



## Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** Thursday, 29 November 2018

**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>

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## AGENDA

### 1. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / PARTY WHIP

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

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

### 2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 8)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2018.

### 3. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 2 2018/19 (Pages 9 - 16)

### 4. KINGDOM - PERFORMANCE UPDATE

To receive a presentation.

5. **LEISURE AND CULTURAL SERVICES REVIEW – UPDATE  
(Pages 17 - 22)**
6. **CLIMATE CHANGE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACTION PLAN  
(Pages 23 - 50)**
7. **MODERN SLAVERY - SCRUTINY REPORT (Pages 51 - 94)**
8. **2018/19 QUARTER 2 WIRRAL PLAN PERFORMANCE  
(Pages 95 - 112)**
9. **ENVIRONMENT O&S COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME  
(Pages 113 - 122)**
10. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR**

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## ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 20 September 2018

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	T Jones (Chair)	
	Councillors	S Foulkes A Brame K Cannon T Cottier T Cox G Ellis	B Kenny C Muspratt T Smith A Sykes B Berry A Hodson
<u>Deputies</u>	Councillors	A Leech -for G Wood, L Grey – for S Jones	

### 14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The following apologies were received from Councillors Gill Wood and Sharon Jones. Councillors Anita Leech and Liz Grey acted as Deputies.

### 15 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / PARTY WHIP

Members were asked to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any items on the agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

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

Councillor Steve Foulkes declared a personal interest by virtue of him being a member of Magenta Living Board

Councillor Anita Leech declared a personal interest by virtue of her being a member of Magenta Living Board

### 16 MINUTES

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committees held on 5 July (ordinary meeting), 5 July ( special meeting) and 17 July 2018 ( call in meeting) be approved and signed as a correct record.

17 **CORE STRATEGY LOCAL PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Assistant Director for Major Growth Projects and Hsg Delivery provided Members with a verbal update regarding the progress of the core strategy local plan.

Members heard how, following the Cabinet decision on 23 July 2018, a formal consultation had started. It was reported that, there had been 15 events over 2 weeks attended by approximately 15000 people.

Members were advised that an outcome report on the consultation is expected to be reported to full council. Following this, the findings would be reported to full council and the implementation would take approximately 12 months.

Councillors thanked the Assistant Director for the update and commended him on the success of the public meetings.

**Resolved – That the verbal report be noted**

18 **FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT - 2018 -19 QUARTER 1**

The Senior Manager for Corporate Finance reported on the Financial Monitoring Report for 2018 – 19 (Quarter 1) and explained that the purpose of the report was to update the committee on the financial position of the Council. He also provided a verbal report in the form of PowerPoint slides. The written report and appendices set out the projected revenue and capital monitoring position for 2018/19 as at the close of quarter 1 ( 30 June 2018). The report also provided details of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019/20 – 2022/23 ( MTFS) and preparation of the budget for 2019/20.

Members were advised that, in July the Cabinet agreed a new MTFS covering the period 2019/20 – 2022/23 during which the Council would continue to implement the pledges contained in the Wirral Plan whilst operating in a challenging financial environment.

Members heard how the revenue overspend is £2.2m for the year, mainly due to slippage on implementing savings options. It was then reported that the overspend for 18/19 is £0.7million.

It was reported that during the period 2019/20 – 2022/23, the Council will continue to face financial constraints and pressures and that the medium term financial planning period to 2023 will see continued grant funding reductions and financial pressures as a result of increasing demand. It was further reported that the MTFS from 2019 to 2023 describes the way that the Council will address challenges via a three phased approach – The Medium Term Financial Strategy, The Medium Term Financial Plan and The Financial

Resilience Plan. Details of how the Council sought to resolve the funding gap in the short and medium to long term were set out within the report.

The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was explained and responsible services were set out into 3 board blocks including: - **Environment** – waste collection, waste levy, environment health, licensing, trading standards – **Housing and Planning** – supported housing, homelessness, housing standards and; **Planning & Leisure and Recreation** – Sport and Rec, Libraries, Parks, Cultural Services.

