



Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 22 January 2019
Time:	6.00 p.m.
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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

Contact Officer: Andrew Mossop
Tel: 0151 691 8501
e-mail: andrewmossop@wirral.gov.uk
Website: www.wirral.gov.uk

AGENDA

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / PARTY WHIP**

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

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

- 3. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 12)**

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November, 2018.
- 4. IMPACT OF CAR PARKING CHARGES IN COUNTRY PARKS - UPDATE (Pages 13 - 20)**
- 5. INVESTMENT AND CHANGE BOARD AND THE NEW COMMERCIAL IDEAS PANEL**

Presentation

6. **BUDGET PROPOSALS SCRUTINY WORKSHOP REPORT**
(Pages 21 - 34)
 7. **UPDATE ON LIVERPOOL CITY REGION DEVELOPMENTS**
(Pages 35 - 42)
 8. **HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC REPRESENTATION PANEL MINUTES**
(Pages 43 - 46)
- The Committee are requested to note the minutes of the Highways and Traffic Representation Panel held on 17 December, 2018.
9. **BUSINESS O&S COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**
(Pages 47 - 56)
 10. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR**

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.

BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 28 November 2018

Present: Councillor J Stapleton (Vice – Chair in the Chair)

Councillors	J Stapleton	S Jones
	J Bird	J McManus
	C Blakeley	D Mitchell
	T Cox	KJ Williams
	D Elderton	S Williams
	K Hodson	

Deputy: Councillor S Foulkes (for P Hackett)

Apologies Councillors M Sullivan G Wood

24 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Jean Stapleton welcomed everyone to the meeting which she was chairing as the appointed Vice Chair in Councillor Pat Hackett's absence.

There were apologies from Councillors Pat Hackett, Gill Wood and Mike Sullivan. Councillor Steve Foulkes acted as a Deputy for Councillor Pat Hackett.

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

Councillor S Foulkes declared a personal interest in respect of item 5 by virtue of his position as Chair of the Planning Committee.

26 **MINUTES**

Members were requested to receive the minutes of the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 18 September 2018.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2018, be approved.

27 **FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT - QUARTER 2 2018/19**

The Senior Manager for Financial Planning and Policy, introduced the report of the Director of Finance and Investment which set out the Council's revenue and capital monitoring position for 2018/19 quarter 2.

The quarter 2 revenue report showed a forecast for the £0.4million overspend by the year end. This was identified as being £0.5million worse than in the first quarter. The quarter 2 capital report showed an expenditure of to date of £6.4million on a revised programme of £19.2million.

Members were informed that budget movements in quarter two cover a number of issues, the largest of these was the distribution of the £10million transformation funding to Children's Services. It was explained that these movements had no effect on the bottom line budget of the Council and were just adjustments to reflect where budgets should be placed.

The Senior Manager for Finance informed the committee that the 2nd quarter forecast could be attributed as follows:

- **Finance and Resources: Overspend in relation to agency and recruitment costs.**
- **Jobs and Growth: Overspend in this area is Legal costs relating to Wirral Waters One.**
- **Law and Order: Overspend due to enhancement payments, overtime payments and shortfall in income targets.**

Details of the Capital Programme 2018/19 at the end of Quarter 2 were provided in the report as follows:

- **Dock Bridges** – a further of £0.8million had been incurred in respect of the current replacement scheme.
- **Highway maintenance** – the most significant areas of expenditure are in respect of micro asphaltting (£0.85million) and the programme of surface dressings (£0.40million)
- **Sustainable Transport Enhancement Programme (STEP)** – Focuses on 2 significant schemes; Northbank East (£0.46 million) and the Croft Retail Corridor.
- **Transport for Growth** – the most significant being the improvements to the junction of the M53 and A554 (£0.356 million)
- **Grant funding of £0.563 million** – available to fund pothole repairs
- **Street lighting column upgrade/ LED replacement** – the tender will be advertised in November 2018 with an anticipated start date of January 2019
- **West Kirby flood alleviation** – ground work investigations currently being undertaken with the tender to be issues in November.
- **Digital corporate storage** – there are a number of solutions available with each of the main vendors, such as Dell EMC and Netapp offering various options.
- **Windows 10 rollout** – the Digital team would be providing all staff with new computers featuring the latest Operating System (Windows 10),

and providing additional software to make it easier for staff to work in an agile way.

Responding to questions from Members, The Senior Manager informed the Committee that the spend on potholes is now closer to £450,000 and not £300,000 as previously reported. She then informed the Committee that when the forecast is further reviewed she is hopeful that it will come back in a balanced position.

In response to a further question, Members were informed that with reference to the West Kirby flood tender, a series of workshops with residents would be conducted and details have been published in the Wirral View circulation.

A Member then commended Councillor Stuart Whittingham, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport for his sterling job commissioning pot hole repairs.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

28 **WIRRAL WATERS SCRUTINY WORKSHOP REPORT**

A report by the Chair of the Committee set out the outcomes of a Scrutiny Workshop held in October for Members to scrutinise the latest developments of Wirral Waters. Members heard how the workshop was commissioned as part of the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work programme for the municipal year.

A workshop held on 16 October 2018 had been conducted through presentations delivered by the Assistant Director for Regeneration and Inward Investment and the Director of Development for Wirral Waters before being opened up to a question and answer session. Members from all four of Wirral's Overview and Scrutiny Committees were invited.

The Director for Economic and Housing Growth reported that during the workshop, Members saw the overall vision. He informed the Committee of progress to date and that the Wirral Waters One Project had now been signed off and would be considered at a forthcoming Planning Committee. He advised that the project is beginning to move forward from vision to delivery and expressed the importance of the Council continuing with the same momentum.

In response to a question, the Director for Economic and Housing Growth reiterated the Council's optimism and support for the Wirral Waters scheme. He further advised that a mixed approach should be taken to housing and that family housing is required.

In response to a further question, the Director likened the scheme to Salford Quays and drew upon the positive experiences from that project. In response to a comment by a Member, he then advised that the International Trade Centre that had been planned would not go ahead. He also informed Members that jobs could be developed locally and that the Council increasingly need to work alongside partners to develop skills.

The Director of Economic and Housing Growth highlighted the importance of the Wirral Waters One scheme in beginning to develop and move the project along.

Councillors expressed their support with the progress of the scheme and looked forward to the commencement of building works. Councillors then requested regular reports on the Wirral Growth Company and Birkenhead Town Centre.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

29 **FURTHER INFORMATION REQUESTED IN RELATION TO THE CONSULTANTS AND INTERIMS**

A report by the Interim Director of Change and Organisational Design responded to a request by the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 18 September 2018 whereby it was resolved a further report on consultants and interims be brought to a future meeting.

The request asked the Interim Director of Change and OD to outline the following:

1. The possible benefits and dis-benefits of setting a ceiling for the amount consultants and interim staff are paid, reflecting the national paygrades for such work;
2. The possibility of recruiting from outside of the Matrix agency system if the Council is unable to recruit the specialists it needs; and
3. Adding a column into the list of interims/ consultants showing the day rates next to each post, prior to the Committee reaching any decision on the matter.

