2015)						24% (Dec 2017)	Worse	The percentage of Wirral Residents who say they volunteer at least once a month has decreased from 26% reported in the previous survey in 2016. The volunteering includes having given unpaid help either by taking part in or supporting any group, club or organisation (e.g. helping to run an activity/event, coaching, counselling, raising money, admin help).

Wirral residents live healthier lives

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Action to tackle Tobacco Abuse

This quarter we saw a change to the definition used in our Smoking status at time of delivery indicator. The Public Health Outcomes Framework now excludes women with an unknown smoking status from the calculation to provide a more accurate representation of the true proportion of women smoking at time of delivery. We've backdated this method for consistency.

As expected the percentage increased but it also demonstrated a good improvement from the start of the plan reducing from 13.9% to 12.0%. Whilst Wirral figure is worse than the National average, it's improving at a much faster rate highlighting the effective work being done locally. We're also performing better than the North West average.

A supporting pregnant women to stop smoking presentation was given to the C&M Local Maternity System Board about how to improve rates for stopping smoking in pregnancy. By the end of quarter 3 our Stop Smoking Service helped 1454 to stop smoking, including 75 pregnant women, with 672 still quit at 4 weeks and is on track to improve on last year.

Action for Alcohol Abuse

The Alcohol Strategy Group is working to create a comprehensive information set to inform activity for the delivery of the strategy and has improved information sharing arrangements between key partners is already producing real benefits, particularly increasing the effectiveness of the Frequent Attenders Group.

The "Drink Less, Enjoy More" campaign has successfully reduced the number of bars in the project found to be serving "drunks" from 90% to 35%. Another round of engagement is progressing to improve practice from the remaining establishments.

70 retail outlets are now complying with the "Reducing the Strength" project criteria which means that Super Strength Lager/Cider is no longer being sold in Birkenhead Town Centre and the scheme is now being spread out to new areas. Some retailers are also becoming agents for harm reduction in their communities by offering "Identification and Brief Advice" to any customers they have concerns about regarding their alcohol abuse.

Increase the number of people with a healthy weight in the borough

The age range for the Excess Weight In Adults indicator changed to 18+ from 16+ used in the historical indicator due to the Active People Survey being replaced by the Active Lives survey and to make the methodology consistent with the NHS Choices BMI calculator which considers adults as aged 18+. We continue to outperform the averages for the North West and the rest of England but at this time we're unable to backdate the change to measure the trend.

An expression of interest has been sent out to all Wirral GPs to co-design a pilot to increase physical activity in primary care. Public Health England is providing free clinical training for GP teams up until August 2018.

The uptake of the weight management offer for pregnant women is being monitored and the breast start app is being promoted with support groups encouraging breast feeding. The weaning groups continue to be well attended with work underway to establish how they can be extended across the whole of Wirral.

"Eat better – start better", a guide for early year's settings in England has been distributed across the local early years settings and the Better Food Wirral brand continues to grow across social media with work underway with the baby plates initiative and other local projects.

It's anticipated that the work between Wirral Council and Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group to develop an integrated treatment pathway will extend to run for the calendar year.

Support people to take more control of their health and wellbeing.

The Ask Us Wirral service has been delivered for 9 months and feedback from clients overwhelmingly say their wellbeing has improved as a result of the advice. The ConnectUs programme has now assisted 8,484 people, registered 302 people on the programme and, amongst other services, referred 195 people to an activity. The "Move On Up" project from Spider Project had 120 registered participants at the end of November with 72 people participating in 2 or more activities.

Launching the 'Making Every Contact Count' training will be withdrawn from the action plan going into the new year. The current offering tailored towards public health staff. Cheshire and Merseyside Directors of Public Health will continue to deliver this activity across the area.

The "5 Ways To Wellbeing" campaign went live on 10th October with a content led programme of activity scheduled for the coming year.

The Council has developed a new staff workplace wellbeing scheme starting in January offering staff an opportunity to engage in a series of planned taster activities (e.g. Invigor8 facilities).

