



Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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| Date: | Wednesday, 4 February 2009 |
| Time: | 6.00 pm |
| Venue: | Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall |

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AGENDA

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / PARTY WHIP

Members are asked to consider whether they have personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they are.

Members are reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, 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. TRANSFORMING WIRRAL - STRATEGIC ASSET REVIEW (Pages 1 - 32)

At its meeting on 15 January, 2009, the Cabinet agreed a resolution following a public consultation on the Strategic Asset Review.

In accordance with the procedure adopted for other budget proposals agreed by the Cabinet, the minute has been referred to this Committee for consideration.

The views of the Committee are requested and will be presented to the Council on 9 February 2009.

The minute, report of the Chief Executive to Cabinet on 15 January, 2009 together with the appendices is attached.

3. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR

Cabinet minute 325 – 15 January, 2009

“Cabinet welcomes the high level of public participation in this consultation as set out in the Cabinet report. Cabinet notes that residents also made it clear that they were prepared to pay more to keep facilities open;

Cabinet acknowledges that residents on a peninsula believe it is particularly important that their children have the opportunity to learn to swim and take part in swimming activities and that there have been representations from the public and from the health community on the importance of swimming as a way of tackling obesity;

Cabinet noted the often passionate support of what were felt to be local community facilities and recognised the considerable time and effort put in by a number of correspondents who sought to provide detailed arguments for the retention of a particular facility;

Cabinet is particularly grateful for the hard work that went into the detailed document submitted on the importance of Woodchurch Leisure Centre to the local community;

Cabinet also recognises the high regard in which Wirral residents hold their historic buildings and accepts the need to respect Wirral’s heritage;

It also recognises the clear commitment of staff, residents, local musicians and artists and young people to maintaining good cultural facilities and suitable performance venues on the Wirral and thanks those who submitted detailed reasons why these are important to the life of the community as a whole;

However, Cabinet is also mindful of the current economic climate and the hardship that will create for many Wirral people;

It is mindful as well of the fact that definite action is required to tackle Wirral’s budgetary problems and that the recession will also impact on the Council in a number of ways, increasing the need for firm financial control in order to protect Wirral’s Council Tax payers;

Bearing in mind the Council’s Corporate Priorities and in particular the need to do everything possible to tackle social exclusion and deprivation, Cabinet therefore resolves as follows, and recommends to Council that:

(1) The Woodchurch Leisure Centre be retained;

(2) Officers are asked to explore the possibility of persuading any of the Council’s strategic partners who may benefit from the use of the Leisure Centre to contribute towards the £374,000 subsidy currently paid by the Council to keep the Leisure Centre open and to investigate the level of current charges to swimming clubs, schools and other organisations across the borough to ensure that the Council Tax payers are receiving good value for money which should be the subject of a report to Cabinet on February 5th as part of the budget setting process;

(3) The Woodchurch Community Centre adjoining the Leisure Centre be considered for transfer to the Community within a two year time frame and the Leisure Centre and Community Centre be seen as the clear focus for community activities;

(4) The two year time frame for community asset transfer will expire on 16/1/11;

(5) A two year provision be set up to allow Guinea Gap to remain open pending a better understanding of the potential scale of any development along the waterfront and the possibility of bringing forward any Government investment in the Housing Market Renewal Initiative which could contribute towards kick starting any major development initiative.

(6) That negotiations are held with Arena/Leasowe Community Homes for the transfer of the Leasowe Recreation Centre to the benefit of the community, subject to the agreement of satisfactory terms and conditions.

(7) Cabinet notes that members of the public made it clear during the consultation period that they believed the main focus of activity in the Bromborough/Eastham area should be located in Bromborough. Cabinet therefore resolves to locate the multi- purpose complex at Bromborough Civic Centre, incorporating the Bromborough Library and the One Stop shop currently located in Eastham.

(8) This would, as a consequence, entail the closure of Eastham library. Residents of Eastham will be given the opportunity to explore alternative ways of making best use of all the facilities in Eastham to meet community needs, including the possibility, if the community so wishes, of a community transfer of the library building, proper access to IT facilities where they are needed, and a remote book ordering point in a relevant location.

(9) That, in response to substantial public representation, and in recognition of the fact that it is geographically central to a number of deprived areas and housed in a building of historic interest, Upton Library be retained and Woodchurch Library closed.

(10) In view of the fact that the closure of Eastham library and Woodchurch library was not directly set out in the proposals for consultation, transitional finance of up to three months, to the end of June 2009, will be available to allow residents to consider the best use of buildings within their communities.

(11) That the development of the five major multi-purpose complexes in Bebington, Birkenhead, Liscard, Moreton and West Kirby (including brand new build in Moreton and Liscard) be confirmed.

(12) That the smaller, community focused, multi-purpose complexes located in Greasby, Heswall, Leasowe, Rock Ferry and St. James, with the addition of Bromborough, be agreed and that the delivery of services in the Upton/Woodchurch areas be provided by a combination of the Woodchurch Leisure Centre, Upton Library and Upton One Stop Shop in the Department for Work and Pensions site.

(13) That, in response to substantial public representation, Pensby Library be retained.

(14) That the closure of the following libraries be confirmed: Beechwood Library, Eastham Library, Higher Bebington Library, Hoylake Library, Irby Library, New Ferry Library, Prenton Library, Ridgeway Library, Seacombe Library, Wallasey Village Library and Woodchurch Library.

(15) Where the community, or organisations serving the community, express a specific interest in a library building after closure, particularly where there is a clear lack of alternative community facilities for potential community transfer, that potential for community transfer of the redundant library building will be vigorously pursued.

(16) Officers are also asked to carry out an audit of community activities within Libraries scheduled for closure to assess which of those activities could usefully be carried out in other ways, through Children's Centres, Schools, Community Centres or other Council buildings, with particular regard to activities for under 5s, access to technology and homework assistance for school children, access to technology for the unemployed and access to technology and activities for the elderly.

(17) In line with the Strategic Asset Review proposals, a system will be established for automatically reserving books online, from home, or from a number of community-based IT access points from which information technology can be accessed. These could be located in schools, community centres or other Council buildings, but will need to reflect the views of the local community. Officers are also asked to consider sympathetically the potential for limited transfer to interested community venues of currently held book stock.

(18) Officers will work with the voluntary sector to expand the existing service to the elderly, housebound or vulnerable members of the communities and will ensure that door to door transport schemes already operating for those with disabilities, such as Dial a Ride, will be well advertised to current library users. In the light of this, and public reaction to the proposal, the option of a mobile library service will not be progressed at this time but will be kept under review.

(19) That it be made perfectly clear that Birkenhead Central Library will remain open in its current building, which will be maintained as required; that there is no intention, and never was any intention, to demolish the building and that suitable alternative uses will be found for the building which will take account of its historic importance should the Council decide in the future that the needs of the Borough for a modern Central Library would be better met with a different building or on a different site.