Members heard how the current agency contract is managed through Matrix SCM who operate a 'managed service' on the Council's behalf, acting as a 'broker' with the wider recruitment market to ensure best value and the right candidates are put forward for temporary placements. Members were advised that Matrix act in the same way as an Insurance Broker and The Council provides details of requirements, including rate and role brief for the work required and they automatically circulate those details to all agencies who are signed up to supply workers in the relevant category.

Members were informed that the net spend on interims and consultants is £46 million and the net saving to the Authority is £6.2 million. It was explained how when the Council has a short term, clearly defined piece of work to deliver which requires specialist skills, it is cost effective to bring in a company or an individual on a shorter term contract to complete the work. Members were informed that using temporary staff brings much less additional costs such as sickness, holidays pension and national insurance and the Authority are not required to continue paying them once their work is complete.

Members then heard how the Council had explored the use of fixed term contracts as an alternative but generally there is a limited scope at more senior and executive level from candidates from the interim market. Members were advised that the Council's Senior Leadership Team had discussed the use of interims and consultants (and wider agency use) in August and agreed some changes to the approach to manage use and costs as robustly as possible. This approach included the following measures:

- Request for all temporary staff must be made via an online internal request approval system.
- Implementation of a 'cap' on agency placements at 12 weeks – any further extensions would require a robust business case before approving.
- It is proposed the approvers would be those currently on the vacancy 'freeze' panel(s) with the recommendation to include a representative from Commercial Management Service to support the panel/ approval process.
- Posts approved for over 12 week placements (e.g. maternity cover, Interims Consultants working on specific projects) will be employed on a fixed Agency finders' fee rate.
- Monthly status report presented to SLT; detailing placements and associated costs.
- Monthly status report to each DMTs, to ensure DMTs take control and that they hold managers to account for managing their temporary workforce.
- Full time resource from Commercial Management dedicated to drive this new approach and model forward, working closely with HR and Finance.

The benefits and disadvantages to applying a payment ceiling was identified within the report. The rationale for using the Matrix contract was then explained to Members as well as the implications of operating outside of Matrix for hard to recruit roles and further implications of terminating the matrix contract.

Appendix A and B set out start dates, end dates and day rates categorised into service area and job titles for the period 2016-17 (appendix A) and 2017-

18 (appendix B). Examples were provided to compare salaries of permanent and interim members of staff demonstrating various on costs associated with permanent members of staff.

Some Members expressed their dissatisfaction with reference to daily rates of some interims and consultants and felt the figures were excessive and unnecessary. They also expressed concerns about the length of time interims and consultants are employed at a daily rate.

Another Member agreed that not all knowledge is in one place and it is often difficult to achieve desired outcomes with limited staff and therefore interims and consultants are often necessary.

In response to a question, the Interim Director explained that a combination of factors mean that Wirral is not always a desirable place to work, some of which being its reputation and geographical factors. The Director for Economic and Housing Growth addressed Members to assure them that there is always clear rationale applied prior to the appointment of an interim or a consultant.

It was then moved by Councillor Chris Blakeley, seconded by Councillor Steve Williams and supported by Councillors Tony Cox, David Elderton & Kathy Hodson that:

“Committee expresses its concern at the amount and cost of interims and consultants.

Committee believes that the excessive payments to consultants is demoralising for lower paid staff.

Committee believes that a system should be introduced that involves elected members before an interim or consultant is put in place. Committee also believes that there should be a limit of 3 months on the employment of interims

We ask the LGA for a comprehensive report on this worrying matter. “

The motion was put and lost (5:7)

It was then moved by Councillor Steve Foulkes and seconded by Councillor Joe Bird and

Resolved (7:5) That –

It is noted that austerity and new ways of working will require temporary skills to allow the Borough to develop.

Committee note the full and frank report which will raise public interest. We welcome assurances that the business case for such expenditure has to be justified.

We would ask for further reports to this Committee and would like to monitor this issue on a regular basis to ensure absolute discipline is exercised.

We ask the LGA for a comprehensive report on this worrying matter.

30 **UPDATE ON LIVERPOOL CITY REGION DEVELOPMENTS**

A Report by the Policy and Strategy Manager set out a brief overview of latest developments at the Liverpool City Region (LCR), including activity underway to implement the City Region devolution deal.

The report set out information, regarding the Strategic Investment Fund, LCR Housing First, Tackling poor air quality across the LCR and High Speed 2 and Northern Powerhouse rail update.

The Policy and Strategy Manager provided a presentation, focusing on the information within the report as follows:

Strategic Investment Fund (SIF)

Members heard how the Combined Authority had recently re – launched Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) - £0.5billion fund to help transform LCR's economy, create high quality jobs and boost living standards for local people.

Members were advised how the underpinning fund is a commitment to social value, with applicants having to demonstrate positive social impact eg local jobs that pay the living wage; recognise trade unions, create apprenticeships; and use local supply chains and labour. I was then reported that around £100million would be available in the first year of the fund, rising to £500 million over four years, to support projects transport infrastructure, economic development, business growth, skills, culture and housing

Tackling Homelessness

Members were informed that the Combined Authority were recently awarded a £7.7million Housing First funding award from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Members heard how Housing First support services should be commissioned jointly across the Liverpool City Region and must include:

- Skilled, well trained and supported staff;
- A responsive on call 24/7 support service;

- Access to appropriate 2nd tier mental health services.

Members then heard how further details on how the funding can be used, what it will fund, and detailed delivery plans currently being developed in partnership with people who lives experience of homelessness, Local Authorities, Landlords, Homelessness support services and other statutory partners.

Tackling poor air quality across LCR

It was explained how City region partners setting up an advisory LCR Air Quality Task Force, in order to tackle poor air quality to build on the Metro Mayor's key pledge for LCR to be Carbon Neutral by 20140 and to be the greenest UK City Region. Members were advised that there is a growing realisation of need to take urgent action to address challenges presented by poor air quality from nitrogen dioxide (the main pollutant) at a pan-city region level – mainly from transport.

Members heard how Combined Authority Members are to nominate political representatives onto the group and a preliminary LCR air quality feasibility study is currently being finalised, and an action plan would be developed in response.

High Speed 2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail

Members heard how LCR are campaigning for a direct line between HS2 and Liverpool City Centre, that could be used by both Liverpool – London HS2 trains and Liverpool-Manchester Northern Powerhouse trains.

Members were then advised how further updates are expected in coming months, including an outline business case for Northern Powerhouse Rail in December 2018 and publication of the Transport for the North Strategic Transport Plan in January 2019.

The Policy and Strategy Manager concluded her presentation by expressing how Wirral continues to be involved in developing the devolution as well as wider City Region activity. She also informed that ongoing updates would be presented to this Committee.

In response to a question, Members were informed that Wirral Council does have a fund associated with tackling homelessness, this is in addition to the funding of £7.7million recently awarded to the Combined Authority from the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

A Member made a comment over the need to invest and prioritise the wider rail service and not make HS2 the focus. Another Member commented how the ambition is to both connect the region to HS2 and also improve our train service right across the country.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

31 **LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY SCRUTINY PANEL -
VERBAL UPDATE**

The Chair of the Committee informed Members that a work programme is now in place for the LCR Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel. The first meeting of the group was held 28 November 2018 and notes would be circulated in due course.

The Chair informed that next meeting will be held 12 December and will discuss EU funding post Brexit and the impact this would have on the LCR. A future meeting would discuss the effectiveness of careers education and advice for young people before they embark on their careers.

