



Council

Town Hall
Wallasey

29 June, 2018

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at **6.00 p.m. on Monday, 9 July 2018** in the Council Chamber, within the Town Hall, Wallasey, to take into consideration and determine upon the following subjects :

This meeting will be webcast at
<https://wirral.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Contact Officer: Andrew Mossop
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AGENDA

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

3. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 8)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting(s) of the Council held on 14 and 15 May, 2018 (Annual Council).

4. PETITIONS

To receive petitions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 21.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

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

6. LEADER'S, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' AND CHAIRS REPORTS

To receive questions and answers on these reports in accordance with Standing Orders 10(2)(a) and 11.

A. Cabinet Portfolio Summary Report (Pages 9 - 66)

Attached is the Cabinet Portfolio Summary Report with the Annual Report of the 2020 Plan and a report on the Council's priorities for 2018/19.

B. Statutory Scrutiny Officer's, 'Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18' (Pages 67 - 96)

7. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

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

8. VACANCIES

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

STATUTORY COMMITTEES AND PANELS

Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education (SACRE)
Councillor Liz Grey to replace Brian Kenny

OUTSIDE BODIES

Northern Housing Consortium / NW Housing Forum
Councillor George Davies

9. MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL OR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

To consider and determine recommendations of the Executive, Overview and Scrutiny Committees or Council Committees which require the approval or consideration of the Council.

A. Council Constitution Update (Pages 97 - 142)

Council Constitution Update – with reference to Audit and Risk Management Committee, 12 March 2018 (Minute 68 refers) and Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee, 12 June 2018 (Minute 6 refers)

The Council is recommended to confirm the inclusion of amended Contract Procedure Rules in the Council Constitution and note the intention to undertake a major review of the Constitution.

B. Adoption of the Model Council Members' Planning Code (Pages 143 - 154)

Adoption of the Model Planning Code - Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee, 12 June, 2018 (Minute 4 refers), supported by Planning Committee, 21 June, 2018 (Minute 24 refers)

The Council is asked to adopt the Model Planning Code and agree inclusion of the Code in the Council Constitution.

C. Fee Setting for 2018/19 - Cabinet, 26 March, 2018 (minute 99 refers) (Pages 155 - 156)

The Council is recommended to approve the increased cost of £2.9m for fee rates for services provided for adults and older people in Wirral to be met by the Social Care Precept element of Council Tax.

The report and appendices can be viewed on the Council website [here](#).

D. Wirral Core Strategy Local Plan - Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study - Cabinet, 26 March, 2018 (minute 102 refers) (Pages 157 - 158)

The Council is recommended to agree to the Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study 2017 being approved as a material consideration for use by the Planning Committee in the determination of planning applications.

The report and appendices can be viewed on the Council website [here](#).

10. NOTICES OF MOTION (Pages 159 - 168)

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

1. Tackling Poverty among Women and Girls on Low Incomes
2. Keeping Wirral Parks and Coastal Areas Available for the Many not the Few
3. Better Access to Hospital
4. Support for National Action to Tackle Obesity
5. Campaign for a People's Vote
6. Remembering Srebrenica
7. Our NHS at 70

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. G. G.', written in a cursive style.

Director: Governance and Assurance

Audio/Visual Recording of Meetings

Everyone is welcome to record meetings of the Council and its Committees using non-disruptive methods. For particular meetings we may identify a 'designated area' for you to record from. If you have any questions about this please contact Committee and Civic Services (members of the press please contact the Press Office). Please note that the Chair of the meeting has the discretion to halt any recording for a number of reasons, including disruption caused by the filming or the nature of the business being conducted.

Persons making recordings are requested not to put undue restrictions on the material produced so that it can be reused and edited by all local people and organisations on a non-commercial basis.

COUNCIL

Monday, 14 May 2018

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

Councillors	RL Abbey	P Gilchrist	B Mooney
	T Anderson	JE Green	C Muspratt
	B Berry	L Grey	T Norbury
	C Blakeley	P Hackett	M Patrick
	A Brame	P Hayes	C Povall
	P Brightmore	A Hodson	L Rennie
	D Burgess-Joyce	K Hodson	T Smith
	K Cannon	AER Jones	J Stapleton
	C Carubia	C Jones	P Stuart
	W Clements	S Jones	M Sullivan
	T Cottier	T Jones	T Usher
	A Davies	Jordan	J Walsh
	P Davies	S Kelly	S Whittingham
	WJ Davies	B Kenny	I Williams
	P Doughty	A Leech	KJ Williams
	D Elderton	I Lewis	S Williams
	G Ellis	C Meaden	J Williamson
	S Foulkes	M McLaughlin	G Wood
	S Frost	J McManus	
	Gardner	D Mitchell	

Apologies Councillors P Cleary L Rowlands
T Cox C Spriggs
G Davies A Sykes

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Members of the Council were invited to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any matters to be determined at this meeting and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of such interest.

No such declarations were made.

2 CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Civic Mayor noted that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pat Cleary, Tony Cox, George Davies, Les Rowlands, Chris Spriggs and Adam Sykes.

The Civic Mayor congratulated Tranmere Rovers FC on their success in returning to the Football League.

The Civic Mayor thanked all those within the Council and throughout the Borough who had supported her and her Consort in the wide variety of activities which they had undertaken throughout her year of office. In particular, the Civic Mayor thanked Sue Carroll in the Civic Services office and Sonia Norman and also Carol Jackson and Barbara Turner for all their work with the Civic Mayor's Charity Fund. She also thanked her Cadets, Thomas Gratton and Chloe Hewitt. She expressed her thanks to Nick Greenlees who had now retired from his post of Mayoral Attendant and thanked Paul Stead who had taken over the role. She referred to some of the highlights of approximately 400 engagements which she and her Consort had undertaken.

3 **ELECTION OF CIVIC MAYOR 2018/19**

The Civic Mayor invited nominations for election of the Civic Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

On a motion moved by Councillor Ian Lewis, seconded by Councillor Phil Davies and, in the absence of any other nominations, it was:

Resolved (unanimously) – That Councillor Geoffrey Watt be elected Civic Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral for the 2018/19 municipal year.

Councillor Watt proceeded to make his declaration of acceptance of office and the retiring Civic Mayor, Councillor McLachlan vacated the Chair. Councillor Watt occupied the Chair.

The new Civic Mayor welcomed his guests and spoke to his election.

4 **DEPUTY CIVIC MAYOR 2018/19**

The Civic Mayor invited nominations for the appointment of a Deputy Civic Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

On a motion moved by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor Ian Lewis, and in the absence of any other nominations, it was:

Resolved (unanimously) – That Councillor Tony Smith be appointed Deputy Civic Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral for the 2018/19 municipal year.

Councillor Smith proceeded to make his declaration of acceptance of office.

COUNCIL

Tuesday, 15 May 2018

Present: The Civic Mayor (Councillor Geoffrey Watt) in the Chair
Deputy Civic Mayor (Councillor Tony Smith)

Councillors	RL Abbey	S Frost	B Mooney
	T Anderson	Gardner	C Muspratt
	B Berry	P Gilchrist	T Norbury
	C Blakeley	Grey	M Patrick
	Brame	P Hackett	C Povall
	P Brightmore	P Hayes	L Rennie
	D Burgess-Joyce	A Hodson	L Rowlands
	Cannon	K Hodson	J Stapleton
	C Carubia	AER Jones	P Stuart
	P Cleary	C Jones	M Sullivan
	W Clements	T Jones	A Sykes
	Cottier	Jones	T Usher
	Cox	Jordan	J Walsh
	A Davies	S Kelly	W Ward
	G Davies	B Kenny	S Whittingham
	P Davies	A Leech	I Williams
	WJ Davies	I Lewis	KJ Williams
	P Doughty	C Meaden	S Williams
	D Elderton	M McLaughlin	J Williamson
	G Ellis	J McManus	G Wood
	S Foulkes	D Mitchell	

Apologies Councillors JE Green C Spriggs

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No such declarations were made.

6 CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Civic Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting, including the public, the re-elected Members and the newly elected Members, Councillors Allan Brame, Kate Cannon, Tony Cottier, Tony Cox, Samantha Frost, Andrew Gardner, Liz Grey, Sharon Jones and Mary Jordan.

The Civic Mayor noted that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jeff Green and Chris Spriggs.

The Civic Mayor referred to the meeting being webcast and the use of temporary microphones, it was expected that the system, including electronic voting would be fully operational in time for the July Council meeting.

The Civic Mayor also referred to the celebration reception for Tranmere Rovers FC on Wednesday evening, 16 May at Birkenhead Town Hall and a Civic event for the Tall Ships parade of sail on Monday, 28 May at the Floral Pavilion.

7 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 March, 2018 had been circulated to Members and, it was –

Resolved – That the minutes be approved and adopted as a correct record.

8 PETITIONS

No petitions were submitted.

9 ELECTION RESULTS - 3 MAY 2018

The Chief Executive / Returning Officer presented a summary of the results of the Local Government Elections held on 3 May 2018.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

10 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Leader of the Council confirmed appointments to his Cabinet for 2018/19 as follows:

Portfolio	Councillor	Party	Ward
Leader (Overall strategic direction of the Council; Lead the Wirral Partnership; Lead Wirral across Liverpool City Region)	Phil Davies Leader of the Council	Labour	Birkenhead and Tranmere
Housing and Planning	George Davies Deputy Leader	Labour	Claughton
Children and Families	Bernie Mooney	Labour	Liscard

Adult Care and Health	Christine Jones	Labour	Seacombe
Environment	Matthew Patrick	Labour	Upton
Finance and Resources	Janette Williamson	Labour	Liscard
Highways and Transport	Stuart Whittingham	Labour	Upton
Jobs and Growth	Angela Davies	Labour	Prenton
Law and Order	Paul Stuart	Labour	Seacombe
Leisure and Recreation	Phillip Brightmore	Labour	Pensby and Thingwall

The Leader outlined the changes he had made to some of the Cabinet portfolios and the new Cabinet portfolios he had introduced, further details of these portfolios would be published in the next few days.

11 **APPOINTMENT AND CONSTITUTION OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES FOR 2018/19**

The Council was requested to consider the report of the Director of Governance and Assurance on the appointment and Constitution of the Council's Committees and the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs to such Committees.

It was moved by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor George Davies, and

Resolved (63:0) (One abstention) –

(1) That for the 2018/19 municipal year the total number of Committee places (excluding those on the Cabinet and Constituency Committees) shall be 133 and the places shall be allocated in the following proportions:

Committee	Places	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Dem.	Green
Audit and Risk Management	9	5	3	1	-
Employment and Appointments	8	5	2	1	-
Licensing Act 2003 Committee	15	10	4	1	-
Licensing, Health and Safety and GP	9	5	3	1	-
Pensions	10	6	3	0	1
Planning	13	7	4	1	1
Standards and CO	9	5	3	1	-

Adult Care and Health O & S	15	9	5	1	-
Business O & S	15	9	5	1	-
Children and Families O & S	15	9	5	1	-
Environment O & S	15	9	5	1	-
Total	133	79	42	10	2

(2) That the Chairs of the above Committees be allocated to the Labour Group along with the Vice-Chairs

(3) That the nominations for places on committees be submitted by the respective Political Group Leaders to the Director of Governance and Assurance and be as set out in Appendix A to the minutes of this meeting.

(4) That the ongoing nominations of Diocesan and Parent Governor representatives on the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

12 **APPOINTMENTS TO STATUTORY AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND PANELS 2018/19**

The Council was requested to consider the report of the Director of Governance and Assurance on appointments to Statutory and Advisory Committees, Working Parties and Panels.

It was moved by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor George Davies, and

Resolved (63:0) (One abstention) - That the numbers be agreed for each appointment to Statutory and Advisory Committees, Working Parties and Panels for the 2018/2019 municipal year, including the proportional split where appropriate, and the nominations be submitted by the respective Political Group Leaders to the Director of Governance and Assurance and be as set out in Appendix B to the minutes of this meeting.

13 **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS (AND / OR OTHER INDIVIDUALS) TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS 2018/19**

The Council was requested to consider the report of the Director of Governance and Assurance on the appointment of Members (and/or other individuals) to Outside Bodies and Organisations.

It was moved by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor George Davies and –

Resolved (63:0) (One abstention) - That the numbers be agreed for each appointment of Members (and/or other individuals) to all Outside Bodies for the 2018/2019 municipal year, including the proportional split, where appropriate, and the nominations be submitted by the respective Political Group Leaders (and Chief Executive in respect of Council Officer nominations) to the Director of Governance and Assurance and be as set out in Appendix C to the minutes of this meeting.

Appendix A - Committee Membership 2018/19

Appendix B - Statutory and Advisory Committees 2018-19

Appendix C(1) - Outside Bodies 2018-19

Appendix C(2) - Appointments made by the Executive

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COUNCIL
9 JULY 2018

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Leader of the Council and all Cabinet Members to Members of the Council on matters relevant to all portfolio areas.

Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of Wirral Council, said:

“It is now three years since we created the Wirral Plan – the first ever shared set of priorities and goals which the Council, the private, public and voluntary sectors committed to own and deliver together. I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved since then.

“While we are not without our challenges, it is clear we are making a huge difference to people’s lives all across the borough, and we are finding ever more imaginative ways to do more with less. We made a commitment when we first agreed this plan to report back to Wirral residents – to keep residents informed, and give open, honest appraisals of our progress so we can be held to account on the promises we made.

“In our Wirral Plan Annual Review you will see countless examples of where the 20 Pledges are making a difference to residents’ lives. The report highlights where we are making those impacts, but does not shy away from where we still have work to do.

“The Wirral Council Delivery Plan sets out our stall for the coming year. It provides a clear commitment to Wirral residents on what we will deliver in the coming twelve months: a relentless focus on our 20 Pledges combined with ensuring we deliver on those things most important to our residents.

“I am proud of the progress we have made, and excited about our future plans. I encourage everyone to read these reports.”

REPORT SUMMARY

This report supports the commitment made in the Wirral 2020 Plan to report back on progress to our residents on the pledges we made. The Wirral Partnership consists of every major public agency in Wirral, alongside large employers and many community and voluntary organisations who have signed up to jointly deliver the Wirral Plan. The Partnership is now three years into delivering the Wirral 2020 Plan.

There are two documents attached to this report. The first is the Annual Report of the Wirral 2020 Plan, and the second sets out the Council’s priorities for 2018/19.

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WIRRAL PLAN 2020: ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

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FOREWORD

“It is absolutely clear: the 20 Pledges we committed to back in 2015 are making an impact. This Annual Review demonstrates how.”

It is now three years since we first created the Wirral Plan – the first ever shared set of priorities and goals which the Council, the private, public and voluntary sectors committed to own and deliver together.

Since then, the progress we have made in many areas has been nothing short of remarkable. Wirral residents are beginning to benefit from integrated NHS and social care services, we have launched a unique joint community safety service with Merseyside Police and, in perhaps the most ambitious and entrepreneurial move in the history of this borough, we have formed Wirral Growth Company, which will create more than 3,000 new jobs for our residents in the next three years.

We know we still have challenges to overcome, but it is clear we are making a huge difference to residents' lives and we should be proud of our achievements. We are becoming more imaginative, more creative and more commercial in our thinking as we continue to find ways of doing more with less.

We made a commitment when we first agreed this Plan to report back to Wirral residents – to keep residents informed, and give open, honest appraisals of our progress so we can be held to account on the promises we made.

I am proud to report more than 3000 jobs created, 1305 new businesses, 1600 new homes, and more than 2400 homes improved or brought back into use. These successes would not have been possible without the strength of our Partnership in Wirral – all public agencies working together to make this borough a better place to live.

We're also continuing to get 'the basics' right, and in the past twelve months we have recycled more than 40,000 tonnes of household waste, we have helped more than 20,000 residents with adult social care services, supported 156,239 residents through our One Stop Shops and resurfaced many miles of road, filling 266 potholes along the way. I am delighted we have been able to commit to replacing all 27,000 streetlights in the borough with modern, energy-efficient, environmentally friendly LED lighting.

It is absolutely clear: the 20 Pledges we committed to back in 2015 are making an impact. This Annual Review demonstrates how.

Through reading this document you will see how every member of the Wirral Partnership has made an impact in improving the lives of residents. You will see the benefits of our major integration and joint working, and you will see concrete evidence about how working towards our shared goals – the 20 Pledges – we are making Wirral a better place. The report highlights and celebrates the many achievements of which we are rightly

proud, but it does not shy away from those areas where challenges persist and where we still need to improve and focus more attention.

I am proud of the progress we have in our children's services, following a very challenging time. Every member of the Wirral Partnership has played a part in making sure our most vulnerable children and families are safe and supported.

Strong new leadership, extra social workers with improved supervision and support is leading to services which are much better equipped to cope with the unprecedented levels of demand following 8 years of austerity. Ofsted have been extremely complimentary on our progress so far, and have been helpful and clear in guiding the next stages of our plans.

This coming year is crucial to the long-term future of our borough. In the coming weeks and months we will be holding public debates on huge regeneration and development proposals. We'll also be consulting on housing through our Local Plan, as we try to find ways of meeting Government housing targets while protecting the unique beauty of Wirral. It's vital every Wirral resident makes their voice heard in these debates and helps shape what our borough looks like in the future.

To make sure all residents are able to influence local decisions, tackle issues in their own communities, engage with public

services and play an active role in their neighbourhoods, the Wirral Partnership is launching 'Wirral Together' – a programme which will change how every public agency in Wirral goes about its work.

Wirral is a collection of close, connected and thriving communities. Often, these communities identify things to improve – or issues to fix – and set about putting them right themselves. These communities deserve more help, more support from the local services set up to support them.

That is what Wirral Together is about. Helping local communities come together, and improve our borough for everyone who lives here.

As I have said time and again since 2015, the Wirral Plan is our contract with the people of Wirral; my personal pledge to every Wirral

resident is to continue to spend every day working to make Wirral a better place.

I am proud of our performance this year. I encourage you to read this document and see for yourself how the Wirral Plan is changing and improving our borough for every resident.



A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "P.L. Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Cllr Phil Davies

Leader of Wirral Council and Chair of the Wirral Partnership

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2015, Wirral's public services were in a very different place. There was no shared vision for the borough, no shared priorities, limited partnership working and no integrated services. Services were reactive, struggling to adapt to modern needs while facing up to huge funding reductions and rising demand.

The Wirral Plan began to change this picture. It created, for the first time, a joint vision for the borough, combined with a shared set of goals which would be achieved. It brought every public service in Wirral together, working towards delivering joint outcomes for local people, where resources and expertise could be shared and public money could go further.

It was an ambitious agenda. It set out 20 Pledges to transform Wirral, and the lives of its residents, during a time of unprecedented change and uncertainty within the public sector.

The Plan is now at its half-way stage. The next few sections of this document are the report card: they show you just what has been achieved towards the 20 Pledges since first agreeing them in 2015. It gives real-life examples of where a difference is already being made and it tells you what will be done next.



90%

OF SCHOOLS RATED 'GOOD OR OUTSTANDING' BY OFSTED



20,000

PEOPLE SUPPORTED WITH ADULT SOCIAL CARE



1341

PEOPLE HELPED TO STOP SMOKING



3000

JOBS CREATED

1305

NEW BUSINESSES IN WIRRAL



£147 MILLION  **OF NEW INVESTMENT**



2400

HOMES IMPROVED



266

POTHLES REPAIRED



27,000

STREETLIGHTS TO BE REPLACED



“

Wirral is a place where the vulnerable are safe and protected, every child gets a good start in life and older residents are respected and valued.

Ensuring the most vulnerable among us are safe, and feel safe, is perhaps our most important responsibility. We will work across Council and agency boundaries to promptly identify and tackle problems before they develop.

”



Social Care Integration

In June 2017, Adult Social Care services including social workers, social care assessors, occupational therapists and reablement officers transferred from Wirral Council to Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust. This means that Wirral is one of a handful of places in England to have begun a ground-breaking journey towards truly integrated health and care provision.

Since the transfer in June 2017, the new joined up and seamless service has performed well, and the feedback from commissioners, staff and local Wirral residents has been positive.

A 100-day plan to address immediate priorities and to achieve its aim of a safe transfer has been completed, followed by stabilisation and ultimately opportunities for transformation. The Trust successfully delivered this plan whilst delivering strong performance and an improved user experience.

Between June 2017 and March 2018 the Trust received over 31,000 social care contacts from local residents and provided holistic social care support to over 20,000 people. It also introduced one single telephone number to make it easier for local residents and professionals to access services and advice.

Working closely with key partners across the system including Wirral Council, the Acute Trust, GPs, mental health services, care providers and local community services, the Trust has seen the percentage of people it supports who remain at home 91 days after a hospital admission rise to 85% (the national average is 82%) and an increase in the number of hospital admissions being avoided.

It has also reduced the number of care home placements being made by 12%, (supporting people to live at home whenever possible) and delayed hospital discharges fell from 6.4% in June 2017 to 1.3% in February 2018.

Here are some very important words from staff and most importantly the Wirral citizens we are committed to support.

Staff in the new service have said:

“I feel we have been welcomed with open arms and are considered a valuable asset to the Trust”

“Relationships with health colleagues have improved significantly”

“I do feel this is already encouraging better integrated team working across therapies, nursing, and social care”

“I feel proud to be a member of Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust and thank them for the warm welcome and support received. I look forward to what the future unveils”

Wirral residents benefitting from the service have said:

“I was pleased that I didn't get passed from pillar to post and that I had 1 worker to deal with, thank you as it has reduced the stress”

“The simple things like putting my clothes on was a struggle but now I have had a STAR service, they worked with me and I can now do it again with aids to support me”

“It was a really good service; I had visits from enablers, office staff and Occupational Therapists, who all ensured I was able to manage”

“My mum came out of Hospital and as a family we took care of her over the weekend, her first care visit was last night and the team have been just absolutely brilliant. This is all new to us and we were desperate to get Mum home. Once again, thank you so much for all your help and the advice and information you gave me”



The Hive

Wirral's version of Sport England's 'This Girl Can' campaign has launched with an exclusive party welcoming 30 teenagers who will be its official ambassadors.

This Girl Can in Wirral campaign is aimed specifically at girls aged 13-16 after research showed 85 Wirral Youth Zone, named by young people as 'The Hive', is a purpose-built facility for the borough's young people aged 8 – 19, and up to 25 for those with disabilities.

The Hive is managed by OnSide, a charitable trust which runs purpose built, modern youth facilities all across the UK, and was created through a Council-led partnership of organisations across the Region.

Open just over a year, the Hive has already attracted thousands of members and is having a huge impact on the lives of young people throughout Wirral. This is Dean's story.

"Dean is 23 and lives at home with his parents. Dean struggled in primary school due to coordination issues. For example, he struggled to tell the time, tie his laces, had problems with sequences of numbers such as times tables.

He moved to Wallasey school (senior school) and started to struggle due to high levels of anxiety. Over the next two years Dean received therapy through CAMHS and eventually received a diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome.

Dean continued to struggle at school and the decision was made for him to be home schooled. Dean had been expected to

gain high grades in a number of his gcse's however, because of everything that had happened during senior school Dean gained 2 gcse's in English and history. He returned to the sixth form to study health and Social care qualifications however 2 months before completion of the qualification he had to leave because of the severity of his anxiety. Dean became agoraphobic and was housebound for 2 years. He lost most of his school friends and became very isolated.

Dean eventually got support from Wirral MIND who supported him in a number of ways. His support worker would take him out, support him with shopping and helped him develop coping strategies. His confidence continued to grow to a point where Dean felt he could challenge himself further.

Dean started on the Get a Job course in Jan 2018. On day one he managed to introduce himself and explain about his social anxiety. The group were very supportive which helped Dean's confidence grow. Each week Dean continued to get involved in everything he was challenged with. He was brilliant on residential, getting involved in all activities and was a real team player. Dean shone on the Mock interview day impressing the interviewers and showing a real passion for work especially care work.

Dean decided that he wanted to continue with his Health and Social care commitment as he wants to support and work with other people who have additional needs. We worked together on an application for a support worker role and Dean was asked to attend an interview. I was delighted to hear from Dean that he had been offered a position working part time for the company.

Dean is a great example of someone who has worked hard to overcome barriers to achieve their goal. The Get a Job course has not only helped Dean gain employment, it has increased his confidence and communication skills and he has gained new friends who he now socialises with. He has had the confidence to go back on to Facebook and has started to get in touch with his old school friends."

The Hive offers activities, classes and social events all year round. For more information please visit thehiveyouthzone.org



PEOPLE PLEDGES



90%

SCHOOLS RATED **GOOD OR OUTSTANDING**



20,000

PEOPLE **SUPPORTED WITH ADULT SOCIAL CARE**



1341

PEOPLE **HELPED TO STOP SMOKING**

People want services tailored to meet their individual needs. They expect services which help them in their individual circumstances, and which have an impact in improving their lives.

This is exactly what we are delivering. Every organisation in the Wirral Partnership is working together to improve the lives of children, families and older people in the borough. We are seeing an impact in many areas already.

Older People live well

Older people in Wirral are now, for the first time, benefitting from completely integrated NHS and social care services. This means people no longer have to navigate complex systems to access the support they need, they no longer have to tell their personal story to various social workers, NHS staff, community nurses and doctors. They work with one person to understand their needs, who then works to make sure they are met. It is a simpler, easier and better service for every resident, as one told us recently: "I was pleased I didn't get passed from pillar to post and that I had one person to deal with, thank you as it has reduced the stress."

The Partnership has also vastly improved how it works with older people in every community in Wirral – reducing social isolation, running community outreach and helping older people stay active and independent for longer. The 'Door Knock' programme which was launched – where volunteers and Partnership staff visit homes all across the borough – has worked with almost 6,000 people, referring almost 500 into services and support they would not otherwise have benefitted from. Also helping older people all across our borough is the Age Friendly programme, where businesses in Wirral are demonstrating their support for older people by offering them free use of their facilities to rest, get a drink or use the bathroom.

A great deal of work has been carried out to enhance the service provided to bereaved families. The Bereavement Team at Wirral University Teaching Hospital has transformed the service over the past two years and in August 2017 the team won the Rosa Parks Award with the Fab Academy.

This coming year, the Partnership will focus on making sure older people feel safer and healthier in Wirral – reducing social isolation, tackling anti-social behaviour, promoting healthy lifestyles and committing Wirral to becoming a ‘dementia-friendly borough’.

Children are ready for school

Almost 70% of young children are now reaching a ‘good’ level of development by age 5: this is the highest ever level in Wirral, higher than the regional average and significantly higher than the start of the Wirral Plan (62%). It is testament to the work of every public agency in the borough, but there is still more to do.