(20) That the following facilities be transferred to community management, where the community expresses an interest, within a two year period and in line with the Strategic Asset Review recommendations and that finances be identified in the budgetary process to assist communities in making this a viable proposition: Hoylake Community Centre, Westbourne Community Centre, Livingstone Street Community Centre, Noctorum Community Centre, Leasowe Lighthouse, Seacombe Community Centre, The Grange, Grosvenor Ballroom, Vale House, Greasby Community Centre, Overton Community Centre, Delamere Community Centre, Mayer Hall, New Ferry Village Hall, 65 The Village, Victoria Hall, Windsor Close Community Centre, Heswall Hall, Turntable Building, Kylemore Community Centre, Alexander Hall and Pensby Community Centre, Woodchurch Community Centre and Leasowe Community

Centre. Community IT access points will be provided where required as part of the transfer.

(21) That Grange Road West Sports Centre also be considered under the same terms for transfer to the community, and that discussions take place with those who currently use the facility, or other community members if necessary, to secure its continued operation.

(22) That Beechwood Recreation Centre and Community Centre be transferred for Community use and that work be undertaken by officers to assess the best way in which this can take place with a report back to Cabinet as appropriate.

(23) That the Wirral Museum be closed but that a new sustainable use which will secure the future of this iconic building be sought and expressions of interest invited.

(24) That expressions of interest in Pacific Road Theatre by Community/Charitable Trust/Commercial Operator or other interested organisation be sought, or given the considerable interest already expressed, be considered as part of a bidding process, to run the facility as an independent arts and performance venue.

(25) That the Wirral Transport Museum be transferred to a Community Development Trust, given suitable terms and conditions, or, if interest is expressed by an operator in the whole Pacific Road/Tramshed site, that the specialist role of the Transport Museum be protected as far as possible.

(26) That the office accommodation aspects of the Strategic Asset Review be implemented and officers be asked to accelerate the process of making savings from the rationalisation of the Council's office accommodation.

(27) That the closure of Bridge Court, Fellowship House, 98 Bidston Road, 4 Cavendish Road, Cavendish Enterprise Centre, Feltree House, Rosewarne, 5/7 St. Andrews Road, Shore Road Pumping Station, Hillcroft, 245 Liscard Road, 16/18 Rullerton Road, Dock Road Depot, 19, Heath Road, Kennet Close, the old Courthouse and Mendell Lodge be agreed, and appropriate arrangements made for their disposal.

(28) Cabinet is grateful for the views expressed by the Wirral Enabling Fulfilling Lives Group and confirms that no decision on the future of Cambridge Road Day Centre in New Brighton or Highcroft Day Centre in Bebington has been taken and that the future of these buildings and associated service provision will be considered as part of the DASS review of services.

(29) That the Strategic Asset Review be agreed, subject to the above amendments and endorsements.

(30) That, as a consequence of the above, the revenue saving of £3,101,000 be agreed; and

(31) That a provision of £1,863,000 be created to cover the items above and any necessary transitional funding."

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 At its meeting on 27 November 2008, Cabinet considered a report on the Strategic Asset Review which set out options for the future of the authority's asset portfolio. Cabinet resolved to approve in principle the option for strategic consolidation of the Council's asset base and requested that this be subjected to public and staff consultation, with the results brought back to a future meeting. This report summarises the response to the consultation and seeks Cabinet's views on the way forward.

2.0 Background

2.1 At its meeting on 27 November 2008 Cabinet considered a report that recommended a way forward for managing the Council's property assets.

2.2 That report was the culmination of a strategic review process that started with the Cabinet decision in December 2006 to commission a strategic development plan for Wirral's Cultural Services and the appointment, in 2007, of Strategic Leisure to conduct that review. That work then fed into the wider Strategic Asset Review that was reported to Cabinet in July and October 2008.

2.3 The 27 November report was based on the consistent application of principles for asset use that had been previously endorsed by Cabinet. The review considered the whole of the borough using seven agreed geographical areas and concentrated in this initial stage on public facing assets.

2.4 The review produced a recommended approach for the strategic consolidation of the asset base, with a package of borough-wide proposals based on a vision of fewer but better assets and optimum value for money for local people. The recommended approach:

- Created a framework that could be used to maximise opportunities for partnership working
- Endorsed the principle of asset transfer to take place over an anticipated period of two years as an alternative to closure
- Proposed a programme for the development of multi-purpose complexes strategically located across the borough, and
- Proposed substantial rationalisation of the council's administrative accommodation underpinned by a drive to transform ways of working

2.5 The review group recognised that the part of the asset base supporting services for children and young people can play an important role in the overall delivery of corporate and community services. In addition service transformation in Adult Social Care will provide opportunities to further integrate asset use. Asset management is a continuous process and these major corporate service elements will be increasingly integrated into the review as it progresses.

2.6 The Cabinet resolution was as follows:

(1) Cabinet agrees the recommendation as set out below:

That the proposals set out in the report for the strategic consolidation of the Council's asset base across the borough be agreed in principle and then be subject to public and staff consultation as described, with the results of that consultation brought to a future meeting of Cabinet.

and asks that a special Area Forum Conference/Conferences be convened as soon as possible in order to allow a full debate on the proposals in the report.

(2) Cabinet also asks that this matter be referred to a joint Scrutiny Committee, comprising of Finance and Best Value, Corporate Services and Culture, Tourism and Leisure Overview Scrutiny Committees, with a Chair to be elected at the meeting. Democratic Services be asked to make the appropriate arrangements for this meeting to take place as soon as possible; and

(3) The proposals set out in this report for the strategic consolidation of the Council's asset base across the Borough, along with the provision of a mobile library/one stop shop, be agreed in principle and then subjected to public and staff consultation as described, with results of that consultation brought to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

2.7 This report brings the results of the consultation back to Cabinet to enable a final decision to be taken on the previously recommended approach to the strategic consolidation of the Council's asset base.

3.0 Consultation Mechanisms

3.1 The consultation period has been from 28 November 2008 to 14 January 2009. This allows Cabinet's final decision – which will have very substantial financial implications – to feed into the setting of the Council's budget.

3.2 During this initial phase of consultation the intention has been to focus on the strategic approach taken to the review; the proposed direction for consolidation and modernisation of the asset base; the context within which recommendations for individual assets have been made and the immediate recommendations for change. A substantial amount of feedback on the proposals has been obtained through different routes, and this is considered in more detail below.

3.3 Although consultation began following the Cabinet decision views were in fact received from a variety of interested parties as soon as the report became public. Some will undoubtedly continue to be received between Tuesday 13 January (when this report was finalised) and the Cabinet meeting on 15 January. If any new points are raised that are not generally covered in the feedback already received they will be summarised and circulated to Cabinet members at the meeting.

3.4 Following the Cabinet resolution of 27 November 2008, officers decided, in consultation with members of the Cabinet, to convene four Special Area Forum Conferences in locations spread across the Borough. These were designed to provide residents with a selection of venues and dates to give them a fair opportunity to attend, whilst at the same time keeping in mind the strategic, borough wide approach to the review. These Special Area Forum Conferences were held as follows:

- Monday 5 January - The Lauries Centre, Birkenhead
- Tuesday 6 January - Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight
- Wednesday 7 January - The Concourse, West Kirby
- Thursday 8 January - The Floral Pavilion, New Brighton

Anyone unable to attend the meeting within their local area could attend any of the other meetings.