Resolved – That the verbal report be noted.

32 **2018/19 QUARTER 2 WIRRAL PLAN PERFORMANCE**

A report by the Director of Economic and Housing Growth provided the 2018/19 Quarter 2 (July – September 2018) performance report for the Wirral Plan pledges under the remit of the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report, as included in appendix 1 provided an overview of progress in Quarter 2 as well as providing available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

The Quarter one Wirral Plan Performance was summarised as follows:

- The number of jobs created shows strong performance this quarter at 373, a result of SME small-scale recruitment and a large-scale recruitment exercise for one business experiencing rapid growth and further expansion of production lines.
- Wirral's employment rate this quarter has improved to 74.8, the highest recorded figure for this measure. This good performance means Wirral has narrowed the gap with England and is outperforming the North West by 0.4%.
- An extension of European Funds to support young people into work and training through the Wirral Ways to Work Programme has been secured which will enable continued delivery of programmes up to 2020.
- Latest figures show a rise in the value of Tourism to Wirral at £426m; an average increase of 6.6% p.a. since 2014.
- In Quarter 2 there was a major investment in our Assisted Travel Services to help residents with disabilities and special educational

needs to get to our day centres, schools and colleges. The investment in technology and vehicles will enhance the transport experience for service users.

- There has been a reduction in people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic accidents in Quarter 2, at 17 people, compared to 40 in the same quarter the previous year. A range of initiatives to improve safety have been delivered including motorcycle safety engagements and Bikesafe workshops.
- The annual figure for the Council's emission of carbon dioxide is 26,463 (tonnes) exceeding the target set by 12.3%. Emissions have reduced by 19,018 tonnes from a 2008/09 baseline of 45,481 tonnes, a reduction of 41.8% over 8 operational years, with an annual reduction of 5.85%.

Responding to questions from Members, the Director for Economic and Housing Growth informed that there had been some issues with data collection from Merseyside police with particular reference to road deaths. He advised that this would be corrected and circulated to Members.

In response to a further question, the Director for Economic and Housing Growth informed that small businesses in the area would be supported and encouraged to apply for contracts.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

33 **BUSINESS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

A report by the Chair of the Committee explained the process of developing and managing the Scrutiny Work Programme for the remaining part of the municipal year.

The Scrutiny Officer advised that budget proposals under the remit of this committee would be considered in a workshop due to be held 4 December 2018.

In response to a question from a Member, the Scrutiny Officer advised that a review on car parking and the Wirral Growth Company would be considered in January.

A Councillor then asked that the major disaster in New Ferry in March 2017 be considered as a case study. The Scrutiny Officer advised that this could be considered.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

34 **HIGHWAYS REPRESENTATION PANEL**

The Committee were asked to appoint a replacement Labour Member to the Highways Representation Panel

It was moved by Councillor J Stapleton and duly seconded and

Resolved – That Councillor Pat Hackett be appointed to the Highways Representation Panel .

This page is intentionally left blank



Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 22 January 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Impact of Car Parking Charges in Country Parks - Update
REPORT OF:	Interim Director – Highways & Streetscene

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the income generated from parking charges at the Country Parks.

The report recommends that the contents are noted, that charging for parking at the Country Parks remains and that the impact of the charges on traffic management issues is continually monitored.

The Wirral Plan 2020 pledge relevant to this report, and to the parking service area, is Pledge Thirteen: Transport and Technology Infrastructure fit for the future, and the proposal supports the Transport Strategy priority to keep traffic moving safely and efficiently.

This matter affects all wards within the Borough.

This is not a Key Decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

- i. Note the information contained within this report and continue to support charging for parking at the Country Parks; and
- ii. Request officers to continue monitoring the impact of the parking charges in future years.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Committee have requested an update on the impact of the parking charges at the Country Parks.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options have been considered. However, if parking charges are removed from the Country Parks then this will result in a deficit in the Council's approved financial plan for future years of over £150,000 which would need to be covered by compensatory savings or income from other service areas.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Following the approval by Cabinet in June 2017 to implement parking charges at the Country Parks the pay equipment and signs etc. were procured. This took longer than envisaged and therefore charging didn't commence until week commencing 22nd January 2018.
- 3.2 In order to not financially disadvantage any of the staff who work at the businesses or those who volunteer to undertake work at the Country Parks in conjunction with the park rangers a number of 'free permits' have been issued. 21 permits have been given to staff from the several businesses and 20 permits for volunteers.
- 3.3 Appendix 1 attached to this report shows the income received from the 22nd January 2018 to 31st December 2018. The total income from charging at the Country Parks for this period is £168,000. This includes £27,100 from the sale of 542 annual parking permits. The annual parking permits can be used in any vehicle and in any of the Country Parks so represents value for money for regular park users.
- 3.4 The total number of transactions (parking tickets purchased) is approximately 139,000 for the same period. This patronage at car parks doesn't directly reflect on visitor numbers as driving / parking habits may have changed since the introduction of the parking charges.
- 3.5 To date £100k has been spent or committed to maintenance and improvements at the Country Parks which can be related to car parking, e.g. resurfacing of the car park at Arrowe Country Park.
- 3.6 There have been several incidents of vandalism to the machines at Royden Park and Arrowe Park, but none at Wirral or Eastham parks. The machine at Arrowe Park was severally vandalised by being set on fire in October and it has therefore taken longer to repair. When this car park reopens at the end of January 2019 following the resurfacing works the pay machine will be fully working.

- 3.7 The parking services manager met with ward members and business owners in July 2018 to listen to any concerns. The feedback from businesses is as follows:-
- Parking has displaced further onto Ferry Road following the introduction of the charges, this affects the amount of free on-street parking available for motorbikes / blue badge holders and short stay visitors.
 - Parking occurs at the entrance to the park near Torr Drive / Ferry Road junction sometimes on the pavement.
 - Visitors are spending less time and less money in the area,
 - The volume of motorcyclists visiting the area has reduced due to the reduction in the availability of on-street parking spaces.
 - The manager of 'The Tap' pub has introduced bollards to prevent the displaced cars being parked on private land; motorbikes can still be parked in between the bollards.
 - Several of the business owners say that income is down by as much as 20%.
- 3.8 Whilst there has been an accident at the junction of Torr Drive and Ferry Road in the past twelve months, the accident is still subject to a 'live' investigation. Road safety and traffic management officers from the Council are considering measures such as yellow lines and/or bollards for this junction, however, this won't be finalised until the current 'live' investigation is concluded. There were no parked vehicles at the time of the incident.
- 3.9 Most of the other issues raised were highlighted in previous reports as risks prior to the introduction of the parking charges. No formal assessment of the impact on businesses has been carried out, therefore there are no other traffic or highway measures proposed other than those mentioned in 3.8 above.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 These proposals have met the predicted increased income to the Council of £150,000 p.a. which has been included in the Council budget for future years.
- 4.2 If parking charges are removed from the Country Parks then this will result in a deficit in the Council's approved financial plan for future years of over £150,000 which would need to be covered by compensatory savings or income from other service areas.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 These proposals were implemented in accordance with the process set out in the Traffic Order Procedure Regulations 1996.
- 5.2 The management of traffic is a statutory duty for the Council.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 Existing staff resources would be utilised to continually monitor the impact of the parking charges at the Country Parks.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 Charges at Country Parks may result in reduced visitor numbers to the Country Parks affecting the economy of the visitor centres and cafes and other businesses. The charges may also impact on the numbers of people who join the parks friends and volunteer groups.