Councillor S Foulkes thanked the Senior Manager for Corporate Finance and commented how he would have preferred to see the presentation in advance of the meeting. He requested that Members are provided with all the appropriate information in advance of the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor S Foulkes and seconded by Councillor A Leech and:

**Resolved - That all information including PowerPoint presentations be provided to Members in advance of the Committee**

In response to Members questions, the Senior Manager for Corporate Finance advised that there had been delays in improving Leisure Services particularly at Leasowe as a result of issues with the drainage. Members were informed that this will still go ahead and will be achieved but not as originally planned. The Interim Director Highways & Streetscene then informed Members that he would respond by email to a question raised about Union involvement on this issue.

In response to a further question regarding a parking meter at Arrowe Country Park that had been out of order over the summer period, Members were informed by the Interim Director for Highways & Streetscene that he would investigate and report back.

The Interim Director for Highways & Streetscene also advised that he would report back on progress towards improving facilities at Woodchurch Leisure Centre.

**Resolved –**

**(1) That members note the report and appendices; and**

**(2) that all information including PowerPoint presentations be provided to Members in advance of the meeting**

The Interim Director Highways & Streetscene provided a verbal update on performance thus far of the Kingdom contract. Members were advised that the contract had only been in place for six weeks.

Members were then informed that The Director of Kingdom is proposing to attend the meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee scheduled to meet in January 2019.

Members heard how during August 2018, 371 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's) had been issued for litter, dog fouling and dropping cigarettes. It was reported that Kingdom had introduced plain clothes officers to target dog fouling to ensure that they are taking effective action. Members were then advised that in August on 49 occasions people had made representations against being issued with a FPN. It was reported that 60% of the cases were upheld and 40% will be cancelled.

It was then reported that there had been community initiative events in order to raise awareness. It was further reported that there have been a number of incidents whereby Kingdom Officers had been subject to offensive behavior and on one occasion a brick had been out thrown through a van window. The Interim Director Highways & Streetscene informed Members that the Council takes this kind of behavior very seriously.

Councillor T Jones expressed his best wishes to individuals involved in the incident mentioned He then requested that figures due to be presented to the January committee include up to the second week of December

In response to a question, the Interim Director Highways & Streetscene informed that there are still low levels of fines for dog fouling as enforcement is often quite difficult and that measures are being put in place including the involvement of plain clothes officers.

In response to another question Members were advised that a note would be circulated about how Members can get involved in community initiative projects.

In response to a further question, Members were informed that there were no figures on any court cases as this stage is too early within the contract. The Legal Advisor to the Committee gave advice regarding legal action processes and how costs are awarded.

Councillor S Foulkes requested that a written report be provided for future updates.

**Resolved – That Members note the verbal update**

20 **WIRRAL FLOOD & WATER MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP - TERMS OF REFERENCE**

A report by the Interim Director – Highways and Streetscene advised that the Wirral Flood and Water Management Partnership (WF&WMP) was set up in 2009 in response to the Pitt Review in 2008. Members were advised that the main purpose of the partnership was to achieve, through joint working, an effective management of flooding and coastal erosion incidents on Wirral; to take such collective measures in order to minimise the potential impact of such incidents; and to seek the implementation of more permanent and sustainable solutions to the mitigation or alleviation of flooding and coastal erosion.

Members heard how the revised draft terms of reference for the WF&WMP sought to establish a formal link with Wirral Council's Overview and Scrutiny function and to provide appropriate governance and elected member oversight of local flood and coastal erosion risk management activities.

The report sought approval of the revised draft terms of reference of the Wirral Flood & Water Management Partnership. It was explained how, if approved, these revised draft terms of reference would replace the current outdated terms of reference and would require the consequential appointment of three cross – party working group representatives from the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**Resolved –**

- (1) That the revised draft terms of reference of the Wirral Flood & Water Management Partnership be approved; and**
- (2) that the Chair and Party spokespersons of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee be appointed onto the Wirral Flood & Water Management Partnership.**

21 **RECYCLING IN WIRRAL**

A verbal presentation delivered by Claire Brandwood, Team Leader – Waste and Prevention updated Members of progress to recycling in Wirral.