3.5 Members of the Cabinet attended the Special Area Forum Conferences which were chaired by the Leader of the Council. At the start of each conference there was a presentation that outlined the rationale behind the review and emphasised the strategic approach proposed for modernisation. The presentations were followed by an open question and answer session. An information leaflet was made available to attendees, together with a comment card to ensure everyone present had an opportunity to express their views. Frank Field MP attended and spoke at the Birkenhead meeting; Stephen Hesford MP attended and spoke at the Port Sunlight and West Kirby meetings; and Angela Eagle MP attended and spoke at the New Brighton meeting. A letter from Ben Chapman MP was read out at the Port Sunlight Meeting as he was unable to attend.

3.6 Notwithstanding the recommendation of Cabinet that a joint Scrutiny Committee, comprising Finance and Best Value; Corporate Services and Culture; and Tourism and Leisure Overview Scrutiny Committees be convened, the respective Chairs considered it more appropriate to hold three separate meetings. These took place as follows:

- Culture, Tourism and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 10 December
- Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 17 December
- Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 7 January 2009

The minutes of the three meetings are attached in Appendix 1. The Strategic Asset Review was also the subject of two Notices of Motion at Council on 15 December 2008, and copies of the Notices, an amendment and the relevant extract from the Council minutes are also included in Appendix 1.

3.7 In addition to the four Special Area Forum Conferences, further meetings that facilitated debate on the proposals have been arranged prior to the cabinet meeting. These include:

- Wirral Head Teachers' briefing on 14 January 2009
- Wirral Enabling Fulfilling Lives Group on 14 January; and
- Extraordinary Meeting of the Wirral Executive Youth Board on 14 January

Again, if any new points are raised that are not generally covered in the feedback already received, these will be summarised and circulated to Cabinet members at the meeting.

3.8 Staff directly affected by the proposals have been briefed by their managers, and meetings have been held with the relevant trades unions. Trades unions have also attended and spoken at the Special Area Forum Conferences.

3.9 Information regarding the Strategic Asset Review has also been published on the Council's website which will be kept updated as the review proceeds. Residents have been able as usual to comment to either the e mail address comments@wirral.gov.uk or to write directly to the Council.

4.0 Breakdown of Feedback Received

4.1 Feedback from the public has been received in the following ways:

- Correspondence
- Telephone comments
- e-mail comments
- views expressed in the open discussions at the Special Area Forum Conferences
- views expressed via comment cards at the Special Area Forum Conferences
- petitions received

4.2 In addition, there have been several unsolicited expressions of interest from individuals, groups and commercial interests in particular assets. It must be stressed that at this stage no such expressions of interest have been sought. Enquirers have been advised that their interest has been noted and that they will be contacted again once a final decision has been on the way forward with the review.

5.0 Collation of Responses

5.1 Public responses received up to 5pm on Tuesday 13 January are summarised in Appendix 2. Responses received by way of petitions, letters and emails have, where practical, been collated by reference to specific facilities. Responses given during the special area Forum Conferences have been collated by reference to type of facility.

- 5.2 The overwhelming majority of the views expressed throughout the consultation have been opposed to the overall Strategic Asset Review process and/or against the closure of individual facilities.
- 5.3 Members will note from Appendix 2 that a total of 34,830 responses were received, including 33,928 contained in petitions. Of these, 15,055 related to leisure centres; 16,535 related to libraries, 328 related to cultural facilities; 45 related to community centres; and 2,861 were general objections to the Strategic Asset Review.
- 5.4 In terms of specific sites, in addition to Woodchurch and Guinea Gap pools (petitions relating to leisure centres contain a total of 14910 signatories), high levels of opposition were recorded in petitions relating to Bromborough Civic Centre and Library (5096 signatories); Upton Library (2931); and Pensby Library (2243).
- 5.5 Key points that have emerged from the consultation include the following:
- The importance of leisure and cultural facilities in addressing a range of corporate priorities including tackling deprivation; health inequalities and supporting community cohesion;
 - Challenges that will be faced by local communities to access fewer but better facilities due to the limitations and cost of public transport; and
 - The importance of increasing the use of the full range of public sector assets – in particular the schools estate – to provide a wider range of access to sporting, leisure and cultural facilities for local communities.
- 5.6 In the light of the public consultation and responses received, a final decision is now required on the action to be taken for each of the assets covered by the review.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 In the event that changes are made to the Strategic Asset Review consultation proposals there will be financial implications. If assets are deleted from those previously recommended for disposal or transfer, the Council will need to find both the relevant budget savings (for staffing and operating costs), and to fund the relevant maintenance backlog and future anticipated maintenance implications.
- 6.2 The total maintenance figures for all properties proposed for closure/transfer in the Review are £6.2M for arrears and a further £6.2M for 10 years' future maintenance (a total of £12.4M). This £12.4M, combined with the annual savings of £3.7M, means the 'No Change' option would, in ten years, cost over £45M more than the recommended strategic consolidation. If the £12.4M maintenance liability is spread over 10 years, this adds £1.2M to the revenue budget and the consequential budget pressure becomes £4.9M.

7.0 Staffing implications

7.1 Where services are ceasing in individual facilities managers will work with staff affected and their trades unions effect changes in the workforce using the Council's framework of workforce change policies.

8.0 Equal opportunities implications

8.1 None arising directly from this report. However, during the consultation process, concerns were expressed in respect of swimming facilities for those persons with disabilities in the event the Review proposals were implemented.

9.0 Community safety implications

9.1 None arising directly from this report. However, during the consultation process, concerns were expressed in respect of possible increases in anti-social behaviour in the event the Review proposals were implemented.

10.0 Local Agenda 21 implications

10.1 The Council's asset base is a major source of CO2 emissions. By operating more effectively from a reduced number of assets it should be possible to reduce emissions. Clarity on the future asset base to be retained will also allow a further programme of investment to target CO2 reduction.

11.0 Planning implications

11.1 None arising directly from this report.

12.0 Anti-poverty implications

12.1 None arising directly from this report. However, during the consultation process, concerns were expressed in respect of possible adverse impact on anti-poverty initiatives in the event the Review proposals were implemented.

13.0 Social inclusion implications

13.1 None arising directly from this report. However, during the consultation process, concerns were expressed in respect of possible adverse impact on social inclusion in the event the Review proposals were implemented.

14.0 Background Papers

14.1 Cabinet report 27 November 2008 – Transforming Wirral – Delivering the Strategic Asset Review

15 RECOMMENDATION

15.1 That Members consider the consultation responses received and determine the appropriate way forward with the Strategic Asset Review.

Stephen Maddox
Chief Executive

Public Document Pack

**CULTURE, TOURISM AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 10 December 2008

Present: Councillor J Hale (Chair)

Councillors G Ellis S Taylor
P Reisdorf J Williams
T Smith

Deputies Councillors A Taylor (In place of M Redfern)

9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members were asked to consider whether they had personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they were.

Members were reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they were subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement. No declarations

10 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September, 2008 be accepted as a correct record.

11 TRANSFORMING WIRRAL - CULTURAL SERVICES STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Director of Regeneration submitted a report outlining the findings of a report "Strategic Development Plan for Leisure and Culture Services," which had been prepared by the consultants Strategic Leisure Ltd, together with the report of the Chief Executive "Delivering the Strategic Asset Review" setting out proposals for the strategic consolidation of the Council's asset base across the Borough, which was agreed in principle by Cabinet on 27 November, subject to public and staff consultation as described in the report, with results of that consultation brought back to a future meeting of Cabinet.