7.2 Scrapping the parking charges at Country Parks will require alternative budget savings to be identified to offset the loss of income included in the Council's approved budget.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Parking services staff have regularly been in contact with the business owners and park rangers at the Country Parks. A meeting was also held on 11th July 2018 at Eastham Country Park to listen to comments from several of the business owners including, the café, cattery, ice cream parlour and pub.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(a) Yes and impact review is attached – <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-regeneration-envir>

REPORT AUTHOR: *Steve Atkins*
Parking Services Manager

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Monthly Income by Country Park Location

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Observations and feedback from the local businesses has been used in the preparation of this report.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	19 June 2017
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	13 March 2017
Extraordinary Council meeting	6 March 2017

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 1 – Monthly Income by Country Park Location

Date	Royden CP	Wirral CP	Eastham CP	Arrowe CP	Monthly Total Income- (Annual Target £150,000)
Jan-18	509	936	446	144	2035
Feb-18	3532	3740	1677	749	9698
Mar-18	3451	3237	1495	802	8985
Apr-18	4156	5470	2328	593	12547
May-18	5227	9797	3188	1056	19268
Jun-18	4294	6927	2238	998	14457
Jul-18	4442	7429	2504	1038	15413
Aug-18	6072	7242	2870	1148	17332
Sep-18	4812	4556	1882	1327	12577
Oct-18	5430	3993	1850	460	11733
Nov-18	4385	3054	1326	56	8821
Dec-18	3355	3409	1398	7	8169
Annual Income	49665	59790	23202	8378	£141,035

The Total number of Country Park Permits purchased in 2018 = 542

£27,100

Grand Total	£168,135
--------------------	-----------------

This page is intentionally left blank



Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 22 January 2019

REPORT TITLE:	2019/20 Budget Proposals Scrutiny Report
REPORT OF:	Councillor Pat Hackett, Chair of the Committee

REPORT SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of a scrutiny workshop for the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee in relation to scrutinising the 2019/20 budget proposals. A report is included as an appendix to this report. The Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee is requested to acknowledge this report as its response to the 2019/20 budget proposals to be referred to Cabinet as part of its considerations in developing any budget recommendation to Council.

RECOMMENDATION

Committee refers this report to Cabinet as part of its considerations in developing any budget recommendation to Council.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The recommendations will enable the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee's comments in relation to the 2019/20 budget proposals to be referred for future consideration by Cabinet.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 As part of the budget scrutiny process, the complete list of budget proposals falling under the remit of this committee was considered by the Chair and Party Spokespersons and four proposals were then prioritised for further scrutiny at the workshop. These were:

- Benefits of Economic Regeneration
- Disposal of Marine Point Freehold
- Asset Management – Capital Receipts
- Treasury Management

- 3.2 The scrutiny workshop was held on 11th December and relevant officers were invited to present the proposals and to respond to questions from Members. The final report is attached as **Appendix 1** to this report.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are none arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are none arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 There are none arising from this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Not Applicable.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

REPORT AUTHOR: Michael Lester
Scrutiny Officer
0151 691 8628
email: michaellester@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: 2019/20 Budget Proposals Workshop - Scrutiny Report of the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

This page is intentionally left blank



2019/20 Budget Proposals

Report of the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee

22nd January 2019



Contents

	<i>Page</i>
1 Introduction	3
2 Budget Proposals	4
2.1 Benefits of Economic Regeneration	4
2.2 Disposal of Marine Point Freehold	6
2.3 Asset Management – Capital Receipts	7
2.4 Treasury Management	8
3 Conclusions.....	9
4 Workshop Attendance	10

1. Introduction

A dedicated 2019/20 budget proposals workshop for Members of the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday 11th December 2018.

The workshop provided the committee with the opportunity to examine in greater detail a number of budget proposals affecting services that fall under the remit of the committee. Four budget proposals selected for further examination were identified through engagement with the Chair and Party Spokespersons as those deemed to be of greatest significance in terms of value and the public interest. This report summarises both the budget proposals and the comments of Members attending the workshop.

At the commencement of the workshop, a statement was read out by the Party Spokesperson for the Conservative Party and it was requested that this be recorded as part of the scrutiny process into the budget proposals. The statement is detailed below:

“The Conservative Members do not believe that a workshop is the appropriate way for the Cabinet’s budget proposals to be considered by this committee. The budget proposals have a wide ranging impact on many communities in our Borough and we believe that the discussions should be held in public at a formal meeting of this committee which is minuted and recorded”

2. Budget Proposals

2.1 Benefits of Economic Regeneration

Summary of Proposal

Wirral Council is working alongside Muse to identify key development opportunities across Wirral. A key development is the Birkenhead Commercial District (BCD). Initial plans have been drawn up for the BCD which includes the development of four office buildings, a new market, new leisure facility and improved public realm.

On 26th November 2018 Cabinet approved a draft business case for the BCD. This will be refined through public consultation and engagement with a funder. Specifically, Cabinet agreed the following:

- To initiate a consultation programme with a view to informing a Masterplan for the redevelopment of Birkenhead, recognising that the Commercial District will be a key element.
- The recommended funding approach and authorisation for the S151 Officer to initiate work on a Forward Funding model of finance with Wirral Growth Company.

Wirral Growth Company is also proposing to progress public consultation on other phase one sites. These include Moreton (Foxfield & Pasture Road), Bebington and West Kirby, as well as consultations with stakeholders for Bromborough's Industrial Estate. This will inform future development plans and master planning. It is anticipated that, alongside Birkenhead, these sites will form part of the phase one development programme for Wirral Growth Company.

As part of its bid and as reported to Cabinet, Muse calculated that the total return to the Council from 11 identified sites would be £30.4m (net). This was a combination of payments for sites, profit from developments and interest on the Council's investment. This was on the basis of a first phase development programme of £250m across residential, commercial and industrial developments.

As part of the set up phase of Wirral Growth Company, work is being undertaken to plan and coordinate development work over the next three years. These details will be incorporated into the Partnership Business Plan (PBP) that Wirral Growth Company will submit early 2019. The plan is intended to help smooth the development timetable and explore how Wirral is able to maximise revenue over capital. It is also intended to avoid peaks and troughs in the supply of labour and to try and maximise the social benefits of these developments for residents and businesses in Wirral. In its bid, Muse delivered the vast proportion of returns to the Council within three years. It is likely that the PBP will profile a slightly longer period to ensure the Council has a longer, sustainable income stream and is also able to fund sites which would otherwise be less viable.

It is expected that Wirral Growth Company will submit planning applications and commence development of Foxfield, Pasture Road, MOD site Bromborough and locations within Birkenhead town centre during 2019/20. The Council will receive income from each of these developments. Additionally, the proposed funding approach

for BCD will provide payments to compensate for the use of the Council's land over a 35-40 year period. Reflecting the above, £4.15 million has been assumed for additional income in the 2019/20 budget (Benefits of Economic Regeneration).