Members were advised that Wirral's recycling performance had remained fairly steady from 2011 at 40.6%, until 2017/18 when it reduced to 33.2%. . It was explained that the national target is to reach 50% by 2020. Members heard how Wirral Local Authority has a statutory function to collect household waste set out by controlled waste regulations

The Committee heard an update of Wirral's recycling performance and Members were advised that: collected recycling had decreased slightly,

quality requirements of recycling are much higher and bring bank collections had decreased by 600 tonnes per year. Members were reminded that Wirral is a Waste Collection Authority and that collected waste is consigned to a disposal authority – the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA). Members were informed that Merseyside districts (except St Helens) entered into contract with MRWA regarding what materials can be collected for co – mingled recycling:

Benchmarking information was then provided against the national average and it was reported that dry recycling in Wirral ( paper, cardboard, glass, cans plastics) had traditionally been above the national average, however, a decrease in 2017/18 meant Wirral is now below the national average. It was further reported that in 2017/18, 60% of councils saw a decrease in recycling rates.

Members then heard how the national average of composting/ food treatment is 21.1% and that Wirral composting is currently at 11.47%. The Committee were informed that at its highest, Wirral composting ( pre subscription) was 15.28%. Members were advised that if Wirral Council were to introduce a separate food collection, it would add approx. 8%, however, there would be affordability issues in introducing this.

Information was provided regarding the waste strategy and it was explained that the strategy would have five pillars, as follows:

- Becoming a zero avoidable waste economy by 2050
- Phase out avoidable plastic waste by 2042
- New targets for waste and recycling, which after Brexit will be the same as the EU's circular economy package (55% recycling by 2025, 60% recycling by 2030 and 65% recycling by 2035)
- Stopping food waste going to landfill by 2030.
- Reforming the packaging recovery note (PRN) scheme.

Details of Waste Management Improvement Action Plan were then provided and Members were informed of priorities including: replacing grey recycling bins free of charge, removal of unauthorised additional bins, an audit of current authorised additional bins and implement audits for all requests for additional bins. Members then heard how the improvement plan alone would not achieve the higher recycling levels required in the future and that the maximum possible with the current system is 42.4%. It was reported that if the authority were to add cartons, aerosols and other plastics it would amount to 44.7% and to add food would amount to 69.7%.

In response to a question Members were advised that other Merseyside Authorities do not charge for garden waste and that when Wirral didn't have a subscription service they had the best results in Merseyside.

In a response to a further question the Committee were informed that garden and food waste have to be treated separately, therefore, it would not be an option to put this waste together in the brown bin.

Another question was asked about other authorities and the possibility of selling waste to them, working in collaboration, In response, it was reported that this could be investigated.

In a response to another question, the Team Leader for Waste and Prevention commented that the Government had put a lot of resources into the research of new packaging and that she hoped that a solution would come out in a new Government Protocol.

Councillor T Jones requested volunteers for a Recycling Task and Finish Group. Councillors Muspratt, Sykes and Brame put themselves forward

**Resolved –**

**(1) That the verbal report be noted;**

**(2) Councillors Muspratt, Sykes and Brame be appointed to the Recycling Task and Finish Group; and**

**(3) the Recycling Task and Finish group be added to the work programme.**

## 22 **2018/19 QUARTER 1 WIRRAL PLAN PERFORMANCE**

A report by the Strategic Commissioner for Environment provided the 2018/19 Quarter 1 ( April – June 2018) performance report for the Wirral Plan pledges under the remit of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report was provided in appendix 1 of provided a description of the progress in quarter 1 and also provided data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

The Strategic Commissioner for Environment responded to questions by Members and resolved to provide written responses to the following questions:

Request for a breakdown across the Borough of levels of people who smoke, pinpointing the hotspots

Comments sought on weight loss initiative provided by Slimmers World and concerns that in Beechwood, there is not a Slimmers World group to access, making it particularly difficult as 46% of people do not have access to a vehicle.