Our focus is on continuing to improve what support parents and young children can receive. We will particularly focus on making sure children from disadvantaged backgrounds access the services available to them, and on making sure as many women as possible access professional maternity services at the right times.

Maternity services in Wirral are second to none, with a recent CQC survey highlighting Wirral University Teaching Hospital Trust provides some of the best services in the country. CQC stated that Wirral Women and Children’s Hospital was one of only two hospitals in the country to perform ‘better than expected’ in four core areas of care.

Expectant mums in Wirral now have access to a new team of midwives dedicated to women choosing to have their babies at home or in the ‘pop up’ birth unit at

Seacombe Children’s Centre. The new service is part of the local response to recommendations made by the 2016 National Maternity Review, ‘Better Births’, which set out a clear vision of achieving safer, more personalised and more family friendly maternity services.

Young People are ready for work and adulthood

We are currently seeing the highest number of young people in Apprenticeships since 2012, with businesses and public agencies all across Wirral investing in their future workforce. Combined with the fact that 90% of schools in Wirral now being rated as ‘good’ or better by Ofsted, it is clear the work of the Wirral Partnership is having a major impact on the future career prospects of young people in Wirral.

Wirral Young Chamber’s initiative is bridging the gap between education and employment locally. It’s a simple, straightforward and direct initiative that benefits both young people and local businesses. Currently delivering into 22 Wirral schools the Young Chamber programme consists of an innovative and exciting programme of activities. Young people can chair debates on current affairs with speakers from local business. Get the chance to ‘go behind the scenes’ at John Lennon airport or Typhoo tea and gain invaluable advice on the transition from education to employment.

We are focussing work now on making sure vulnerable young people, particularly those in care, are given intensive, tailored

support to ensure they get the most out of their education. Every looked after child now receives a Personal Education Plan, and we are working with each child individually to make sure their attendance and school performance is as good as it can be.

Vulnerable children reach their full potential

The pace of improvement within social care services for children is steadily improving, with Ofsted in their recent monitoring letter commenting that Wirral was making progress and highlighting their view that ‘experienced and knowledgeable social workers and managers respond to all contacts in a timely way’.

This most recent inspection follows news from autumn 2017, where Ofsted found progress in all areas they reviewed, including a ‘reinvigorated’ approach to working with Care Leavers. The services provided for children and young people now benefit from a new leadership team, a new approach to performance monitoring and social work practice, and a relaunched recruitment and retention package to attract and retain the best quality social workers.

All members of the Wirral Partnership are working to support vulnerable children, with every major public agency in the borough – including representatives of primary, secondary and special schools – working together on a joint approach to make sure all services are as well designed, targeted and monitored as possible.

Reduce child and Family Poverty

Representatives from every agency in the Wirral Partnership are working together to develop new solutions to support families in need throughout the borough.

A recent development is the Seacombe Lives programme, which provides one-to-one support and advice, and community group Wirral Environmental Network hosted community events with free food and refreshments. The Seacombe Lives programme now uses Seacombe Library as a community hub 2 days per week, providing residents with free, personal support.

There is clear evidence that reducing worklessness and improving the skills and opportunities for parents and young people is critical in linking economic growth and poverty reduction.

People with disabilities live independently

More people with disabilities in Wirral are now employed than ever before, which is testament to the work delivered by all agencies involved and particular organisations such as Wirral Metropolitan College, whose supported intern scheme goes from strength to strength.

Over the course of this year, the number of people in receipt of personal budgets – and therefore able to direct and commission their own personal care and support – has more than doubled.

There has been a significant increase in the employment rate for people with a disability or long term condition, and targets were exceeded in relation to the quality of life for people with long term conditions and the proportion of people who feel supported to manage their condition.

It is also extremely positive to report that Wirral residents will soon benefit from an integrated, all age disability service – meaning that disabled people in Wirral will be able to access seamless, joined up care from Wirral Council and NHS bodies.

Zero tolerance to domestic violence

Wirral organisations supported the recent ‘Reclaim the Night’ march through Liverpool, which saw hundreds of women march through the City Centre from Derby Square through to the bombed out church.

Movements like #MeToo and Time’s Up have shown that the collective power of women’s voices can have an impact in changing perceptions and attitudes towards domestic violence, and all agencies in Wirral are working together to deliver improvements in the services and support available to families.

Almost 30 new Peer Mentors have been recruited to provide intensive support to domestic abuse victims, and Wirral University Teaching Hospital is also investing in its own staff to increase its ability to support people in this area.



Wirral is a place where employers want to invest and businesses thrive. We must seize the opportunities before us, and work hard to create new ones to transform Wirral's economy for this generation and the next.

We will focus on Wirral's priority growth sectors to promote and grow jobs in the visitor economy, advanced manufacturing, maritime and renewable energy sectors. We will work with our partners to deliver these ambitions for Wirral and ensure our plans are both economically and environmentally sustainable.





Wirral Growth Company

WIRRAL is set to enjoy unprecedented levels of regeneration, as new Council joint venture Wirral Growth Company brings forward proposals which will see thousands of jobs created over the coming months and years.

The Council's cabinet have appointed urban regeneration specialists Muse Developments as its partner after an exhaustive selection competition. Throughout 2018, WGC will begin consultation and engagement with local residents and businesses on how to drive regeneration of various sites across the borough – including Bebington, Birkenhead, Bromborough, Moreton and Seacombe in the first phase – to build new homes, commercial, retail and leisure developments, bringing thousands of new jobs to the borough as well as boosting property values and attracting further investment.

Under the proposals agreed by Cabinet, all the profits from the developments will be split 50-50, with the Council's share providing income to be reinvested in delivering front-line services.

Councillor Davies said: "Three years ago, this administration set our 2020 Pledges. We said we would create thousands of new jobs, attract 100s of millions in new investment, and provide good quality housing and protect and improve Wirral's attractive local environment. Through Wirral Growth Company we will deliver as promised on our pledges – I am incredibly excited about this opportunity and the future for Wirral."

Since launching the search for a joint venture partner at MIPIM (a global property conference) in March 2017, officers have been working to identify a suitable partner to meet the Council's growth ambitions.

Last year more than 100 developers, investors, construction firms, architects and planners came to see the opportunities available in Wirral and participate in soft market testing of the Wirral Growth Company proposal.

“Potential partners were taken by the quality already on offer in Wirral and new opportunities offered by Woodside’s dramatic river views, the majesty of Hamilton Square, the beach towns and villages dotted across the borough” said Cllr Davies.

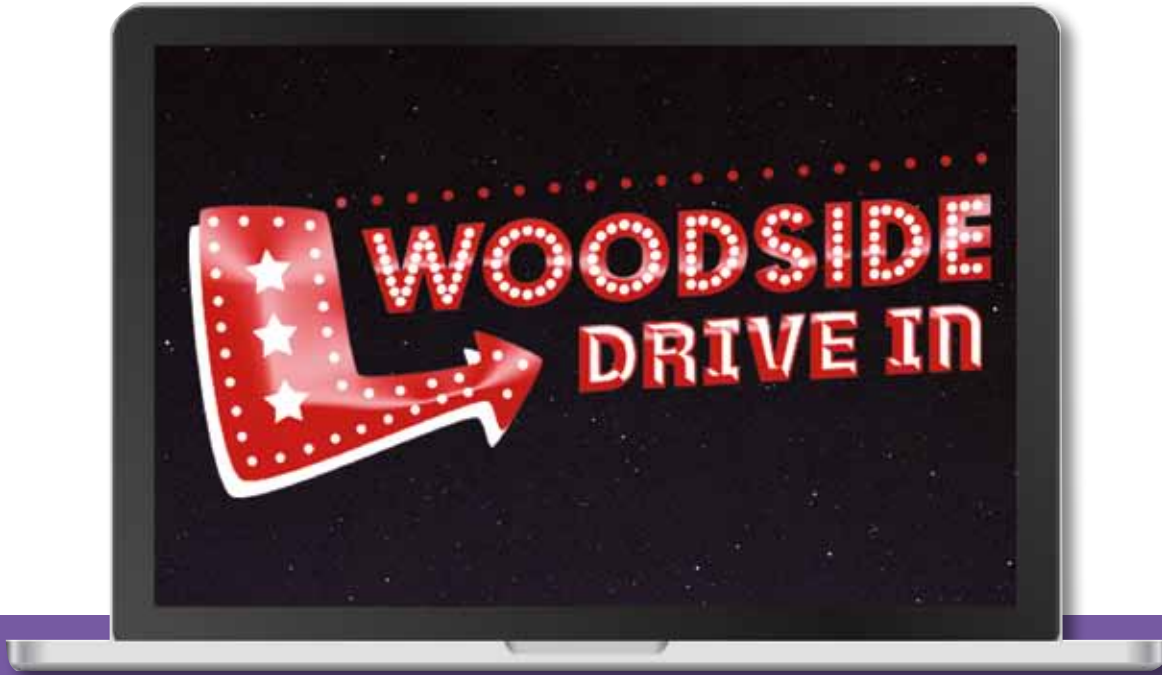
Cllr Davies stressed the importance of ensuring Wirral Growth Company also makes sound commercial sense for the Council.

“Too often,’ he warned, “local authorities sell land or assets to private speculators or developers, and beyond those initial land value receipts, take no benefit from any development that follows.

“Similarly, other than through the limited planning controls at its disposal, Councils relinquish any influence over the speed, purpose and quality of what does or doesn’t ultimately get built.

“With the deal being proposed, we will have full involvement in every development decision, we will benefit from the economic growth any regeneration creates and, as a 50-50 joint venture, we will benefit from the profits the development delivers – money the Council can reinvest in front line services our residents rely on.”

Residents who are interested in learning more about Wirral Growth Company should visit www.wirralwellmade.com website for more details, or join the conversation on @wirralwellmade twitter account or wirralwellmade facebook page



The Woodside Drive In

An “authentic drive in cinema” experience is coming to Wirral this summer – starting with classic retro movie Grease.

Woodside Drive In opens next Friday, June 1, and will be Wirral’s first and only open air, drive in cinema.

Harking back to the 1950s it will also feature roller skating waitresses, “Kiss Cam”, a cash prize bingo, and American themed food and drink and mouth-watering desserts provided by “the incredible” Mr Tee.

The scheme has been supported by Arriva North West whose land is being used and Wirral Council as part of its work to support local business and entrepreneurs.

Wirral Council leader Phil Davies said: “As part of the long term plans for regeneration, Wirral Growth Company is developing a

series of pop up events, ‘meanwhile’ uses and festivals, starting with Wirral’s first drive in movies at Woodside.

“This is a great example of young people with a fantastic idea who we have been able to help make a reality.

“I hope people will support this and make it the success it deserves to be.

“Wirral has an amazing line-up of events planned this throughout the summer and the whole year and this is the kind of attraction which can only add to the growing sense that Wirral is a place people want to be and want to visit.”

Located opposite Woodside bus station the cinema is in a high walled, closed-in, spot. Coming up over the summer the organisers have lined up some of the best cult and

classic movies of the last 30 years, projected onto our massive 13 meter screen.

As well as speakers around the site the movie soundtrack will be sent out through the airwaves, so customers can tune in their car sound systems for a truly immersive movie experience.

As customers arrive they will be provided with a menu, and to order food and drink simply turn on your car's sidelights and one of the roller skating waitresses will arrive to take your order.

And you don't need to be a driver to join in - there is a lawn at the front of the site and those on foot will be given a comfy lounger so you can sit back, relax and enjoy the movie.

More details are on the website <https://woodsidedrivein.co.uk/>



BUSINESS



3000

JOBS CREATED



£147 MILLION

OF NEW INVESTMENT



1305

**NEW BUSINESSES
IN WIRRAL**

Wirral is thriving. We are a key element of a vibrant, energetic City Region which is driving huge economic growth, prosperity and opportunity for all residents.

We are seeing huge momentum at Wirral Waters, with commercial, residential and care complexes coming forward and, through Wirral Growth Company, this Council has launched the biggest public sector led regeneration programme in the UK. It is a truly exciting time for our borough, and we have seen huge successes this past year.

Greater job opportunities in Wirral

Wirral Growth Company will create 3,000 jobs, through the biggest programme of regeneration even seen in this borough. Since it has been agreed that jobs, work and contracts created by WGC will be targeted at local firms and workers, residents will see many opportunities to develop their careers in the coming months.

This is combined with outstanding performance in this area since the launch of the Wirral Plan. Since 2015, we have seen 3,122 new jobs created in the borough and – at 72.6% - our employment rate is at its highest level since 2014.

People who have been unemployed long term are benefitting from the £6.5m 'Ways to Work' programme, which has supported almost 2,000 people back into work or training; and the pioneering Households Into Work programme is in place across the Liverpool City Region helping families find work, improve their employability skills and increase their aspirations.

Increase inward investment

Investment in Wirral is thriving. More than £107 million has been invested into projects and businesses in Wirral since the start of the Wirral Plan, not including the investments taking place right now through new proposals at Wirral Waters and the huge developments forthcoming from Wirral Growth Company.

Almost every week we are seeing new developments come forward – new homes, retail and commercial schemes are being planned in every corner of our borough. These developments are concrete proof of the huge confidence in Wirral and the Liverpool City Region as a place to invest and do business.

In Wirral Waters specifically, we have seen recent announcements for new residential, care and office developments on the site. These developments provide further proof of Wirral's growing importance in the Northern Powerhouse.

Thriving small business

Our target at the start of the Wirral Plan was to support 250 new businesses to open their doors in the borough. Since 2015, this target has been achieved five-times over, with 1,305 new businesses starting trading since the 20 Pledges were launched.

These businesses are supported by the UK's fastest growing Chamber of Commerce, who are providing expert, tailored support through a Business Support Service which has been designed to provide bespoke advice, guidance and help to every employer in Wirral.

Retailers and businesses in the borough have also been supported by the work of the Birkenhead Business Improvement District (BID) team. Key to the Birkenhead BID has been its core values of safety & security, a clean & attractive Birkenhead, supporting its businesses, together with positive marketing & promotion.

The BID has added support to the town through activities which have taken place and which will continue during 2018. This has included initiatives including the installation of alleygates, clean-ups, new litter-bins, and introducing a utility savings scheme offer to potentially reduce business energy bills.

The Town Hosts have been visible in helping locals and visitors to Birkenhead feel welcome, and this was particularly noticed when the Summer Be In Birkenhead Festival was held, a hugely successful event which attracted thousands of people to Hamilton Square to enjoy a family day of fun. The coming months offer more promise with regeneration plans for Woodside, Hamilton Square and the Birkenhead Town Centre, all which will also support the work and ambitions of Birkenhead BID initiative in making the area an attractive place for business, retailers, culture, visitors and its residents.

Workforce skills match business need

A new Skills Strategy is in place across the Liverpool City Region, which will allow for people from every borough to access new, tailored training to meet the business needs of our local economy and employers. Again throughout the Liverpool City Region, the Skills for Growth programme is up and running, providing employers with advice and support to help upskill their current and potential workforce. In Wirral, 245 employers are working with the scheme and 178 have been provided with grant support totaling more than £175,000.

The Wirral Apprentice programme continues to perform well, with 49 new positions within 39 companies created in just the past year. Major capital investments into facilities such as the Wirral Met STEM Centre, Engineering College are allowing many residents get the skills they need to build a positive career.

We will also work with our partners to realise new major skills infrastructure projects, including the Maritime Knowledge Hub and the Manufacturing Technology Catapult Centre.

Vibrant tourism economy

For the first time ever, the Giant Spectacular will cross the Mersey to Wirral in October 2018. Liverpool's Dream – the final part of the Giants story in our region – is expected to attract up to 1 million visitors to our region as part of a huge event. This is just one aspect of a new programme of events and activities taking place throughout the year, through the Imagine Wirral programme.

The schedule will conclude with the third firework display on the Mersey waterfront. In 2017, the River of Light festival attracted almost 100,000 new visitors to the Wirral events and gave the local economy a boost of more than £1.1 million.

Wirral Chamber of Commerce are driving a new approach to attracting visitors to Wirral, working with all businesses and employers in the tourism sector to promote Wirral extensively.

Technology and infrastructure

More than £11 million will be invested over the next three years on road safety in Wirral, which will see every street light in the borough replaced with energy efficient, environmentally friendly LED bulbs.

Alongside this, more than £5 million is being invested in improving our highways – resurfacing roads, fixing potholes and making sure Wirral residents can travel safely and efficiently.

A major project was recently completed, as the lifting bridge linking Birkenhead and Wallasey was replaced – a critical link which will allow for quicker, more efficient travel throughout the borough but also, crucially, providing the support for Birkenhead docks to continue to expand.

Assets and buildings are fit for purpose

Our ambition remains to create 'one public estate', where public services from all agencies are available, as much as possible, from the same buildings, co-locating to make sure residents receive the best, most joined up service.

Good progress is being made. There are now fewer buildings, running costs have been reduced, and many more public services are now co-locating and providing integrated services.

In the coming year, much more will be done with services throughout the public sector working closer together, sharing office space and ensuring a more efficient use of land, buildings and public assets.



“

Wirral is a place where employers want to invest and businesses thrive. We must seize the opportunities before us, and work hard to create new ones to transform Wirral's economy for this generation and the next.

We will focus on Wirral's priority growth sectors to promote and grow jobs in the visitor economy, advanced manufacturing, maritime and renewable energy sectors. We will work with our partners to deliver these ambitions for Wirral and ensure our plans are both economically and environmentally sustainable.

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The Safer Wirral Hub



Wirral residents are benefitting from more joined up, integrated and well-designed community safety services than ever before, following the creation of the unique Safer Wirral Hub.

The hub, based at the Solar Campus in Leasowe, is the first phase of a new multi-agency service which will deliver an effective, joined up community safety service for the people of Wirral.

A number of Wirral Council teams, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and other key partner agencies – including some from the third sector – are now working together within the Safer Wirral Hub and already delivering results that are making Wirral an even safer place.

Together they form a partnership, led operationally by Merseyside Police, providing an expert, unified approach to tackling, crime, anti-social behaviour and safeguarding those most vulnerable in our communities.

Cllr George Davies, Wirral Council's Cabinet lead for Community Safety, said: "Success in building safer neighbourhoods is beyond the ability of the police or the Council alone and requires this stronger partnership approach within and across all partner agencies and communities.

"We know that there was already good joined up working across partners to improve community safety. This development will build on this further due to the integration of council staff and staff from other organisations into policing operations and a new way of directing their work.

"I believe this is a hugely important step. It will help make Wirral safer, it will help tackle the issues our residents tell us are a problem and – even in times of cuts to funding – it is an imaginative and radical plan to deliver a better service to our residents."

The Hub at Solar Campus is the place where activities are co-ordinated through daily briefings across all key agencies. The Hub will also gather intelligence and data for use in planning responses and initiating proactive operations targeting offenders who are exploiting vulnerable members of our community.

In addition, joined-up services also operate within local police stations across the Wirral tied into weekly briefings involving police officers, PCSOs, the Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Community Patrol Officers and the Fire Service.

Police and emergency services have already benefitted from the efforts of officers in the Hub focusing activity on frequent callers, directing resources better and tackling underlying issues behind these frequent calls which will reduce the likelihood of unnecessary calls to the emergency services in the future.

Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner, Jane Kennedy, added: "It's clear that this move to further increase collaboration and combine community safety services on the Wirral is already bringing benefits to people living in the area and is enabling our services to work more effectively and efficiently."

"In this era of austerity, no organisation can afford to work in isolation and this is a great example of how public and third sector agencies can work together to share knowledge, expertise and resources to make our communities safer."



LED Street Light Replacement

More than £11 million is being invested to replace all 27,000 of the borough's streetlights with modern, energy efficient and environmentally friendly LED bulbs.

Cllr Phil Davies explained:

"Following a long-running campaign lead by Cllr Stuart Whittingham, cabinet member for Transport, we are delighted to have secured £4.6m of funding from SALEX to provide 27,000 new LED lamps with remote control dimmers and switches.

"We will also deploy £6m from our Capital Funds to take the opportunity to replace broken and damaged lamp-post columns at the same time, and make a further £750,000 available to repair bollards, damaged signs and other safety features.

"This is the single largest investment in our street lighting and road safety for 10 years."

The Council secured the interest-free funds from SALIX, an independent, not-for-profit company funded by The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, The Welsh Assembly Government and The Scottish Government. Salix works in partnership with The Higher Education Funding Council for England on its Revolving Green Fund.

Cllr Davies continued: "This is another example of the Council delivering on its 20 pledges. We have negotiated an interest-free deal where we recoup the investment through savings made by reducing our energy consumption, having more effective maintenance management, and receiving new grants and payments for using this technology to reduce our carbon footprint."

Cllr. Stuart Whittingham, cabinet member for Highways and Transport, said:

“We know good street-lighting is important for road and community safety, we know it helps reduce crime in our neighbourhoods and it helps make our high streets more vibrant and thriving than they already are.

“This is a Win-Win-Win – Good for Wirral residents and road-users, Good for our already stretched finances, and Good for the environment too.”



ENVIRONMENT



2400

**HOMES
IMPROVED**



266

**POTHLES
REPAIRED**



27,000

**STREETLIGHTS
TO BE REPLACED**

We know how important our local environment is to local people. Living in a safe, clean, well looked after community leads to a better quality of life. We will never compromise on our determination to protect Wirral, and continue to make our borough a fantastic place to live and visit.

This past year has seen many successes, with incredibly successful events, thousands of houses being built or improved, areas cleaned and new, innovative services launched to keep residents safer.

Leisure and culture opportunities for all

More than 1000 events have taken place in Wirral's parks since the launch of the Wirral Plan, ranging from major visitor events through to volunteer led walking and heritage tours.

Wirral's leisure and cultural attractions are extensively supported by an army of volunteers, community organisations and friends groups, who work tirelessly to make sure parks, open spaces, beaches and various attractions in our borough are first rate.

This hard work is consistently recognised with Wirral receiving more Green Flag awards than anywhere else in our region,

and proudly holding its first Blue Flag, for Harrison Drive beach in Wallasey.

Wirral residents live healthier lives

This year we have commissioned many new and improved services to help people live healthier lives, through innovative community funding to working with businesses and linking better with partners.

One superb example of how our work across the Partnership is delivering tangible, positive results is in the rates of smoking across the borough, which has reduced from 18.9% to 15.7% - more than double the national average for improvement. Just in the past year, more than 1300 residents access stop smoking services and were still 'quit' at 4 weeks.

The 'reduce the strength' campaign continues to improve, reducing problem drinking and the associated anti-social behaviour which comes with it. All retailers in Birkenhead Town Centre have now

committed to stop selling super strength lager and cider, and the scheme is now being expanded to areas such as Rock Ferry, Seacombe, Poulton and New Ferry. The new 'Ask Us' information, advice and guidance service has been a huge success, with more than 57,000 people being given free support on a diverse range of issues in just the past year.

Wirral residents are also benefitting from a 'good' service from out of hours GPs, following a recent CQC inspection. Further inspections of the 'core' services provided by the Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust have not been published yet but inspectors have indicated that they found the staff at the Trust to be 'caring, open and with professional and compassionate staff across all clinical and corporate services'.

Community services are joined up and accessible

Making sure residents can access services easily and quickly is vital. It is incredibly frustrating for residents to not have easy access to information, to not be able to quickly and simply contact the council or any public agency to get advice or request a service.

During 2017, the first stage was completed in a major overhaul and improvement in accessing services. The Access Wirral programme will now completely redesign and simplify how residents can access services – from paying a bill, through to asking for a pothole to be filled, applying for a job or becoming a foster carer, all will be available online in a quick and easy method.

Extensive work is being delivered now to transform the way residents can engage with every public service in Wirral. How residents can influence decisions, how they can volunteer, or work with us to tackle issues in their communities, and ensuring local people have an active voice in every decision affecting their neighbourhood will all be improved by the Wirral Together programme, which will be fully launched during 2018.

Wirral Chamber of Commerce are supporting community organisations and volunteers all across the borough, through helping Community Action Wirral expand and improve their services. Community Action Wirral – a key member of the Wirral Partnership – are also providing huge support in connecting organisations and people in the borough. CAW promotes, supports, engages and is involved in voluntary and community work all across the borough.

Good quality housing

All across Wirral, new housing developments are being put forward for consultation and decisions. We are seeing huge interest in Wirral as a place to visit, work and live. Almost 400 new affordable homes were built just in the past year, with another 465 homes already scheduled to start construction in 2018/19.

More landlords than ever are now registered with the selective licensing scheme, which requires them to bring their houses up to a minimum quality standard before they can be put on the market. This scheme is being expanded to new areas now, following

extremely positive feedback from residents. We have also seen more than 800 homes improved, with hazards removed and better facilities installed. We will continue to work every day to ensure Wirral residents have a good choice of excellent quality housing.

Many services and intensive support is also in place to support residents who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless. Redesigned, more targeted support is now in place to help people and a range of organisations across the borough are providing support. Wirral Chamber of Commerce also held a 'rucksack challenge' campaign which led to the donation of more than 500 rucksacks filled with essential items to support homeless people.

Attractive local environment

Litter and environmental crime is a blight on the landscape. Wirral residents said they wanted a zero tolerance approach, which is exactly what has been delivered. More than 5000 fixed penalty notices have been issued to people dropping litter or not cleaning up after their dogs since the start of the Wirral Plan.

Wirral is aiming to be the first place in Merseyside to ban single-use plastics (SUP), such as cups, plastic bottles, straws, food packaging and plastic lids. We have set up a task force of community group representatives and volunteers that meet regularly to drive us towards a SUP Free Wirral. Wirral is blazing a trail in the city region on this issue and will also be reviewing procurement arrangements to

address the purchase and use of SUP as part of our service provision, with a particular focus on provision within schools - single use water cups and drinking straws.

Recycling continues to be a major focus of attention for the borough. Wirral now sends less than 10% of its waste to landfill. The vast majority of our waste is now recycled or converted into green energy to power the national grid.

Work is being done to make sure Wirral reaches its target of recycling 50% of all waste. Wirral public agencies are working to find new ways to make recycling easier for residents and improve current collection arrangements to offer more recycling opportunities, but any changes which will be proposed will be affordable, effective and acceptable to our residents.

Wirral's neighbourhoods are safe

Wirral now has the lowest crime rate per population in Merseyside and is the 3rd lowest within the Home Office defined 'family' of 15 demographically similar areas.

These achievements are testament to the hard work of everyone in the 'Safer Wirral Hub', a unique combined Police/Council community safety service. The Hub, which integrates community safety related services and agencies into a single resource, to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and reduce statutory front line services demands.

Agencies are also working together – under the leadership of Merseyside Fire and Rescue

service – to make sure local people are safe in their homes. As part of a programme of arson awareness home visits and events, hundreds of local families have benefitted from Home Fire Safety checks. As well as supporting residents in their homes, the work extends to community organisations and buildings, with one such project covering Charing Cross Methodist Neighbourhood Centre.