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	Year End 2017-18	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Admission episodes for alcohol related conditions	Annual Lower is better	853.0 (2013-14)	England: 647.0 (2015-16) North West: 737.0 (2015-16)	819.0 (2014-15)				901.0 (2015-16)	Worse	There is a 12 month time lag on validated data being released. This data from the Public Health Outcomes Framework relates to 2015-16. Performance has declined from the previous reporting period (2014-15) however Wirral's Alcohol Strategy sets out an action plan for reducing alcohol consumption to improve public health outcomes.
Smoking prevalence in adults (age 18 and over) in Wirral	Annual Lower is better	17.2% (2014)	England: 15.5% (2016) North West: 16.8% (2016)	18.9% (2015)				15.7% (2016)	Better	We're delighted to report that smoking prevalence has reduced from 18.9% 2015 to 15.7% in the latest (2016) Public Health Outcomes Framework Annual Population Survey. Smoking prevalence across Wirral has improved significantly more than the North West average and has seen more than double the improvement than the national average for the same period. This is an average for the borough, we still have areas of the borough with smoking rates above 30%, it is these areas that activity will focus on. There is a time lag on this data and the latest data available is for 2016. The Smoke Free Wirral Strategy sets out an action plan for the borough to tackle smoking prevalence and the local provider for stop smoking services has been working with GPs and practice nurses to improve referral pathways for their services.
Excess weight in adults	Annual Lower is better	66.2% (2012-14)	England: 61.3% (2015-16) North West: 63.0% (2015-16)	66.7% (2015)				59.6% (2015-16)	Better	For the 2015-16 data the indicator age range changed to adults aged 18+ rather than adults aged 16+ used in the historical indicator. This is because in 2016 the Active People Survey was replaced by the Active Lives survey and a new excess weight indicator was required as Active Lives represents a change in survey methodology. The change in recording is consistent with the NHS Choices BMI calculator which considers adults as aged 18+. In this case the data isn't available to backdate the change yet to look at trend data. Despite the change in methodology we continue to outperform the averages for the North West and the rest of England.
Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	Year End 2017-18	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Smoking status at time of delivery	Annual Lower is better	13.9% (2014-15)	England: 10.7% (2016-17) North of England: 13.4% (2016-17)	12.4% (2015-16)				12.0% (2016-17)	Better	From April 2017, the definition used in Public Health Outcomes Framework changed to exclude women with unknown smoking status from the calculation to provide a more accurate representation of the true proportion of women smoking at time of delivery. We've backdated this method to the start of the plan. The latest available data is from 2016-17. Because of the changes in capturing the data the percentage of women smoking at time of delivery has increased as expected. Whilst Wirral figure is worse than the National average, it's improving at a much faster rate highlighting the positive work being done locally. Wirral is also performing better than the North West average.
Number of smokers helped to stop smoking	Quarterly Higher is better	n/a		2,253 (2016-17)	743 (Q1 2017-18)	711 (Q2 2017-18)			n/a	This is a new measure that counts the number of people setting a quit date recorded through a local contract. It's important to look at wider systems in place when interpreting this data as providers are only responsible for a small part of the process. There is a 6 week follow up period which delays the provision of this data therefore the data is reported a quarter behind.
Number of smokers still quit at 4 weeks	Quarterly Higher is better	n/a		1,195 (2016-17)	342 (Q1 2017-18)	331 (Q2 2017-18)			n/a	This is a new measure that counts the number of people that have still quit after 4 weeks as recorded through a local contract. It's important to look at wider systems in place when interpreting this data as providers are only responsible for a small part of the process. There is a 6 week follow up period which delays the provision of this data therefore the data is reported a quarter behind.
Number of pregnant women helped to stop smoking	Quarterly Higher is better	n/a		47 (2016-17)	38 (Q1 2017-18)	37 (Q2 2017-18)			n/a	This is a new measure that counts the number of pregnant women helped to stop smoking recorded through a local contract. It's important to look at wider systems in place when interpreting this data as providers are only responsible for a small part of the process. There is a 6 week follow up period which delays the provision of this data therefore the data is reported a quarter behind.
Number of people helped to lose weight	Quarterly Higher is better	n/a		1,553 (2016-17)	525 (Q1 2017-18)	869 (Q2 2017-18)	1,403 (Q3 2017-18)		n/a	An increase in the number of people eating healthily in Wirral should reduce the prevalence of excess weight and obesity which is a key contributor to premature mortality and avoidable ill health. It's important to look at wider systems in place when interpreting this data as providers are only responsible for a small part of the process.
Successful completion of drug treatment - opiate users	Quarterly Higher is better	n/a			6.9% (Q1 2017-18)	6.9% (Q2 2017-18)			n/a	This is a new measure to count the successful completion of drug treatments by opiate users. Individuals achieving this can demonstrate a significant improvement in health and well-being in terms of increased longevity, reduced blood-borne virus transmission, improved parenting skills and improved physical and psychological health.
Successful completion of drug treatment - non-opiate users	Quarterly Higher is better	n/a			46.4% (Q1 2017-18)	50.2% (Q2 2017-18)			n/a	This is a new measure to count the successful completion of drug treatments by non-opiate users. Individuals achieving this can demonstrate a significant improvement in health and well-being in terms of increased longevity, reduced blood-borne virus transmission, improved parenting skills and improved physical and psychological health.
Successful completion of alcohol treatment	Quarterly Higher is better	n/a			38.2% (Q1 2017-18)	39.7% (Q2 2017-18)			n/a	This is a new measure to count the successful completion of alcohol treatments. Individuals achieving this can demonstrate a significant improvement in health and well-being in terms of increased longevity, reduced blood-borne virus transmission, improved parenting skills and improved physical and psychological health.