The Chair outlined the background to the above reports and the procedures that had led to this special meeting. He reported that under these proposals a dozen libraries, three leisure centres, four civic halls, two museums and a theatre, were threatened

with closure, and arrangements were also proposed for some community asset transfers.

He expressed his concern regarding the consultation arrangements and pointed out that this process was being held over the Christmas and New Year holiday period, with the outcome to be reported back to Cabinet on 15 January.

The Chair reported that he had received notification that a number of people wished to address the committee.

It was noted that Councillor Foulkes, Leader of the Council, had agreed to a short adjournment of the Cabinet meeting to allow him to participate in this special meeting and answer questions on the strategic asset review.

The Chair invited contributions from the speakers.

Mr P Reilly, Chair of Riverside Players, Heswall Amateur Dramatic Group

Mr Reilly raised a number of issues relating to transitional arrangements for community asset transfers and asked when the policy guidance would be available to voluntary and community groups.

The Director of Regeneration explained that this process was already underway. Meetings had been held with groups and other organisations wishing to take on the transfer responsibilities. The officers would provide professional support to assist this process, e.g. in developing business plans for future sustainability.

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management, advised the committee that funding would be available for the next two years to cover the interim arrangements for asset transfers.

Mr D Barke – Head Coach, Wallasey Swimming Club

Mr Barke expressed his concern that no contact had been made with the Club by the consultants, Strategic Leisure Limited. He asked for further information on costings between the current facilities and any proposed new facilities. He also asked for an assurance that all options would be considered regarding Guinea Gap, Woodchurch and Leasowe Leisure Centres because they provide a very important service.

The Director of Regeneration explained that the consultants had been commissioned to undertake a comprehensive review of service provision and work with specific focus groups. He outlined the reasons for the SAR and highlighted the cost implications in terms of major property repairs (£12.4m); failure to match the asset base to modern service needs during the next ten years (£45m) and the estimate of savings in building and staff costs by vacating the buildings identified in the report for closure or community transfer (£3.7m p.a.).

In summing up, Mr Barke asked the committee to listen to public opinion and take account of the importance of swimming as an essential part of the health and social inclusion agenda. He emphasised that swimming could also be a life-saver.

Mr Barke referred to the usage of Guinea Gap and asked if provision could be made for swimmers displaced from this facility.

The Director indicated that the swimming users could be accommodated across the range of facilities that were available within the Borough.

Mr L Thompson – Chief Coach, Woodchurch Swimming Club

Mr Thompson drew attention to the implications of pool closures in terms of the achievement of "healthier lifestyle" objectives, the withdrawal of free swim initiatives in some of the most deprived areas of the Borough, the role of swimming in the context of the school curriculum, and the role of local clubs and Wirral Metro in swimming development.

Ms H Butler – Representative of Upton Library

Ms Butler stated that Upton Library provided an essential service for four local housing estates and attracted some 6,000 users per year. It was regarded as "the soul of a growing community", and the proposed closure would have a catastrophic effect and destroy the community focus.

Ms C Sanderson – Member of Pensby Library User Group

Ms Sanderson explained that Pensby Library was at the heart of the local community. She outlined the range of services that were currently provided and emphasised the importance of the library in enriching people's lives and contributing to their educational development. This was an important resource for local schools and it also provided the means for children to complete their homework assignments.

Ms Sanderson stated that the closure proposals would have a detrimental effect on the health, safety and wellbeing of local residents. This would also create problems for the young/vulnerable/elderly members of the local community in accessing alternative facilities.

Mr J O'Neill – Hoylake Library

Mr O'Neill referred to his family's circumstances and the need to take account of the needs of service users with disabilities. He pointed out that a refurbishment scheme to Hoylake Library in 2005, at a cost of £28,000 had made it wheelchair accessible. However, current closure proposals meant that he would now have to revert to the previous practice of ordering books by telephone.

He asked the committee to consider the relatively small increase in Council Tax to maintain existing library services over the next two years, during which the Council could explore possible alternative sources of funding, e.g. Sustainable Communities. He also asked the committee to consider each library building individually.

Ms A Allison – Woodchurch Community Centre

Ms Allison reported that the centre was used to its full capacity and provided for a wide range of activities. It also included a voluntary vocational college and the Youth Inclusion Team.

She asked the committee to note that Woodchurch was a Super Output Area and the withdrawal of these important facilities would therefore exacerbate the problem of deprivation on the estate.

The Director of Regeneration referred to his ongoing discussions through the Neighbourhood Management Project regarding options for alternative uses and disposal.

Mr A Whelan – Woodchurch Community Centre and Leisure Centre

Mr Whelan stated that there was no evidence that these facilities were not sustainable. He referred to his experience of the use of these centres, indicating that they were very well used. He also commented on the benefits for the local community in terms of healthier lifestyles, education, and the prevention of crime and disorder.

He commented that both centres had established a good reputation and they provided suitable venues for a wide range of events.

Esther McVey, Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Wirral West Constituency

Reported receipt of a petition, containing 1500 signatures, from users of Irby Library, expressing their opposition to the closure proposal. She highlighted the consequences of taking this important facility away, both in terms of the effect on the local community and conflict with central government policies, e.g. "Every Child Matters", asked for clarification regarding the criteria for selecting library closures.

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management explained that the selection criteria involved detailed consideration of a number of key factors, including usage, current condition, whole life building costs and comparisons with other neighbouring local authorities regarding leisure provision. He also outlined the reasons for undertaking the Strategic Asset Review, which were set out in the report. He acknowledged that there were some very difficult choices to make in striking a balance between the limited financial resources that were available to meet all aspirations and the need to maintain affordable levels of Council Tax.

The Director referred to his consultations with the Director of Children's Services as part of the Strategic Asset Review process and confirmed that the Council would continue to meet all its obligations in line with "Every Child Matters".

Mr Tapping – Pacific Road Theatre

Mr Tapping stated that this was a relatively new purpose-built building which was in a good state of repair and therefore outside the remit of the SAR. He also pointed out that the theatre had established a good reputation for its events programme, e.g., the BBC was using this venue for its "Question Time" programme.

The Director of Regeneration explained that there were issues relating to the future management of this facility, particularly in the light of the Council's significant investment in the new Floral Pavilion Theatre. He reported that discussions were

being held with an alternative organisation to manage and run this facility as a legitimate way forward.

In response to a further question regarding the cost of contracts for artists who were due to appear at Pacific Road, the Director reported that this issue would be managed.

Councillor Leah Fraser – Liscard Ward Councillor

Councillor Fraser asked for further information regarding job losses as a result of the cuts.

The Director of Regeneration reported that it was not possible, at this stage, to provide exact figures. However, the Council had a good record in managing workforce change through its redeployment and EVR schemes and every effort would be made to accommodate this change over time.

Councillor Fraser commented on the effect that the proposals would have on local communities and people's livelihoods. She asked for a referral to Cabinet to review the consultation procedure and bring forward the February meetings of the area forums for this purpose.

Mr Bennion – Pacific Road Theatre

Mr Bennion explained that he was running a small business associated with the theatre and provided a service for musicians. He pointed out that the theatre provided modern facilities which were originally funded through the Hamilton Quarter to encourage art and crafts businesses in this area. The Director of Regeneration reported that there was an opportunity for an alternative organisation to run the theatre as an arts venue. He referred to his previous comments regarding discussions with an interested party and to the transitional arrangements for community-based provision.