Home to many different community events and activities every day, Merseyside Fire and Rescue led various partner agencies to provide support to improve the building, make it safer, and led the development of a community funded improvement programme.

OUR PRIORITIES

Everyone associated with the Wirral Partnership should be proud of the progress this document has described, and possess a shared determination to continue our improvements and delivery to create the Wirral residents deserve.

This next section of the report explains the priorities for the next twelve months of the Wirral Plan.

Be well run. Wirral residents deserve excellent services.

Every public agency in Wirral is committed to ensuring residents can access the best, most modern, well designed public services possible. We know with continued austerity we cannot continue to deliver what we always have, the way we always have. We have found innovative, effective solutions in many areas already – integrated health and social care, our Safer Wirral Hub and the extremely successful Hive Youth Zone to name a few. We must continue to find these solutions, and make sure every service is designed to meet modern needs.

It is also important we don't forget the simple, every-day services such as street cleanliness, community health care, GP surgeries, education, social care, road maintenance and street lighting which sometimes go unnoticed, but are incredibly important to the quality of life every resident enjoys. We will redouble our efforts to improve the public realm, further improve the health and social care people benefit from and work with residents in every community to ensure their concerns are listened to.

Be commercial, entrepreneurial and make sure every penny counts.

Austerity continues to bite. Public services in Wirral have borne the brunt of huge funding reductions more than most, with more still to come. This makes it ever more important

to make the Wirral Pound go further, and do everything possible to find better value, more creative and imaginative ways of meeting the needs of local people.

Our new financial strategy will ensure we continue to place improved outcomes for Wirral residents at the centre of all we do. Working as a partnership, public services in Wirral will focus on long-term investments in improving the borough, and not on short term, reactive cuts to meet savings targets. The financial strategy for Wirral will ensure we target our resources where they are most needed, root out inefficiency and duplication where it still exists, and deliver more for Wirral residents.

Bringing more money into the borough, to replace and even build on what is being taken away, is also vital. Developments like Wirral Growth Company, which will capitalise on under used land and buildings owned by the public sector and use them to create jobs, homes, new businesses and drive revenue, will help support public services.

We will launch a new programme of work designed to keep more public money in Wirral. Our building community wealth programme will see more major public services keep local spend local – recruiting local people, employing local businesses and ensuring that the benefits of investment in our borough are felt most by local residents.'

Put the customer at the centre of all we do.

Every member of the Wirral Partnership exists to improve the quality of life local people can enjoy. Better health, homes, jobs, education, environment – regardless of the specific role or service, they all exist to improve the borough and the lives of its residents.

We must work together to make sure we can deliver on what residents need and expect. It means focussing on skills, and making sure our residents are equipped to take advantage of the huge opportunities available to them through our growing economy.

It also means delivering a digital transformation of the borough, making sure every resident has easy access to the internet – and the skills to use it – and

ensuring our services are as available and accessible online as they are in person.

It's vital that each and every one of our services is designed around what residents want, and what they need. It should be easy to access services, to work with public bodies, and those residents who want to go further and take action themselves to improve their communities should be encouraged and empowered to do so.

Making sure every Wirral resident feels able and supported to get involved in their local community and make a difference is a key priority for the Wirral Partnership in the coming year. The next section of this report talks about the Wirral Together programme, which is how we hope to make it happen.

WIRRAL TOGETHER

Wirral is a collection of close-knit, engaged and thriving communities. Every day, all across the borough, these communities work tirelessly to improve their local areas: through residents associations, tenants groups, neighbourhood forums and more informal groups of volunteers.

They want to be active, they want to help their neighbours, and keep their area clean. They want to play a major role in community life and in keeping their neighbourhood a place they are proud of.

Too often, bureaucracy and red tape get in their way. The Wirral Together programme is about putting that right. It is about empowering local people to take the community leadership role they want, and provide them with all the support they need to make it a success.

Wirral Together is an informal, co-produced agreement between the Council, its partners and every Wirral resident to work together to create a better borough.

It contains a set of shared goals which we will work to achieve, which have been developed through extensive consultation and conversations with residents throughout the borough. The Council and its partners have committed to what they will do and in return we need residents and businesses to play their part, too.

Wirral Together is about creating a new relationship between public agencies and our residents. It is about changing behaviour, moving to a point where public services are more responsive to local issues and open to new solutions, and where local people are more willing to step up and take ownership for improving things in their communities.

We know we can't achieve all of our ambitions for Wirral alone. We need residents to play their part too. We also know that in the past we have gotten in the way when residents have tried to do just that. Wirral Together is about putting that right. It's about helping us all do our bit to make Wirral a better place, together.

The Wirral Together programme should unlock potential within communities, increasing expertise and capacity within local areas to improve the issues which are most important to our residents.

This spirit of collaboration and community pride is vital to the future of our place.

The logo for 'Wirral Together' features the word 'Wirral' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, positioned above the word 'Together'. 'Together' is written in a large, white, cursive script font. The entire logo is set against a dark blue background.

CONCLUSION

“We are all proud of Wirral. It is a great place to live, to work and to grow up.”

It brings together beautiful, rural countryside with cutting edge technology and it has a cultural and economic history which is second to none.

The Wirral Plan, and the 20 Pledges we have committed to, are about its future. They are about delivering on the promises which have been made to Wirral residents.

We have achieved a lot already, but we know there is still much to do;

- ***We must continue to ‘get the basics right’, and make sure Wirral residents can enjoy the best possible quality of service – from the quality of our local environment, through to the health of our residents, the quality of our public realm and the education and training our residents can receive.***
- ***We must never compromise on our ambitions for Wirral. Through developments such as The Wirral Growth Company, we must aim and achieve high aspirations for our borough and create the jobs, homes and developments which our residents need.***

- ***We will continue to strive for excellence in everything we do - delivering an efficient, well-run set of public services which is modern, flexible and meets the needs of our residents. Our services will be financially sustainable, and we will work as a full partnership to make sure we invest public money in the right areas.***

- ***We will put Wirra residents first – always.***

I commit to ensuring these points are delivered in the coming year.

I am proud of what we have achieved so far, and remain excited about the future of Wirral.



Cllr Phil Davies

Leader of Wirral Council and Chair of the Wirral Partnership

WIRRAL PLAN 2020: ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

To find out more:



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WIRRAL COUNCIL

Delivery Plan 2018/19

FOREWORD

Wirral residents expect good services: they expect their streets to be clean, their communities to be safe and their roads to be in good condition. They expect the vulnerable to be safe and protected, and for the economy to grow – creating the opportunities they need to secure good, well-paid jobs.

We will deliver on all of those expectations. Committing to delivering these priorities is about setting out our stall, it is about being clear with Wirral residents about what we will deliver and what they can expect from us.

Wirral Council has made huge progress in recent years. From the brink of Government intervention only 6 years ago, we are now a completely different organisation. Since the creation of the Wirral Plan in 2015, that progress has only increased in momentum. Every public agency in our borough – along with major employers and the key organisations in the voluntary sector – have worked together to deliver the first set of shared goals and priorities we have developed in Wirral.

In doing so we have cast aside traditional organisational boundaries and pooled resources, integrated services and made sure our collective resources were properly targeted at achieving our 20 Pledges for Wirral residents.

It is working. We are seeing fantastic results in many different areas. We are seeing real change, bringing real improvements to the lives of our residents, and we should all be proud of our achievements.

That said, we cannot allow our focus to slip now. Challenges remain, both within Wirral Council and across Wirral as a whole, and we must ensure we are fully prepared to overcome them.

This report describes Wirral Council's Priorities for 2018/19. It sets out exactly what we will focus on for Wirral residents in the coming year, how we will do it and what we will achieve. We will also make sure we keep people informed on our progress, encourage residents to get involved in their local communities and shaping local services, and continue to work alongside all of our partners to make sure we continue to deliver on our 20 Pledges.

Alongside the Wirral Plan Annual Review, which demonstrates the success and guides the future work of the Wirral Partnership, we have a clear plan for delivering everything which we have committed to on behalf of our residents.

I encourage every resident to read this report.

Cllr Phil Davies

Leader of Wirral Council



Phil Davies

PRIORITIES

Our priorities are clear: they are set out within the Wirral Plan, through 20 Pledges which every public agency in the borough has committed to deliver together.

Our work continues on those Pledges – we are making real progress in almost every area and this coming year promises to be hugely exciting for Wirral residents: major investments in children’s services, transformative regeneration developments coming forward bringing many jobs and opportunities with them, and a programme of works designed to improve our roads, our parks and the beautiful environment which makes Wirral such a special place to live.

The Wirral Plan is a shared set of goals and objectives, which every public agency in the borough owns and works towards. Wirral Council is just one of many agencies who will deliver towards those Pledges. This document describes exactly what Wirral Council will deliver over the coming twelve months.

It is a commitment to local people, a specific and clear set of priorities which Wirral Council will achieve in the coming year. The rest of this document describes those priorities – what we will achieve, how we will do it, and how we will keep residents informed on our progress.

The priorities and major programmes of work which we will deliver can be summed up in five broad themes: getting the basics right, jobs and growth, children’s services, local plan and housing, and our leisure and culture review.

Getting the Basics Right: While Council has to prepare for the financial challenges ahead, it is essential we maintain our focus on delivering excellent services to residents. This means getting the everyday services right, everyday – emptying the bins, repairing the roads, fixing the streetlights, keeping our parks and gardens and beaches in good order, tackling anti-social behaviour, and looking after our vulnerable residents.

Jobs and Growth: As exciting new developments with Wirral Growth Company emerge across the borough, construction starts on Wirral Waters, and progress is made with the Hoylake Golf Resort, it is important that local residents and businesses are the beneficiaries of these investments. ‘Spades in the ground’ should mean training, apprenticeships and skills opportunities for our young people, work and jobs for residents and, where possible, local procurement of services and contracts. Renewing our relationship with the Wirral Chamber of Commerce, playing a leadership role in the Liverpool City Region and using the powers and resources of devolution to support local firms and attract new investment to Wirral, will also help deliver our business pledges.

Children's Services: While we have made a good start on our journey of improvement, we still have a lot of work to do. The over-arching aim must be to come out of intervention as quickly as possible. Specific priorities include a new management structure which 'gets the basics right', manages the budget, reduces the dependence on agency staff and creates a new work environment. We must ensure that early intervention improves so we can start to see a reduction in the number of children 'looked after.' Cabinet would also like to see more support for care leavers with housing and job opportunities, to give them the best possible life opportunities.

Local Plan and Housing: During 2018/19 we must complete our Local Plan and submit it to the Secretary of State. Our Local Plan must identify and secure long term opportunities to meet demand for homes and employment across the borough. It should inform and be informed by the emerging plans of the Wirral Growth Company and Wirral Waters amongst others, and it should recognise the importance of protecting areas of Green Belt which contribute the most to the quality of life we enjoy in Wirral. To

achieve this we will need to continue to make improvements in our planning department so we have the resources, expertise and systems to quickly deliver the new homes and developments we need.

Leisure and Culture Review: Over the past 12 months, a lot of time has been spent exploring possibilities and options to reform how we deliver Leisure and Cultural services. With huge changes to financing for local authorities emerging, it is vitally important we take action now to put these services on a sustainable foundation. We need to put a transformative action plan in place, and work more closely with existing and new partners to find sustainable income and revenue streams. We must also review which services the local authority should be providing and which ones can be managed and run better by other organisations, including local communities and charitable groups.

The rest of this report explains to residents what each member of the Cabinet will deliver in the coming twelve months to ensure these five priorities, and the 20 Pledges they support will be delivered.



Cllr Phil Davies

Leader of Wirral Council

MAJOR PROJECT WIRRAL TOGETHER

Wirral is a collection of close-knit, engaged and thriving communities. Every day, all across the borough, these communities work tirelessly to improve their local areas: through residents associations, tenants groups, neighbourhood forums and more informal groups of volunteers.

They want to be active, they want to help their neighbours, and keep their area clean. They want to play a major role in community life and in keeping their neighbourhood a place they are proud of.

Too often, bureaucracy and red tape get in their way. The Wirral Together programme is about putting that right. It is about empowering local people to take the community leadership role they want, and provide them with all the support they need to make it a success.

What we will deliver this year:

- Launch the Wirral Together programme, enabling every Wirral resident to play a more active role in their community.
- Ensure the Wirral Together programme helps deliver a step-change in how we work, both with each other and with our communities.
- Make sure Wirral punches its weight at a regional and national level, securing the very best deal for local people through the Devolution deal and Single Investment Fund in the Liverpool City Region
- Bring millions of pounds in extra revenue to local businesses and people through delivering a successful, popular and diverse programme of high-profile events
- Attract more and more visitors to Wirral, supporting our local businesses to succeed and create jobs, through launching a reinvigorated drive to increase tourism in our borough



Cllr Bernie Mooney

Deputy Leader and Children's Services

MAJOR PROJECT CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT

We have invested hugely in our children's services. Making sure our most vulnerable young people are safe, and benefit from the best possible services, is at the very top of the council's agenda – now and in the future. Our progress and improvement since our Ofsted inspection in late 2016 has been steady, and maintained, but now we must quicken the pace.

New leadership in the service, combined with a completely new management team, is providing new impetus and bringing extra expertise to make our improvements faster, more sustainable and based on the best practice from around the UK.

Our services are now built on solid foundations. With a new pay offer for social workers, new standards for supervision and social work practice, a new performance management system and a recruitment campaign to attract the very best calibre social workers, our Children's Services Improvement journey is ready to take the next step.

What we will deliver this year:

- Deliver the children service improvement plan to achieve an improved judgement from Ofsted in re-inspection
- Strengthen prevention services by introducing an edge of care service and an effective support service to families who do not need a social work intervention
- Make Wirral an employer of choice for social workers
- Deliver the pledges
- Establish new arrangements for the the delivery of safeguarding practice
- Review school provision to make sure it meets the needs of all Wirral children
- Take action to reduce the rate of childhood obesity
- Establish a campaign to encourage parents to talk to and listen to their children (talk not shout)



Cllr George Davies

Deputy Leader and Housing & Planning

MAJOR PROJECT THE LOCAL PLAN

Wirral residents are rightly proud of their local environment. Our borough is a fantastic place to live, work and visit, where beautiful countryside and quaint rural villages sit side by side with executive homes and cutting edge industry.

It is our duty to protect Wirral, to put the policies in place which help create the Wirral of the future. This year we must develop our Local Plan, which is the main planning policy which will determine what can be built, and where. We must use this framework to protect our borough, but at the same time it must help us meeting Government-imposed housing targets and it must help us provide our residents with a good choice of attractive housing.

It's a difficult balance; our approach must be underpinned by extensive research and informed by the voice of local people. The Local Plan must meet local need, and be developed based on what local people want. This coming year we will hold an extensive public debate and consultation on the future of Wirral, and I encourage every Wirral resident to make their voice heard.

What we will deliver this year:

- Deliver a Local Plan which meets the needs of local people
- Help Wirral's rental market to continue improving, by holding landlords to account through our successful Selective Licensing Scheme
- Develop new, attractive options for residential care for older and more vulnerable residents, through a series of extra care housing schemes across the borough
- Meet residents' housing needs through driving through a range of new housing developments across the borough
- Improve the existing housing on offer for residents in Wirral, through refurbishment and adaptations



Cllr Paul Stuart

Law & Order

MAJOR PROJECT THE SAFER WIRRAL HUB

Wirral residents tell us time and again that the most important factor contributing towards a good quality of life is feeling – and being – safe. We have listened, and we have created the unique Safer Wirral Hub to deliver major improvements to every service tasked with reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Safer Wirral Hub is there to focus on those issues which Wirral residents tell us are important. It is there to reduce anti-social behaviour, to work with our residents on the problems which are harming their quality of life to make things better.

The Safer Wirral Hub was set up in late 2017 and has already begun making a real impact. This year, we must go further and make sure, in every part of Wirral, residents are supported and able to feel safe.

What we will deliver this year:

- Tackle key local issues which are most important to residents, such as the nuisance caused by scrambler bikes
- Work with our partners across the Liverpool City Region to tackle modern slavery, rough sleeping and homelessness
- Reduce domestic violence, particularly focussing on repeat incidents and incidents which involve children
- Deliver Phase 2 of the Safer Wirral Hub development, further improving the service and its ability to respond to residents' needs



Cllr Christine Jones
Adult Care & Health

MAJOR PROJECT

IMPROVE HEALTH & WELLBEING BY JOINING UP SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS

We aim to support people to be as healthy as they can be in their own local communities. Our neighbourhood teams and the care that they offer will be wrapped around local people in their communities. People will get straight forward easy to understand, effective and well-designed services when they need them.

We have gone further than many areas in joining up our health and social care services. Community nurses, social workers, GPs, Consultants and Hospital staff are working increasingly side by side to provide joined up, seamless and personalised services to vulnerable residents.

This year we will go further, we will continue to develop improve our neighbourhood offer. In addition we are developing an all age disability service that will help to raise our sights in terms of what people are able to achieve in their lives. The focus will be on supporting people to be as independent as they can be, and to offer more choice and control about how, and where they receive care to help them to achieve their personal outcomes.

What we will deliver this year:

- Further Health and Care Integration to deliver a Healthier Wirral.
- Focus on how community and Hospital services can work much better together to support people who become frail and vulnerable.
- A single plan of how services will be delivered across neighbourhoods coordinating effective care.
- Working together to deliver better joined up services for people with disabilities, to ensure that care supports people to be more independent.
- A range of campaigns, advice and information services designed to encourage people to live healthier lives.
- Put the systems in place to deliver more effective and sustainable services within the resources available.



Cllr Janette Williamson

Finance & Resources

MAJOR PROJECT

A STRATEGIC, LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN FOR WIRRAL

Austerity shows no signs of slowing down. Government funding reductions – including the complete removal of the Revenue Support Grant, traditionally our biggest source of income – combined with rising costs and demand for services continue to put unprecedented financial strain on every service we provide.

By 2020, Wirral will receive no core grant from Central Government. The only money we will have to invest in services like social care, libraries, leisure centres and waste collection will be the money we can raise ourselves through Council Tax, Business Rates and local charges.

That means we must be radical, we must be ambitious and – if we want to avoid wholesale service closures – we must think big, and find new and more imaginative ways to get better value for every penny of public money which is invested in Wirral.

What we will deliver this year:

- A balanced budget for 2018/19, together with a fair, sustainable and robust Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- A new focus on income generation, ensuring we can replace lost funding and continue to deliver on our Pledges to Wirral residents
- Review all contracts – making sure our commercial strategy and commissioned services give the very best value for local people, retaining as much public money as possible to benefit Wirral firms and workers
- Improve how every resident can contact and do business with the Council, making sure our digital channels and website are the best they can be
- Improve how the Council operates, the speed with which it does its business, and how effective it is at scrutiny, performance management and governance
- Launch a new programme to ensure as much public money as possible is kept in Wirral – our new Hire Local, Buy Local plan will ensure all major public agencies recruit more local people, employ more local firms and help support our local economy and our communities to prosper
- Focus on building the skills and capability of our workforce, through a new programme of work with the Council workforce designed to further improve culture, accountability and performance.



Cllr Angela Davies

Jobs & Growth

MAJOR PROJECT CREATING JOBS, DRIVING REGENERATION

Wirral Growth Company will create thousands of jobs for local people. It will drive huge growth in the local economy, and it will help fund local public services by bringing income to the council.

It is perhaps the most ambitious, entrepreneurial and impactful programme the council has ever embarked upon. It will help us create jobs. It will stimulate economic growth, kick-start regeneration at key sites throughout the borough, and provide a long-term, substantial revenue stream to help us replace some of the funding we have lost through austerity policies.

This programme is truly a win-win for the Council, the borough and the entire City Region. We are now in the position to truly be in the driving seat and create the Wirral we want to see for our residents.

What we will deliver this year:

- Break ground on the first Wirral Growth Company developments, in Birkenhead, Seacombe, Moreton, Bebington and Bromborough
- Launch our 'hire local / buy local' policy, to keep as much business, jobs and investment in Wirral as possible
- Help all Wirral households improve their employability through developing the skills businesses need
- Create new Apprenticeship opportunities for people all across Wirral, in diverse industries and sectors
- Drive significant progress on major development projects such as Eureka! Merseyside, Celtic Manor Golf Resort and Wirral Waters



Cllr Matthew Patrick

Environment

MAJOR PROJECT CLEANER, GREENER WIRRAL

Wirral residents are – rightly – fiercely proud of their local environment. Residents enjoy our coastline, countryside and perfect blend of the urban and rural. Wirral residents’ love where they live: they are active, and take real ownership and pride in making sure Wirral looks its best.

Our job is to help everyone play a part in keeping our borough attractive, building on our strengths and unlocking the potential in our communities and our partners to drive real and sustainable improvements across all aspects of our environment.

The local environment is not owned by the Council, or any public or private agency - the people of Wirral are its custodians. One of our key 2020 pledges is to encourage residents to take pride in their local community and increase personal responsibility, to keep Wirral ‘clean and green’. Our ambition is to work with residents to help them ensure an attractive local environment for them and for their children.

What we will deliver this year:

- Through the Wirral Together programme, work with every community group, volunteer and residents’ group in Wirral to improve our local environment
- Ensure Wirral is the first borough in the region to ban single use plastics entirely
- Establish a new publicly owned energy company, tackling fuel poverty by allowing Wirral residents access to cheaper power
- Work with colleagues in the Liverpool City Region to modernise waste collection and improve recycling rates
- Continue our zero tolerance approach to environmental crime such as litter, dog fouling and fly tipping – cracking down on the perpetrators and highlighting the many residents who contribute positively to Wirral



Cllr Phill Brightmore

Leisure & Recreation

MAJOR PROJECT STRONGER, MORE SUSTAINABLE SERVICES

Wirral has proud history as this region's 'leisure peninsula', of being the place to visit to enjoy culture, nature and incredible views. We must make that legacy a part of our future, too, and ensure future generations can continue to enjoy Wirral's stunning parks, beaches and leisure attractions.

Wirral has more Green Flags than anywhere in the North West, we have seven leisure centres, 24 libraries and an enviable array of golf courses. It is a fantastic place to live and visit, with more options for leisure than anywhere in the North West.

We have to retain these unique benefits. They are part of what makes Wirral special. We must, however, make sure they're sustainable for the future, managed and operated in a way that allows them to attract external funding and flourish.

That means modernising our services. It means finding the most appropriate way to deliver them, and making them flexible and able to attract the extra funding and new customers they need to be successful in competitive markets.

The services must continue to improve, and we will do all we can to equip our staff to take a more commercial approach to driving revenue, attracting new sources of funding and developing more imaginative ideas to create a strong, sustainable and successful set of services.

We will continue to strategically invest capital to make sure the services are of the best possible quality, and we will make sure Wirral residents can continue to enjoy a first rate choice of leisure and recreational services.

What we will deliver this year:

- Modernise our services to make sure they are fit to meet modern needs and can be delivered within budget
- Improve the services available to residents, through a programme of service improvement and strategic capital investment where appropriate
- Develop our services, enabling them to become more commercial and able to compete, succeed and grow
- Find the most appropriate, sustainable model to deliver parks, leisure, libraries and cultural services



Cllr Stuart Whittingham
Highways & Transport

MAJOR PROJECT

KEEP WIRRAL MOVING

Transport is essential for every resident, business and visitor to Wirral. Transport connects people to services, to employment, education and healthcare, and is a fundamental part of our daily lives. Travelling to the airport to go on holiday, popping to the corner shop for a pint of milk, taking the children to school or taking the dog for a walk – we need transport to do all of these activities.

Manufacturers need to transport the goods they have produced, and shops need deliveries to stock their shelves. Transport is much more than just getting from A to B. Safe and accessible transport is a right for all our residents, and crucial to all that we aspire to achieve in the delivery of our Wirral Plan. We need to ensure that transport protects the vulnerable members of our community, supports economic growth and helps to improve the local environment.

We are fortunate – we have a good transport network in Wirral, but we need to work hard to continue to improve and develop this so that it continues to meet residents' needs, supports inward investment, regeneration and housing growth, and has a positive impact on our environment and communities.

What we will deliver this year:

- Begin the programme of replacing every Wirral street light with new, energy efficient LED bulbs
- Enable high speed broadband access for every Wirral household
- Invest more than £5 million on improving potholes on roads in every Wirral community
- Improve transport links between major employment and residential areas

CONCLUSION

The 20 Pledges are making an impact.

In almost every area, we are seeing major, sustained improvements. This coming year, we have the opportunity to build on that, and deliver transformational change to Wirral.

More jobs, more homes, a better local environment and better healthcare. We have put the conditions in place to deliver on it all.

This document is our Job Description. It is what we are committing to deliver in the coming twelve months.

We promise to do our part, and we will keep every Wirral resident informed on our progress as we start this journey together.

Cllr Phil Davies
Leader of Wirral Council

WIRRAL COUNCIL

Delivery Plan 2018/19

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Council

Monday 9th July 2018

REPORT TITLE:	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18
REPORT OF:	The Director for Strategy and Partnerships

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the work undertaken by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function during the 2017/18 municipal year. The report captures the progress made, key pieces of work delivered and the impact of the work of the scrutiny committees. It also highlights proposals for further improving the function going forward.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to consider the contents of this report and whether there are any questions or actions arising.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To provide Members with a summary of the work undertaken by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function during the municipal year 2017/18.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Not Applicable.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Overview and Scrutiny is a legal requirement for local authorities under the Local Government Act 2000. Scrutiny has a key role in promoting good governance providing assurance and public sector transparency. Effective scrutiny also provides significant opportunities to improve the Council and key partners' decision-making, service provision for residents and cost-effectiveness.
- 3.2 Wirral discharges its scrutiny function through four Overview and Scrutiny Committees aligned to the themes of the Wirral Plan, People, Business and Environment with two committees Children and Families and Adult Health and Care under the People Theme. Wirral also contributes to the work carried out by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report (Appendix 1) provides information on the significant amount of scrutiny work undertaken in 2017/18, the progress made and the impact of the work. The report also outlines proposals for further improving the operation of Scrutiny in 2018/19.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are none arising from this report.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are none arising from this report.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 There are none arising from this report.