Clarity to be sought on police crime recording figures

Information to be sought on homelessness figures.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

23 **ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME REPORT**

A report by the Chair of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee explained the process for developing and managing the scrutiny work programme for the municipal year. Members were advised that the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in cooperation with the other three Overview & Scrutiny Committees, is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual scrutiny work programme.

**Resolved – That the work programme for 2018/19 be approved subject to the addition of the Recycling Task and Finish Group.**



## Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 29 November 2018

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 2 2018/19</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF FINANCE &amp; INVESTMENT (S151)</b>

### REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the financial monitoring information for the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The report provides Members with detail to scrutinise budget performance for this area of activity. The financial information is at close of quarter 2 2018/19.

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

- Performance against the revenue budget (including savings)
- Performance against the capital budget

### RECOMMENDATION/S

That members note the report and appendices.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

1.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committees receive regular financial updates throughout the year. These allow Committees to understand the financial position of the council and to scrutinise decisions and performance as required.

### 2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 Not applicable

### 3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The position financially at quarter 2 for the council as a whole was presented at cabinet on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2018. The quarter 2 revenue forecast is an overall overspend of £0.9 million for the year. Delivery Services and Economic & Housing Growth forecast overspends making up the majority of this.

The quarter 2 capital report recommends that Cabinet agree the 2018/19 Capital Programme of £60.9 million which takes into account re-profiling identified during 2018/19. Expenditure to date is £16.3 million.

#### 3.1.0 CHANGES TO THE AGREED BUDGET ENVIRONMENT

3.1.1 The 2017/18 Budget was agreed by Council on 5 March 2018. Any increase to the overall Council Budget (but not use of the existing budget contingency) requires agreement by full Council.

**Table 1: 2018/19 Original & Revised Net Budget**

Theme	Portfolio	Q1 Budget	Budget Changes Q2	Revised Net Budget
		£000	£000	£000
Environment	Environment	28,868	-236	28,632
	Housing and Planning	19,396	291	19,687
	Leisure and Recreation Services	17,732	29	17,761
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>		<b>65,996</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>66,080</b>

Budget movements in quarter two cover a number of issues. These movements have no effect on the bottom line budget of the Council and are just adjustments to better reflect where budgets should be placed.

#### 3.2.0 PROJECTIONS AND KEY ISSUES

3.2.1 The projected outturn position as at the end of September 2018 and Wirral

Plan: 2020 Vision Themes updates are detailed in the following sections.

**Table 2: 2018/19 Projected Budget variations**

Theme	Portfolio	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	(Under) Overspend Quarter 2
Environment	Environment	28,632	29,549	917
	Housing and Planning	19,687	19,301	-386
	Leisure and Recreation Services	17,761	17,701	-60
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>66,080</b>	<b>66,551</b>	<b>471</b>

## Environment

**Environment** - Waste & Environment faces budget pressures of £0.730m in 2018/19. Previously identified budget savings options that have not materialised account for £0.600m, this includes £0.4m budget saving relating to waste contract efficiencies that could not be found from the contracts and £0.2m of garden waste additional customers saving that has failed to acquire the numbers needed.

Further predicted overspends in this area relate to costs of the local plan not covered by reserves.

**Housing and Planning** - Within the planning department there is an underspend that is made up of predicted over achievement of income and vacancies that have not been filled.

**Leisure and Recreation Services**—This is predominantly due to previously identified savings of £0.4m within Sport and Recreation which will not be realised in 2018/19 due to issues in the implementation of projects including a flexible work programme at Woodchurch and new football pitches at Leasowe. Members took the decision to cancel the £0.2m approved budget savings option for more flexible ways of working at Woodchurch Leisure Centre. Works on new football pitches at Leasowe have been delayed mainly due to drainage issues at the site which have now been resolved. The project works are about to go out to tender and are expected to be completed in this financial year.

These pressures are being mitigated from one off sources including the results from the Sporting Activities VAT exemption being higher than initially expected by £0.6m. This relates to interest on VAT back payment and the fees to PWC being less than anticipated.