Summary of Member / officer comments

- In respect of the consultation, it is understood that this will commence in January 2019. There has been a particular focus on Birkenhead and replacing the existing market as well as the redesigning of Europa Pools Leisure Centre. Consultation findings will be made available in May 2019.
- In relation to the investments and benefits to the Council, Members were assured of the robustness of these through expert legal advice taken from a nationally recognised consultant that provides advice to local authorities. The conclusion drawn was that there is a shortage of office space in Wirral and Merseyside and demand outweighs the supply of such premises. Wirral is looking to attract a broader range of businesses to the area as there is currently an overreliance on a small number of key sectors. The aim is to bring in higher paid employment through 'grade A' office space to further stimulate employment and growth opportunities. Wirral Council and the Growth Company will work together to attract both commercial and public sector organisations to the BCD.
- Members were assured that Wirral can compete to attract companies to take up office space in Wirral and this was also evidenced through the feedback from the consultants. Enquires indicate that a mix of businesses including legal, financial and companies looking for a regional centre are interested in relocating. Although competing with Chester, Cheshire and Liverpool, Wirral will have an advantage of pricing if a high quality offer is provided.
- There was a concern in respect of Muse not having signed the contract yet but there was assurance that this will take place soon and possibly in January 2019.
- In terms of the benefits the Council will receive from the transfer of its assets at net present value, it is understood that each site will be assessed and the Council has to ensure that best consideration is given for each site by law. The Council is not compelled to transfer its assets if a good deal is not presented. Benefits include being able to reinvest revenue into front-line services.
- Members were informed that the operating model will work via the Council providing the property and assets and Muse providing the finance and expertise which the Council lacks to unlock its assets. Members were assured of the financial investment which will be put in. £10 million will be invested by Muse to help with site and development costs as well as master planning for the first eleven sites in the first phase. There is no cap on this investment by Muse. The Section 151 officer has delegated authority to seek private finance to support further development.
- Members required assurance around the level of risk to the Council should the partnership arrangements not deliver the agreed outcomes. It is understood that the partnership arrangements are for ten years with a possible 5 years extension. Officers acknowledged the risk and, as part of the agreement, the Council's interests will be legally protected and there are penalties on both sides for failing to meet the agreed contractual requirements. Members noted the £475K indemnity insurance in

place and were informed that this was initially requested by the partner to cover the work they were doing 'at risk' ahead of signing the Partnership Agreement. However, both parties subsequently agreed that it wasn't required.

- Members were assured that the first phase of projects will be delivered quickly as Muse has evidenced its ability to do this through previous developments. Muse is looking at the benefits of doing this within 3-5 years.
- In respect of the approach to master planning and what will be developed over the first 5, 10 and 15 years, it is noted that the first eleven projects will be delivered as part of phase 1 and will also enable the partnership arrangement to see how this will work in practice. It was clarified that the site development plans will consider each project in turn to ensure that all issues, advantages and constraints are fully understood before they are signed off. Importantly, all plans will need to fit within the partnership business plan as well as the Council's own planning framework which will provide checks and balances.
- Members were informed that the 300k square feet of potential office space in Birkenhead may offer some ground floor retail opportunities, including coffee bars, with a view to making the frontages more attractive and therefore providing a better offer for visitors to Birkenhead.
- Members were assured that there will be appropriate governance arrangements in place and that the partnership will be accountable to Members. The Partnership Board will have Cabinet level representation and there will be controls to report back to Cabinet, Council and Overview & Scrutiny to ensure it is operating appropriately. It was noted that regular reports to Overview & Scrutiny can include relevant business plans.

2.2 Disposal of Marine Point Freehold

Summary of Budget Proposal

The development of Marine Point in New Brighton was completed in 2011 by Neptune. Wirral retained its freehold interest and granted Neptune a 250 year lease. The Council currently receives a rental income stream of 6% of the rent received by the lessee (Promenade Wirral Ltd, assigned from Neptune). This amounts to approximately £200k per year which the external purchaser will receive the income stream when the freehold is sold. The proposal is to sell the freehold to generate a £4 million capital receipt. Expert legal advice has been sought and the Council may market it for a higher value to generate an additional £1 million.

Summary of Member / officer comments

- Members received clarification that the income from the sale of the Marine Point Freehold has not been earmarked for funding of any specific project or service but to help the plug the £45 million funding gap.
- There is a concern that the Council may be giving away an asset cheaply for an immediate financial return. With the annual income stream of around £200k, the sale of the freehold at £4 million will result in the Council losing out financially after

20 years. Officers acknowledged this and cited the budget gap facing the Council. Members also recognised that the rental income stream would depend on the unit occupancy levels, with market fluctuations determining how much income would be received over the next 20 years.

- Members were assured that the £4 million estimated sale price of the freehold was feasible and was based on advice taken from property advisors. The market has not been tested but there is no intention to sell it cheaply and Cabinet will determine the threshold.

2.3 Asset Management – Capital Receipts

Summary of Proposal

The proposal is for Estate Management to identify potential assets for disposal in order to generate capital receipts, develop a clear pipeline of disposals with anticipated dates for receipts and to ensure these are monitored by Asset and Finance Officers. £2 million of capital receipts have been identified for 2019/20 but the list in the pipeline indicates £1.44 million which excludes registered provider receipts which could come forward in later years. These include Rock Ferry High, Pensby High and Lyndale and the ring fenced capital receipts will need to be identified as per Department for Education requirements. Asset Management will manage the disposal process and will be monitored through the Assets & Capital Group. Disposals will be administered through auction and the receipts may be subject to a degree of variation. The assets identified for 2019/20 are:

- 81-97 Cleveland Street
- 38 Green Lane
- Dominic House (Freehold)
- New Chester Road / Cambeltown Road
- Riverview Road (Former power station)
- Albany Hall
- Argyle Street South (land)
- Alexander Hall
- 6 Manor Road
- Trafalgar Road (site)
- 550-558 New Chester Road
- Right to Buy share from Magenta/BBCCHA
- Housing Renovation / Relocation Loans

Summary of Member / officer comments

- Members received clarification that the proposal relates to financial efficiency and ensuring that assets are working to their potential. It was explained that significant time has been invested into understanding what assets Wirral has and how they are performing (i.e. income, energy, capacity etc.). Additionally, it was also explained that Wirral has aging buildings and officers have been rationalising the Council estate

to release buildings, whether through a one-off sale or putting it on the open market. There is also potential to put it forward for the Growth Company.

- Members were assured that these sites will be subject to auditing to ensure Wirral gets best value and due consideration of public assets. Members generally acknowledged the importance of assets not lying dormant.

2.4 Treasury Management

Summary of Proposal

Treasury management includes managing the Council's cash flow on a daily basis. On any given day, there may be a surplus cash flow into the Council's bank accounts. This may be due to a large payment of business rates or funding from Government. Instead of retaining cash in the account where no interest will be accrued, it will be invested with other parties on an approved list detailed in the Treasury Management Strategy which is approved each year at Council. Investments may be short term overnight where large payments may need to be made the following day from the capital programme or cash could be a longer term investment from 3 to twelve months. There may be instances of being overdrawn with large payments going out without the cash so cash flow is managed on a daily basis and Wirral will borrow cash and pay the interest. The aim is to minimise interest payments going out and maximise interest payments coming in.