8 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Not Applicable

9 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been completed as this report is for information and there is no equality impact arising from this report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18

REFERENCE MATERIAL – N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council	06 July 2015
Council	11 July 2016
Council	10 July 2017

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Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

2017/18



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INTRODUCTION

This is the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2017/18 which summarises the work of Scrutiny over the year with a focus on the impact and outcomes for Wirral residents. In 2017/18 the scrutiny function was restructured with the People Committee discontinued and two new committees Children and Families and Adult Health and Care established to provide enhanced oversight to these key areas. The approach of Scrutiny has been developed to embed the new arrangements, ensuring a valuable contribution to good governance and delivering value for money. In order to achieve this in 2017/18 the Scrutiny function has developed work in these key areas:

- Dedicated scrutiny of the Children's Services improvement journey, joint working with the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and enhanced Member communication with the Improvement Board
- The introduction of Reality Check visit for Members to undertake site visits on a particular service area, speaking to frontline staff and service users with a specific focus on targeted areas in Children's Services
- Increasing engagement of partner agencies in scrutiny including health partners through the new Adult Health and Care Committee and engagement with a number of third sector organisations for scrutiny of Universal Credit at dedicated workshops
- Joint working across committees to ensure effective scrutiny of cross-cutting themes
- Dedicated scrutiny of the Council's transformation programme
- Setting clear objectives for scrutiny work to have the maximum impact
- Making use of pre-decision scrutiny to influence and improve decision-making
- Joint working across the Liverpool City region to scrutinise Combined Authority initiatives and ensuring inclusion of a Wirral perspective.

The four committees have initiated six scrutiny reviews, two of which has been completed, with the remaining four scheduled for completion as part of the 2018/19 municipal year.

There were five additional one-off sessions for the consideration of matters such as emerging transformation proposals and the 2018/19 budget proposals. Committees also received a total of 148 presentations, reports and updates, dealt with seven Notices of Motion and convened four additional meetings to review decisions that had either been called-in or where a special meeting had been requested.

Further details of the breadth and scope of the work carried out by the scrutiny function can be found in the appendices to this report.

This report highlights the key successes of 2017/18 setting out the task and finish work completed in-year including the outcomes and impact of this work. The report also sets out the key priorities for scrutiny in Wirral for the coming municipal year.

CHAIRS REFLECTIONS

Councillor Tom Usher – Chair of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee was formed last year, after the publication of the Ofsted report into children's services. Since then all Members of the committee have had the opportunity to work collaboratively and take part in the formation of a busy work programme.

Since the Ofsted report on Children's Services in September 2016, there has been substantial and ongoing service transformation and investment in areas that sit under this committee's remit. Because of this, we have included an Improvement Journey Update from the Head of Service as a standing item on each of our meetings over the past year. Members were also given the chance to make inquiries about the additional funding and its proposed uses in children's social services at a budget workshop on 11th January 2018.

It is also important for Members to have a good understanding of the services they intend to scrutinise, and to be able to gather information from a number of sources. The committee decided to form a programme of Reality Check visits, gave Members a chance to focus their inquiries on a particular service area, and speak to frontline staff. The visits took place at the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub), Leaving Care Team, Early Childhood Service and the Performance Dashboard.

The committee also recognised that the various boards and organisations responsible for children's services needed arrangements in place to ensure effective communication and information sharing. A workshop was held on 23rd August 2017 between the WSCB and the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The outcome was a better mutual understanding of each organisation's responsibilities, and the drafting of a working protocol between the two bodies to ensure a better working relationship.

Pre-decision scrutiny is also an important tool of the overview and scrutiny committee. The All-Age Disability and Mental Health Transformation Project was a service area transformation relevant to both the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Adult and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A joint workshop was held on 2nd August 2017 to provide a number of recommendations before this report went to cabinet.

There is one piece of ongoing Task and Finish work in the form of the Statutory Care Plan Review. This is designed to test the effectiveness and timeliness of statutory care plans. The review will also look at the effectiveness of special guardianship orders. The scoping exercise for this piece of work has already been carried out, with evidence sessions taking place in October and December. Children's services is a large and complex service area and I would like to thank all Members of the committee for their dedication over the past year, especially vice-chair Cllr Moira McLaughlin whose experience and support has been much appreciated.

Councillor Julie MacManus – Chair of the Adult Health and Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee

This was the first year of the new Adult Health & Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and my first year as a Committee Chair. Under the new arrangements, the Committee has continued to deliver a comprehensive work programme and I would like to thank all Members for the support they have shown me in my role as Chair.

This year as a Committee, we have further developed our partnership approach to effective Scrutiny which helps in our role of holding our Health Partners to account. The Committee has been dedicated to collaborating effectively with the many health partners throughout Wirral, to ensure the best services are available for residents – given the increasing demand and budget constraints. The Committee has also continued to ensure that the Wirral Plan pledges are delivered; taking a particular interest in the shared partnership vision around the All Age Disability Strategy and improving outcomes for Wirral residents. Towards the beginning of the municipal year in June 2017, Members were pleased to be provided with key updates and achievements against each of the priority areas within the Strategy and gaining further insight on the development of the Wirral Plan pledge.

The committee has worked on effectively supporting and scrutinising local delivery of the NHS 'Five Year Forward View'. In February 2018, I was pleased to chair a special meeting of the Committee to focus on the scope of the Health and Care Partnership for Cheshire and Merseyside's Strategic Programmes, Place Based Care Systems and their Communications & Public Partnership Engagement Plans. This was an opportunity for Members to continue their dialogue with the Partnership, and to remain engaged as the programme moves forward.

Colleagues from all parties have showed great commitment and enthusiasm to developing an active work programme throughout the year. There has been a collective will to continue to improve the scrutiny work the Committee undertakes and as a result we have seen some fantastic outcomes, adding very tangible value.

An example of note includes the excellent work around Urgent Care with pre-consultation briefings taking place for the Scrutiny Committee. This provided Members with a thorough insight of this important issue, with the input from Scrutiny supporting the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in shaping its development going forward. Another key issue this year has been the temporary closure of the Eastham Walk In clinic, with Members of the Committee challenging the reasoning behind the closure and, not only helping to ensure that services like these remain available, but also that health providers uphold their statutory responsibility to report significant changes in service delivery.

Once again, I would like to extend my thanks to all Members, officers and stakeholders for their contribution to the great scrutiny work undertaken this year. I would also like to give my personal thanks to my Vice Chair, Cllr Moira McLaughlin, who has been extremely supportive in my first year. Her experience and knowledge has been invaluable.

Councillor Mike Sullivan – Chair of the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee

I would like to thank all Members who sat on the Committee during the last Municipal Year. In particular, I would like to thank the Party Spokespersons for the Committee, Councillor Dave Mitchell and Councillor Steve Williams, for their collaboration into shaping the Committee's agendas across the course of the year.

Universal Credit has come to the forefront of the Committee's agenda and an initial report was presented by Council officers at a committee meeting in November 2017 following Full Service for Wirral. At a meeting of all the Chairs of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees, we agreed that it was important for Members to keep Universal Credit on the scrutiny agenda moving forward. We arranged two scrutiny workshops for all Overview & Scrutiny Members and invited both Council officers and representatives from several third sector organisations to talk about their early experiences of the impact and emerging impact following Full Service roll-out. Members welcomed these workshops as they were not only informative but highlighted challenges going forward for residents in Wirral. We will ensure that more workshops will be held in the municipal year where the impacts will be better realised and Members can help influence change and better outcomes for Wirral's residents.

The Committee is committed to ensuring that pledge updates are received to ensure Wirral is delivering the Wirral Plan. Members received an excellent presentation from officers around the Transport Strategy and were very encouraged with the work in this area. Over the years, Members have also taken a keen interest in road safety and a scrutiny review was carried out with officers to help inform Wirral's developing Road Safety Strategy. A number of reports and a Notice of Motion have previously been presented to Committee and Members were very keen to ensure that any identified issues were addressed and that Wirral has a Road Safety Plan that is fit for purpose.

Committee also received an encouraging presentation on Wirral's commercialisation agenda. This was well received by Members of all political parties. It is vital that the Council looks at all the ways additional income can be generated, considering the financial pressures on Wirral Council to continually deliver services. It was intended that pre-decision scrutiny would be carried out on the developing Commercial Strategy in the municipal year but was deferred until the proposals and draft strategy had been developed. As with previous years, pre-decision scrutiny remains a key activity in the drive to help influence Cabinet and improve outcomes for Wirral.

Committee has continued to receive updates on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) following the appointment of the directly elected Mayor for the LCRCA. As a standing item on the Committee's agenda, this has developed our knowledge and understanding of the wider issues which may impact Wirral at a local level. The work of the LCRCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee has also been reported to Committee, including the progress on scrutiny reviews and the outcomes of these.

Councillor Paul Stuart – Chair of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

I would like to extend my thanks to Committee Members for the work carried out in the last municipal year and for the collaborative working across all political parties.

A Notice of Motion was referred to Committee Members in relation to the condition of Wirral's sports pavilions within our parks, sports grounds and open spaces. As a committee, we agreed to follow up on the Notice of Motion with a visit to a number of sports pavilions so Members could independently evaluate conditions in Wirral sports pavilions and engage directly with frontline staff. Undertaking a site visit was a new approach to scrutiny for this committee and was welcomed by all Members who took part and actively engaged with front line staff. A number of important recommendations were made to the Cabinet Member for Environment, including proactively identifying opportunities for external funding and exploring income streams through advertising or sponsorship.

The Committee held a Special Meeting to consider a letter from the Secretary of State seeking further information on plan-making in Wirral because of the Council's failure to adopt a 2004 Act Local Plan. Scrutiny Members agreed that the length of time taken to develop a Local Plan was a concern and Committee will be monitoring its development moving forward with a standing item on the agenda.

The Committee was also very interested in ensuring the Council is delivering on the Wirral Plan Pledges and Members received a detailed update on the 'Attractive Local Environment for Wirral Residents' Pledge. Members of the Committee appreciated the Cabinet Member's attendance to respond to specific questions from Members regarding the delivery of this pledge.

One piece of Task & Finish work is currently ongoing in relation to Modern Slavery. With the adoption of the Council to implement Local Government Association (LGA) guidance on Modern Slavery, the Review Panel will also inform on Wirral's draft strategy as pre-decision scrutiny as part of the work carried out.

I would like to again extend my thanks to all Committee Members for their contribution to scrutiny last year.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS 2017/18

During 2017/18 the scrutiny function continued to develop its role in support of good corporate governance; the key achievements include:

Children's Services Improvement Journey

In 2017/18 scrutiny was further developed in relation to scrutiny of the improvement journey. There was an increased focus at committee meetings with an in depth report provided at each meeting by the Director of Children's Services to ensure all questions could be answered. This led to the development of a protocol with the WSCB to improve O&S of safeguarding arrangements. The work also led to the reality checks of different areas of children's services providing the committee with first hand insight of the workings of children's services, enabling Members to triangulate evidence from a number of different sources. This work is laying the foundations to ensure effective scrutiny is in place for future arrangements within this evolving landscape.

Holding Health Partners to Account

In 2017/18 through the new Health and Care O&S Committee improved scrutiny was developed in regard to holding health partners to account. Examples include repeat prescriptions where reports were presented in relation to the patient perspective with further follow up work regarding specific focus on vulnerable groups. Work was also carried out by committee on the on the local delivery of the Five Year Forward View where Committee views were fed into the planning process. Briefings were held on Urgent Care, ensuring the Committee were fully up to speed on this complex area before the formal consultations commence. Through this, working relationships with health partners were improved which will enhance the work of the committee moving forward.

Reality Check Visits

Reality Check visits gave Members the opportunity to undertake site visits and meet with frontline staff in order for them to increase their knowledge and understanding and to enable them to triangulate evidence from a range of sources. A number of Reality Check visits have taken place in the 2017/18 municipal year, including visits to the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) and some of Wirral's sports pavilions.

Wirral Plan

Scrutiny has maintained a clear focus on supporting the effective delivery of the Wirral Plan. Each committee reviews the pledges under their identified Wirral Plan theme with opportunity to receive detailed updates from Pledge leads on progress and challenges in specific areas. For example Business O&S reviewed progress in delivery of the Transport Strategy with a particular focus on road safety where a scrutiny review was carried out to help inform Wirral's developing Road Safety Strategy.

Scrutiny of the Transformation Programme

The Centre for Public Scrutiny promotes the effective involvement of scrutiny councillors in considering and debating major council transformation plans to make the end product more robust. In Wirral this approach is now embedded as pre-decision scrutiny of development proposals providing an opportunity to influence decisions on major transformation projects affecting all residents of the borough. For example a scrutiny workshop in relation to the Libraries, Leisure and Cultural Services Transformation Programme was delivered to Members in September 2017 and pre-decision scrutiny of the All Age Disability Service transformation developments in August 2017. Feedback from these sessions has been considered in the development of business cases presented to Cabinet.

Performance Monitoring

The approach to performance reporting was embedded and enhanced. Wirral Plan Quarterly pledge themed performance reports were provided to Scrutiny Committees to enable performance to be continuously monitored and reviewed. For the new Adult Health and Care Committee a partnership performance report was developed with the oversight of Members and is provided quarterly. At the same quarterly meetings financial information was provided to ensure committees could provide oversight of finance and savings delivery.

Cross Party Collaboration

Committee Chairs continued with their practice of holding agenda setting meetings with party spokespersons prior to formal committee meetings. This provided the opportunity for all groups to influence the shape of agendas and the scrutiny work programme throughout the year. Joint Chairs' and Party Spokespersons meetings have also been convened to focus on areas for improvement and development.

Cross-Committee Joint Working

Committee chairs meet regularly throughout the year to share individual committee work plans and approaches to ensure all opportunities for cross committee working and ensuring no duplication is in place. In 2017/18 this approach was particularly effective in scrutinising Universal credit where Members from all committees jointly attended two workshop sessions with senior council officers and representatives from the third sector, including Citizens Advice and Magenta. The Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee was designated as the committee with oversight of Universal Credit. Cross-Committee joint working was also effective in enhancing the pre-decision scrutiny of the All Age Disability Service transformation developments.

Budget Scrutiny

The 2018/19 budget proposals received comprehensive pre-decision scrutiny through a series of workshops set up for each committee. These sessions influenced a number of budget decisions, for example encouraging the Cabinet to revise proposals to introduce car parking charges in various locations around the borough, and suggesting an increase to the charge for additional garden waste bins. Member feedback on the sessions will help shape the approach for budget proposal discussion with committees in 2018.

The Scrutiny Work Programme

To improve scrutiny work planning Members were supported to prioritise areas of work which would add the most value and optimise the available resources to provide an efficient and deliverable work programme for each committee. The following principles were adopted by Members at work programme planning sessions to assist with topic selection:

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?

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wirral has three Members sitting on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee and a work programme was completed in 2017/18. Members undertook reviews on the LCRCA Spatial Strategy, Air Quality and Universal Credit & Welfare Reform. The Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee received regular updates of the scrutiny activity carried out to help inform the work programme.

Member Development

Scrutiny Members have access to an intranet page including a set of tools covering all aspects of scrutiny such as a Scrutiny Toolkit, a scrutiny Library and easy access to published scrutiny reviews. A Scrutiny training session on delivering effective scrutiny is provided to all new Members. In addition, regular updates, training opportunities and best practice guides from the Centre for Public Scrutiny and other scrutiny networks are circulated to Members.

<http://wbcnet.admin.ad.wirral.gov.uk/governance/scrutiny>

THE IMPACT OF SCRUTINY IN 2017/18

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Scrutiny Committee Meetings	Scope
5 regular committee meetings	<p>To review and scrutinise the strategies and plans associated with children and families within the People theme of the Wirral Plan. To review and scrutinise the commissioning, management and performance of services under this remit. Support/Governance of the Council’s response to the outcome of the 2016 Ofsted inspection and children’s Services improvement journey.</p> <p>This has included a combination of standing items and items identified by the Chair and Party Spokespersons for committee agendas. See appendix 3 for the full list of reports received during the year.</p>

Scrutiny Work Outside Committee Meetings	Scope	Outcome
<p>Safeguarding governance - scrutiny’s relationship with the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and other safeguarding bodies</p>	<p>To strengthen the relationship between O&S and the WSCB to avoid duplication and ensure prioritised joint working.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through a joint workshop a protocol for joint working was established. • Improved contact between the two bodies. • Independent WSCB chair was accountable for delivering the WSCB annual report which led to improved scrutiny. • Agreement for pre-decision scrutiny in 2018 of new safeguarding arrangements.
<p>All Age Disability Transformation Workshop – joint with Adult Health and Care Committee</p>	<p>Pre-decision scrutiny of the developing proposals for future delivery of the all age disability service to ensure that the full Business Case reflected Members views</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members had opportunity to feedback their view prior to cabinet decision. • Areas of focus for the report included adaptations to properties for people with disabilities (including the relationship between occupational therapists and the social landlords) and the process for the referral by GPs of patients with mental health issues to the relevant service.

Scrutiny Work Outside Committee Meetings	Scope	Outcome
<p>Reality Checks – Visits to a range of services to raise member awareness of issues, and to engage with service users and frontline officers. These visits allow a greater understanding of key concerns.</p>	<p>The committee agreed 4 reality checks in priority areas in children’s services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) • Leaving Care Service • Early Childhood Service – Seacombe Children’s Centre • Performance dashboard 	<p>Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members were reassured that deployment and increase of social workers within the MASH on a permanent basis appears to have created a more stable working environment and enabled the application of more consistent processes /thresholds. • Members highlighted special guardianship as an area for further review by children’s services. • Members requested further consideration be given to identifying a range of performance data which would enable scrutiny Members to monitor performance relating to the safeguarding of children on an on-going basis which is under development by children’s services. <p>Leaving Care Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members were reassured that the service has made good progress towards achieving the recommendations outlined by Ofsted during their inspection in July 2016 • Members urged that further progress is required on individualising and improving the quality of Pathway Plans, to ensure that the young person’s voice and wishes are reflected. <p>Early Childhood Service - Seacombe Children’s Centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members wanted the service to ensure that all opportunities for integration of health with children’s services would be pursued where appropriate to enhance services for residents. <p>Performance dashboard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members were reassured of the advantages of the availability of data and ability to monitor more effectively through the new dashboard however it was noted that further developments are required to optimise the effectiveness of dashboard use.

ADULT HEALTH AND CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Scrutiny Committee Meetings	Scope
5 regular committee meetings plus an additional full committee meeting to scrutinise the local delivery of the 5 year forward view (NHS England strategic document)	To review and scrutinise the strategies and plans associated with Adult Health and Care within the People theme of the Wirral Plan. To fulfil the statutory duty to undertake the scrutiny of delivery of local health services. To review and scrutinise the commissioning, management and performance of services under this remit. This has included a combination of standing items and items identified by the Chair and Party Spokespersons for committee agendas. See appendix 3 for the full list of reports received during the year.

Scrutiny Work Outside Committee Meetings	Scope	Outcome
All Age Disability Transformation Workshop – joint with Children and Families Committee	Pre-decision scrutiny of the developing proposals for future delivery of the all age disability service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members had the opportunity to influence proposals prior to cabinet decision. • The Full Business Case was subsequently developed to ensure that key points made by Elected Members, detailed in the workshop report, were addressed.
Quality Accounts of health providers	Scrutinising the draft quality account reports of the four local health providers. Wirral Community Trust, Wirral University Teaching Hospital, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Trust and Clatterbridge Cancer Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The views of the O&S committee are provided to provider organisations and The Department of Health. • The relationship between the committee and the provider organisations is enhanced. • Improves member insight of key issues in the delivery of health services in Wirral. • The work can feed into the committees work programme to ensure the right areas are prioritised e.g. child mental health. • Following member’s scrutiny through the Quality Account performance feedback sessions, Wirral Community Trust agreed to

Scrutiny Work Outside Committee Meetings	Scope	Outcome
		<p>amend their account to include a suggestion by Members regarding the closure of the Eastham Walk In Centre. This demonstrated the effective approach taken by Scrutiny in achieving change.</p>
Urgent Care Workshop	Scrutiny of the background to planning for development of Urgent Care proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide Members with insight on Urgent Care development to ensure Members were equipped to respond effectively to forthcoming consultation. • Member feedback was taken on board by the CCG to help shape developments.

BUSINESS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Scrutiny Committee Meetings	Scope
5 regular committee meetings	To review and scrutinise the strategies and plans associated with the Business theme of the Wirral Plan. To review and scrutinise the commissioning, management and performance of services under the Business Committee remit. This has included a combination of standing items and items identified by the Chair and Party Spokespersons for committee agendas. See appendix 3 for the full list of reports received during the year.

Scrutiny Work Outside Committee Meetings	Scope	Outcome
<p>Universal Credit Workshops - This was commissioned by the Chairs of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees and conducted over two scrutiny workshops with key senior officers and representatives from a number of third sector organisations in attendance.</p>	<p>The objective was to understand the early impact and emerging issues of Universal Credit on residents in Wirral and the impact on operational services for the Council. Workshops were held in February 2018 and were open to all Overview & Scrutiny Members.</p> <p>Senior officers and organisational representatives delivered an overview of their service area, highlighting their initial observations and emerging issues, before the workshops were opened up for a question and answer sessions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members and Officers have a better understanding of the early impact of Universal Credit. • Better understanding and engagement with third sector organisations involved in Universal Credit. • Further scrutiny activity is better informed in developing the work programme.
<p>Road Safety Review - This was commissioned by the Committee following a number of concerns relating to Road Safety.</p>	<p>The key objective was to help inform the development of Wirral's Road Safety Plan. Additionally, the Review Panel wanted to understand the approach taken to road safety, the funding implications and the role of partners in delivery. The review was conducted through an evidence session with Senior Officers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wirral will deliver a Road Safety plan that is fit for purpose. • Enhanced performance reporting for Members will be implemented.

Scrutiny Work Outside Committee Meetings	Scope	Outcome
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny - The LCRCA Scrutiny Panel convened four times over the 2017/18 Municipal Year.	The panel carries out scrutiny reviews into areas of strategic importance for the people of the Liverpool City Region. During 2017/18 the Scrutiny Panel completed in-depth scrutiny reviews on the LCRCA Spatial Strategy, Welfare Reform and Air Quality for consideration by the Combined Authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring Wirral's voice is heard as part of the scrutiny of LCRCA areas of activity.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Scrutiny Committee Meetings	Scope
Page 86 regular committee meetings	To review and scrutinise the strategies and plans associated with the Environment theme of the Wirral Plan. To review and scrutinise the commissioning, management and performance of services under the Environment Committee remit. This has included a combination of standing items and items identified by the Chair and Party Spokespersons for committee agendas. See appendix 3 for the full list of reports received during the year.
Special Meeting to discuss Wirral's Local Plan	Members of the Committee requested a Special Meeting to discuss a letter received by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which stated that Government had started the formal process of considering intervention for Wirral Council because of Council's failure to adopt the 2004 Local Plan Act. As a result of this meeting, the Environment O&S Committee will receive an update on progress made to adopt a Local Plan as standing item at each Committee meeting.

Scrutiny Work Outside Committee Meetings	Scope	Outcome
Reality Visit Check – Sports Pavilions A 'Reality Visit Check' was added to the work programme for Members to visit a	Members undertook a site visit for scrutiny to independently evaluate conditions in Wirral sports pavilions and engage directly with frontline staff. Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutiny supports the development and adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy. Reassurance that the Council proactively

selection of sports pavilions in Wirral	sites were identified and Members were interested in viewing the facilities at these and to ask questions of officers.	<p>seeks all opportunities to secure external funding to enhance and upgrade the changing facilities at the borough's sports pitches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Libraries, Leisure and Cultural Services review is better informed as part of the ongoing transformation work.
Transformation Scrutiny - Libraries, Leisure and Cultural Services	A workshop was held for Members to review the service development proposals for Leisure, Libraries and Cultural Services, as part of the Council's transformation programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny influenced a decision taken by Cabinet to explore additional options for each of the individual services in the scope of the review.

PRIORITIES FOR 2018/19

In the coming year the scrutiny function will continue to prioritise supporting the effective delivery of the Wirral Plan and the Council's Transformation Programme.

The scrutiny function will continue to focus on delivering the following outcomes:

- The Council's Executive is held to account
- Partner agencies are held to account
- Good governance is maintained
- Decision-making is improved
- Policy is developed and enhanced
- Service improvements are identified and implemented
- Resident or service user feedback is used to influence change
- Members are informed about the quality or effectiveness of services

In support of the above, the following key areas of focus have been identified for 2018/19:

Seeking Opportunities to Engage Better with Residents

A key aim for the coming year is to improve engagement with service users and local residents, so that their views can be used to influence policy and service improvement. This will be achieved through increased engagement with voluntary organisations, friends groups as well as conducting focus groups and surveys with residents. One key area will be Universal Credit Scrutiny.

On-going Assurance

Scrutiny must be agile and flexible in order to be able to provide effective oversight of services delivered by the Council and its partners. Seeking new ways to conduct scrutiny will support elected Members to scrutinise the broadest range of services in the most efficient way. The use of different tools to carry out scrutiny will optimise the available capacity of each committee. Examples of new assurance methods being considered in the coming year include the use of Clinical Senates - independent health experts who can work with committees to provide specialist advice and guidance.

Closing the Loop and Measuring the Effectiveness of Scrutiny

To achieve tangible impact and make sure the work of scrutiny counts, scrutiny must get better at monitoring progress against its findings and recommendations. To achieve this, scrutiny committees will ensure that progress reports from previous scrutiny reviews are scheduled on committee work programmes. This will require Members to ensure there is adequate space on committee agendas for follow-up reports. This will encourage greater ownership of scrutiny recommendations and will improve accountability regarding their implementation.

Risk Awareness and Scrutiny

Member risk awareness and the effective scrutiny of risk are essential to enable effective scrutiny particularly in times of significant change. Over the course of the municipal year, a number of Members highlighted the need for scrutiny to consider risk as part of the scrutiny work programme.

This year Scrutiny will further develop understanding of risk and risk management through a number of 'Risk awareness sessions'. This approach will help to develop and sustain a member-led risk culture that is not exclusively the domain of Cabinet. Scrutiny will consider, and act on, risk issues that present themselves in respect of organisational risk including major change programmes.