### 3.3.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF SAVINGS

3.3.1 A summary of the position of 2018/19 Environment savings at 30 September 2018 is below.

**Table 3: Savings Implementation 2018/19 (£000's)**

Portfolio	Number of Options	Approved Budget Reduction	Amount Delivered at Q2	Mitigation	To be Delivered
Environment	4	480	100	25	355
Housing and Planning	4	206	81	0	125
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>480</b>

### 3.5.0 PERFORMANCE AGAINST CAPITAL BUDGETS QUARTER 2 (September 2018)

#### 3.5.1 Capital Programme 2018/19 at end of Quarter 2 (30 September)

	Revised Programme	Spend to Date September 2018	Funded by: Council Resources	Funded by: Grants
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Environment	9,217	1,885	6,075	3,142
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>9,217</b>	<b>1,885</b>	<b>6,075</b>	<b>3,142</b>

\* Break down of these figures can be found in appendix 1

3.5.2 In respect of Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facilities Grants (spend to date £0.7 million) the new home adaptation pilot commenced in August and the stair lift contract has been awarded which will facilitate their faster installation.

3.5.3 Discussions are currently underway regarding the most suitable way to procure the necessary works for the facility upgrade at the Tennis Centre and the reception areas at West Kirby and Guinea Gap.

3.5.4 Housing Infrastructure Fund - to support new housing building through match funding to provide for an accelerated construction programme. The actual programme and sites is currently being developed but is unlikely to commence this financial year.

3.5.5 The housing improvement project provides a continuation of both financial assistance and intervention to remedy poor housing conditions in the private sector, including serious disrepair/hazardous housing conditions, low market demand and bringing long term empty properties back into productive use. Estimated spend for the year is projected to be £0.5 million.

3.5.6 There a number of new funding requirements:

Hoylake Golf Depot (£110,000) - to replace machine shed, hard surface the yard, construct bulk storage bays. This was approved in principle by Budget Council pending further investigations which have now been concluded;

Landican crematoria (£280,000) - a revised bid for improvements to the crematoria, chapel areas and the purchase of a new mapping data base has been approved by the Investment and Change Board (ICB);

Williamson Art Gallery creation of an online catalogue (£150,000) - a more in depth proposal compared with the original bid. Once this scheme is complete the public will have 24 hour access to the various collections;

Leasowe leisure centre outdoor 3G pitches (£323,000) - additional flood protection measures need to be included and the additional drainage design has a direct impact on the installation of the 3G pitch, the additional car parking facility and the requirements of the Kingsway Academy PFI Trust management group. The current budget for the scheme is £0.795 million.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

#### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

6.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 There are none directly relating to this report. The monitoring of financial performance is important to ensure robust financial control procedures are in place. The council faces financial challenges in this period as it seeks to increase income, reduce costs whilst transforming its approach to services. There is a risk in future years that the Council does not achieve a planned approach.

#### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

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

#### **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 – Capital Programme and Funding 2018/19

#### BACKGROUND PAPERS

#### SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Budget Council	5 March 2018
Cabinet – Revenue Monitoring 2018/19 Quarter 1	16 July 2018
Cabinet – Capital Monitoring 2018/19 Quarter 1	16 July 2018
Cabinet – Revenue Monitoring 2018/19 Quarter 2	26 November 2018
Cabinet – Capital Monitoring 2018/19 Quarter 2	26 November 2018