As an alternative to investing surplus cash coming in, it will be used to pay for the capital programme rather than borrowing it to minimise the borrowing element and the interest payable. Where cash is invested, the Council will look at different innovative ideas to invest that may have a greater element of risk but would yield a better rate of return, such as property. Wirral is also looking at its minimum revenue position which it has done over the last two years. A provision for repayments to pay for borrowing has to be identified and officers are currently looking at the amount to set aside. The budget proposal assumes that there will be a £2 million reduction in borrowing costs.

Summary of Member / officer comments

- Although Members acknowledged the reason why Wirral Council would invest and borrow, as outlined by officers at the workshop, the low rates of interest it has previously received from lending to other local authorities against the higher rates paid by Wirral Council for money it borrows, was highlighted. Officers also highlighted that these rates are dependent on the financial markets which are governed by the Bank of England and the PWLB (Public Works Loans Board). Lending or borrowing overnight money can often have lower rates of interest but longer term lending or borrowing may have higher rates of interest as markets / financial institutions look to balance their risk of uncertainty over a longer term. Wirral has to manage the balance of interest rates with delivering on its capital programme if it does not have the cash in its bank account.

- Members received clarification that Wirral will not just lend to other local authorities because it is a more secure investment, but will identify the best deal it can secure on any given day through a money market broker.
- Members were assured of the governance around potentially riskier investments. An explanation was provided that regulated treasury management advisors are consulted to obtain their advice on receiving a greater amount of interest on investments and what opportunities are available. New counterparties have to be approved by Council and included in the Treasury Management Strategy. Due diligence will be taken on those counterparties which are new to the Council, either through the treasury advisors or an alternative independent specialist. Members were informed that there are a number of new companies looking for money for investment and will be offering a higher rate of interest. The Council may choose to invest a small amount with a short repayment term to test the market first before committing further investment.

3. Conclusions

Members attending the workshop were presented with the four budget proposals agreed by the Chair and through engagement with the Party Spokespersons to be presented to the workshop for scrutiny. This report has noted the key points made by both Members and officers in attendance. No objections to these four proposals were raised at the workshop. Members of the Conservative Party in attendance reiterated their view that the scrutiny of the budget proposals should be held in public at a formal committee meeting and no opinion on those proposals presented at the workshop was given.

4. Workshop Attendance

Councillors

Cllr. Pat Hackett (Chair)

Cllr. Jean Stapleton

Cllr. Steve Williams

Cllr. Chris Blakey

Cllr. Jerry Williams

Officers

Brian Bailey, former Corporate Director for Economic and Housing Growth

David Armstrong, Director for Delivery Services / Assistant Chief Executive

Shaer Halewood, Director of Finance and Investment

Jeannette Royale, Senior Manager, Strategic Asset Management

Philip McCourt, Director of Governance and Assurance

Michael Lester, Scrutiny Officer

Carl Gurnell, Team Leader – Performance and Scrutiny



**Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday, 22 January 2019**

REPORT TITLE	Update on Liverpool City Region developments
REPORT OF	Rose Boylan, Policy & Strategy Manager

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out a brief overview of latest developments at the Liverpool City Region (LCR), including activity underway to implement the City Region devolution deal.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

This is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION

Committee is requested to note and comment on latest developments.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

Committee have requested regular updates and consideration of City Region developments.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 N/a

3.0 LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

A wide range of activity continues, of which the following is just a small extract.

3.1 LCR Cycling and Walking network

Work is set to begin on the first phase of a potential 600km key network of cycling and walking routes across the Liverpool City Region.

The Combined Authority recently approved funding of £8.3m for the first 55km phase of the network. The proposed 600km cycling and walking network is based on upgrades to around 31 key routes across the Liverpool City Region over the next 10 years.

The network will be planned on a whole city region basis, both improving links to the public transport network and between residential areas, employment, training and retail sites.

Meanwhile, work is already underway on bidding for funding for the next phase of the network with the launch of a questionnaire on people's cycling and walking habits to help shape what a wider network would look like. Two thirds of all journeys in the city region are less than five kilometres but half of those are made by car. Through the Local Journeys Strategy, the CA wants to improve the infrastructure as a key incentive to encourage people out of their cars, particularly for shorter journeys.

The cycling and walking network is one of the first actions of the Local Journeys Strategy, as part of an approach to reduce congestion, improve air quality and bring significant health benefits

For Wirral, the cycling/walking infrastructure is included as Work Programme 6 Leasowe –Seacombe Ferry Terminal.

The new approach links well with Wirral's increasing focus on the importance of cycling eg:

- Wirral planned cycling investment, consultation on Tower Road South
- Peel's planned cycling Strategy as part of Wirral Waters, supported by Chris Boardman
- Borough of Culture and Year of the Environment 2019 – focus on getting outside, health and wellbeing

3.2 Year of the Environment 2019

More detail is being released on the key themes and activities being co-ordinated across the Liverpool City Region, in support of Year of Environment in 2019. (see Appendix 1).

The Year is being co-ordinated by Nature Connect, chaired by Gideon Ben-Tovim, who is also the Mayoral Advisor on the Natural Environment. The Environment Agency is also a key partner in the promotion of the event, both locally and nationally, together with a strong partnership of many stakeholder organisations across the public, private, community and voluntary sector. The Year will be formally launched at an event on 11th January, following on from the CA meeting, plus a number of events to be held in each of the LCR Local Authorities.

Wirral is working closely with LCR partners to link in with our Borough of Culture as well as with local Wirral Together activity as part of developing the Environmental Deal.

3.3 Inclusive Growth

As part of our commitment to inclusive economic growth, Wirral Council has just commenced a new Local Community Wealth Building project with the Centre for Local Economic Studies (CLES), which will help us and our partners to drive inclusive growth and ensure more public money is spent with local employers.

Over the last 10 years, CLES has worked with a number of local authorities and wider anchor institutions such as universities, housing associations and the NHS, to drive inclusive growth and local wealth building. With a focus on social value and procurement, employment, and use of assets, the approach achieves wider social, economic and environmental value from anchor activity across each of the areas.

We are all committed to building our Liverpool City Regional economy to achieve ambitious growth but also to ensure that growth brings benefits for local people communities and businesses; and helps to tackle wider social and economic disparities across the region. Discussions are underway to assess current public sector spend and suggest how more local social value could be developed through the supply chain.

In addition, we may want to consider:

- (a) Workforces – maximising the benefits of investment in staff by building a skilled and committed workforce and providing an exemplar to local businesses; and
- (b) Land, Property and Investments – how we can use our assets to lever in additional investment, to encourage the development of new businesses and support new methods of financial intermediation.

A series of workshops are being planned with LCR partners to consider how we can implement best practice in relation to inclusive growth and social value across our region.

3.4 Brexit

Wirral has been leading extensive discussions in relation to latest developments and potential implications of Brexit; considering the current draft withdrawal Agreement; analysing the implications of a No Deal; and finally, looking at some of the potential positive opportunities for Wirral and the Liverpool City Region.