Scrutiny of Finance

Finance Officers have been presenting financial reports to Scrutiny as a standing agenda item throughout the municipal year. For 2018/19, the Scrutiny of finance will be further developed following Member feedback about their desire to have a more pro-active approach in this area. Particular focus will be on the monitoring of proposed budget savings options presented to Members at the budget setting workshops. Scrutiny will look to establish a more pro-active approach, enabling input and challenge throughout the year as Finance Officers provide updates on progress made in achieving the savings previously identified.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: TABLE OF COMPLETED / INITIATED SCRUTINY ACTIVITY IN 2017/18

Item	Format	Committee	Timescale
Wirral's Road Safety Plan	Task & Finish Review	Business O&S	Completed January 2018
Resident Parking	Task & Finish Review	Business O&S	Completed July 2017
Universal Credit	Workshops	Business O&S	Completed February 2018. Report to July 2018 Committee.
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Regional Committee	Business O&S	4 meetings during 2017/18
Modern Slavery	Task & Finish Review	Environment O&S	Initiated September 2017
Reality Check – Sports Pavilions	Reality Check	Environment O&S	Completed Sept 2017
Transforming Wirral – Libraries, Leisure and Cultural Services, Future Provision of Services	Workshop	Environment O&S	Initiated September 2017
Continuing Health Care	Task & Finish Review	Adult Care & Health O&S	Initiated March 2017. Report to July 2018 Committee
Respite Services	Task & Finish Review	Adult Care & Health O&S	Initiated Feb 2017.
Statutory Care Plan	Task & Finish Review	Children & Families O&S	Initiated October 2017
Reality Check – Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub	Reality Check	Children & Families O&S	Completed Sept 2017
Reality Check – Leaving Care Service	Reality Check	Children & Families O&S	Completed Oct 2017
Reality Check – Early Childhood Service	Reality Check	Children & Families O&S	Completed December 2017
Budget Scrutiny	Workshops	All Committees	Completed January 2018

APPENDIX 2: CALL-IN MEETINGS AND NOTICES OF MOTION

Call-In Meetings

Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Date
Car Parking Charges Traffic Regulation Order – Consideration for further Representations.	18/07/2017
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Date
Leisure and Cultural Services – Future Provision of Services	19/06/2017

Special Meetings

Adult Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Date
Local delivery of the Cheshire and Merseyside Five Year Forward View - Progress	13/02/2018
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Date
Wirral Local Plan – Letter from the Secretary of State	07/12/2017

Notices of Motion

Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Date
Wirral Well-Made Need for Infrastructure Support	19/11/2017
Making More Time for Pedestrians	19/11/2017
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Date
Green Belt	05/07/2017
Economic Viability Assessments from Developers	31/01/2018
Planning Ahead to Use the Community Infrastructure Levy	31/01/2018
Pavilions in Sports Grounds	21/09/2017
Fair Votes	21/09/2017

APPENDIX 3: OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS 2017/18

Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Title	Format	Date
Resident Parking Task & Finish Scrutiny Review	Councillor report	04/07/2017
Road Condition Update	Officer Report	04/07/2017
Update on Liverpool City Region Developments	Officer Report	04/07/2017
Liverpool City Region Combine Authority Scrutiny Panel	Verbal Update	04/07/2017
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee Briefing Packs	Verbal Update	04/07/2017
Q4 and Year End Wirral Plan Performance – Business Theme	Officer Report	04/07/2017
Financial Monitoring 2016/17	Officer Report	04/07/2017
Appointment of the Highways Representation Panel	Officer Report	04/07/2017
Business Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Update Report	Officer Report	04/07/2017
Resident Parking Scrutiny Review	Verbal Update	19/09/2017
Commercialisation Update	Presentation	19/09/2017
Update on Liverpool City Region Developments	Officer Report	19/09/2017
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee Update	Officer Report	19/09/2017
Q1 Wirral Plan Performance	Officer Report	19/09/2017
Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2017/18	Officer Report	19/09/2017
Policy Inform : Business	Officer Report	19/09/2017
Business Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Update Report	Officer Report	19/09/2017
Fines Imposed to Utility Companies for delay in completion of work to highways	Verbal Update	19/09/2017
Universal Credit Full Service November 2017	Officer Report	29/11/2017
Update on Liverpool City Region Developments	Officer Report	29/11/2017
Liverpool City Region Combine Authority Scrutiny Panel	Verbal Update	29/11/2017
2017/18 Quarter 2 Wirral Plan Performance	Officer Report	29/11/2017
Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 2 2017/18	Officer Report	29/11/2017
Highways Representation Panel Minutes	Verbal Update	29/11/2017
Policy Inform : Business	Officer Report	29/11/2017
Business Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Update Report	Officer Report	29/11/2017
Connecting Wirral Transport Strategy – Pledge Update	Officer Report	23/01/2018
Wirral’s Road Safety Plan – Scrutiny Review	Councillor report	23/01/2018
Budget Proposals Workshop – Scrutiny Report	Officer Report	23/01/2018
Update on Liverpool City Region Developments	Officer Report	23/01/2018
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee Update	Verbal Update	23/01/2018
Business Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Update Report	Officer Report	23/01/2018
Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2017/18	Officer Report	27/03/2018
Update on Liverpool City Region Developments	Officer Report	27/03/2018
Liverpool City Region Combine Authority Scrutiny Panel	Verbal Update	27/03/2018
2017/18 Quarter 3 Wirral Plan Performance	Officer Report	27/03/2018
Business Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Update Report	Officer Report	27/03/2018

Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Title	Format	Date
Attractive Local Environment for Wirral Residents – Pledge Update	Presentation	05/07/2017
Domestic Refuse Collection Service Update	Verbal Update	05/07/2017
Street Lighting – Maintenance & Improvement Update	Officer Report	05/07/2017
Highway Trees Maintenance Contract	Officer Report	05/07/2017
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Update	Officer Report	05/07/2017
2016/2017 Quarter 4 and Year End Wirral Plan Performance – Environment Theme	Officer Report	05/07/2017
The Governments Plans for improving air Quality and the Implications for Wirral	Presentation	21/09/2017
Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2017/18	Officer Report	21/09/2017
2017/18 Quarter 1 Wirral Plan Performance	Officer report	21/09/2017
Policy Inform	Officer report	21/09/2017
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme Update	Officer Report	21/09/2017
Review of Litter and Dog Fouling Enforcement Arrangements	Presentation	30/11/2017
Feedback from Site Visits to Pavilions in Sports Grounds	Officer Report	30/11/2017
Local Authority Powers to Require Drivers to Switch off Engines when parked	Officer Report	30/11/2017
Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 2017/18	Officer Report	30/11/2017
Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 2 2017/18	Officer Report	30/11/2017
Policy Inform	Officer Report	30/11/2017
Work Programme Update	Officer Report	30/11/2017
Climate Change Annual Report and Action Plan 2017	Officer Report	31/01/2018
Wirral Local Plan – Report of Progress Since 2004	Officer Report	31/01/2018
2018/19 Budget Scrutiny Report	Officer Report	31/01/2018
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme Update	Officer Report	31/01/2018
Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2017/18	Officer Report	28/03/2018
2017/18 Quarter 3 Wirral Plan Performance	Officer Report	28/03/2018
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme Update	Officer Report	28/03/2018

Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Title	Format	Date
Briefing Packs – Children and Families	Officer Report	20/07/2017
Committee Remit & Key Issues for municipal Year	Presentation	20/07/2017
Improvement Plan – Update	Presentation	20/07/2017
Scrutiny Safeguard Review Dec 2015 –Update of Progress	Officer Report	20/07/2017
Schools Strategy	Presentation	20/07/2017
2016/17 Q4 & Year End Wirral Plan Performance – People Theme	Officer Report	20/07/2017
Financial Monitoring 2016/17 Q4	Officer Report	20/07/2017
Children and Families OSC Work Programme Update Report	Officer Report	20/07/2017
Merseyside Police – Role in Safeguarding Procedures	Presentation	26/09/2017
Improvement Plan – Update plus Position Statement	Presentation	26/09/2017
Children and Social Work Act – Implications for the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board	Officer Report	26/09/2017
Workshop regarding the relationship between Scrutiny and the WSCB -Feedback	Officer Report	26/09/2017
Summary of Standards – Provisional Outcomes for Early years KS1 & KS2 August 2017	Officer Report	26/09/2017
Financial Monitoring Report Q1 2017/18	Officer Report	26/09/2017
2017/18 Quarter 1 Wirral Plan Performance	Officer Report	26/09/2017
Policy Inform	Officer Report	26/09/2017
Feedback from Joint Workshop on all – Age Disabilities and Mental Health Transformation Project	Officer Report	26/09/2017
Reality Check visit to the Multi Agency Safeguarding HUB (MASH) Feedback	Officer Report	26/09/2017
Children and Families OSC – Work Programme Update Report	Officer Report	26/09/2017
Improvement Journey - Update	Presentation	14/11/2017
Safeguarding Children Annual Report (2016/17)	Presentation	14/11/2017
Domestic Abuse – Strategy Delivery Update	Officer Report	14/11/2017
Financial Monitoring 2017/18	Officer Report	14/11/2017
2017/18 Quarter 2 Wirral Plan Performance	Officer Report	14/11/2017
Reality Check Visit to the Leaving Care Services - Feedback	Officer Report	14/11/2017
Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme Update Report	Officer Report	14/11/2017
Improvement Journey - Update	Presentation	25/01/2018
Preventing Family Breakdown – Children on the Edge of Care	Presentation	25/01/2018
Delivery of ‘ Children Ready for School Pledge’ - Update	Officer Report	25/01/2018
Reality Check Visit – Early Childhood Service – Feedback Report	Officer Report	25/01/2018
Summary of Standards, provisional Outcomes for KS 4 & KS 5	Officer Report	25/01/2018
Children & Families OSC – Feedback from Budget Scrutiny (2018/2019)	Officer Report	25/01/2018
Children and Families OSC – Work Programme Update Report	Officer report	25/01/2018
2017/2018 Quarter 3 Wirral Plan Performance	Officer Report	22/03/2018
Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2017/2018	Officer Report	22/03/2018
Improvement Journey - Update	Presentation	22/03/2018
Learning From Audit	Officer Report	22/03/2018
Reality Check Visit – Performance Dashboard – Feedback Report	Officer Report	22/03/2018

Title	Format	Date
Improving Life Chances Strategy – Pledge Update	Officer Report	22/03/2018
Pupil Attendance & Exclusions In Wirral Schools	Officer Report	22/03/2018
Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Update	Officer Report	22/03/2018

Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Title	Format	Date
Adult Care and Health OSC – Briefing Packs	Verbal Update	28/06/2017
Key Issues for Health and Care	Officer Report	28/06/2017
Review of services provided by Change, Grow, Live (CGL)	Presentation	28/06/2017
Outcome of CQC Inspection for CGL	Presentation	28/06/2017
Repeat Prescription Pilot Scheme	Presentation	28/06/2017
Clatterbridge Cancer Centre – Outcomes form the CQC Inspection	Presentation	28/06/2017
All Age Disability – Update on Strategy Delivery	Officer Report	28/06/2017
2016/17 Quarter 4 and Year End Wirral Plan Performance – People Theme	Officer Report	28/06/2017
Adult Care and Health OSC Work Programme Update Report	Officer Report	28/06/2017
Eastham Walk In Centre	Verbal Update	13/09/2017
Dynamic Purchasing Scheme for CHC (NHS Continuing HealthCare) Beds.	Officer Report	13/09/2017
National Service Model – Short Break (Respite) Services	Verbal Update	13/09/2017
Cumulative Impact on Public Health Scrutiny Review	Officer Report	13/09/2017
Annual Social Care Complaints Report 2016/17	Officer Report	13/09/2017
Better Care Fund – Plan and Priorities	Officer Report	13/09/2017
Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2017/18	Officer Report	13/09/2017
2017/18 Quarter 1 Wirral Plan Performance	Officer Report	13/09/2017
Policy Inform	Verbal Update	13/09/2017
Adult Care and Health OSC Work Programme Update Report	Officer Report	13/09/2017
Eastham Walk In Centre – Update on Impact	Officer Report	28/11/2017
Urgent Care Transformation	Officer Report	28/11/2017
Place Based Care Arrangements for Wirral	Officer Report	28/11/2017
Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) Service	Officer Report	28/11/2017
Response to CQC Publication on Quality	Officer Report	28/11/2017
Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 2 2017/18	Officer Report	28/11/2017
2017/18 Quarter 2 Wirral Plan Performance	Officer Report	28/11/2017
Policy Inform	Verbal Update	28/11/2017
Adult Care and Health OSC Work Programme Update Report	Officer Report	28/11/2017
Dynamic Purchasing Scheme for CHC (NHS Continuing HealthCare) Beds - Impact	Officer Report	30/01/2018
Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)	Officer Report	30/01/2018
Adults Safeguarding Annual Report	Officer Report	30/01/2018
Social Care and Health Integration	Officer Report	30/01/2018
Adult Care and Health OSC – Feedback from budget workshop	Officer Report	30/01/2018
Adult Care and Health OSC Work Programme Update Report	Officer Report	30/01/2018
Local Delivery of the Cheshire and Merseyside Five Year Forward View	Presentation	13/02/2018

Title	Format	Date
Independent Review of the Wirral Patient Led Repeat Ordering	Officer Report	20/03/2018
Community Phlebotomy Service Update	Officer Report	20/03/2018
Future Commissioning Strategy for People with Disabilities	Officer Report	20/03/2018
Thorn Heys - Update	Verbal Update	20/03/2018
Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2017/18	Officer Report	20/03/2018
2017/18 Quarter 3 Wirral Plan Performance	Officer Report	20/03/2018
Eastham Walk In Centre – Update	Officer Report	20/03/2018
Response to the Ombudsman's Report relating to the Mental Capacity Act	Officer Report	20/03/2018
Review of draft Quality Accounts – May 2018	Officer Report	20/03/2018
Adult Care and Health OSC Work Programme Update Report	Officer Report	20/03/2018



Council
Monday, 9 July 2018

REPORT TITLE:	Council Constitution Update
REPORT OF:	Director: Governance and Assurance (Monitoring Officer)

REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks confirmation of an amendment to the Council Constitution following revisions to Contract Procedure Rules agreed by the Audit and Risk Management Committee and advises of a major review of the Council’s Constitution to be undertaken by the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee as part of the Terms of Reference of that Committee.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Council is recommended to -

- (1) Endorse the amended Contract Procedure Rules by confirming their inclusion at Part 4F in the Council’s Constitution;
- (2) Note amendments to be made to the Constitution by the Monitoring Officer under delegated powers; and
- (3) Note the intention of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee to undertake a significant review of the Council’s Constitution.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

Keeping the Constitution under review and making recommendations to the Council is a role of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee. It is therefore appropriate to report to the Council on required amendments to the Constitution and to advise the Council of the intention to undertake a significant piece of work related to the Constitution.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None, amendment to the Constitution being a Council function.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Contract Procedure Rules

The Audit and Risk Management Committee has, in pursuance of its role “To maintain an overview of the contract procedure rules and financial regulations and to agree any changes to the same” (Part 3, Schedule 2, paragraph 11.2 to the Council Constitution), agreed amendments to the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules. The amended Contract Procedure Rules, now incorporating revised Officer designations following confirmation of the new Chief Officer structure, have effect from 1 July 2018. A schedule of revisions and the revised Contract Procedure Rules are appended to this report for information.

Council is asked to endorse the amended Contract Procedure Rules by confirming their inclusion at Part 4F in the Council’s Constitution.

Constitutional Updates

Council is advised that necessary amendments to reflect the revised Portfolio arrangements announced by the Leader of the Council at the Annual Meeting of the Council and the new Chief Officer structure confirmed recently by the Chief Executive under powers delegated by the Employment and Appointments Committee are currently under review and in the process of being incorporated into the Constitution by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with the provisions of Article 12 of the Constitution.

Review of the Council’s Constitution

The Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee has agreed to the progression of a significant review of the Council’s Constitution, agreeing a process to develop a timetable and set priorities for the review. The Council would receive recommendations from the Committee over the course of the next 2-3 years, which is the anticipated duration of the Constitutional Review project.

The Committee had been advised of issues identified by an initial oversight review of the Constitution and of early actions taken to address such issues, such as the adoption of a revised form of Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules by Council in March 2018 and the consideration of the Model Planning Code elsewhere on the agenda at this meeting.

Council is asked to note the intention of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee to undertake a significant review of the Council's Constitution.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

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

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

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

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

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

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Schedule of amendments made to Contract Procedure Rules and the revised Contract Procedure Rules

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None beyond those sources identified within the report.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Employment and Appointments Committee (new Chief Officer structure), Minute 21 refers	6 March 2018
Audit and Risk Management Committee (Contract Procedure Rules), Minute 68 refers	12 March 2018
Annual Meeting of the Council (revised Portfolio arrangements), Minute 10 refers	15 May 2018
Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee (review of the Council's Constitution), Minute 6 refers	12 June 2018

Revised Contract Procedure Rules – effective 1st July 2018

Summary of changes

Section 3.2 Responsibilities of Officers and Members

- 3.2.2** Failure to comply with any of these rules may be considered a **breach of the Officers' Code of Conduct and may result in disciplinary action.**
- 3.2.3** Where it becomes apparent that a Service has failed to comply with the CPRs a Breach Notice, as set out in a Procedure Rules Approval Document (PRAD 6), should be completed and submitted to the Head of Procurement and Internal Audit. Internal Audit will, if the breach exceeds £50,000 in value, submit a report to the Head of Procurement and the Director: Governance and Assurance (Monitoring Officer) (with appropriate recommendations) before reporting to Audit and Risk Management Committee and / or the Corporate Governance Group. Breaches up to £50,000 will be reported to the Corporate Governance Group by Corporate Procurement in consultation with Internal Audit.

Section 6 Corporate Contracts

- 6.1** If a Council contract exists which covers the subject matter of the proposed procurement (a Corporate Contract) it must be used unless one of the following conditions applies:
- The corporate contractor has confirmed that the goods or services are not available within the required timescale.
 - The corporate contractor has confirmed that they are unable to fulfil the requirement.
 - The corporate contract is subject to an unresolved dispute or an exit plan has been exercised.
 - The corporate contractor's financial position has altered and a status of administration or liquidation has been applied.
 - The corporate contractor is in breach of contract and a termination notice has been issued.
 - The Corporate Contract is no longer value for money and the Council is entitled in law to procure the goods or services elsewhere.
- 6.2** Where an officer seeks to no longer use a corporate contract, they will arrange for consent to be obtained in writing from the Head of Procurement. Such consent will be evidenced on a Procedure Rules Approval Document (PRAD 5), in advance of any commitment to proceed with a supplier or provider.

Previous Section 6 to follow now becomes Section 7 and so on.

Section 7 (previously 6) Pre Procurement Process

7.2.1 j The economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the borough and the benefit which the procurement process can bring to the community and have regard to the duty to secure continuous improvement in accordance with Best Value, ***the Council's Social Value Policy 2017, Social Value Guidance and Social Value Framework.***

7.2.5 The Authorising Officer, together with Corporate Procurement, in all Supplier / Contractor sectors and areas identified as vulnerable to serious and organised crime include within the **quotation / tender** documentation the following statement:

“Wirral Council has identified that the scope of this procurement falls within a business sector which may be attractive to infiltration by organised crime groups. Wirral Council therefore reserves the right to include enhanced probity checks / requirements at both the selection and award stages of the procurement.” as set out in the invitation to tender.

Section 10 (previously 9) Tenders

Section 10.6 Evaluation of Tenders

10.6.5 During the evaluation process, the evaluation of quality should be separate from that of price to ensure so that one cannot influence the other before the final scoring of bids is completed. ***Unless agreed with the Head of Procurement all evaluation criteria should be based upon 70% price / 30% quality.***

10.7 Financial Evaluations

10.7.1 Corporate Procurement shall obtain financial profile reports of bidders for all appropriate procurements of £5k and above.

10.7.2 Financial profile reports for procurements up to £100k shall be considered jointly by the commissioning service and Corporate Procurement for the purposes of deciding to include the bid in the evaluation stage. Financial profile reports for procurements of £100k and above shall be submitted to the Director of Finance & Investment (Chief Finance Officer) for the approval or rejection of the bidder to proceed to the evaluation stage in accordance with the following principles.

10.7.3 No tender shall be rejected on the grounds of lack of financial standing unless the criteria for rejection is clearly stated in the published pre-tender documentation and the tender can be rejected in accordance with those criteria.

10.7.4 The financial standing criteria must comply with Regulation 58 of the Public

Contracts Regulations 2015 as being related to and proportionate to the subject matter of the contract and compliant with the requirements on minimum yearly turnovers and ratios between assets and liabilities set out in the Regulation.

10.7.5 Where the Director of Finance & Investment (Chief Finance Officer) considers it to be necessary, annual accounts shall be obtained from bidders for appraisal.

10.7.6 The appraisal of financial profile reports for procurements of £100k and above shall be supported by the completion of a Procedure Rules Approval Document (PRAD 7) by Corporate Procurement and issued to the Director of Finance & Investment (Chief Finance Officer) for approval or rejection in accordance with the above requirements.

Previous Section 10.7 to follow now becomes Section 10.8 and so on

Section 17 (previous 16) Reporting to Members

17.1 Delete from bullet 3 'or breach' (now covered in 3.2.3)

there is a waiver **or breach** of the Contract Procedure Rules in relation to a contract which exceeds £50,000 in value.

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Contracts Procedure Rules – effective April 2016 (Amended July 2018)

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- 16. Declarations of Interest, Anti-Bribery and Corruption**

- 17. Reporting to Members**

- 18. Contract Management**

- 19. Retaining Relevant Documents**

1. **Introduction**

- 1.1 These Contract Procedure Rules are standing orders made pursuant to Section 135 of the Local Government Act 1972. Compliance with the Rules and observance of European and domestic law from which they emanate (in particular the principles relating to non-discrimination, equal treatment and transparency) is mandatory for all Officers and Members. The Rules ensure that procurement activity is undertaken in a legally compliant, transparent, fair and competitive manner.
- 1.2 Decisions relating to procurement are among the most important decisions that can be made by the Council, its Members and Officers because the money involved is public money and the Council is concerned to ensure that high quality Goods, Services and the execution of Works are procured. Efficient use of resources in order to achieve Best Value is therefore imperative.
- 1.3 These Rules shall apply to all procurement activity where the Council is to procure any Goods, Services or the execution of Works, or enters into a concessions Contract as either a contracting authority or commissioner of such, regardless of the origin of funding (such as external grants, partnership funding, pooled or joint budgets for example).
- 1.4 For the avoidance of doubt, these Rules shall apply to Framework Agreements.
- 1.5 Where relevant, the Council shall have regard to the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 ("the Act"). This requires commissioners and procurers at the pre-procurement stage to consider how / what is to be procured may improve social, environmental and economic well-being of Wirral, how it might secure any such improvement and to consider the need to consult. The Council and Officers should refer to the Procurement Toolkit for further guidance.
- 1.6 The Audit and Risk Management Committee shall monitor compliance with the Rules and undertake a review of the Rules every two years. Any failure to comply with any of the provisions of these Rules must be reported immediately to the Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer). Failure by any Officer or Member to comply with the provisions of these Rules may lead to disciplinary action being taken against them.
- 1.7 The Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer) will keep these rules under review and have authority to make minor amendments as required, after consultation with the Head of Procurement. Any changes will be notified by the Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer) to

Strategic Directors for dissemination to officers involved in procurement. Any significant changes require the consent of the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

- 1.8 The Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with the Head of Procurement, will fully review these rules every two years and report this review to the Audit and Risk Management Committee for approval.
- 1.9 These Rules should be read in conjunction with the Council's Constitution and in particular the Financial Regulations, the Procurement Toolkit, and any relevant guidance documents endorsed by the Council.

2. **Interpretations and Definitions**

- 2.1 In the event of any conflict between EU law and these Rules and Council Policy, the requirements of EU law shall prevail over English law and the requirements of English law shall prevail over these Rules and Council Policy.
- 2.2 Any reference to legislation, primary or secondary, shall include any amendments / replacements made from time to time.
- 2.3 All figures specified in these Rules are exclusive of VAT.
- 2.4 In the event of any doubt as to the interpretation of these Rules, or as to proper procedure to be followed, advice should be sought from Corporate Procurement in the first instance and reference should be made to the guidance contained in the Procurement Took Kit which should be read in conjunction with these Rules.
- 2.5 In these Rules the words and phrases below have the following meanings:

AO	Authorised Officer and is any Officer, who has delegated authority from the SRO, to carryout commissioning functions.
Best Value	has the same meaning as that defined in the Local Government Act 1999 as amended from time to time.
Bidder	any Economic Operator that submits a Quotation or Tender.

Call-off	an order made/call-off Contract entered into under a Framework Agreement and are subject to the application of Rule 5.1.
Category Manager	the Category Manager or similar role with equivalent experience and seniority within Corporate Procurement.
Concessions	the granting of a right (exclusive or otherwise) to an economic operator to exploit works or services provided for their own gain with or without payment.
Contract	a legally binding agreement between the Council and the Contractor for the procurement by the Council of all Goods, Services, the execution of Works and Concessions Contracts and which incorporates the terms and conditions under which the Goods, Services, execution of works and Concessions will be provided.
Contractor	the Bidder or Tenderer who the Council enters into a Contract with following the submission of a Quotation or Tender and who is appointed by the Council to provide the Goods, Services, execution of Works or Concessions Contract. They may also be referred to as 'suppliers', 'providers' or 'service providers'.
Contracts Finder	the web-based portal provided for the purposes of Part 4 of the regulations by or on behalf of the Cabinet Office.
Corporate Procurement	Provide advice and support at all stages of the procurement process

	regardless of value. They will conduct procurement activity £5,000 or over in value.
Director of Finance & Investment (Chief Finance Officer)	the Senior Responsible Officer for Finance and is the most Senior Officer delegated in the Council's Scheme of Delegation for Finance Services, the Officer appointed by the Council pursuant to S151 of the Local Government Act 1972.
Economic Operator	any natural or legal person or public entity or group of such persons and/or entities, including any temporary association of undertakings, which offers the execution of Works and/or a work, the supply of Goods or the provision of Services on the market.
EIR	the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.
Electronic Purchasing System (EPS)	purchases made online.
Equality Duties	The Council's responsibilities as defined within the Equality Act 2010.
EU Procurement Directives	the Public Contracts Directive 2014/24/EU, the Concessions Directive 2014/23/EU and other relevant Directives in force from time to time.
Exemption/Exception	the release of the obligation to comply with some or all of these Rules.
Financial Regulations	the written code of procedures forming part of the Council's Constitution which provide a framework for proper financial management and which set out the

	rules on accounting, audit, administrative procedures and budgeting systems.
FOIA	the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
Framework Agreement	an agreement between one or more authorities and one or more economic operators, the purpose of which is to establish the terms governing Call-off Contracts to be awarded during a given period, in particular with regard to price and, where appropriate, the quantity envisaged.
Goods	an inherently useful tangible item required by the Council, from time to time.
Head of Procurement	the Senior Responsible Officer for all Council procurement activity.
Director: Governance and Assurance (Monitoring Officer)	the Senior Responsible Officer for Legal and is the most Senior Officer delegated in the Council's Scheme of Delegation for Legal Services.
Invitation to Tender	an invitation issued by the Council to Tenderers to submit a Tender or a quote for the provision of Goods, Services, the execution of Works or a Concessions contract in accordance with the Specification or request for those Goods, Services, execution of works or Concessions Contract.
Key Decision	Key decisions are those as set out in Article 13 of the Council's Constitution.