**Capital Programme and Funding 2018/19****APPENDIX 1**

<b>Environment Theme</b>	<b>Revised Programme £000</b>	<b>Spend to Date £000</b>	<b>Council Resources £000</b>	<b>Grants £000</b>	<b>Total Funding £000</b>
Eureka	<b>268</b>	20	268	-	<b>268</b>
Hand arm vibration equipment	<b>75</b>	8	75	-	<b>75</b>
Park depot rationalisation	<b>3</b>	104	3	-	<b>3</b>
Transport museum	<b>66</b>	79	66	-	<b>66</b>
Soft play areas at leisure centres	<b>328</b>	-	328	-	<b>328</b>
W.K. Marine Lake integrated accommodation	<b>564</b>	92	564	-	<b>564</b>
Leasowe Leisure Centre outdoor 3G	<b>560</b>	-	560	-	<b>560</b>
Oval Sports Centre redevelopment	<b>23</b>	-	23	-	<b>23</b>
Floral Pavilion Chiller Units	<b>55</b>	44	55	-	<b>55</b>
Oval Grandstand Structural Works	<b>55</b>	61	55	-	<b>55</b>
Beechwood Recreation Centre	<b>430</b>	35	430	-	<b>430</b>
Thermal Pool Covers	<b>150</b>	-	150	-	<b>150</b>
Williamson Art Gallery Refresh	<b>250</b>	-	250	-	<b>250</b>
Williamson Art Gallery Catalogue	<b>26</b>	-	26	-	<b>26</b>
Wirral sailing centre - boats/equipment	<b>15</b>	4	15	-	<b>15</b>
Beach Cleaning Replacement of Equipment	<b>175</b>	-	175	-	<b>175</b>
Floral Pavilion Audio Desk	<b>35</b>	-	35	-	<b>35</b>
Cemetery Extensions and Improvements	<b>316</b>	122	316	-	<b>316</b>
Landican Chapel	<b>330</b>	-	330	-	<b>330</b>
Arrowe Park Depot - resurfacing etc	<b>200</b>	-	200	-	<b>200</b>
Arrowe Park Machine Shed	<b>200</b>	-	200	-	<b>200</b>
Birkenhead Park Depot Resurfacing	<b>164</b>	-	164	-	<b>164</b>
Hoylake Golf Works Depot	<b>110</b>	-	110	-	<b>110</b>

<b>Environment Theme (continued)</b>	<b>Revised Programme £000</b>	<b>Spend to Date £000</b>	<b>Council Resources £000</b>	<b>Grants £000</b>	<b>Total Funding £000</b>
Play Area Improvements	240	30	240	-	240
Wirral Tennis Centre facility upgrade	390	5	390	-	390
West Kirby concourse/Guinea Gap reception upgrade	<del>1800</del>	- -	<del>1800</del>	- -	<del>1800</del>
Public Toilets Upgrade	50	-	50	-	50
Industrial Estates	44	35	44	-	44
Aids, adaptations and DFGs	2,000	703	-	2,000	2,000
Restore Empty Homes	60	-	-	60	60
Clearance	50	11	-	50	50
Home Improvement	500	496	500	-	500
New house building programme	273	34	273	-	273
Housing Zones Marginal Viability Fund - Northbank Wirral Waters	1,032	-		1,032	1,032
	<b>9,217</b>	<b>1,883</b>	<b>6,075</b>	<b>3,142</b>	<b>9,217</b>



## Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 29 November 2018

<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>LEISURE AND CULTURAL SERVICES REVIEW - UPDATE</b>
<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report is intended to provide the Committee with an overview of the progress of the Leisure and Cultural Services Review. The report will also inform Members of the action the Council has and will take in order to conclude the review and secure the future delivery of Leisure and Cultural Services.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

Committee is requested to note the content of this report and support the revised approach to considering the future delivery of Leisure and Cultural Services.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview and update to the Committee on the progress of the Leisure and Cultural Services Review and the next steps for concluding the review.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 Do nothing. In the case of these services this is not considered to be a feasible option. The Council will lose its revenue support grant in 2020 and is facing difficult decisions regarding future service provision. Due to the discretionary nature of many of the services included in this review there is the need to explore how these may be delivered at a reduced cost to the Council.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Wirral Council provides extensive leisure, recreation, cultural, open space and library services. The cost to the Council of delivering these services is £17 million, when income is taken into account. The Council faces significant budget savings and needs to review how services can be delivered effectively whilst reducing costs, especially for discretionary services.
- 3.2 Following a competitive tender, Bates Wells Braithwaite (BWB) were appointed to review and consider future options for the delivery of Leisure, Libraries and Cultural Services. BWB presented its first report, which was considered by Cabinet on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017 which set out a future conceptual model for the delivery of services. Cabinet agreed with these findings and asked that BWB develop further information and complete research in order to inform the development of a Full Business Case. This Phase 2 report was received from BWB in December 2017.
- 3.3 BWB considered the options of an 'In House provision' or a 'Charitable Trust / Community Interest Company'. The recommendation from the BWB Report was that:
- The Council moves Leisure, Libraries, Cultural and Parks & Open Spaces into an Alternative Delivery Model (ADM) with the autonomy, mission and remit to develop it into a fully community-engaged and needs-focused social enterprise.
  - Services are not put out to tender in a conventional outsourcing model but developed as an entity working closely with the Council on common social goals with a locked-in mission to improve the lives of residents of and visitors to the Wirral.
  - That the ADM's mission is to be delivered by embracing:
    - efficient and effective business practices
    - innovation in delivery and accessibility models