Councillor Jeff Green – Conservative Group Leader

Councillor Green stated that councils are elected to protect services to the community and the Cabinet does not have the mandate to carry out these cuts. He suggested that there the alternative was - "Local quality services delivered locally"

He commented that the proposals would effectively close services in the localities and make residents pay for services that they can't access. He referred to the consequences of closing services that people both want and need.

Councillor Green referred to the current consultation process, which was taking place over the Christmas and New Year holiday period, and emphasised the need for more transparent and effective consultation through a full round of 11 Area Forums. He urged the committee to make strong recommendations to Cabinet to protect existing service provision.

Mr G Bradfield – Branch Officer, Wirral UNISON

Mr Bradfield stated that the proposed cuts were an act of corporate vandalism and would devastate local communities.

He highlighted the contributions made by libraries and sports centres as part of the education system and other key objectives such as healthier lifestyles. He commented that the cuts would effectively disenfranchise users and the withdrawal of diversionary activities would lead to an increase in social problems, such as anti-social behaviour, alcohol and drug abuse.

He reported that the purpose of consultation was to inform the debate before a decision was made. However, there was no consultation with UNISON and the proposed public consultation arrangements did not allow sufficient time for discussion of these important issues. He asked for a deferment of the officers' reports and more meaningful discussions with a view to bringing forward proposals for sustainable improvement.

The Chair invited contributions from the audience.

Ms S Hoey

Ms Hoey referred to the section of the Council's Corporate Plan 2008 dealing with "Improved Health and Wellbeing for All", showing increased figures for usage of leisure facilities. She commented that these figures conflicted with the statistics in the Cabinet report.

Ms G Small - Woodchurch Community Centre and Leisure Centre

Ms Small highlighted the importance of the Centre to the local community.

Councillor S Foulkes, Leader of the Council

Councillor Foulkes outlined the background to the Strategic Asset Review and highlighted some of the key points:

- The objective within the new Corporate Plan to stabilise the budget of the Authority and move towards an "excellent council"
- Consideration of the size of the Council's asset base compared to other neighbouring local authorities
- The requirement of the District Auditor for the Council to make ongoing revenue savings
- The need to rationalise services and put real investment into the services that remain to provide top-class facilities.

Ms M Cooke, School Governor, Beechwood Estate

Ms Cooke referred to the effect of the cuts on educational standards and communications which directly effect schools. She reported that Beechwood was an

area of severe deprivation and access to library and pool facilities was needed to meet the requirements of the school curriculum and also provide opportunities for the upskilling of parents on this estate. She asked the committee to further consider some of the current proposals to take account of the needs of the local community

Ms V Curtis – Pensby Library

Ms Curtis raised objections to these proceedings and the consultation arrangements. She referred to her experience as a regular user of Pensby Library and emphasised the need for the continuation of existing library facilities for the benefit of local communities.

Mrs Hopgood – Community Transfers

In response to a question from Mrs Hopgood regarding the future of land and buildings transferred to local communities, the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management confirmed that the recommendations arising from the Strategic Asset Review provided for a two-year transitional period to explore long-term solutions with interested community groups, and that this would include assistance with business plans to make these transfers work.

Mr N Hazlehurst – Guinea Gap

Mr Hazlehurst referred to his involvement with swimming development over a number of years, and to the attendance figures for schoolchildren receiving swimming tuition as part of the National Curriculum at Guinea Gap, Leasowe and Woodchurch. He reported that the Oval was fully-booked, leaving only West Kirby Concourse and Europa Pools as alternative facilities.

The Director of Regeneration reported that this issue would be examined with schools and group users.

Ms L Trent – Diversionary Activities

Ms Trent emphasized the importance of alternative activities to prevent anti-social behaviour and crime and disorder.

Ms M Camborne

Ms Camborne commented that Culture and Leisure Services were an essential part of local communities and suggested that an approach be made to central government for money to protect these essential local services as part of the vision set out in the Sustainable Communities Act.

Mr J Taylor – Branch Secretary – Wirral UNISON

Mr Taylor pointed out that there had been no consultations with the trade unions or staff regarding these proposals. He wanted the services to remain in the public domain and asked for the consultation period to be extended to allow proper and meaningful discussions.

The Chair thanked the public for their attendance at this meeting.

It was moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Ellis :-

"(1) That Cabinet withdraws its closure programme and that any future proposals be subject to genuine consultation through the normal Area Forums.

(2) That staff and user organisations be consulted over a realistic timescale on the understanding that future proposals should not entail reductions in the levels of service or accessibility."

It was moved as an amendment by Councillor Williams and seconded by Councillor Smith that:-

" This committee recognises that Council is faced with some very difficult decisions and that feelings are understandably running high in the community.

Committee notes that this is the start of a period of consultation in which all views can be expressed and urges members of the public to take full advantage of this period to express their views, which will be given full consideration and may enable the Council to reach creative solutions to difficult problems which will ultimately benefit the whole community of Wirral."

The amendment was put and carried (4:3)

Resolved (4:3) – That

" This committee recognises that Council is faced with some very difficult decisions and that feelings are understandably running high in the community.

Committee notes that this is the start of a period of consultation in which all views can be expressed and urges members of the public to take full advantage of this period to express their views, which will be given full consideration and may enable the Council to reach creative solutions to difficult problems which will ultimately benefit the whole community of Wirral."

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CORPORATE SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 17 December 2008

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>Present:</u> | Councillor | L Fraser (Chair) | |
| | Councillors | C Teggin J Crabtree K Wood | P Southwood J Keeley |
| <u>Deputies</u> | Councillors | J Salter (In place of C Meaden) | |
| <u>Apologies</u> | Councillors | C Meaden | |

36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members were asked to consider whether they had personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they were.

Councillor L Fraser declared a personal interest in respect of minute 37 Strategic Asset Review by virtue of her membership of the Liscard Community Centre Joint Management Committee.

Councillor J Keeley declared a personal interest in respect of minute 37 Strategic Asset Review by virtue of his membership of the Liscard Community Centre Joint Management Committee.

Councillor J Crabtree declared a personal interest in respect of minute 37 Strategic Asset Review by virtue of his membership of the Birkenhead St James Trust Management Committee.

Members were reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they were subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement. No such declarations were made.

37 TRANSFORMING WIRRAL - STRATEGIC ASSET REVIEW

Further to minute 33 (2/12/08) the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management, gave a presentation comprising an overview of the report "Delivering the Strategic Asset Review" which set out proposals for the strategic consolidation of the Council's asset base across the Borough, and was agreed in principle by Cabinet on 27 November, subject to public and staff consultation as described in the report, with results of that consultation brought back to a further meeting of Cabinet on 15 January.

The Directors of Law, HR and Asset Management, and of Regeneration, responded to questions from members regarding proposals for the Pacific Road Theatre, Leasowe Recreation Centre, The Grange and the Warren Golf Course, and the future of the Guinea Gap site as part of a potential regeneration scheme involving the use of existing land and buildings around Wallasey Town Hall to promote the regeneration of the 'Seacombe/ Egremont Corridor.'