Legal Services	The Contract Team within Legal Services can provide legal advice on high-value or complex procurements. Officers are responsible for ensuring that Legal are involved in all above threshold contracts and any contracts involving legal issues for example TUPE or State Aid. The Contract Team within Legal Services can provide legal advice on specialist IT, social care, education and housing related contracts.
Modification	any variation to a Contract, including an extension or overspend.
Officer	any employee of the Council which shall include any person engaged by the Council to act as an agent or consultant on its behalf.
OJEU	the Official Journal of the European Union.
PIA	a Procurement Initiation Approval providing details of the procurement activity and the authority to commence it as required in accordance with Rule 7.1.
Post Tender Report	a summary of the outcomes delivered by the procurement activity.
PQQ	pre-qualification questionnaire and is the document used by the Council to screen potential Tenderers in accordance with the Regulations.
PRAD (Procedure Rules Approval Document)	The documents of approval, 1-7, for Exceptions to CPR's (1); Extensions to Contracts (2); Variations to Contracts (3); Contract Award (4); Use of Corporate Contract (5);

	Breach Notice (6); Financial Appraisal (7)
Procurement Toolkit	the documents which detail the processes, procedure and regulations to follow when carrying out a procurement activity.
Purchasing Cards	transaction cards which work in a similar way to charge cards and can be used by an AO to purchase Goods and/or Services.
Quotation	a formal offer submitted by a Bidder to supply goods, Services, execute Works or operate a Concessions Contract at a defined price.
Regulations	the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, and The Concessions Regulations 2016, as amended or replaced from time to time, which implement the EU public procurement directives.
Regulations Threshold	the financial threshold identified by the EU Procurement Directives, as amended from time to time, and where applicable, requires the procurement activity to be subject to the Regulations.
Rules	these Contract Procedure Rules
Scheme of Delegation	the scheme identified within the Council's Constitution which delegates powers and duties of the Council to Officers under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and all other powers enabling such delegation necessary for the discharge of the Council's functions.

SCM	the Senior Category Manager or similar role with equivalent experience and seniority within Corporate Procurement.
Services	the time, effort and expertise required by the Council, from time to time, and supplied by a Contractor.
Specification	the outputs, outcomes and the scope and nature of Goods, services, execution of Works or concessions Contract required by the Council from a procurement activity.
SRO	Senior Responsible Officer and is the Officer delegated in the Council's Scheme of Delegation for the relevant service with the responsibility for the award of the Contract.
Tender	a formal offer submitted by a Tenderer to the Council at a stated price in response to a Specification to supply Goods, Services, execute Works or operate a Concessions Contract.
Tenderer	any Economic Operator that submits a Tender.
The Chest	the North West e-Sourcing portal.
TUPE	the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) regulations 2006 as amended from time to time together with any EU Directives including but not limited to the Acquired Rights Directive 2001/23/EC, as amended from time to time.

Value for Money	the optimum combination of whole-life costs, price, quality and benefits to meet the Council's requirement. Such a term equates to the EU procurement requirement of most economically advantageous offer as well as the duty of Best Value as defined by the Local Government Act 1999 as amended from time to time.
Works	the provision of physical activity which is directed toward the production or accomplishment of something by the Contractor, from time to time.
Writing	the requirement that any document should be in writing is satisfied where (apart from the usual meaning of that expression) the text of it is created and transmitted by electronic means, in legible form, and capable of being used for subsequent reference.

3. **Principles and Responsibilities**

3.1 **Principles**

3.1.1 All procurement activity must comply with all of the following principles of European Union (EU) Law:

- a. free movement of Goods and Services;
- b. non-discrimination;
- c. openness/transparency;
- d. equal treatment for all; and
- e. proportionality.

3.1.2 All procurement activity must be compliant with the latest EU laws, national legislation, and the Council Constitution and have regard to:

- a. **The need to achieve accountability** through effective mechanisms which enable Officers and Members of the Council to maintain the

highest standards of integrity and honesty and to enable them to discharge their responsibility on issues of procurement risk and expenditure of public money;

- b. **The need to provide consistent procurement policy to suppliers and achieve competitive supply;**
- c. **The need to meet commercial, regulatory and Corporate Priorities of the Council;**
- d. **The need to achieve efficiencies** by administering procurement processes which are cost effective.
- e. **The need to ensure Value for Money.**
- f. **The need to ensure fair-dealing** by ensuring that suppliers are treated fairly and without unfair discrimination, including protection of commercial confidentiality where compatible with the Council's obligations under FOIA and EIR;
- g. **The need to maintain integrity** by excluding corruption or collusion with suppliers or others from procurement processes;
- h. **The need to ensure informed decision-making** based on accurate information;
- i. **The need to ensure legality** in the administration of procurement processes and award of contracts;
- j. **The need to promote responsiveness** by endeavouring to meet the aspirations, expectations and needs of the community served by the procurement processes;
- k. **The need to provide transparency** by ensuring that there is openness and clarity on the Council's procurement policy and its delivery.
- l. **The need to create and retain an audit trail in relation to each procurement activity.**
- m. The consideration of **Risk**.

3.2 **The Responsibilities of Officers and Members**

3.2.1 Officers and Members involved in procurement activity must comply with these Rules, the Council's Financial Regulations, and the Council's Officers' Code of Conduct/Members' Code of Conduct. They must also have due regard to any guidance provided by Corporate Procurement.

3.2.2 Failure to comply with any of these rules may be considered a **breach of the Officers' Code of Conduct and may result in disciplinary action.**

3.2.3 Where it becomes apparent that a Service has failed to comply with the CPRs a Breach Notice, as set out in a Procedure Rules Approval Document (PRAD 6), should be completed and submitted to the Head of Procurement and Internal Audit. Internal Audit will, if the breach exceeds £50,000 in value, submit a report to the Head of Procurement and the Director: Governance and

Assurance (with appropriate recommendations) before reporting to Audit and Risk Management Committee and / or the Corporate Governance Group. Breaches up to £50,000 will be reported to the Corporate Governance Group by Corporate Procurement in consultation with Internal Audit.

4. **Contracts to which these Rules do not apply**

4.1 These rules **do not** apply to the following:

- a. Employment contracts for Officers engaged on a PAYE basis;
- b. Contracts relating solely to the disposal or acquisition of securities and investments; - Treasury Management Strategy.
- c. Contracts for the acquisition of an interest in land and property;
- d. Contracts for the appointment of Counsel or the appointment of experts for the purpose of legal or potential legal proceedings by the Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer).

5. **Contracts which do not require full competition**

The Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) / Authorised Officer (AO) must complete a Procedure Rules Approval Document (PRAD) in accordance with Rule 12 where any of the circumstances outlined below are applicable and the procurement may be excepted from the requirement of Rule 9 (Quotations) and Rule 10 (Tenders).

5.1 **Call-Off contracts**

5.1.1 Call-off Contracts where a suitable Framework Agreement has been identified in accordance with Rule 6.3.

5.2 **No competitive market**

5.2.1 Where any of the following circumstances apply and subject to Rule 5.2.2:

- a. Proprietary or patented goods or services are proposed to be purchased which, in the opinion of the AO, are only obtainable from one person, and it can be demonstrated that no reasonably satisfactory alternative to those proprietary or patented goods is available; or
- b. The AO can demonstrate that no genuine competition can be obtained in respect of the purchase of particular Goods, Services or execution of works; or
- c. The AO is satisfied that the Services or execution of Works are of such a specialist nature that they can only be carried out by one person (e.g. statutory undertakers); or

- d. Goods are proposed to be purchased by or on behalf of the Council at a public auction; or
- e. Goods or Services are proposed to be purchased which are of a specialist or unique nature (such as antiquities for museums or a particular performance artist).

Further guidance can be provided by Corporate Procurement and an AO must seek advice where there is any doubt and comply with Rule 10.

5.2.2 The AO, in conjunction with the Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer) and the Head of Procurement, shall ensure that the Contract terms and conditions are appropriate taking into account all relevant factors (such as benefit and risk to the Council) and ensure that the Contract complies with Rule 11.

5.3 Exemptions as prescribed by legislation

5.3.1 Certain other arrangements contained in European or domestic legislation may permit an exemption from the requirement for competition. Contact Corporate Procurement for advice.

6 Corporate Contracts

6.1 Use of Corporate Contract

6.1.1 If a Council contract exists which covers the subject matter of the proposed procurement (a Corporate Contract) it must be used unless one of the following conditions applies:

- The corporate contractor has confirmed that the goods or services are not available within the required timescale.
- The corporate contractor has confirmed that they are unable to fulfil the requirement.
- The corporate contract is subject to an unresolved dispute or an exit plan has been exercised.
- The corporate contractor's financial position has altered and a status of administration or liquidation has been applied.
- The corporate contractor is in breach of contract and a termination notice has been issued.
- The Corporate Contract is no longer value for money and the Council is entitled in law to procure the goods or services elsewhere.

6.1.2 Where an officer seeks to no longer use a corporate contract, they will

arrange for consent to be obtained in writing from the Head of Procurement. Such consent will be evidenced on a Procedure Rules Approval Document (PRAD 5), in advance of any commitment to proceed with a supplier or provider.

7. **Pre-Procurement Process**

7.1 **Authority to carry out procurement activity**

7.1.1 Any procurement activity carried out on behalf of the Council must be carried out by an SRO with the appropriate delegated authority as set out in the Scheme of Delegation. For all procurement valued over £5000 the SRO must submit either a Quotation / Tender Procurement Initiation Approval (PIA), to Corporate Procurement, prior to starting the relevant procurement activity. By submitting the PIA the SRO confirms that they have the authority and budget to carry out the procurement activity.

7.1.2 Any proposed procurement for I.T. or Telecomms products or services must be referred to the Head of Digital by the SRO for approval to proceed further. This approval should be recorded by the SRO and Head of Digital. The PIA document can be completed and submitted when this approval has been granted.

7.2 **Appraisal of the procurement activity**

7.2.1 The AO, together with Corporate Procurement, must conduct an options appraisal of the route to market and consider the following:

- a. Value for Money;
- b. The need for the expenditure and its priority;
- c. The objectives of the purchase;
- d. Whether it is a Key Decision;
- e. Any risks associated with the purchase and how to manage them;
- f. The market;
- g. TUPE and pensions;
- h. Which procurement method is most likely to achieve the purchasing objectives;
- i. Existing and compliant Framework Agreements or other arrangements; and
- j. The economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the borough and the benefit which the procurement process can bring to the community and have regard to the duty to secure continuous improvement in accordance with Best Value, ***the Council's Social Value Policy 2017, Social Value Guidance and Social Value Framework.***

- 7.2.2 Where award for a Contract for services may result in **employees** of the Council or its Contractor **transferring to a new employer**, the **advice** of the Director of Change & Organisation Design and the Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer) **must be obtained** before the commencement of the procurement activity to ensure compliance with **TUPE**, and other related legislation, and to assess the implications in respect of pension arrangements.
- 7.2.3 The AO must ensure that an appropriate Tender Specification or request for a Quotation commensurate to the scope of the Goods, Services, and execution of Works or Concessions Contract required is written prior to the commencement of any procurement activity. Advice from Corporate Procurement must be sought where it is proposed that a Tender Specification or request for a Quotation is not used.
- 7.2.4 For procurement under the Regulations Thresholds, the use of PQQs is no longer permitted. However, the Regulations do permit the use of suitability assessment questions where they are relevant to the subject matter of the procurement and are proportionate. Advice must be sought from Corporate Procurement where it is proposed that such questions are to be used.
- 7.2.5 The Authorising Officer, together with Corporate Procurement, in all Supplier / Contractor sectors and areas identified as vulnerable to serious and organised crime include within the **quotation / tender** documentation the following statement:

“Wirral Council has identified that the scope of this procurement falls within a business sector which may be attractive to infiltration by organised crime groups. Wirral Council therefore reserves the right to include enhanced probity checks / requirements at both the selection and award stages of the procurement.” as set out in the invitation to tender.

7.3 **Framework Agreements**

- 7.3.1 Where, following an options appraisal as required by Rule 7.2 a suitable Framework Agreement is identified, the AO must ensure that:
- a. Any Call-off Contract is entered into in accordance with the terms of the relevant Framework Agreement; and
 - b. Where applicable, a mini-competition (the tender process required by the Framework Agreement) is held in accordance with rules of the Framework Agreement.
 - c. Authority to proceed must be obtained from the Head of Procurement or his delegated representative.

7.3.2 For the avoidance of doubt, a Framework Agreement is considered suitable where it has either been entered into by:

- a. The Council in compliance with these Rules; or
- b. Another local authority, a local authority purchasing consortium or central government where the Framework Agreement has been tendered and awarded in accordance with EU public procurement legislation, and the Council is identified as a contracting authority.

7.3.3 Where a Framework Agreement has been set up following an EU Tender, there must be full compliance with EU rules when awarding Call-off Contracts under it.

7.4 Pre-Procurement Market Research and Consultation (Soft Market Testing can be referenced within Guide 9 of the Procurement Toolkit)

7.4.1 The AO responsible for the procurement activity and Corporate Procurement:

- a. May consult potential Bidders or Tenderers in general terms about the nature, level and standard of the supply, contract packaging and others relevant matters, prior to a request for a Quotation or an Invitation to Tender provided this does not prejudice any potential Bidders or Tenderers; and
- b. Must not seek or accept technical advice on the preparation of a request for a Quotation or an Invitation to Tender from anyone who may have a commercial interest in the tender, as this may prejudice the equal treatment of all potential Bidders and Tenderers or distort competition.

Advice and support must be sought from Corporate Procurement in all instances.

7.5 Estimating the Total Value of a Contract or Framework Agreement

7.5.1 The Council must not split Contracts or Framework Agreements to avoid public procurement rules or calculate the value of Contracts in such a way as to deliberately avoid exceeding the Regulation Thresholds or any threshold identified in these Rules. Therefore all Contracts should be dealt with according to their total value and all Officers must calculate the total value (excluding VAT) of any Contract. The value of a Contract should be calculated as follows and applies to the aggregate value of the Contract:

Yearly contract value X Contract Period in years (including any option to extend) = Total value

Where the duration of the contract is indeterminate or is longer than four years, this should be taken to be the estimated value of the contract over a period of four years.

7.5.2 The value of a Framework Agreement means the estimated amount payable by the users of the Framework Agreement for the Goods, Services or execution of Works (excluding VAT) under Call-off Contracts entered into over the entire possible duration of the Framework Agreement.

7.5.3 Framework Agreements must not be for more than four years (including options to extend) unless otherwise authorised by the Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer) and the Head of Procurement.

7.5.4 The value of the Contract or Framework Agreement will determine which procurement activity to follow in accordance with Table 1 below subject to Rules 7.5.6 and 7.5.7:

Table 1

Goods, Services and Concessions

Value	Procurement Activity	Quotation/Tender process Managed by:
£0-£1,999.99	No requirement for a quotation	Departmental responsibility
£2,000 - £4,999.99	Minimum one Quotation in accordance with Rule 8 - Quotations	
£5,000 - £49,999.99	Minimum three Quotations in accordance with Rule 9 - Quotations	Corporate Procurement through The Chest (and Contracts Finder over £25k)
£50,000-£99,999.99	Minimum of five quotations in accordance with Rule 9	
£100,000 and up to the Regulation Thresholds	In accordance with Rule 10 Tenders	Corporate Procurement through The Chest and Contracts Finder
Above the Regulation Thresholds	Most appropriate procedure permitted by the Regulations	Corporate Procurement through the Chest, OJEU Notice and Contracts Finder

***WHERE ANY OPPORTUNITY OVER £25k IS OPENLY ADVERTISED, IT MUST BE PLACED ON CONTRACTS FINDER BY CORPORATE PROCUREMENT**

- 7.5.5 Where the value of the Contract is above the Regulation Thresholds, the AO and the Corporate Procurement will determine which procurement activity to follow in accordance with the Regulations.
- 7.5.6 Irrespective of the value in Rule 7.5.4 Contracts and Framework Agreements that are subject to European Union grant funding requirements shall be advertised in accordance with published guidance, ERDF National Procurement Requirements (ERDF-GN-1-004) as amended from time to time.
- 7.5.7 The AO and Corporate Procurement shall ensure that, where proposed Contracts or Framework Agreements, irrespective of their value, might be of interest to potential Economic Operators located in other member states of the European Union, a sufficiently accessible advertisement is published.
- 7.5.8 Quotations for construction works, below regulation thresholds, shall only be invited from contractors who are members of Constructionline and the Safety Scheme in Procurement (SSIP). If quotations are invited on a restricted basis, at least six contractors shall be invited to quote to be selected in accordance with the Council's policy on the procurement of such contracts (available on the Procurement website).
- 7.5.9 Where the value of the Contract is below £2,000, its procurement must comply with the general principles contained in Rule 3.1.2 and a Quotation sought if the procurement would otherwise not be so compliant.

7.6 **Standards and Award Criteria**

- 7.6.1 Before inviting Quotations or Tenders, the AO, with support from the Corporate Procurement, must ascertain any relevant British, European or international standards which apply to the subject matter of the Contract. The AO must include those standards or equivalent where they are necessary to describe the required quality.
- 7.6.2 The AO must define award criteria that is appropriate to the procurement activity and designed to secure an outcome giving Value for Money for the Council. The basic award criteria shall include one of the following:
- a. Most economically advantageous tender ("MEAT") – where considerations other than price also apply;
 - b. Lowest price – where payment is to be made by the Council;
 - c. Highest price – if payment is to be received by the Council;

If MEAT is the chosen award criteria, advice must be obtained from Corporate Procurement to ensure that it is compatible with the EU Directives and the Regulations.

7.6.3 The AO must seek advice from Corporate Procurement to ensure any award criteria are compliant with relevant legislation and best practice.

8 The Chest

8.1 The Chest is the Council's e-sourcing portal, which is used for procurement activities £5,000 and over.

- a. The web based portal facilitates online tendering to ensure access to a wide spectrum of suppliers, process efficiency, standardisation and compliance.
- b. Officers must use this system for all procurement with a value of £5,000 and over unless the Head of Procurement has provided written consent for an Exception (PRAD 1).
- c. The elements of the procurement process carried out using The Chest are highlighted below and within the Procurement Toolkit.

9. Quotations

9.1 Requests for Quotations

9.1.1 All Quotations, including those in mini-competitions under Framework Agreements, must be confirmed in writing before a decision to award can be made and all Quotations, £5000 and over, must be stored on The Chest.

9.1.2 When requesting a Quotation, an appropriate description of the Goods, Services, execution of Works or Concessions (commensurate with the value of the Contract) setting out the Council's requirements in sufficient detail must be provided to prospective Bidders to enable the submission of competitive Quotations.

9.1.3 The request for a Quotation shall also make reference to or include the following as a minimum:

- a. the terms and conditions of Contract that will apply; and
- b. notification that Quotations are submitted to the Council on the basis that they are compiled at the Bidder's expense; and
- c. a description of the award criteria as appropriate and in accordance with Rule 7.6; and
- d. the date and time by which a Quotation is to be submitted by; and

e. that the Council is not bound to accept any Quotations submitted.

9.1.4 The proposed form of Contract must comply with Rule 11 and where possible the Council's standard terms and conditions of Contract must be used. Advice must be sought from Legal Services and approval given by the Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer) where alternative terms and conditions are used.

9.1.5 Where requests for a Quotation are sought from more than one prospective Bidder, where possible, the request must be sent to each Bidder at the same time and contain the same conditions. Any supplementary information must be given on the same basis.

9.2 Submission and Receipt of Quotations

9.2.1 Unless agreed by Corporate Procurement, bidders must be given a minimum of two weeks in which to prepare and submit a Quotation, timescales should be consistent with the complexity of the Contract requirement and provide bidders with a reasonable opportunity to prepare and submit a Quotation.

9.2.2 In the event that an abnormally low Quote is received, the AO must take advice from Corporate Procurement on how to proceed.

9.2.3 Any Quotation (including all associated documents) submitted after the specified date and time for submission of Quotations shall only be accepted or considered by the Council with agreement from the Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer) and the Head of Procurement.

9.2.4 If fewer than the minimum number of Quotations is received as stipulated in Table 1 in Rule 7.5, then advice must be sought for a decision from the Head of Procurement as to whether to proceed. Any decision must be recorded in writing and stored on The Chest.

9.3 Amendments to Quotations

9.3.1 The Council may accept amendments to Quotations, including those in mini-competitions under Framework Agreements, providing they are received prior to the closing date for submissions. In such circumstances, any alterations must be made by resubmitting a new Quote and clearly highlighting which Quotation (and associated documents) is correct and which should be considered as part of the procurement activity.

9.3.2 A Quotation may be amended after the closing date for submission if the amendment is made only in order to correct arithmetical or other obvious

errors. Such amendments may only be made with the prior approval of the Head of Procurement and Senior Manager Internal Audit.

9.4 Evaluation of Quotations

9.4.1 All compliant Quotations, including those in mini-competitions under Framework Agreements, must be checked by the AO and validated to ensure they are arithmetically correct. The AO must seek advice from Corporate Procurement if there is any doubt. If arithmetical or other obvious errors are found they should be notified to the Bidder, who should be requested to confirm, or withdraw or seek permission to amend their Quotation. If the rates in the Quotation prevail over the overall price, an amended Quotation may be requested to accord with the rates given by the Tenderer. All amendments to correct any error may only be allowed at the discretion of the Head of Procurement who may seek advice from the Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer). Any decision to allow an amendment must have regard to the general principles contained in Rule 3.1.2.

9.4.2 Where MEAT is used as the award criteria, all evaluations including an explanation of the reasons for the scores should be recorded, and where appropriate (£5,000 and above) recorded on The Chest. The AO must then confirm to Corporate Procurement that the Contract can be awarded in accordance with Rule 9.5 by updating the PIA.

9.4.3 Officers must ensure transparency and fairness during the evaluation process.

9.5 Contract Award – through a Quotation Process

9.5.1 The Contract will be awarded in accordance with the award criteria used.

9.5.2 Where the Quotation is not within the relevant approved budget but additional budgetary provision is available, the relevant AO, with the approval of the Director of Finance & Investment (Chief Finance Officer), may accept the Quotation ensuring compliance with the Financial Procedure Rules/Regulations.

9.5.3 The approval to award the Contract must be given in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

9.5.4 All award decisions must be recorded and a PRAD 4 signed and dated by the SRO or delegated representative for the relevant service and, **where necessary** signed by the Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer) and the Head of Procurement e.g. if Rules 5 or 12 apply.

- 9.5.5 Once the decision has been made and the approval given to award the Contract, the AO, through Corporate Procurement, must send a Contract award letter to the winning Bidder(s) and inform unsuccessful bidders of the outcome.
- 9.5.6 Prior to commencement of the Contract, the Contract must be completed in accordance with Rule 11.2 unless Rule 11.2.5 applies.
- 9.5.7 Legal Services will, where necessary, advise on the formalities for completion of the contract by parties other than the Council and how to ensure that the Contract is legally binding.

10. **Tenders**

10.1 **Invitations to Tender**

10.1.1 All Tender opportunities must be placed on The Chest and, where appropriate, Contracts Finder in accordance with Table 1 at Rule 7.5.

10.1.2 The Invitation to Tender shall include the following where appropriate:

- a. A form upon which the Tenderer can provide details of its bid (“Form of Tender”);
- b. A reference to the Council’s ability to award in whole, in part or not at all;
- c. A Specification that describes the Council’s requirements in sufficient detail to enable the submission of competitive offers;
- d. the terms and conditions of Contract that will apply;
- e. A requirement for Tenderers to declare that the Tender content, price or any other figure or particulars concerning the Tender have not been disclosed by the Tenderer to any other party (except where such a disclosure is made in confidence for a necessary purpose);
- f. A requirement for Tenderers to fully complete and sign all Tender documents including the Form of Tender and certificates relating to canvassing and non-collusion;
- g. Notification that Tenders are submitted to the Council on the basis that they are compiled at the Tenderer’s expense;
- h. A description of the award procedure and the evaluation criteria to be used to assess Tenders including any weighting as considered appropriate and in accordance with Rule 6.6. The evaluation criteria must be clear, concise and unambiguous and must be approved by the AO in consultation with Corporate Procurement. The evaluation criteria cannot be amended once published in the Invitation to Tender;

- i. The method by which any arithmetical errors discovered in the submitted Tenders are to be dealt with and in particular, whether the overall price prevails over the rates in the Tender or vice versa;
- j. Whether the Council is of the view that TUPE will be applicable in relation to the procurement activities;
- k. Whether additional arrangements will be required in relation to pension provision;
- l. Provisions relating to the Council's termination rights in the event that corruption is discovered;
- m. The relevance and application of any parent company guarantees and/or bonds;
- n. That the Council is not bound to accept Tenders.

10.1.3 The proposed form of Contract must comply with Rule 10 and where possible the Council's standard terms and conditions of Contract must be used. Advice must be sought from Legal Services and approval given by the Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer) where alternative terms and conditions are used.

10.1.4 All Tenderers invited to Tender must be issued with the same information at the same time and contain the same conditions. Any supplementary information must be given on the same basis.

10.1.5 All communications relating to Tenders must be recorded on The Chest.

10.2 Pre and Post Tender Clarification Procedures

10.2.1 Providing pre-Tender clarification to potential or actual Tenderers, or seeking clarification of a Tender, is permitted subject to Rule 9.2.3.

10.2.2 Post-tender clarification may be undertaken with Tenderers only where it is essential in order to be completely clear about any fundamental aspect of the Tender submission before the completion of the Tender evaluation process and subject to Rule 10.2.3.

10.2.3 All pre- and post- tender communication must be conducted either in writing or in a meeting recorded by Corporate Procurement. All correspondence or meetings must be documented and retained on The Chest. **Where a meeting is required, there must always be more than one Officer present.**

10.2.4 At all times during the clarification process, the Council shall consider and implement the principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment and transparency.

10.2.5 Unless otherwise permitted by the Regulations, in no circumstances are post-award negotiations permitted that would materially change the contract.

10.3 Submission and Receipt of Tenders

10.3.1 Tenderers must be given a reasonable period in which to prepare and submit a proper Tender, consistent with the complexity of the Contract requirement and in accordance with the Regulations.

10.3.2 Any tender (including all associated documents) submitted after the specified date and time for submission of Tenders shall only be accepted or considered with agreement from the Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer) and the Head of Procurement.

10.3.3 All Tenders received, including those in mini-competitions under Framework Agreements, must remain unopened until the specified closing date and time has passed.

10.3.4 If less than the minimum number of Tenders is received as stipulated in Table 1 in Rule 7.5, then advice must be sought for a decision from the Head of Procurement on how to proceed. Any decision must be recorded in writing and stored on The Chest.