Community services are joined up and accessible

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

In quarter 3 there has seen significant developments in respect of the Wirral Together strategy. The Council's third sector infrastructure support contract being delivered by Community Action Wirral was mobilised. It is encouraging to see that close partnership working between key organisations is starting to drive more joined up approaches to working with communities at grassroots level which will support the Wirral Partnership as it moves towards a new model for neighbourhoods. I am pleased that extensive work with community groups, councillors, partners and residents have helped inform this work. This extra engagement has been useful but has resulted in a longer timescale to deliver on our action to develop a future model. I am convinced that this will allow for a stronger approach moving forward.

I am particularly proud that Wirral Council's Employee Volunteering Policy has seen promising numbers take up the opportunity of 2 days volunteering leave, with interesting information emerging about the diverse range of organisations supported by Council staff. I look forward to reporting on progress in this area in quarter 4 as well as the increasing impact of the work Community Action Wirral is undertaking as part of its infrastructure contract. I hope that many more voluntary and community organisations benefit from the increasing information and training available to them to develop their services and work with our local residents.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	Year End 2017-18	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Increase the number of residents who say they regularly volunteer / support community groups in Wirral	Annual Higher is better	26% (Nov 2015)						24% (Dec 2017)	Worse	The 2017 Wirral Residents Survey reported 24% of people regularly volunteer/ support community groups at least once a month. This is a lower than the previous residents survey in 2015.

Good quality housing that meets the needs of residents

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

In Quarter 3 we have continued to make significant progress around our three priority areas. Barriers are being addressed and overcome wherever possible which has meant we have met all but two of our activity milestones. Steps are being put in place to bring these activities back on track.

Key achievements by end of Quarter 3 include:

- 181 new affordable homes have been built and completed, funded by a mix of the Government's Help to Buy initiative, the Council's Affordable Homes Programme and the resources of Registered Providers of social housing;
- Work on the wider review of potential development options to identify housing sites has been ongoing, including indicative proposals provided by Registered Providers in relation to the Council owned sites on the pipeline list. An evaluation matrix has been developed and for sites with interest from more than one Registered Provider, with proposed preferred partners.
- The Warm Homes Discount was promoted to 6000 households in the areas of the highest rates of Fuel Poverty by the housing Services Team, which resulted in 1600 calls being received and 959 applications for the £140 Warm Homes Discount;
- Following intervention, over 800 homes in the private sector have had hazards removed since the start of the plan to enable those homes to be warmer and safer;
- The Liverpool City Region pilot for specialist accommodation based support service for domestic abuse has completed and the service is now operational, supporting victims of domestic abuse including signposting to other services.
- A number of schemes have been identified as potential pilots for the enhanced sheltered housing model to increase housing options for older people.
- There has been extensive partnership work, particularly focussing on the roll out of Universal Credit. This includes, dedicated support to care leavers with Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) training social workers and re-introducing the protocol to support care leavers at each job centre during the claims process; Council housing staff working in Birkenhead Job Centre Plus supporting customers; DWP outreach worker delivering from a range of partner sites including Magenta Living, Wirral Ways to recovery, Women's refuge and children's centre's in Wirral

Challenges in Quarter 3

- In October 2017, the government announced they will no longer apply the Local Housing Allowance rates to tenants in supported housing as previously planned, which has led to optimism on Registered Provider Boards which are once again considering Extra Care development. Although the original timescales for the completion of 300 Extra Care housing units was March 2018, there are 360 potential units across nine schemes which are currently being considered, dependent upon development timescales not all of the 300 units may be delivered within the target date. Development timetables are being reviewed in light of the new guidance issued by Government,
- The commission of new services for homelessness and socially excluded groups was originally due to complete during quarter 3, whilst the first 3 phases of the commissioned services have been completed or are out for tender the remaining phases now have a new target end date of June 2018 due to resource requirements and therefore will carry forward into 2018-19 action plan.