3.4.1 Draft withdrawal agreement

A lot of the detail is still to be worked up, but the withdrawal agreement covers a number of key points, including:

- How much money the UK will have to pay the EU in order to break the partnership - about £39bn
- How to avoid the return of a physical border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland if it becomes the frontier between the UK and the EU
- If the deal is agreed, we move into the transition period (29 March 2019-December 2020) to allow the UK and EU to make a trade deal and to give businesses the time to adjust
- What will happen to UK citizens living elsewhere in the EU, and equally, what will happen to EU citizens living in the UK – see below

3.4.2 EU settlement scheme

There is some specific legislation and guidance in relation to the rights of EU citizens who are in the UK and a number of roles for Local Authorities including:

- Raising awareness of the Scheme
- Informing Community Groups
- Applying on behalf of EU looked after children

Full details can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-leaders-toolkit>

3.4.3 Trade

During transition, current EU laws will continue to apply, but beyond that it's not clear what tariffs, regulations or checks might be deemed necessary to allow us to trade in goods or services with EU countries.

3.4.4 Ports and Borders

Both port bosses and road haulage firms have been cautiously encouraged by the draft agreement, believing the movement of goods and people will continue to be smooth during the transition period. However there is still much uncertainty beyond that. Some goods coming into NI from the rest of the UK would be subject to new checks and controls if the Brexit backstop is implemented.

3.4.5 Policing and security

The proposed deal allows the UK to remain part of a number of hugely important policing and security arrangements - for now. After that, it will require a special security treaty - including a new form of extradition and database sharing.

3.4.6 Healthcare

It is vital for the NHS, patients and pharmaceutical companies that there are no shortages of drugs and medical devices after 29 March 2019, or during any transitional period. NHS staffing also remains a key issue. Although in theory EU nationals already working in the UK can apply for permanent resident status, it is not clear how many will decide to do so, or indeed how many others may choose to come in the future.

There is currently a great deal of uncertainty about whether the draft Agreement will be supported by Parliament. If it is not accepted, the UK would leave the EU on

29th March 2019 with No Deal. This would have significant implications – for example:

- **Customs and transport infrastructure** - Significant impact would be felt on customs arrangements around goods and also entry by EU nationals into the UK. Wirral and LCR have port access along its coastline which provides access points both for individuals and goods
- **Freedom of movement** - Changes to both UK residents in EU and EU residents currently in UK
- **Skills and workforces shortages** – Skilled EU workers especially in the Construction; Health & Social care; Hospitality sectors
- **General economic impact** – eg Trade and market restrictions; issues for local Procurement
- **Procurement** and supply chains may be adversely affected
- **Emergency Planning** – LCR partners are considering civil emergency contingency management in the event of a Brexit no deal or other scenarios
- **EU funding** – Wirral and the LCR have benefitted considerably from previous EU funds – including ESF and ERDF. Although there have been some commitments made to honour funding to 2020, it is unclear what will happen after that. The Government is currently developing proposals for a Shared Prosperity Fund.

There are clearly a range of potential implications for the Council; partners; businesses and residents. Ongoing discussions are underway with Wirral Chamber and local businesses; with LCR partners; and Wirral is planning a City Region Regional Brexit Sounding Board with the LGA in the New Year, to discuss the issues and next steps.

Detailed local work is currently underway to further understand the issues for Wirral and the City Region, and to prepare our response and plans as far as possible. Further updates will be brought back as the detail emerges.

Conclusion

Further updates on all of the above will be brought back to this Committee as further detail emerges in the coming months. As previously stated, the above is just a short snapshot of LCR activity, and further detail on all of the most recent developments can be found here <http://liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/>

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Devolution arrangements propose the devolution of financial resources to LCR.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

N/a

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

At this time, no additional cost is expected to be incurred by LCR local authorities as a result of arrangements to deliver the devolution deal.

7.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Wirral, along with City Region partners, continues to brief members and officers; circulate information and raise awareness of LCR developments through a wide range of approaches and communications.

8.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct equality implications associated with this report as it deals with the issue of devolution at a strategic level. Equality analysis will be carried out as part of the detailed implementation as appropriate.

REPORT AUTHOR: Rose Boylan, Policy and Strategy Manager
0151 691 8037
rosemaryboylan@wirral.gov.uk

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
P&P Regeneration & Environment Committee	18 January 2016
P&P Regeneration & Environment Committee	2 March 2016
Council	13 September 2016
Cabinet	14 November 2016
Council	8 December 2016
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	6 December 2016
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	24 January 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	29 March 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	4 July 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19 September 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	29 November 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	23 January 2018
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	27 th March 2018
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	4 th July 2018
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	September 2018
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	November 2018



Mission Statement

“2019 will be a year of green action across Liverpool City Region where people from all backgrounds will have the opportunity to be involved in projects that improve the natural world. Our aim is to leave a better environment for the next generation to inherit and make our area one of the best places in the country to live, work and flourish.”

“Cleaner, Greener, Well, Together”

Aims

- Support the National Year of Action
- Help deliver the Greenest UK city region
- Highlight the economic contribution the environment provides
- Increase children and young people’s connection to nature
- Showcase outstanding blue green assets of the Liverpool City Region
- Celebrate and promote the range of environmental organisations
- Encourage a range of practical actions that inspire
- Use 2019 as a catalyst for ongoing positive environmental behaviour

Themes for activities:

- A) Air Quality
- B) Climate Change and Resilience
- C) Green Spaces, Habitats and Biodiversity
- D) Connecting and Engaging Communities with Nature
- E) Health and Wellbeing
- F) Sustainable Energy
- G) Reduce Waste
- H) Water



This page is intentionally left blank

HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC REPRESENTATION PANEL

Monday, 17 December 2018

Present: Councillors S Williams P Hackett
D Mitchell

1 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests.

No such declarations were made.

2 PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS - MEMORIAL DRIVE / ARCHWAY CLOSE, TRANMERE

A Report by the Interim Director for Highways and Streetscene considered objections submitted against the proposal to introduce a scheme of parking restrictions on Memorial Drive and Archway Close (Bellway Homes Mallory Park Housing Development), Tranmere.

The report recommended that the Highways & Traffic Representations Panel note the objections and recommended that the proposal as shown on Appendix 1 is approved for implementation.

Members heard how planning application OUT/12/00824 was approved in March 2015 and the reserved matters application was approved in September 2015. It was explained how, when the finalised road layout was approved, discussions with the developer resulted in signing and lining being agreed which would need to follow the legal traffic order procedure.

Members were advised how the properties on the new housing development were located within a wider area for which people park their vehicles to watch Tranmere Rovers. The roads within the housing development currently have no parking restrictions and are within close walking distance to the ground and therefore it is an attractive location for non-residents to park their vehicles.

The Highways Officer reported that the introduction of this traffic order is not a resident parking scheme and the restrictions are proposed to prevent obstructive and inconsiderate parking occurring at times when there would be more people in the area trying to park their vehicles and the areas that are to be left unrestricted are not parking bays.

Members were then informed that without the introduction of a traffic order the area could become known as somewhere to park on match days and these people may park on bends, junctions and obstruct the passage of vehicles along the road. Members were advised that a method to control parking in the area would be through the introduction of a TRO and that without the existence of a TRO, the Council has

very limited powers in dealing with nuisance parking and is unable to issue penalty charge notices to persons who park causing an obstruction.