10.4 Verifying and Opening Tenders

10.4.1 Tenders are to be verified by an Officer who is independent of the procurement activity to which the Tender relates.

10.4.2 The tenders must be opened by Corporate Procurement. This will be an electronic process, through the Chest, unless an exception in writing has been obtained from the Head of Procurement.

10.4.3 A record of all tenders received will be kept and will include;

- service name
- contractor's names
- tender value
- date
- reason for any disqualifications
- name of those who were invited but did not submit a tender

10.4.4 Any request for an extension to a tender period by an AO must be made no later than 3 working days before the tender closing date and agreed by the Head of Procurement. If an extended date is permitted all tenderers must be advised.

10.5 Amendments to Tender

10.5.1 The Council may accept amendments to Tender submissions, including those in mini-competitions under Framework Agreements, providing they are received prior to the closing date for submissions.

10.5.2 A Tender may be amended after the closing date for submission if the amendment is made only in order to correct arithmetical or other obvious errors. Such amendments may only be made with the prior approval of the Head of Procurement and Internal Audit informed.

10.6 Evaluation of Tenders

10.6.1 If a PQQ or an expression of interest prior to PQQ was used, all those Tenderers must be given feedback at the relevant stage.

10.6.2 In the event that an abnormally low Tender is received, the AO must take advice from Corporate Procurement on how to proceed.

10.6.3 All compliant Tenders, including those in mini-competitions under Framework Agreements, must be checked by the AO and validated to ensure they are arithmetically correct. The AO must seek advice from Corporate Procurement if there is any doubt. If arithmetical or other obvious errors are found they should be notified to the Bidder, who should be requested to confirm, or withdraw or seek permission to amend their Tender. If the rates in the Tender prevail over the overall price, an amended Tender may be requested to accord with the rates given by the Tenderer. All amendments to correct any error may only be allowed at the discretion of the Head of Procurement who may seek advice from the Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer). Any decision to allow an amendment must have regard to the general principles contained in Rule 3.1.2.

10.6.4 Where MEAT is used as the award criteria, all evaluations including an explanation of the reasons for the scores should be recorded on The Chest. The AO must then confirm to Corporate Procurement that the Contract can be awarded by updating the PIA.

10.6.5 During the evaluation process, the evaluation of quality should be separate from that of price to ensure so that one cannot influence the other before the final scoring of bids is completed. ***Unless agreed with the Head of Procurement all evaluation criteria should be based upon 70% price / 30% quality.***

10.6.6 Officers must ensure transparency and fairness during the evaluation process.

10.7 Financial Evaluations

- 10.7.1 Corporate Procurement shall obtain financial profile reports of bidders for all appropriate procurements of £5k and above.
- 10.7.2 Financial profile reports for procurements up to £100k shall be considered jointly by the commissioning service and Corporate Procurement for the purposes of deciding to include the bid in the evaluation stage. Financial profile reports for procurements of £100k and above shall be submitted to the Director of Finance & Investment (Chief Finance Officer) for the approval or rejection of the bidder to proceed to the evaluation stage in accordance with the following principles.
- 10.7.3 No tender shall be rejected on the grounds of lack of financial standing unless the criteria for rejection is clearly stated in the published pre-tender documentation and the tender can be rejected in accordance with those criteria.
- 10.7.4 The financial standing criteria must comply with Regulation 58 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as being related to and proportionate to the subject matter of the contract and compliant with the requirements on minimum yearly turnovers and ratios between assets and liabilities set out in the Regulation.
- 10.7.5 Where the Director of Finance & Investment (Chief Finance Officer) considers it to be necessary, annual accounts shall be obtained from bidders for appraisal.
- 10.7.6 The appraisal of financial profile reports for procurements of £100k and above shall be supported by the completion of a Procedure Rules Approval Document (PRAD 7) by Corporate Procurement and issued to the Director of Finance & Investment (Chief Finance Officer) for approval or rejection, in accordance with the above requirements.

10.8 Contract Award – through a Tender process

- 10.8.1 The winning Tenderer shall be awarded the Contract in accordance with the award criteria used.
- 10.8.2 Where the Tender is not within the relevant approved budget but additional budgetary provision is available, the relevant SRO, can only accept the tender by having prior approval of the Director of Finance & Investment (Chief Finance Officer), and complying with the Financial Regulations.

- 10.8.3 The approval to award the Contract must be given in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation.
- 10.8.4 All award decisions must be recorded and a PRAD 4 signed and dated by the SRO for the relevant service and where necessary signed by the Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer) and the Head of Procurement e.g. if Rules 5 or 12 apply.
- 10.8.5 A contract which has a contract value above the Regulation thresholds can only be awarded after a notice of the proposed award has been given to all unsuccessful Tenderers and the 10 day standstill period has elapsed from the date the notice was given. If the 10 days expire on a non-working day, then the notice period will be deemed to have lapsed on the next working day.
- 10.8.6 Once the decision to award a Contract is made, each Tenderer must be notified by the AO and Corporate Procurement in writing of the outcome. All Tenderers must be notified simultaneously and as soon as possible of the intention to award the Contract to the successful Tenderer(s) and this should be done via The Chest. The letters must include a description of the relative advantages of the successful Tenderer.
- 10.8.8 All challenges by Tenderers must be dealt with immediately by the SRO/AO, in consultation with Legal Services and Corporate Procurement, before the award process proceeds.
- 10.8.9 Prior to commencement of the Contract, the Contract must be completed in accordance with Rule 11.2 unless Rule 11.2.5 applies.
- 10.8.10 Legal Services will, where necessary, advise on the formalities for completion of the contract by parties other than the Council and how to ensure that the Contract is legally binding.
- 10.8.11 The AO and Corporate Procurement must publish a contract award notice in the OJEU and on the Council's website no later than 48 days after the date of award of the Contract where a Contract value exceeds the Regulation threshold and has been tendered pursuant to the Regulations or is subject to the relevant provision of the Regulations relating to Contract award.
- 10.8.12 Contract award letters, feedback to Tenderers and the contract Terms and Conditions, including any incidental documentation must be approved by Corporate Procurement prior to sending, where the value of the Contract is over the Regulation Thresholds.

10.9 **Enquiries about the Tender process**

- 10.9.1 The confidentiality of Tenders and the identity of Tenderers must be preserved at all times insofar as this is compatible with the Councils' obligations under FOIA and EIR.
- 10.9.2 If the Council receives a request for information under the FOIA as a result of the de-briefing process, the request must be referred to both the Head of Procurement and the relevant Officer of the Council who deals with such requests. The Council will be responsible for responding to the request.
- 10.9.3 Any challenges, complaints or requests for feedback, clarification or further information must be referred to the Head of Procurement who will advise on how to respond and notify the Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer).

11. **Contract Provisions and Contract Formalities**

11.1 **Contract Provisions**

- 11.1.1 All contracts must be in writing and must set out the parties' obligations, rights and risk allocations. Advice must be sought from Corporate Procurement as to the appropriate form of Contract to be used and where possible, be on the Council's standard terms and conditions.
- 11.1.2 All contracts, irrespective of value, shall, where appropriate, clearly specify as a minimum:
- a. What is to be supplied (i.e. the Works, materials, services, matters or things to be furnished, had or done).
 - b. The provisions for payment (i.e. the price to be paid and when).
 - c. The time, or times, within which the contract is to be performed.
 - d. The provisions for the Council to terminate the Contract and break clauses.
 - e. The provision for collateral warranties from sub-contractors.
 - f. The provision of Bond of Surety where applicable, Legal and Procurement to advise.
 - f. Dispute resolution process.
- 11.1.3 Legal Services can provide advice on Contract specific terms and conditions.

11.2 Contract Formalities

- 11.2.1 Once a decision to award has been made in accordance with Rule 9.5.3 or 10.7.3, the contract must be either signed by the Officer authorised to award the Contract under Council's Scheme of Delegation or by Seal and in accordance with Rule 11.3.2
- 11.2.2 Where the Contract is to be in writing, the AO must arrange with Legal Services for the Contract including all schedules and appendices to be signed by all parties. This can be done in two ways:
- a. Sending bound hard copies of the Contract to the winning Bidder(s) or Tenderer(s) for signing; or
 - b. Sending electronic copies of the Contract to the winning Bidder(s) or Tenderer(s) for printing, binding and signing.
- 11.2.3 Before arranging for the Contract to be signed or sealed on behalf of the Council, the Legal Services must check that the returned signed Contract has not been amended or altered by the winning Bidder(s) or Tenderer(s) without prior written agreement by the Council.
- 11.2.4 All Contracts which are to be formally completed in writing must be completed before the Goods are supplied, or the Service, execution of Works or Concessions Contract begins, except in exceptional circumstances, and then only with the prior approval from the Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer).
- 11.2.5 All contracts must include clear provisions as to the amounts and timing of payments due under the contract. Payments should be paid in arrears upon the production of satisfactory evidence of performance. Where the total amount payable under the contract cannot be ascertained the contract must include a clear mechanism for calculating the amounts due, for example by reference to a bill of quantities or schedule of rates, and the maximum amount payable must be stated.
- 11.2.6 Approval of the relevant SRO and the Head of Procurement is required if payment is required in advance or partially in advance as necessary for provision of the service or in line with statutory guidance. Evidence of such approval and the reasons for it must be recorded on a PRAD 1.
- 11.2.7 A purchase order must be raised in the e-Procurement system for all goods, services and works requirements to be acquired through an EPS and for all Contracts. The purchase order must attach the terms and conditions of Contract between the Council and the Contractor. The exception to this is

where payment is to be made by certificate within the contract conditions (e.g. New Engineering Contract 3).

11.2.8 The AO must ensure that the person signing on behalf of the Contractor has requisite legal authority to bind the Contractor. Where there is any doubt, the AO must seek advice from Legal Services.

11.3 **Contracts under Seal**

11.3.1 A Contract must be sealed where:

- a. The Council wishes to extend the liability period under the Contract and enforce its terms for up to 12 years; or
- b. The price to be paid or received under the Contract is a nominal price and does not reflect the value of the goods or services; or
- c. There is any doubt about the authority of the person signing for the other contracting party; or
- d. The Contract value is £100,000 or above.

11.3.2 The seal must be affixed in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Constitution.

11.3.3 All contracts with a value of £100,000 or over will be sealed as a Deed by Legal Services. Contracts between £50,000 and £100,000 in value shall be signed by an authorised signatory from Legal Services.

11.3.4 When the steps for finalising the contract are complete the contract can be issued to the supplier for execution as a Deed or for signature (as appropriate).

11.3.5 The supplier will seal or sign the contracts in duplicate but leave them undated.

11.3.6 Legal Services must notify Corporate Procurement, Finance and the relevant SRO when the contract has been executed.

11.3.7 The contract will be dated when the Council's seal is affixed.

11.3.8 Electronic signatures may be used in accordance with the Electronic Signatures Regulations 2002, provided the security arrangements have been approved by the relevant SRO.

11.4 **Transfer of Contracts**

- 11.4.1 No Contract should be transferred from one Contractor to another without first consulting Legal Services. Contracts can only be transferred if approved in accordance with the table below:

Value of Contract/Quote	Decision Maker
All values	Director of Finance & Investment (Chief Finance Officer) and the Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer) or their nominees in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation and in consultation with the Head of Procurement

11.5 **Insurance**

- 11.5.1 The AO is responsible for checking that all chosen contractors provide written evidence of adequate insurance to cover public liability, employers' liability and if necessary professional indemnity for the full duration of the contract.
- 11.5.2 Indemnity levels must reflect the risk to the Council which typically will be for each and every contract;
- £5 million for Public liability
 - £10 million for Employers liability
 - £2 million for Professional indemnity
- 11.5.3 In some cases where the contract is of low risk the levels required may be reduced but only following written consent of the Director of Finance & Investment (Chief Finance Officer) or nominee. For major contracts of long duration where contractor's exposure to liability is high, it may be appropriate to require higher limits.

12. **Waiving the Rules**

12.1 **Procedure Rules Approval Document**

- 12.1.1 Where an Officer intends to seek an exemption or exception to these rules as they apply to all procurements they shall arrange for consent to be obtained in writing.
- a. Such consent shall be evidenced on a Procedure Rules Approval Document (PRAD) signed by the authorised appropriate Officer/s

depending on the value of the procurement as set out in the table below **prior** to the start of the procurement process.

- b. The PRAD must be completed by the SRO/AO quoting which of the Exceptions (PRAD 1) listed below apply and why. The PRAD must be checked by Legal Services and Procurement prior to signing by the authorised Officer/s.
- c. Consent to waiving the rules will only be approved in exceptional circumstances and only when the EU Procurement regulations do not apply.

12.2 Summary Table: Officers authorised to approve waiving of the Contract Procedure Rules.

Under £10,000	Under £50,000	Under £100,000	£100,000 and over	Over threshold
Senior Category Manager	Commercial Procurement Manager	Head of Procurement or Delegated representative	Approval of Head of Procurement and Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer) or Delegated representatives	Unable to waive unless exempt from the Regulations and the Chief Executive, Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer) and the Head of Procurement provide prior approval

12.3 Exemptions

12.3.1 Contracts which are exempt from the application of the Regulations and these rules include:

- a. Contracts relating solely to the acquisition or disposal of an interest in land and buildings.
- b. Transactions conducted by the Director of Finance & Investment (Chief Finance Officer) in respect of dealing in the money market or obtaining finance for the Council.
- c. Employment contracts.

12.4 Exceptions (PRAD 1)

12.4.1 Requests to waive these rules for under EU threshold contracts (or where the thresholds do not apply) may be authorised in the following circumstances, supported in all cases by appropriate evidence;

- a. Goods, services or execution of works are obtainable only from one source or contractor and there is no reasonably satisfactory alternative.
- b. Compatibility issues such that procurement from another source would be uneconomic given the investment in previous infrastructure;
- c. A waiver of the rules would be in the interests of the Council, be lawful, and provide value for money;
- d. Where there is a legal requirement to contract with a particular supplier.
- e. Call-offs under framework agreements, providing procedures are adopted which are broadly equivalent to these rules and compliant with national and EU legislation.
- f. Contracts awarded to sole suppliers because of exclusive rights.

12.5 **Records of Waiver**

12.5.1 All exemptions or exceptions should be recorded by Corporate Procurement in the Contract Procedure Rules Exceptions Register and be available for inspection as required. All original Procedure Rules Approval Document evidencing waiving of the rules must be kept in the register.

13. **Extension or Variation/Overspend of Contracts**

13.1 The relevant SRO must not enter into extensions, variations or overspends which are within the scope of the original procurement but would increase the value of the contract singly or cumulatively by an additional 10% or more beyond the approved budget without the approval of the Director of Finance & Investment (Chief Finance Officer). A business case will be required to obtain this approval. Evidence of such approval must be recorded in writing in a PRAD 2 Extension or PRAD 3 Variation/Overspend.

13.2 The Head of Procurement will keep a record of such approvals.

13.3 The SRO can extend or vary a contract provided;

- There is provision within the contract to extend (and this has not already been utilised to its full extent).
- The budget has been confirmed in writing or confirmation there is the budget available.
- Authority is recorded in writing and
- Legal Services prepare the documentation to record the terms of the extension or variation (if necessary depending upon the provisions of the contract).

13.4 If there is no provision within the OJEU contract notice or in the contract terms for extensions, legal advice should be sought.

13.5 Legal advice must be sought on the need to re-procure if changes amount to a significant or material alteration to the contract advertised or there is a proposed change to a named subcontractor.

14. Sale of Council Goods or Assets

14.1 When selling Council goods or assets Officers must comply with the aims of these rules (Rule 3) specifically the need to achieve best value, ensure transparency, openness, nondiscrimination, probity and accountability.

14.2 Appropriate authority under the relevant scheme of delegation for the sale must be evidenced on a PRAD 1 before commencing the sale process.

14.3 The table below sets out the minimum measures Officers must take to ensure that sales achieve best value.

Sale with value of under £10,000	Sale with value under £50,000	Sale with value over £50,000
Minimum of 3 offers required wherever possible	Procurement to advise on the need to advertise to achieve an appropriate level of interest	Advertise sale appropriately

14.4 Corporate Procurement can advise officers on compliance regarding sales if required.

15. Application of the Contract Procedure Rules to Schools

15.1 The Schools Fair Funding Scheme (FFS) governs the management by each school of its delegated and devolved budget as determined in s.48 of the School's Standards and Framework Act 1998. Schools (other than academies) are expected to follow these Rules, (unless Governing bodies have taken decisions to change reporting arrangements) but where there is conflict between the Rules and the FFS, the FFS will take precedence.

16. Declarations of Interest, Anti-Bribery and Corruption

16.1 The Council's reputation with regards to procurement activity is important and should be safeguarded from any imputation of dishonesty or corruption. All elected Members and Officers are reminded of their responsibilities in relation to gifts, hospitality and any conflicts of interest and should ensure they comply with the obligations set out in the Council's Members' Code of Conduct and Officers' Code of Conduct respectively and any other relevant policies,

guidance or strategies relating to bribery, fraud and corruption issued or endorsed by the Council from time to time.

- 16.2 Any Member or Officer must declare any interest which could influence their judgment in relation to procurement activity in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.
- 16.3 No gifts or hospitality should be accepted from Bidders or Tenderers involved in procurement activity except in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.
- 16.4 Members and Officers involved in a procurement process must not have contact with Bidders or Tenderers whilst documents are out to tender or whilst bids are being evaluated, except, formally, through the Chest. Exceptional circumstances, where contact forms part of the process, can only be conducted with the prior written consent of the Director: Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer) and the Head of Procurement.

17. **Reporting to Members**

- 17.1 The Officer responsible for awarding the Contract shall notify in writing the Head of Procurement who shall report at half yearly intervals to the Audit and Risk Management Committee, whenever;
 - A contract is awarded the total value of which exceeds £500,000 or
 - A variation or extension to a contract is approved by the Director of Finance & Investment (Chief Finance Officer) or
 - There is a waiver of the Contract Procedure Rules in relation to a contract which exceeds £50,000 in value.

18. **Contract Management**

- 18.1 All Contracts must have a Council Contract Owner for the entirety of the Contract. In the event that there is no named Contract Owner the AO will fulfil the role of Contract Owner.
- 18.2 The Contract Owner will be responsible for reviewing monitoring and evaluating the contract to ensure that its provisions and the services within it are being followed and performed as they should be.
- 18.3 During the life of the Contract, the Contract Owner should monitor the Contract in respect to the following:
 - a. Performance (against agreed KPIs where relevant);
 - b. Compliance with specification and contract;
 - c. Cost;

- d. Any Best Value duties;
- e. Continuous Improvement;
- f. User satisfaction; and
- g. Risk Management
- h. Be responsible, in accordance with the Council's Equality Duties, for ensuring that workforce profiles are submitted annually from all contractors.

18.4 Where the Contract is to be re-let, this information should be available early enough to inform the approach to re-letting the next contract.

18.5 Corporate Procurement can provide advice and support on good practice in performance management of Contracts £5000 and over.

18.6 All Contracts, £5,000 and over, must be included and published on the Contracts Register maintained by Corporate Procurement in line with the Local Government Transparency Code 2014. This is a mandatory requirement and it is the responsibility of the SRO for each Service to ensure that they have informed Corporate Procurement of the Contracts they are responsible for and provided them with the information necessary to update the Contracts Register accordingly.

19. **Retaining Relevant Documents**

19.1 All records in relation to the award of Contracts and the associated procurement process, including supporting documentation, shall be stored by Corporate Procurement in an electronic filing system to be available for inspection by the Council's internal and external auditors, or Officer, immediately upon request. Records will be retained in accordance with relevant regulations applicable to electronic record retention.

19.2 Hard copies of all written contracts shall be retained, by Legal Services, as follows:

Contracts with a value between £5,000 and £249,999	for six years after the end of the Contract
All sealed Contracts and Contracts with a value of £250,000 and above	For twelve years after the end of the Contract
Contracts that are grant funded regardless of value	Must comply with retention period above or the terms and conditions of the grant, whichever is the longer

- 19.3 If legislation related to any individual Contract stipulates a longer retention period than this, then the legislation requirements takes precedence over the Council's minimum periods.
- 19.4 Once executed, the Council shall retain one original of the complete Contract documents in line with the timescales in the table above and one copy of the complete Contract documents shall be provided to the Contractor.

REPORT TITLE:	Adoption of the Model Council Members' Planning Code
REPORT OF:	Director: Governance and Assurance (Monitoring Officer)

REPORT SUMMARY

This report presents a recommendation of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee meeting on 12 June 2018, supported by the Planning Committee, such that the Council adopts the Model Council Members' Planning Code which has been produced by Lawyers in Local Government (LLG). A copy of the Code is attached at Appendix 1 ("the Model Code").

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Council adopts the Model Council Members' Planning Code appended to this report and agrees to the inclusion of the Code in the Council Constitution.

That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make such minor changes to the text of the Model Code that do not impact on the purpose or requirements of the Code as may be necessary for Constitutional purposes.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The Model Code provides best practice for members at all times when involving themselves in the planning process.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 That the Model Code is not adopted.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Model Code is adopted to ensure best practice in the planning process.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Members' Planning Code of Good Practice was originally prepared in response to a series of successful challenges concerning themselves with local planning authorities and Members' conduct or conflicts of interests. It replaced a number of individual and sometimes haphazard approaches in individual councils at the time.
- 3.2 The Model Code takes into account the Nolan Principles and commentary from the Committee on Standards in Public Life, the changes in the approach to codes of conduct and also to predetermination introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and the guide on 'Openness and transparency on personal interests' published by the Department for Communities and Local Government 2013.
- 3.3 This Model Code applies to Members at all times when involving themselves in the planning process. The Model Code is simple in format and easy to understand and apply.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with the adoption of the Model Code

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council must act in accordance with the legislative requirements when dealing with planning matters and the Model Code provides best practice to ensure compliance. Section 37 of the Local Government Act 2000 requires the Council to keep its Constitution up to date. Section 25 of the Localism Act, 2011 introduces provisions for dealing with allegations of bias or pre-determination or matters that otherwise raise an issue about the validity of a decision, whether the decision-maker had or appeared to have a closed mind (to any extent) when making the decision.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no resource implications associated with the adoption of the Model Code.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 Adopting the Model Planning Code of Conduct will minimise the risk within the planning process of suggestions being made that a decision has been biased, partial or not well founded in any way.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The drafting of the Model Code was subject to consultation and comment from a number of local authorities through the machinery of the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors (now LLG), the Local Government Association, the Local Government Ombudsman and the Planning Officers Society, supported by leading planning law firms and Queens Counsel.

8.2 The recommendation of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee for Council to adopt this Code was subject to the views of Planning Committee before referral to Council for approval. The support of the Planning Committee for the adoption of the Code was duly given at a meeting held on 21 June 2018.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Code and its implementation must adhere to equality and human rights legislation under the relevant Acts. The Code will ensure that these matters are addressed in making decisions and advising upon the approach to decision making in planning applications.

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APPENDICES

Model Council Members Planning Code

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None, other than that referenced in the body of the report.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee, Minute 4 refers	12 June 2018
Planning Committee, Minute 24 refers	21 June 2018

The Model Code



MODEL COUNCIL MEMBERS' PLANNING CODE or PROTOCOL

Background

The Members' Planning Code of Good Practice was originally prepared in response to a series of successful court challenges concerning themselves with local planning authorities and the Members' conduct or conflicts of interests. It replaced what was a number of individual and sometimes haphazard approaches in individual councils at the time.

The drafting of the model code was subject to consultation and comment from a number of local authorities through the machinery of the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors (now LLG), the Local Government Association, the Local Government Ombudsman, Audit Commission and from firms of solicitors or counsel acting on their behalf.

This 2013 update takes into account the update to the Seven Principles of Public Life (the 'Nolan principles') and commentary from the Committee on standards in public life, the changes in the approach to codes of conduct and also to predetermination introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and the guide on 'Openness and transparency on personal interests' published by the Department for Communities and Local Government 2013.

For further reading please refer to 'Probity in Planning' issued by the Local Government Association.

Introduction

The aim of this Code: to ensure that in the planning process there are no grounds for suggesting that a decision has been biased, partial or not well founded in any way.

One of the key purposes of the planning system is to regulate the development and use of land in the public interest. **Your role as a Member of the Planning Authority is** to make planning decisions openly, impartially, with sound judgement and for justifiable reasons. You are also a democratically accountable decision-taker who had been elected to provide and pursue policies. You are entitled to be predisposed to make planning decisions in accordance with your political views and policies **provided** that you have considered all material considerations and have given fair consideration to relevant points raised.

When the Code applies: this code applies to Members at all times when involving themselves in the planning process. (This includes when taking part in the decision

making meetings of the Council in exercising the functions of the Planning Authority or when involved on less formal occasions, such as meetings with officers or the public and consultative meetings). It applies as equally to planning enforcement matters or site specific policy issues as it does to planning applications.

If you have any doubts about the application of this Code to your own circumstances you should seek advice early, from the Monitoring Officer or one of his or her staff, and preferably well before any meeting takes place.

1. Relationship to the Members' Code of Conduct

- **Do** apply the rules in the Members' Code of Conduct first, which must always be complied with. This is both the rules on interest, Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) and any other interests identified by your Authority, and the general rules giving effect to the seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
- **Do** then apply the rules in this Members' Planning Code, which seek to explain and supplement the Members' Code of Conduct and the law on decision making for the purposes of planning control. If you do not abide by this Members' Planning Code, you may put:
 - the Council at risk of proceedings on the legality of the related decision or maladministration; and
 - yourself at risk of being named in a report made to the Council or, if the failure is also likely to be a breach of the interest provisions of Localism Act 2011, a complaint being made to the police to consider criminal proceedings.

2. Development Proposals and Personal Interests

- **Do** disclose the existence and nature of your interest as required by your Authority's Member Code of Conduct.
- **Do take into account when approaching a decision** that the Principle of Integrity is defined in terms that

*"Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. **They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships**".*

It is therefore advisable that you:

- **Don't** seek or accept any preferential treatment, or place yourself in a position that could lead the public to think you are receiving preferential treatment, because of your position as a councillor. This would include, where you have a disclosable or other personal conflict of interest in a proposal, using your position to discuss that proposal with officers or Members when other members of the public would not have the same opportunity to do so.
- **Do** note that you are not prevented from seeking to explain and justify a proposal in which you may have a conflict of interest to an appropriate officer, in person or in writing, but that your role as a councillor may place additional limitations on

you in representing the proposal in which you have a personal interest.

- **Do** notify the Monitoring Officer in writing where it is clear to you that you have a disclosable pecuniary interest or other personal conflict of interest and note that:
 - you should send the notification no later than submission of that application where you can;
 - the proposal will always be reported to the Committee as a main item and not dealt with by officers under delegated powers;
 - you must not get involved in the processing of the application; and
 - it is advisable that you employ an agent to act on your behalf in respect of the proposal when dealing with officers and in public speaking at Committee.