In April 2018 the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 will be implemented; the associated Code of Guidance will be released in Spring 2018. The homelessness review to inform the development of the 2018-2023 Homelessness Strategy may need to be amended to reflect the legislation changes and this may impact on timescales.

Focus in the final quarter of the year will continue to be our key priorities to build more homes in Wirral to meet our economic growth ambitions, improve the quality of Wirral's housing offer for our residents and meet the needs of our most vulnerable people to enable them to live independently.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	Year End 2017-18	Trend (See Key)	Comment
3,500 new homes will be built by 2020	Annual Higher is better	n/a		946 (2015 - 2017)					n/a	This is an annual indicator which will report at year-end however Indications are that progress for 2017-18 has improved compared to the same period in 2016-17. For the first three quarters of 2017-18 there have so far been 490 gross housing completions. 396 residential commencements have taken place of which 324 units have yet to be completed. This data is only indicative as it is based on monitoring data received so far which has a time lag. End of year provisional figures will only be confirmed in May 2018 following site visits. The finalised end of year figure will be verified and confirmed in the Annual Monitoring report in December 2018.
Improve 2,250 private sector properties	Annual Higher is better	n/a		928 (2016-17)					n/a	This is an annual indicator which will report at year-end. Over performance last year and this years estimated performance at Quarter 3 period (173 properties) means the year end cumulative target of 1,368 will be achieved as cumulative actual performance is currently 1,389 properties improved.
Bring 1,250 empty properties back into use	Quarterly Higher is better	n/a		597 (2016-17)	Green Actual: 665 Target: 640 (Dec 2015 - Jun 2017)	Green Actual: 737 Target: 683 (Dec 2015 - Sep 2017)	Green Actual: 797 (P) Target: 726 (Dec 2015 - Dec 2017)		Better	A further 60 properties have been brought back into use during Quarter 3 and we have again exceeded our expectations and look to improve on our for the year and overall target by 2020. Quarter 3 performance is provisional at time of reporting and is the cumulative total to date since the start of the Wirral Plan.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	Year End 2017-18	Trend	Comment
Complete compliance inspections for all homes requiring a license	Annual Higher is better	n/a		304 (2016-17)					n/a	This is an annual indicator which will report at year-end. It is anticipated the year end figure will be achieved following over performance last year and this years estimated performance at Quarter 3 period.
An increase in the percentage of people over 50 living in appropriate housing, that meets their needs	Annual Higher is better	52.3% (Oct 2015)						52.3% (Dec 2017)	Same	The level of residents over 50 who feel our housing offer is meeting their needs has been maintained since the 2015 Residents Survey.
Number of home adaptations completed	Quarterly Higher is better	2,257 (2014-15)		3,047 (2016-17)	671 (Apr-Jun 2017)	1,346 (Apr-Sept 2017)	1,947 (Apr-Dec 2017)		n/a	Home adaptations is a demand led service based on clients needs. The number of adaptations completed in quarter 3 cannot therefore be compared with the previous quarter or year. From April 2017-Decemer 2017 there were 1947 adaptations completed which is higher than predicted (1875).
Reduce homelessness through prevention	Quarterly Higher is better	707 (2014-15)		1,291 (2016-17)	272 (Apr-Jun 2017)	549 (Apr-Sept 2017)	770 (Apr-Dec 2017)		Worse	We have not achieved our expectations for Quarter 3; reporting however does not include preventions which have been made through Discretionary Housing Benefit award. An increase in the number of clients with complex issues has resulted in us taking longer to assist and a reduction in the availability of accommodation due to the effect of welfare reforms, retendering of prevention support services and implementation of new service providers has impacted on homelessness prevention cases in the transition.