The Director of Regeneration reported upon the current position regarding the staffing implications associated with the SAR insofar as they affect his department. He reported that every effort was being made to minimise the impact on staff and the Council had a good record in managing workforce change through its redeployment and EVR schemes.

The Directors of Corporate Services and of Law, HR and Asset Management, reported that the review of office accommodation was in progress and further reports would be presented to Cabinet on more detailed proposals for accommodation change, including centralisation of current facilities management arrangements.

There was a general discussion concerning the consultation process and ways of engaging people in the Strategic Asset Review.

The Director of Corporate Services responded to questions concerning the consultation process. He explained that arrangements had been made to implement the Cabinet resolution and take the consultation process forward through four special area forum conferences which would give people the opportunity to find out more about the SAR proposals.

It was moved by Councillor Southwood and seconded by Councillor Crabtree that

"This committee recognises the importance of having an asset base which fulfils the needs of the local community. It also recognises the high and increasing costs of maintaining the current buildings.

We welcome the fact that Council has conducted an Asset Review, as this is something that this committee has itself highlighted the need for, and look forward to the review being extended to cover office buildings. However, we recognise the feelings of uncertainty that have resulted amongst service users and impacted staff.

We call on Cabinet to ensure that the proposed consultation ensures that these concerns are addressed and that the needs of the communities continue to be met.

Finally, we welcome the considerable and wide-ranging efforts that Cabinet is making to bring the budget under control and minimise council tax charges to local people".

The motion was put and carried (4:3).

It was moved by Councillor Fraser and seconded by Councillor Wood that

"We do not agree in principle, or in any other way, with the recommendation of the Strategic Asset Review and therefore recommend that Cabinet withdraws its closure programme and any future proposals.

The motion was put and lost (3:4).

It was moved by Councillor Fraser and seconded by Councillor Keeley:

That Cabinet be requested to consider the following recommendations;

- (1) Where any future regeneration proposals involve the possible closure of council buildings, those proposals be brought to the appropriate scrutiny committee before public consultation commences.
- (2) No building will be closed and no service removed until such time that the alternative provision is operational and available to the people of Wirral.
- (3) That staff and user organisations be consulted over a realistic timescale on the understanding that future proposals should not entail reductions in the levels of service and accessibility.

The motion was put and lost (3:4). (Councillors Fraser, Keeley and Wood dissenting).

Resolved (4:3)

This committee recognises the importance of having an asset base which fulfils the needs of the local community. It also recognises the high and increasing costs of maintaining the current buildings.

We welcome the fact that Council has conducted an Asset Review, as this is something that this committee has itself highlighted the need for, and look forward to the review being extended to cover office buildings. However, we recognise the feelings of uncertainty that have resulted amongst service users and impacted staff.

We call on Cabinet to ensure that the proposed consultation ensures that these concerns are addressed and that the needs of the communities continue to be met.

Finally, we welcome the considerable and wide-ranging efforts that Cabinet is making to bring the budget under control and minimise council tax charges to local people.

38 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In response to a question from the Chair, the Director of Corporate Services agreed to investigate a problem which had arisen with a recent press release when the normal procedure for emailing councillors simultaneously had not been followed.

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FINANCE AND BEST VALUE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 7 January 2009

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Present:</u> | Councillor | P Gilchrist (Chair) | |
| | Councillors | J George D Knowles D Elderton | J Hale R Wilkins |
| <u>Deputies</u> | Councillors | P Hayes (In place of S Moseley) | |

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members were asked to consider whether they had personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they were.

Members were reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they were subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

Councillors George, Gilchrist, Hale and Wilkins declared their personal interest in agenda item 2 (Transforming Wirral – Strategic Asset Review), insofar as they were members of various management committees that could be affected by the outcome of the Strategic Asset Review.

44 TRANSFORMING WIRRAL - STRATEGIC ASSET REVIEW

At the request of the Chair, the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management presented the Cabinet report of the Chief Executive on the Strategic Asset Review (SAR) (Cabinet minute 264 (27 November 2008) refers), which had been referred to this Committee for scrutiny. The report set out a vision for transforming Wirral's use of assets in order to improve service delivery; provide better value for money; and support the regeneration of the Borough, particularly its most deprived parts. It recommended investing £20m, over four years, to develop a strategic network of 12 state-of-the-art multi-purpose complexes, which would be a mix of brand new buildings and enhancements to existing facilities. To achieve the level of service improvement, whilst simultaneously controlling overall buildings related costs, required a strategic review of all the Council's properties and a reduction in the total number of publicly funded premises. The vision for the future contained within the report was of much improved facilities, but not as many Council maintained buildings.

Information was presented to the Committee in relation to net savings to be made on closure/transfer of assets, which amounted to approximately £3.7m per annum. A

more detailed analysis was also presented in relation to potential savings through the closure of libraries and sports centres.

The Director set out the seven administrative assets identified by the Review Group that were programmed for closure and disposal in 2009/2010 and he provided a breakdown of the calculation of £45m cost of the 'no change' option, which had not been recommended. In response to comments from members, he indicated that the net savings of £3.7m per annum had not been a target, but had been identified as a result of the Strategic Consolidation option recommended by the Review Group, subject to closure or transfer by 31 March 2009. He commented also that without the SAR, the Audit Commission Use of Resources assessment would likely drop from 2 to a 1 of 4 rating, which would have a further detrimental knock-on effect. He accepted that the preferred option was a subjective judgement, but commented that if the no change option had been preferred, compensatory savings would have to be identified elsewhere, in order for the Council to set a balanced budget.

The Chair had also requested the presentation of reports that had been considered by the Cabinet on 16 August 2007 and 13 March 2008, which contained information in relation to the backlog of major property repairs of £10m. On the advice of the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management, the Committee agreed that the exempt report of the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Services (Property Performance Management) should be considered in open Committee, and copies were made available to members of the public who were in attendance.

The Director of Regeneration provided information in relation to comparisons that had been made with other local authorities with regard to the provision of libraries and sports centres. However, the demography of Wirral and the availability of public transportation had also been taken into account. In the light of comments made by members in relation to difficulties that would be faced by some residents, the Chair expressed the view that the Cabinet should be requested to re-assess the demographic and transport issues.

In response to a further comment from a member that Wirral should have a capital programme of progressive and extensive rejuvenation clarification was sought over what could be classed as capital expenditure. The Director of Finance advised that the capital accounting regulations required that for spend to be classed as capital it had to add value to, or enhance the length of life of, an asset. General repairs and maintenance could not be capitalised although other expenditure could be if it complied with the statutory definition. The Chair expressed the view that the Cabinet be requested to look at the £20m now available in the Capital Programme to see if this could be utilised to assist in extending the life of existing facilities.

The Director reported that the Review Group had undertaken a review of office accommodation. To help fund the costs of delivering the proposed multi-purpose complexes, the Council would achieve at least a 20 per cent reduction in its own accommodation costs by 2011. He commented that this would mean fewer office buildings through the greater use of open plan accommodation; a reduced average floor space per employee; increased desk sharing; and more flexible working. By 2011, those measures would save over £1m per annum, which was equivalent to a one per cent reduction in Council Tax.