Objections to the proposed restrictions were outlined within the report. Members heard how the statutory advertising process for the proposal to introduce a scheme of parking restrictions included publication of notices on the roads and in the press on 22 August 2018, with an objection period from 22 August 2018 to the 14 September 2018 and all party spokespersons and ward members had been informed. In addition, letters were hand delivered to 90 properties within the Mallory Park estate and during the consultation 6 individual objections were received. Two additional objections were received after the end of the consultation period, one being noted in the report. The other additional objection was circulated for information. The content of the objectors concerns were outlined within the report and responses provided.

In response to a question by a Member, the Highways Officer explained how Tranmere Rovers had arrangements regarding parking permits with members of the public, however, next season, there are plans in place to bring the permit scheme back under the control of the Council.

An objector to the scheme addressed the Panel to highlight his initial concerns but advised that since clarity had been sought on the scheme only being in operation on match days, residents had been somewhat reassured. He gave examples of situations whereby residents had struggled to park outside their properties.

A second objector then addressed the Panel to outline her concerns. Members heard that generally residents had not experienced any issues with parking on match days and that she had never experienced parked cars causing any obstruction.

The Panel also had regard to a written representation from a local resident who could not be in attendance.

In response to the objectors concerns, the Highways Officer advised that at present there may not have been any issues but as the estate is new and there are still some works to be completed, there may well be issues once it is complete. He further advised that without restrictions there is greater potential for obstructions to be caused.

Councillor Angela Davies, Ward Councillor then addressed the Panel to outline concerns on behalf of residents. She informed the Panel of her concerns that although there do not appear to be any issues at present, her concern is fans would get to know where they could park without any restrictions.

Having had regard to all information presented by Officers, Objectors and the Ward Councillor, the Panel adjourned to reach their decision.

Upon returning, all parties were then informed of the resolution.

Resolved that:

- (1) The Highways and Traffic Representations Panel note the report and objections received and;**

- (2) the proposed scheme to introduce parking restrictions on Memorial Drive/ Archway Close as set out in the report should not be implemented and;**
- (3) Officers monitor parking issues within the area for 12-18 months and if necessary, implementation of the scheme would be re visited, as it is within the maximum duration that an Order can be made of two years from the making of the initial notice.**

This page is intentionally left blank



Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 22 January 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme Update
REPORT OF:	The Chair of the Committee

REPORT SUMMARY

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

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

RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to:

Approve the proposed Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2018/19, making any required amendments.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND THE WIRRAL PLAN

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

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

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

Pledge	Plans & Strategies
Greater job opportunities in Wirral	Wirral Growth Plan
Workforce skills match business need	Wirral Growth Plan Skills Strategy (In development)
Increase inward investment	Wirral Growth Plan
Thriving small Businesses	Wirral Growth Plan
Vibrant tourism economy	Growth Plan Wirral Visitor Economy Strategy
Transport & technology infrastructure fit for the future	Transport Strategy Digital Strategy

3.2 PRINCIPLES FOR PRIORITISATION

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

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

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

3.3 DELIVERING THE WORK PROGRAMME

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

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

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

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

4.0 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS

4.1 Budget Savings Proposals

As part of the Committee's work programme for the year, a scrutiny workshop was scheduled on 11th December 2018 for Members to consider a number of budget proposals before Cabinet makes its final decision as part of the budget setting process. The final report is included elsewhere on this agenda.

4.2 Camper Vans Task & Finish Scrutiny Review

The scope of the Campervan scrutiny review has now been approved by Members, with the first review session due to take place early in the new calendar year. The review will focus on understanding the current issues around campervan parking on Wirral, and will involve engagement with local residents and campervan users to inform an inclusive campervan policy for Wirral.

4.3 Additional items to the Committee Work programme

At the previous Committee meeting on 28th November 2018, a number of items were requested to be included as part of the work programme. These were:

- The Council's use of consultants and interims – Committee to continue monitoring the use of these and the arrangements in place.
- A report detailing the Council's sickness rate and how it can be reduced.
- Updates on Wirral Growth Company (See separate agenda item) and Birkenhead Town Centre.
- Report/Case Study on the New Ferry disaster and the Council's response to it.

5.0 LCRCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY UPDATE

The Liverpool City Region Overview & Scrutiny Committee convened its first two scrutiny workshops in December 2018 covering:

- The Effectiveness of the Careers Service (12th December 2018); and
- Tourism, Culture & Marketing the City Region (17th December 2019).

Reports detailing the outcomes from these workshops have yet to be developed by the LCRCA Scrutiny Officer but will be shared with Members upon being finalised.

The LCRCA O&S Committee is also planning workshops in 2019 on:

- LEP Accountability and Structure; and
- Energy & Renewables – Natural Sources of Energy

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

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

9.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable

10.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

11.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

REPORT AUTHOR: **Michael Lester**
Scrutiny Officer
telephone: (0151) 691-8628
email: michaellester@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work programme

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

This page is intentionally left blank

**BUSINESS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME**

(As at 07/01/2019)

AGENDA ITEMS – Tuesday 22nd January 2019

Item	Format	Officer / Councillor
Impact of Car Parking Charges in Country Parks	Report	Steve Atkins / Mark Smith
Investment and Change Board / New Commercial Ideas Panel	Presentation	To be confirmed prior to Committee meeting
Budget Proposals Workshop – Scrutiny Report	Report	Chair of the Committee
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Update	Officer Report / Presentation	Rosemary Boylan, Policy and Strategy Manager (External)
Scrutiny Work Programme Update	Report	Report of the Chair of the Committee

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Item	Format	Officer / Councillor
2018/19 Quarterly Finance Monitoring Report	Report / Presentation	Finance to present report
2018/19 Quarterly Wirral Plan Performance Report	Report	TBC
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Update	Report / Presentation	Rosemary Boylan, Policy and Strategy Manager (External)
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Update	Verbal / Report	Chair of the Committee

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS – WAITING TO BE SCHEDULED

Item	Format	Approximate timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
Wirral Growth Company	Committee Report / Presentation	5 th March 2019	TBC
Disaster Recovery Scrutiny Review – Follow-up report	Committee Report / Presentation	TBC	TBC
Tourism Scrutiny Review – Follow-up report	Committee Report / Presentation	TBC	TBC
Digital Strategy	Committee Report	TBC	TBC
Assets Strategy and Action Plans update	Committee Report	TBC	Jeannette Royale
Resident Parking Policy – Impact Report	Committee Report	TBC	Mark Smith
New Ferry Disaster – Case Study	Committee Report	TBC	TBC
Council Sickness Rate	Committee Report	TBC	Nicola Boardman

WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE COMMITTEE

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Departmental Officer	Progress / Comments
Camper Vans Scrutiny Review	Task & Finish	2018/19	TBC	Panel confirmed and scoping meeting convened on 5 th November 2018
Impact of Universal Credit	Workshop	TBC	Lisa Jamieson	Previous workshops held in February 2018 and reported at Committee in September.

Wirral Waters	Workshop	TBC	Brian Bailey / Alan Evans	Workshop held on 16 th October. Item to remain on work programme to ensure Member oversight.
Transforming Wirral – further business cases	Workshop	TBC	TBC	
Reality Check Visits	Site Visits	TBC	TBC	
Budget Proposals Scrutiny	Workshop	December	Senior Leadership Team	Workshop convened on 11 th December. Report to be presented at Committee meeting on 22 nd January 2019

This page is intentionally left blank