Wirral's neighbourhoods are safe

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

I was pleased to welcome the Police and Crime Commissioner to undertake the official launch of the Safer Wirral Hub (SWH), which took place on 10th October 2017. The SWH is leading the way across the Liverpool City Region in regard to integrated delivery across the public sector to achieve real outcomes to the residents of Wirral. Some examples of which are

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) reports to police down by 11% compared to same period last year. December figure was lowest reported figure for any month in the last 10 years. So great has the success of work in this area that the SWH ASB team have been nominated for Merseyside Police team of the year award.
- The recent Resident's Survey shows 90% of residents feel safe in daytime; this is an improvement from last survey (88%)
- Work has commenced in the SWH to utilise restorative practice into hate crime cases through Neighbourhood Justice programme.

Throughout 2018 we will be undertaking further work as part of Phase 2 SWH development. This will entail a range of further services being examined to see whether they can benefit from working from the same model.

However I also appreciate that there are still elements of crime and ASB which require addressing these include

- Number of crimes recorded by police increased by 16% compared to same period last year.
- Number of crimes causing an injury has increased by 8%
- Residents survey shows 51% feel safe after dark in 2017 survey compared to 55% in 2015
- Prevalent illegal use of scrambler bikes across Wirral

I am pleased to see that a workshop has been arranged in February for the Safer Wirral Partnership Board to agree next years priorities and work programme.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	Year End 2017-18	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB) to Merseyside Police	Quarterly Lower is better	11,837 (2014-15)		9,930 (2016-17)	2,466 (Apr-Jun 2017)	5,275 (Apr-Sept 2017)	7,189 (Apr-Dec 2017)		Better	Anti- Social Behaviour reports to the Police are 11% down on the same period last year (8048) illustrating significant success to the effectiveness of the Police managed, information led, collaborative working used to prioritise and reduce threat, harm and risk for victims, offenders and locations.
Proportion of residents who state they feel safe when outside in their local area (daytime)	Annual Higher is better	88% (Oct 2015)						90% (Dec 2017)	Better	The 2017 Wirral Residents Survey reported 90% of residents feel safe when outside in their local area during the daytime. This is higher than the previous residents survey in 2015.
Proportion of residents who state they feel safe when outside in their local area (After Dark)	Annual Higher is better	55% (Oct 2015)						51% (Dec 2017)	Worse	The 2017 Wirral Residents Survey reported 51% of residents feel safe when outside in their local area after dark. This is lower than the previous residents survey in 2015.
Number of crimes recorded by the police	Quarterly Lower is better	19,061 (2014-15)		19,724 (2016-17)	5,550 (Apr-Jun 2017)	11,391 (Apr-Sept 2017)	17,185 (Apr-Dec 2017)		Worse	The number of crimes being reported in Wirral has increased by 16% compared to the same period last year. However, Wirral maintains the lowest crime rate in Merseyside, and has maintained the 3rd lowest crime rate amongst the Home Office cohort of 15 Community Safety Partnership's deemed demographically similar to Wirral.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	Year End 2017-18	Trend	Comment
First-time entrants to the youth justice system (10-17 year olds, as a rate per 100,000 of the local general population)	Quarterly Lower is better	177 (Apr 2015 - Mar 2016)	Merseyside Youth Offending Teams (Police Crime Commissioner area): 322 (July 2016- June 2017)	180 (Oct 2015 - Sept 2016)	177 (Jan-Dec 2016)	174 (Apr 2016 - Mar 2017)	171 (Jul 2016 - Jun 2017)		Better	The rate of first-time entrants to the youth justice system for the rolling year July 2016-June 2017 has fallen by 5.4% to 171, compared to the 180 rate for July 2015-June 2016.
Reduce Youth Re-offending (Average number of re-offences per re-offender)	Quarterly Lower is better	3.92 (Jan-Dec 2014)		3.75 (Apr 2014 - Mar 2015)	4.00 (Jul 2014 - Jun 2015)	3.88 (Oct 2014 - Sept 2015)			n/a	
Violence that causes an injury to an individual victim (not including homicide) recorded by the Police	Quarterly Lower is better	1,982 (2014-15)	Ranking within 15 Most Similar Community Safety Partnership Groups: 3 (Dec 2016- Nov 2017)	2,359 (2016-17)	659 (Apr-Jun 2017)	1,313 (Apr-Sept 2017)	1,912 (Apr-Dec 2017)		Worse	The number of crimes of violence causing injury has increased by 8%. Wirral has the second lowest rate per population in Merseyside with a marginally higher rate (7.7 per thousand population) than Knowsley (7.6).