The Chair commented that the public may not generally be aware of the £12m per annum cost of running sports centres compared to the income generated of £4m per annum and he expressed the view that funding should be sought from the PCT in view of the health benefits to be gained from increased use of swimming and exercise facilities. The Director of Regeneration reported that funding of £200k over two years had been obtained from DCMS for free swimming for over 60's and under 16's. In addition, Wirral Health had funded the use of gym equipment by young people. However, it was unlikely that further funding would be obtained from the PCT. The Director referred to the high success rate of Wirral schoolchildren learning to swim and the Chair expressed the view that the Cabinet should consider whether it was satisfied that Wirral would have suitable levels of provision for swimming and other sports facilities to accommodate the needs of service users.

It was moved by Councillor Hale and seconded by Councillor Elderton –

"That this Committee recommends that the proposed closure programme be withdrawn, and –

(i) That the £6.2m repairs required for buildings be investigated to see if those repairs in part or in full can be capitalised.

(ii) That the savings from office buildings be brought forward as a priority.

(iii) That it be noted that the £20m proposed for new buildings may not be required, saving £1.8m per annum after 4 years.

(iv) That the balance of any savings required be subject to further investigation without affecting the present accessibility by the public to leisure and cultural facilities, such investigations to include discussion with the PCT."

It was moved as an amendment by Councillor Gilchrist and seconded by Councillor George –

"(1) That this Committee requests the Cabinet to review the suggested proposals, having regard to the following and to the Council's overall financial position:

(i) That the £6.2m repairs required for buildings be investigated to see if those repairs in part or in full can be capitalised.

(ii) That the savings from office buildings be brought forward as a priority.

(iii) That it be noted that the £20m proposed for new buildings may not be required in its entirety.

(iv) That the Cabinet be requested to have regard to accessibility issues raised by members of the public and to consider the criteria applied in drawing up provision in the Strategic Asset Review."

The amendment was put and carried (4:3)

Resolved (Councillors Elderton, Hale and Hayes dissenting in respect of (1) below) –

(1) That this Committee requests the Cabinet to review the suggested proposals, having regard to the following and to the Council's overall financial position:

(i) That the £6.2m repairs required for buildings be investigated to see if those repairs in part or in full can be capitalised.

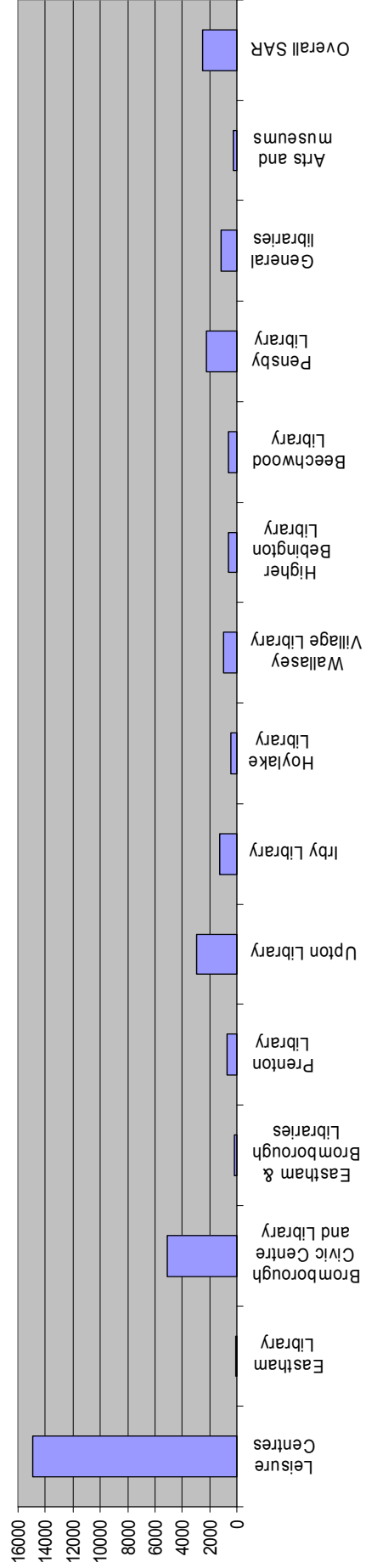
(ii) That the savings from office buildings be brought forward as a priority.

(iii) That it be noted that the £20m proposed for new buildings may not be required in its entirety.

(iv) That the Cabinet be requested to have regard to accessibility issues raised by members of the public and to consider the criteria applied in drawing up provision in the Strategic Asset Review.

Petitions feedback

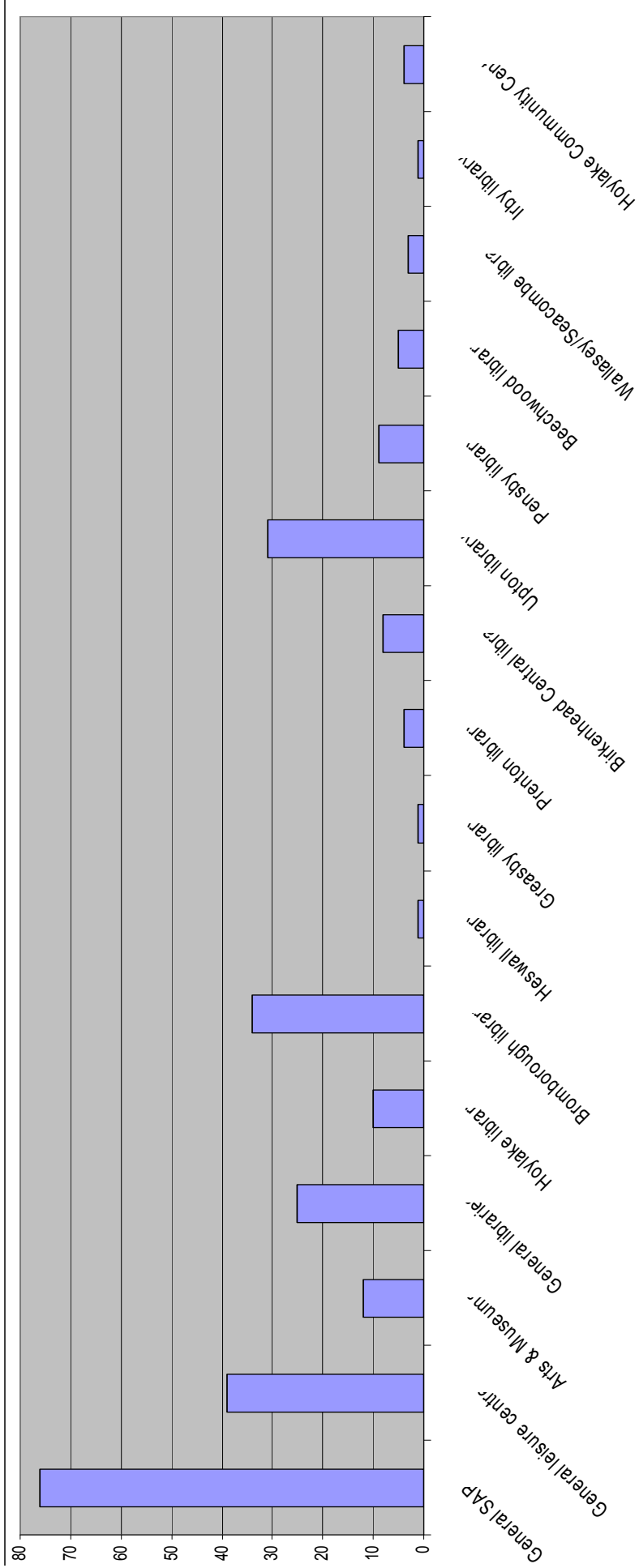
| PETITIONS (by facility) | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Leisure Centres | 14910 |
| Eastham Library | 81 |
| Bromborough Civic Centre and Library | 5096 |
| Eastham & Bromborough Libraries | 166 |
| Prenton Library | 738 |
| Upton Library | 2931 |
| Irby Library | 1295 |
| Hoylake Library | 418 |
| Wallasey Village Library | 951 |
| Higher Bebington Library | 634 |
| Beechwood Library | 582 |
| Pensby Library | 2243 |
| General libraries | 1125 |
| Arts and museums | 288 |
| Overall SAR | 2470 |
| TOTAL | 33928 |