3. **Fettering Discretion in the Planning Process** (natural justice, predisposition and predetermination)

- **Don't** fetter your discretion by approaching the decision with a closed mind.
- **Do** be aware that in your role as an elected Member you are entitled, and are often expected, to have expressed views on planning issues and that these comments have an added measure of protection under the Localism Act 2011.
- **Do** keep at the front of your mind that, when you come to make the decision, you
 - are entitled to have and to have expressed your own views on the matter, provided you are prepared to reconsider your position in the light of all the evidence and arguments;
 - must keep an open mind and hear all of the evidence before you, both the officers' presentation of the facts and their advice as well as the arguments from all sides;
 - are not required to cast aside views on planning policy you held when seeking election or otherwise acting as a Member, in giving fair consideration to points raised;
 - are only entitled to take account a material consideration and must disregard considerations irrelevant to the question and legal context at hand; and
 - are to come to a decision after giving what you feel is the right weight to those material considerations.
- **Do** be aware that you can be biased where the Council is the landowner, developer or applicant if you have acted as, or could be perceived as being, a chief advocate for the proposal. (This is more than a matter of membership of both the proposing and planning determination committees, but that through your significant personal involvement in preparing or advocating the proposal you will be, or perceived by the public as being, no longer able to act impartially or to determine the proposal purely on its planning merits.)
- **Do** consider yourself able to take part in the debate on a proposal when acting as part of a consultee body (where you are also a member of the parish council, for example, or both a district/borough and county councillor), provided:
 - the proposal does not substantially effect the well being or financial standing of the consultee body;
 - you make it clear to the consultee body that:

- your views are expressed on the limited information before you only;
- you must reserve judgement and the independence to make up your own mind on each separate proposal, based on your overriding duty to the whole community and not just to the people in that area, ward or parish, as and when it comes before the Committee and you hear all of the relevant information; and
- you will not in any way commit yourself as to how you or others may vote when the proposal comes before the Committee.
- **Do** explain that you do not intend to speak and vote as a member of the Committee because you will be perceived as having judged (or you reserve the right to judge) the matter elsewhere, so that this may be recorded in the minutes. (*Use the disclosure form provided for disclosing interests.*)
- **Do** take the opportunity to exercise your separate speaking rights as a Ward/Local Member (*where this is granted by the authority's standing orders or by the consent from the Chair and Committee*) where you have represented your views or those of local electors and fettered your discretion, but do not have a disclosable or other personal conflict of interest. Where you do:
 - advise the proper officer or Chair that you wish to speak in this capacity before commencement of the item;
 - remove yourself from the seating area for members of the Committee for the duration of that item; and
 - ensure that your actions are recorded.

4. Contact with Applicants, Developers and Objectors

- **Do** refer those who approach you for planning, procedural or technical advice to officers.
- **Don't** agree to any formal meeting with applicants, developers or groups of objectors where you can avoid it. Where you feel that a formal meeting would be useful in clarifying the issues, you should seek to arrange that meeting yourself through a request to the [Development Control Manager] to organise it. The officer(s) will then ensure that those present at the meeting are advised from the start that the discussions will not bind the authority to any particular course of action, that the meeting is properly recorded on the application file and the record of the meeting is disclosed when the application is considered by the Committee.
- **Do** otherwise:
 - follow the Authority's rules on lobbying;
 - consider whether or not it would be prudent in the circumstances to make notes when contacted; and
 - report to the [Development Control Manager] any significant contact with the applicant and other parties, explaining the nature and purpose of the contacts and your involvement in them, and ensure that this is recorded on the planning file [a profoma has been supplied to you for this purpose].

In addition in respect of presentations by applicants/developers:

- **Don't** attend a planning presentation without requesting an officer to be present.

- **Do** ask relevant questions for the purposes of clarifying your understanding of the proposals.
- **Do** remember that the presentation is not part of the formal process of debate and determination of any subsequent application, this will be carried out by the appropriate Committee of the planning authority.
- **Do** be aware that a presentation is a form of lobbying and, whilst you may express any view on the merits or otherwise of the proposal presented, you should never state how you or other Members would intend to vote at a committee.

5. Lobbying of Councillors

- **Do** explain to those lobbying or attempting to lobby you that, whilst you can listen to what is said, it may subsequently prejudice your impartiality, and therefore your ability to participate in the Committee's decision making, to make any sort of promise to vote one way or another or such a firm point of view that it amounts to the same thing.
- **Do** remember that your overriding duty is to the whole community not just to the people in your [ward][division] and, taking account of the need to make decisions impartially, that you should not improperly favour, or appear to improperly favour, any person, company, group or locality.
- **Don't** accept gifts or hospitality from any person involved in or affected by a planning proposal. If a degree of hospitality is entirely unavoidable, ensure it is of a minimum, its acceptance is declared as soon as possible, including its addition to your register of interests where relevant.
- **Do** copy or pass on any lobbying correspondence you receive to the Development Control Manager at the earliest opportunity.
- **Do** promptly refer to the [Development Control Manager] any offers made to you of planning gain or constraint of development, through a proposed s.106 Planning Obligation or otherwise.
- **Do** inform the Monitoring Officer where you feel you have been exposed to undue or excessive lobbying or approaches (including inappropriate offers of gifts or hospitality), who will in turn advise the appropriate officers to follow the matter up.
- **Do** note that, unless you have a disclosable or overriding other personal conflict of interest, you will not have fettered your discretion or breached this Planning Code through:
 - listening or receiving viewpoints from residents or other interested parties;
 - making comments to residents, interested parties, other Members or appropriate officers (making clear that you must keep an open mind when it comes to making the decision);
 - seeking information through appropriate channels; or
 - being a vehicle for the expression of opinion of others in your role as a [Ward][Division] Member.

6. Lobbying by Councillors

- **Don't** become a member of, lead or represent an organisation whose primary

purpose is to lobby to promote or oppose planning proposals unless it is your intention to openly campaign on the matter and will therefore step away from the Committee when it comes to make its decision.

- **Do** join general interest groups which reflect your areas of interest and which concentrate on issues beyond particular planning proposals (such as the Victorian Society, CPRE, Ramblers Association or a local civic society), but you should normally seek to disclose that interest on the grounds of transparency where the organisation has made representations on a particular proposal.
- **Don't** excessively lobby fellow councillors regarding your concerns or views nor attempt to persuade them that they should decide how to vote in advance of the meeting at which any planning decision is to be taken
- **Don't** decide or discuss how to vote on any application at any political group meeting, or lobby any other Member to do so. Political Group Meetings should never dictate how Members should vote on a planning issue.

7. Site Visits/Inspections

- **Do** try to attend site visits organised by the Council where possible.
- **Don't** request a site visit unless you feel it is strictly necessary because:
 - particular site factors are significant in terms of the weight attached to them relative to other factors or the difficulty of their assessment in the absence of a site inspection; or
 - there are significant policy or precedent implications and specific site factors need to be carefully addressed.
- **Do** ensure that you report back to the Committee any information gained from the site visit that you feel would benefit all Members of the Committee
- **Do** ensure that you treat the site visit only as an opportunity to seek information and to observe the site.
- **Do** ask the officers at the site visit questions or seek clarification from them on matters which are relevant to the site inspection.
- **Don't** hear representations from any other party, with the exception of the Ward Member(s) whose address must focus only on site factors and site issues. Where you are approached by the applicant or a third party, advise them that they should make representations in writing to the authority and direct them to or inform the officer present.
- **Don't** express opinions or views.
- **Don't** enter a site which is subject to a proposal other than as part of an official site visit, even in response to an invitation, as this may give the impression of bias unless:
 - you feel it is essential for you to visit the site other than through attending the official site visit,
 - you have first spoken to the Development Control Manager about your intention to do so and why (which will be recorded on the file) and
 - you can ensure you will comply with these good practice rules on site visits.

8. Public Speaking at Meetings

- **Don't** allow members of the public to communicate with you during the Committee's proceedings (orally or in writing) other than through the scheme for public speaking or through the Chair, as this may give the appearance of bias.
- **Do** ensure that you comply with the Council's procedures in respect of public speaking.

9. Officers

- **Don't** put pressure on officers to put forward a particular recommendation. (This does not prevent you from asking questions or submitting views to the [Development Control Manager], which may be incorporated into any committee report).
- **Do** recognise that officers are part of a management structure and only discuss a proposal, outside of any arranged meeting, with a Head of Service or those officers who are authorised by their Head of Service to deal with the proposal at a Member level.
- **Do** recognise and respect that officers involved in the processing and determination of planning matters must act in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct for Officers and their professional codes of conduct, primarily the Royal Town Planning Institute's Code of Professional Conduct. As a result, planning officers' views, opinions and recommendations will be presented on the basis of their overriding obligation of professional independence, which may on occasion be at odds with the views, opinions or decisions of the Committee or its Members.

10. Decision Making

- **Do** ensure that, if you request a proposal to go before the Committee rather than be determined through officer delegation, that your planning reasons are recorded and repeated in the report to the Committee.
- **Do** come to meetings with an open mind and demonstrate that you are open-minded.
- **Do** comply with section [38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004][Art 4(2A) The Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991] and make decisions in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- **Do** come to your decision only after due consideration of all of the information reasonably required upon which to base a decision. If you feel there is insufficient time to digest new information or that there is simply insufficient information before you, request that further information. If necessary, defer or refuse.
- **Don't** vote or take part in the meeting's discussion on a proposal unless you have been present to hear the entire debate, including the officers' introduction to the matter.
- **Do** have recorded the reasons for Committee's decision to defer any proposal [and that this is in accordance with the Council's protocol on deferrals].
- **Do** make sure that if you are proposing, seconding or supporting a decision contrary to officer recommendations or the development plan that you clearly identify and

understand the planning reasons leading to this conclusion/decision. These reasons must be given prior to the vote and be recorded. Be aware that you may have to justify the resulting decision by giving evidence in the event of any challenge.

11. Training

- **Don't** participate in decision making at meetings dealing with planning matters if you have not attended the mandatory planning training prescribed by the Council.
- **Do** endeavour to attend any other specialised training sessions provided, since these will be designed to extend your knowledge of planning law, regulations, procedures, Codes of Practice and the Development Plans beyond the minimum referred to above and thus assist you in carrying out your role properly and effectively.
- **Do** participate in the annual review of a sample of planning decisions to ensure that Members' judgements have been based on proper planning considerations.

MINUTE EXTRACT

CABINET – 26 MARCH 2018

99 FEE SETTING FOR 2018/19



Councillor Christine Jones, Social Care and Health said:

“Making sure our residents can get access to the highest quality nursing and residential care is incredibly important. Even during a time of such prolonged national austerity, we cannot and will not compromise on quality.

In Wirral, we work hand in hand with local businesses and the Care Quality Commission to make sure our residents are supported and have a good of high quality care when they need it.

I am proud that after extensive consultation with care providers across the borough, we are proposing an investment of almost £3 million this year. This money will be used to support care providers, further improve the quality of services residents can receive and support our most vulnerable people.”

Councillor Chris Jones introduced a report by the Assistant Director for Integrated Commissioning and Principal Accountant that informed on the outcome of consultation with care providers with regard to the proposed 2018-19 fee rates for services provided for Adults and Older People in Wirral. The report also set out the requirement to deliver a good quality responsive and sustainable care market that reflected resident’s expectations. The report further informed that proposals had been made in the context of continuing significant financial pressures in relation to care costs for both providers and for the Council, whilst having due regard to local market pressures and the actual cost of care.

The Cabinet noted that the consultation covered services provided on behalf of Wirral Adult Social Care and Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group as part of its joint commissioning arrangements for Wirral-wide service provision. The report covered all sectors and provided a comparison of the proposed fee rates for Wirral benchmarked against other North West Councils. These included: Residential and nursing (including Transfer to Assess and specialist services), domiciliary care (including extra care housing support), supported living, shared lives, reablement and mobile night services.

The following pledges were linked to (and supported by) the recommended increases:

- Older People Live Well
- People with disabilities live independently
- Young People are ready for work and adulthood
- Wirral is a place where employers want to invest and businesses thrive

- Greater job opportunities in Wirral council
- Thriving small businesses
- Workforce skills meet business needs

RESOLVED: That

- (1) **the proposed rates and fees recommended by officers within the report be approved;**
- (2) **it be RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL that the increased cost of £2.9m be met by the Social Care Precept element of Council tax;**
- (3) **the uplift fees to providers from 1 April 2018 be approved;**
- (4) **the intention to work in collaboration with the Liverpool City Region (LCR) and the supported living sector to pilot test and phase in a sustainable new model of care be noted; and**
- (5) **the intention to work with partner organisations and the independent sector to develop a new model of domiciliary care provision be noted.**

MINUTE EXTRACT

CABINET – 26 MARCH 2018

102 WIRRAL CORE STRATEGY LOCAL PLAN - WIRRAL EMPLOYMENT LAND AND PREMISES STUDY



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

“As part of the extensive and detailed process of producing a Local Plan for Wirral, it is vital we have a full understanding of the employment land we have, and what we need in the future. This becomes even more important when we consider the huge investment interest in Wirral at the moment, through developments such as Wirral Growth Company. This report provides Cabinet with a thorough study of our employment land, and will help us as we move through the process of developing our full Local Plan during 2018.”

Councillor George Davies introduced a report by the Principal Forward Planning Officer that informed that in January 2017 Wirral Council had asked its retained consultants – Lichfields (assisted by Lambert Smith Hampton) to prepare a Borough-wide Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study [Wirral ELPS]. The Wirral ELPS updated the evidence base, replacing the existing Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study prepared by BE Group in 2012.

The report further informed that on 27 February 2017 (Minute 96 refers), when considering the results of further consultation on the Borough’s housing needs and land supply, the Cabinet had resolved that the future designation of existing employment land be not determined until the Employment Land and Premises Study Update had been completed and approved.

The report summarised that the Wirral ELPS drew on an assessment of local market conditions, engagement with local stakeholders and businesses, viability assessments of a range of typical industrial and office uses and a review of the current employment land portfolio to arrive at a recommended employment land supply for the Borough to inform the emerging Core Strategy Local Plan. Emphasis was placed on the suitability, deliverability and viability of sites and land for future employment use.

In addition, the report recommended employment land supply be included in the Local Plan comprise of 41 sites totalling 59.5 hectares net. A further 13 sites had also been identified at Wirral Waters as of strategic importance to the wider Liverpool City Region; 12 sites for mixed uses, where the final potential for future B Class employment uses was currently unknown; and 17 sites to be safeguarded for longer term employment uses.

The report supported the following pledges in the Wirral Plan 2020:

- Pledge Eight: Greater job opportunities in Wirral
- Pledge Ten: Increase inward investment
- Pledge Eleven: Thriving small businesses

The report was a key decision as the findings could affect a large number of residents and businesses in a large number of Wards in the Borough.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) **the findings of the Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study 2017 be used to inform the content of the Council's emerging Core Strategy Local Plan.**
- (2) **It be RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL that the Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study 2017 be approved as a material consideration for use by the Planning Committee in the determination of planning applications.**

Council – 9 July, 2018

Motions

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

1. TACKLING POVERTY AMONG WOMEN AND GIRLS ON LOW INCOMES

(to be debated)

Proposed by Councillor Moira McLaughlin

Seconded by Councillor Anita Leech

One of the hidden effects of living on a low income is the startling fact that 40% of teenage girls in that situation cannot afford to buy proper sanitary protection and have to use unsuitable and degrading alternatives.

Council recognises the excellent work being done by volunteers involved in the 'Feeding Birkenhead' project in initiating their Pink Box campaign to address this and we are pleased that it is now being rolled out to other parts of the country through Feeding Britain and that Women`s Aid and other charities are providing similar help.

However, this is only a small part of what is needed and we are looking to gather support from across all political parties and faith and community groups in Wirral and across the country that are working to tackle the impact of poverty, to ask the government to recognise the extent of this as a problem and develop the approach taken in Scotland to ensure all women and girls living on low incomes have the sanitary protection they need to maintain their self-respect and dignity.

Council agrees that the Leader of the Council should write to the Prime Minister and ask that the government supports this campaign.

2. KEEPING WIRRAL PARKS AND COASTAL AREAS AVAILABLE FOR THE MANY NOT THE FEW *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor David Elderton

Seconded by Councillor Gerry Ellis

Council believes the introduction of car parking charges at Wirral's coastal areas and promenades, following the introduction of charges in our country parks:

- Will bring in relatively small amounts of money
- Will have a health and happiness cost, by discouraging residents from using green spaces and the beaches
- Will disproportionately impact on poorer residents, for whom access to the country parks and beaches is a relatively cheap activity, and for whom travel on public transport with children and associated equipment will be more expensive and inconvenient

Council also notes the views of Members in the Wards affected by the proposals for coastal parking charges (Wallasey, Hoylake & Meols and West Kirby & Thurstaston) who have highlighted the potential impact on small and medium sized businesses reliant on visitor and tourist trade.

Council therefore requests the Leader of the Council, when considering the results of the consultation to coastal parking charges, including the public meeting and protest march, to reject the proposal for coastal parking charges.

3. BETTER ACCESS TO HOSPITAL *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

This Council recognises and appreciates the concerns expressed by the Wirral South Constituency Committee at its meeting on 21 June 2018 when the Motion, reproduced below, was proposed by Cllr Dave Mitchell, seconded jointly by Councillors Christina Muspratt and Mary Jordan, and agreed unanimously:

“This Constituency Committee is concerned at the inconvenient, lengthy and time-consuming bus journeys, affecting residents in southern Wirral when travelling to Arrowe Park Hospital and back.

The Committee recognises that, since the changes to bus services introduced in September 2017, patients and visitors have been faced not only with less frequent but also indirect services, part of a complex deal negotiated between Merseytravel and the bus companies.

We consider it totally unsatisfactory that residents face journeys that might involve changes in New Ferry or Birkenhead Bus Station, adding extra journey time, stress and the possibility of additional costs to their journeys.

Whilst some work has been started on ways to alleviate or tackle this situation, such as the meeting attended by Merseytravel, representatives of the Clinical Commissioning Group, this Council and Councillors Muspratt and Gilchrist, the issues have not yet been resolved.

In addition the Urgent Care Review also needs to take account of the need to access services.

This Committee, therefore, requests that the Leader of the Council and appropriate Cabinet members take this issue up with the LCR Transport Committee and the Mayor of the Liverpool City Region with a view to restoring a better and more direct service to Arrowe Park Hospital from those areas of southern Wirral most affected.”

Council requests that, in order to respond to the Motion, the Leader of the Council...

- takes steps to look into and raise these concerns and
- helps set up and progress meetings between Wirral South members, along with officers that serve the Liverpool City Region at a senior level

...with the aim of securing solutions to the problems experienced by people in southern Wirral and the needs of staff who require convenient and reliable services to enable them to travel to and from work.

4. SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL ACTION TO TACKLE OBESITY *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Christine Jones

Seconded by Councillor Bernie Mooney

The Council notes that obesity is a major public health concern with the majority of adults in England being overweight or obese and more than a third of our 10 to 11 years old being overweight or obese.

It is estimated that obesity is responsible for more than 30,000 deaths each year. Being overweight or obese increases the risk of a wide range of diseases including Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease and many cancers. It also negatively affects quality of life and mental wellbeing.

No one is 'immune' to obesity, but some people are more likely to become overweight or obese than others. Factors of income, social deprivation and ethnicity all have an important impact on the likelihood of person becoming obese. Data from the National Child Measurement Programme shows that obesity levels in the most deprived 10% of children is approximately double that of the least deprived 10%.

Obesity places a huge strain on health and social care as well as having a broader impact on economic development. The estimated annual cost of obesity in England is around £32.5 billion and if no action is taken these costs will increase.

Council recognises that the causes of obesity are complex. Environmental, physiological and behavioural factors all interrelate and play their part in influencing the prevalence of obesity. This is why at a local level Wirral has a wide range of activities to tackle obesity. This includes providing a 0 to 19 service working with schools and 0-5s to be health promoting, a number of services providing weight management support and having health promoting planning policies.

However, Council feels more needs to be done by national government to support the efforts of local areas and we call upon the Government to lead on three areas of action:

Firstly Implement the Food Revolution actions.

This is a campaign led by the Jamie Oliver Food Foundation and its Australian partners at the Good Foundation. It is committed to inspiring real, meaningful, positive change in the way children access, consume and understand food.

Working with medical experts and professionals Food Revolution has created a six-point plan for action which they believe governments across the world should be working towards as a priority.

Council welcomes that the UK government has implemented the first action, which is the introduction of a sugary drink tax, but strongly advocate that the government also acts upon the other 5 actions. These are;

1. The introduction of sugar reformulation targets to reduce excessive sugar in all products and have penalties for non-compliance;
2. Introduce fair marketing which would include a ban on food advertising targeted at children and cutting promotion of sugary products;
3. Making clearer labelling mandatory with clear on-pack sugar information, such as traffic light labelling and having restrictions on portion sizes for confectionary and sugary drinks;
4. Improving access to healthy food at schools for all children and prioritise food education in schools and,
5. Providing greater education including clear national guides on what nutritious daily meals look like. This would include practical resources for both parents and teachers and better consistency between the classroom and home.

Secondly Tackle Food Poverty

An affordable healthy diet is vital for good health. However, we know many people, due to rising food prices, low wages and reductions in benefits, have an insufficient income to buy healthy food. This 'food poverty' trap results in families cutting back on fresh fruit and vegetables and buying cheap, sweet, fatty, salty, or processed foods that need little cooking.

This results in poorer people having worse diets, greater levels of obesity and poorer health. Across the Liverpool City region many families are living in poverty and there is high demand on food banks.

Whilst there is considerable work across the Liverpool City Region (LCR) to tackle poverty, illustrated in the commitment set out in The LCR Child Poverty and Life Chances Strategy, more needs to be done nationally. We call upon the UK government as the world's sixth largest economy to do more to end food poverty. Food banks should not become a substitute for an effective welfare system and fair work which includes earning a living wage.

Thirdly introduce a fairer and greater obesity focus of the use of sugar levy funding

Council welcomes the government's sugary drinks levy with the money raised to improve PE and sport for primary-aged pupils to encourage healthy and active lifestyles.

The funding is to be allocated directly to primary schools, based on the number of pupils in years 1 to 6. There is no adjustment for deprivation. We believe to make the greatest impact the funding should be weighted to those with greatest health needs. The National Child Measurement Programme figures show it is the areas with greater deprivation which have a comparably higher proportion of children who are obese, compared to areas in the least deprived areas. If the funding was allocated direct to Local Authorities, rather than to individual schools, there would be greater potential to ensure resources were utilised to meet the needs across the local area.

Furthermore as obesity is influenced by both energy expended and energy consumed to tackle obesity we would like to see the criteria for this funding to also

include activities which will help children and families make healthier food and drink choices.

In conclusion we strongly believe that more needs to be done on a national level to address the public health issue of obesity.

This Council therefore agrees that the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health should write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and ask him to give healthy weight a greater priority by:

- **Implementing all of the Food Revolution actions;**
- **Tackling Food Poverty and,**
- **Having a fairer and greater obesity focus of the use of sugar levy funding including allocation to Local Authorities rather than to individual schools**

5. CAMPAIGN FOR A PEOPLE'S VOTE *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Allan Brame

Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Council notes that two years have passed since the EU Referendum and little concrete progress has been made in negotiating the terms of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU.

Council:

- (a) recognises the significant support it has received through EU funding over many years;
- (b) recalls that a clear majority of Wirral residents voted to remain in the EU;
- (c) notes the stark warnings from companies such as Airbus, Vauxhall Motors, Jaguar Land Rover and BMW about the impact of Brexit on British manufacturing;
- (d) recognises the mounting popular concern at the prospect of leaving the EU with either a bad deal or no deal at all;
- (e) notes the participation of over 100,000 people in the march for a People's Vote in London on 23 June;
- (f) shares the anxiety of EU citizens living in the Wirral who feel unwelcome in the land where they have made their homes, and uncertain about their future;

and accordingly supports the call for a People's Vote on the final Brexit deal with an option to remain in the EU, and urges Wirral's MPs to join the campaign for a People's Vote in the interests of the residents and businesses on Wirral.

6. REMEMBERING SREBRENICA *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Phil Davies

Seconded by Councillor Stuart Whittingham

This Council:

- Notes that 2018 is the twenty-third anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which saw over 8,000 Muslim men and boys killed by Serbian nationalist forces.
- Notes that in 2009 the European Parliament passed a resolution that 11 July should be recognised as the day of commemoration of the Srebrenica genocide all over the EU; and in 2015 urged the development of educational and cultural programmes that promote an understanding of the causes of such atrocities and raise awareness about the need to nurture peace and to promote human rights and interreligious tolerance. All UK political parties have supported the work of Remembering Srebrenica in this regard.
- Applauds the work of those involved in the pursuit of justice for the victims and their surviving relatives, including the International Commission of Missing People (ICMP) and the Mothers of Srebrenica, whose courage and humility in the face of unthinkable horror is an inspiration to us all.
- Commends the work of the charity, Remembering Srebrenica, in raising awareness of this tragic and preventable genocide and working in communities across Britain to help them learn the lessons of Srebrenica.

The Council resolves to:

- Support Srebrenica memorial events in July each year throughout Wirral as part of the UK-wide Remembering Srebrenica Memorial Week.
- Support the work of Remembering Srebrenica in communities across Wirral to learn the lessons from Srebrenica to tackle hatred and intolerance to help build a better, safer and more cohesive society for everyone.
- Support the work of schools and education providers to bring the lessons of Srebrenica to young people across Wirral.

7. OUR NHS AT 70 *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

This Council records its grateful thanks to all those who work within and for our National Health Service as its 70th Anniversary is reached.

Council recalls the vision and contribution of those who helped to plan for this during the Second World War and in the years leading up to 1948.

Council recognises the considerable pressures that staff have faced in recent years, along with their work to tackle what used to be called the 'winter pressures' that now exist throughout the year.

Council is determined, therefore, that the Prime Minister's recent announcements should be backed by genuine increases in funding. The concerns expressed by The King's Fund and the Institute for Fiscal Studies should be considered and addressed.

Council remains anxious that the crisis facing social care funding is addressed as repeatedly called for by the Local Government Association.

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/nhs-funding-must-be-matched-social-care-funding-says-lga>

'The long-term funding for the NHS needs to be matched by a significant investment in adult social care and public health services otherwise it won't be as effective or as sustainable.'

Council, therefore, supports the work of that Association in making the case for the funding of local services as the Government plans for the Autumn Budget and next Comprehensive Spending Review.

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