Attractive local environment for Wirral residents

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

As we approach the final quarter of the 2017/18 delivery plan, we are making good progress in a number of areas in terms of protecting the environment and engaging with residents. Additionally we are continuing to work towards a reduction in Waste. To support this, we have introduced a number of measures to improve the performance of the current domestic refuse collection service. Such measures include tackling unauthorised non-recycling waste collections; increasing the number of grey recycling bins in use and undertaking a targeted marketing campaign to help support those residents who aren't recycling their waste as effectively as they could.

During Quarter 3 we launched our "Love Where You Live" campaign through an intensive programme of community action. We have subsequently established the community hubs which will help coordinate activity. We have implemented the Council's updated Domestic Refuse Collection policy and made the necessary amendments to the Council's website. The updated policy will improve the level of help and advice available for residents, helping them to manage their waste more effectively. This will support our objective of reducing the level of waste that is being generated overall.

We are progressing the Council's resolution to eliminate single use plastics from Council service provision and will be forming a 'taskforce', working with local groups to help drive this initiative forward. The resident's survey will also further inform us in support of the delivery of our service.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	Year End 2017-18	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Maintain local environmental quality (LEQ) via the street cleansing of litter, detritus, graffiti. (Main Gateways and Retail Areas)	Quarterly Higher is better	97.5% (2014-15)		95.2% (2016-17)	Blue Actual: 97.9% Target: 93.2% (Q1 2017-18)	Blue Actual: 96.9% Target: 93.2% (Q2 2017-18)	Blue Actual: 96.7% Target: 93.2% (Q3 2017-18)		Worse	Local Environmental Quality around key priority areas continues to remain at a high standard. Officers continue to monitor and review cleansing schedules to enable continuous improvement
Achieve 50% kerbside recycling of domestic waste by 2020	Quarterly Higher is better	36.30% (2014-15)		35.90% (2016-17)	Amber Actual: 35.50% Target: 38.50% (Q1 2017-18)	Amber Actual: 35.50% Target: 38.50% (Q2 2017-18)			Worse	2nd quarter performance (July-Sept). The second quarter performance has been lower than expected. Both the quantity of garden waste and the quantity of dry recycling collected is less than the same period last year. Garden waste tonnages have likely been affected by a wetter Summer and also a reduction in the number of subscribers compared to last year. The tonnage of dry recycling continues to fall, whereas the tonnage of general waste is still increasing. However the total waste arising's for this quarter is actually lower than is has been for four years. Wirral is not alone in seeing this decrease in recycling - over half of the local authorities in North West England have also seen a decrease in recycling compared with last year.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	Year End 2017-18	Trend	Comment
Number of FPN's issued for environmental offences (Littering)	Quarterly Higher is better	n/a		11,458 (2016-17)	Blue Actual: 2,389 Target: 2,000 (Apr-Jun 2017)	Blue Actual: 4,406 Target: 4,000 (Apr-Sept 2017)	Green Actual: 6,103 Target: 5,750 (Apr-Dec 2017)		Worse	Although performance trend is worse than the same period last year, targets for 2017-18 were revised resulting in the latest performance figure exceeding target despite the challenges encountered with private land owners.
Number of FPN's issued for environmental offences (dog fouling)	Quarterly Higher is better	n/a		208 (2016-17)	Green Actual: 48 Target: 45 (Apr-Jun 2017)	Green Actual: 87 Target: 90 (Apr-Sept 2017)	Green Actual: 141 Target: 130 (Apr-Dec 2017)		Better	The latest performance figure has exceeded the target figure set which has in the main been heightened by intelligence led patrols where dog fouling remains prevalent.
People who think dog fouling is a problem in their local area.	Annual Lower is better	56.0% (Oct 2015)						62.0% (Dec 2017)	n/a	The increase in the number of people who think dog fouling is a problem in their local area, reflects the heightened awareness of the problems associated with dog owners not picking up after their dog. In reality the Council has been receiving less complaints or reports about dog fouling from residents and our own environmental monitoring arrangements conclude that dog fouling instances are not increasing. The Council has embarked on a long term approach to achieving behaviour change amongst the dog owners who currently don't pick up after their dog, acknowledging that it will take some years to effect. The Council remains committed to the behaviour change approach and are currently reviewing operations to step up enforcement at known dog fouling hotspots.
Reduce the total amount of waste produced by each household.	Quarterly Lower is better	502.15 (2014-15)		531.84 (2016-17)	139.14 (Apr-Jun 2017)	274.20 (Apr-Sept 2017)			Worse	2nd quarter performance (July-Sept). The tonnage of general (non recycling) waste produced per household has increased compared with the same quarter last year. Approx. 40% of local authorities in the North West of England have also seen an increase. For the rest of the year, we will be running a Love Food Hate Waste campaign and promoting charities and other local reuse options for household items.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	Year End 2017-18	Trend	Comment
Increase level of school recycling	Annual Higher is better	35.00% (2014-15)		45.00% (2016-17)					n/a	This is an annual indicator which will report at year-end.
Increase the number of garden waste subscribers	Quarterly Higher is better	n/a			36,065 (Apr-Jun 2017)	38,593 (Apr-Sept 2017)	39,188 (Apr-Dec 2017)		n/a	The total number of subscribers lower than at the same time last year. This could be due to the increase in the subscription fee, or the wetter summer experienced in 2017.