Letters & Emails

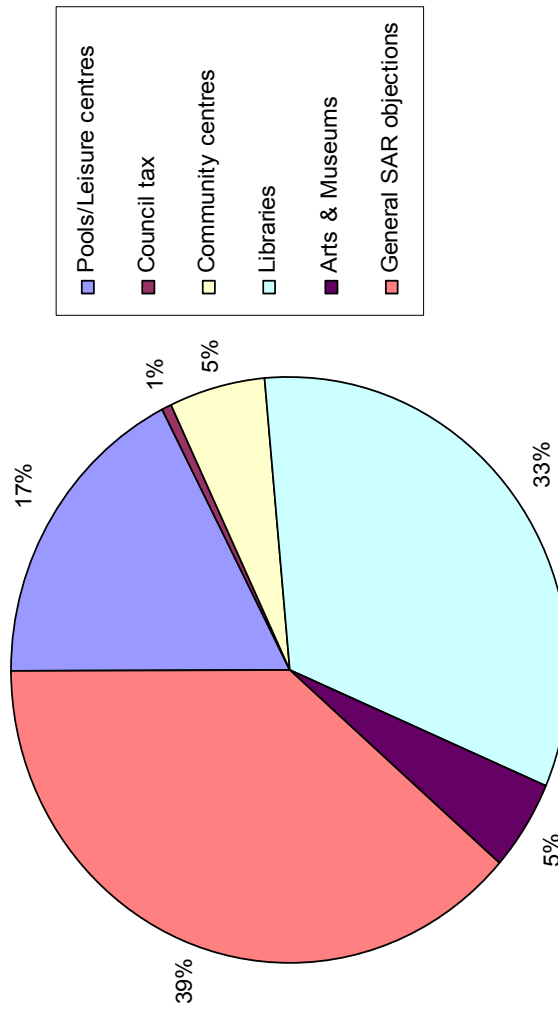
| LETTERS & EMAILS | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| General SAR | 76 |
| General leisure centres | 39 |
| Arts & Museums | 12 |
| General libraries | 25 |
| Hoylake library | 10 |
| Bromborough library | 34 |
| Heswall library | 1 |
| Greasby library | 1 |
| Prenton library | 4 |
| Birkenhead Central library | 8 |
| Upton library | 31 |
| Pensby library | 9 |
| Beechwood library | 5 |
| Wallasey/Seacombe library | 3 |
| Irby library | 1 |
| Hoylake Community Centre | 4 |
| TOTAL | 263 |

Letters & Emails



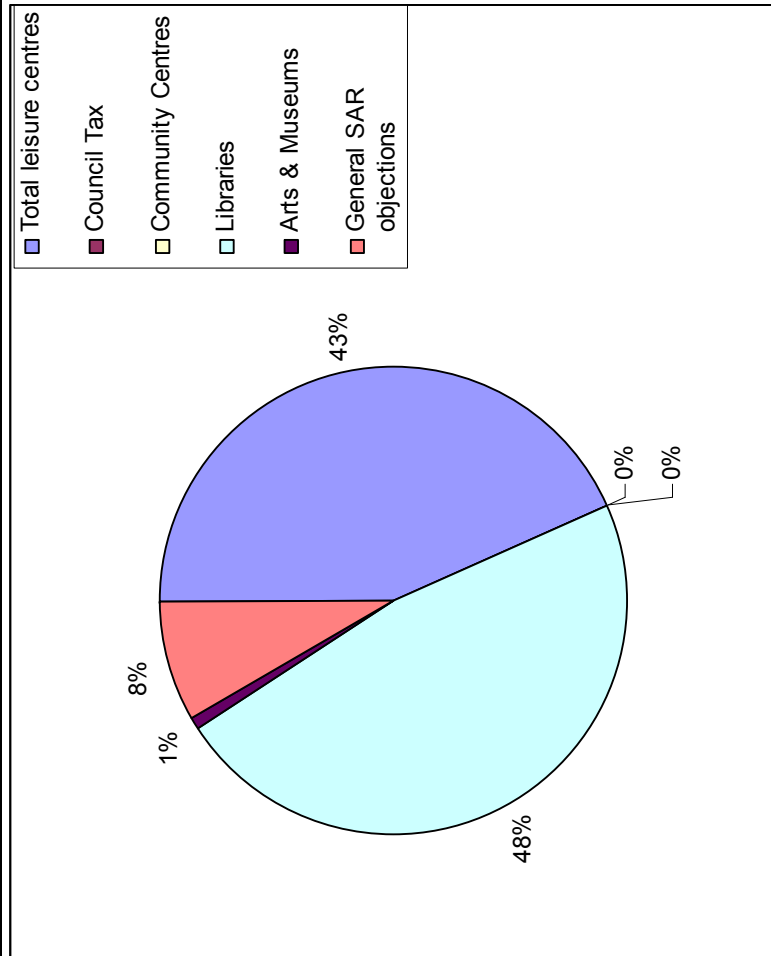
Special Area Forum Conferences

| Meeting | Number of speakers recorded | Pools/Leisure centres | Council tax | Community centres | Libraries | Arts & Museums | General SAR objections | Total number of issues raised |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Hulme Hall | 29 | | | 4 | 12 | 3 | 24 | 43 |
| Lauries Centre | 26 | 10 | | 1 | 4 | 6 | 17 | 38 |
| Floral Pavilion | 29 | 17 | | | 6 | 2 | 10 | 35 |
| West Kirby | 27 | 23 | | | 10 | 2 | 19 | 54 |
| Feedback cards | | 95 | 6 | 40 | 243 | 27 | 253 | 664 |
| TOTALS | 111 | 145 | 6 | 45 | 275 | 40 | 323 | 834 |



Consultation totals

| Category | Postcard Comments - from public meetings | Questions/ comments from public meetings | Petitions | Calls logged by call centre | Totals |
|------------------------|---|---|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Total leisure centres | 95 | 50 | 14,910 | | 15,055 |
| Council Tax | 6 | 0 | | | 6 |
| Community Centres | 40 | 5 | | | 45 |
| Libraries | 243 | 32 | 16,260 | | 16,535 |
| Arts & Museums | 27 | 13 | 288 | | 328 |
| General SAR objections | 253 | 70 | 2,470 | 68 | 2,861 |
| TOTAL | 664 | 170 | 33,928 | 68 | 34,830 |



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