Report Key

Trend - Performance is shown as Better, Same or Worse compared with the last reporting period except for: Increase the number of events in Wirral's parks, beaches and open space, number of smokers helped to stop smoking, number of smokers still quit at 4 weeks, number of pregnant women helped to stop smoking, number of people helped to lose weight, Bring 1,250 empty properties brought back into use, number of home adaptations completed, reduce homelessness through prevention, reports of ASB to Merseyside Police, number of crimes recorded by the police, violence that causes an injury to an individual victim (not including homicide) recorded by the Police, maintain Local Environment Quality (LEQ), number of environmental offences (littering and dog Fouling), kerbside recycling, amount of household waste produced and the number of garden waste subscribers which are compared with same period the previous year.

Target - Where targets apply, these are shown as either Blue, Green, Amber, Red based on the agreed tolerance range for individual measures.

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Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee **28th March 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

The agenda for this meeting of the Committee has been prepared in light of pre-election restrictions considerations. Agenda items relating to fly-tipping, single use plastics and the Core Strategy have been deferred to the first meeting in the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

Modern Slavery Scrutiny Review

The Task & Finish Review Panel which is reviewing the implications of the Modern Slavery Act have met with representatives from the Council's Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Licensing departments with Further evidence sessions with Housing Services and Children's and Adults Safeguarding representatives were planned in the early part of 2018. The Panel then planned to meet with the Council's partners including the Police and representatives from local charitable and voluntary organisations. However, the LGA, in partnership with the Independent Anti-slavery commissioner, has produced 'A council guide' for Modern Slavery. The Review Panel will be meeting with the Senior Manager to discuss this further. The review Panel will then decide which direction to take the review and will report back to the committee.

Economic Viability Assessments and the Community Infrastructure Levy

Following two separate Notices of Motion heard at the Committee meeting held on 31st January 2018 on both Economic Viability Assessments and the Community Infrastructure Levy, it was agreed that both of these issues would be explored further as part of a Task and Finish Scrutiny Review. This has been added to the committee's work programme for 2018/19.

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 28th March 2018

Item	Format	Officer
Financial monitoring – 2017/18 Q3	Report	Peter Molyneux - Senior Manager, Finance
Performance monitoring – 2017/18 Q3	Report	Mark Smith – Strategic Commissioner, Environment
Scrutiny Work Programme Update	Report	Report of the Chair

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS – TO BE SCHEDULED

Item	Format	Approximate timescale	Lead Officer
Core Strategy Local Plan Progress Update – Standing Item (as per Committee request until the adoption of Local Plan)	Committee Report	Standing item, first meeting of the 2018/19 Municipal Year and thereafter	David Ball - Assistant Director Environmental Services
Fly-Tipping	Committee Report – Follow-up report requested as part of Notice of Motion at November 2017 OSC	Deferred to first meeting of the 2018/19 Municipal Year	Mark Smith – Strategic Commissioner, Environment
Single Use Plastics	Committee Report	Deferred to first meeting of the 2018/19 Municipal Year	Mike Cockburn – Lead Commissioner, Environment
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
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

Item	Format	Approximate timescale	Lead Officer
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	
Economic Viability Assessment and Community Infrastructure Levy	Task & finish group	2018/19	David Ball	To commence early in 2018/19 municipal year.
Modern Slavery Act	Task & finish group	2017	Andrew Elkington	Future direction of the review to be determined
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