- so that it can reach more people, in a way that enables them to respond and engage.
- It should take a leadership role in developing local provision, but
- harness the ingenuity and energy of grass roots organisations.
- The ADM is in the form of a Company Limited by Guarantee, and registered as a Charity, meaning it is properly regulated, and permanently focused on applying its assets to that public benefit mission
- The Charity takes on the LLPC assets:
  - under different terms for different assets
  - such that it gains clear long-term title to a range of them (to make its balance sheet sound and fundable)
  - whilst holding others on shorter term or rolling arrangements.
- Council retains influence whilst allowing Charity the independence to deliver its mission by:
  - Working together to coordinate complementary activity
  - Embodying realistic terms in its ongoing funding agreement
  - Putting appropriate restrictions in the terms of tenure of assets transferred into the ADM
  - Taking an appropriate role, alongside community and staff, in the Charity's governance.

3.4 A number of developments have taken place since the BWB Report was commissioned. In June 2017 Cabinet agreed to seek a Joint Venture partner to lead the regeneration of key sites within the borough. Cabinet recognised that by utilising the Council's asset base, there was potential to lever considerable investment, capacity and expertise to fund a significant programme of regeneration across a range of key strategic development sites. A competitive dialogue process commenced to identify a private sector partner with which to form a joint venture vehicle to develop sites and areas within Wirral to meet the Council's strategic objectives. In February 2018, Cabinet approved Muse Developments as the preferred partner. In order to fully realise the benefits of this approach a flexible approach is required as to the future use of assets, something which the recommendations in the BWB Report would not necessarily support.

3.5 BWB in preparing its report had, rightly, included a VAT benefit as only being achievable from a Charitable Trust. In January 2018 following the decision of the Court of Justice for the European Union (CJEU) in London Borough of Ealing v HMRC it was ruled that certain supplies of sporting services made by local authorities can be treated as exempt from VAT. Prior to this judgement only Charitable Trusts could claim this exemption.

3.6 In September 2017 a workshop was held with Members from the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in order to consider the evaluation criteria that may be used for to evaluate the option of an 'In-House Enhanced' or 'Charitable Trust' arising from the development of a Full Business Case informed by the BWB Report. The very clear message from Members was that services within the portfolio were very different. Each has their own pressures and requirements, differing levels of community involvement, impact on residents and costs to deliver.

- 3.7 Given these developments since the commissioning of the BWB Report it was clear that further work was required. It was also clear that these very different services, with their differing abilities to generate income and become more commercial required different solutions to be considered for service areas. This signalled the need to move away from a single solution or delivery vehicle towards proposals for different elements of the service in question. Through the work undertaken by BWB, as well as further research into alternative ways of delivering services and engagement with stakeholders, valuable information and insight into potential future models for the delivery of services are being developed.
- 3.8 Options for each service are being developed and will be brought forward for consideration. The service areas being considered are:-
- Floral Pavilion
  - Golf Courses
  - Libraries Service
  - Leisure Services
  - Parks Services
  - Culture (Williamson Art Gallery & Museum and The Priory)
- 3.9 A series of scrutiny workshops are planned for December 2018 and January 2019 to review budget proposals and the first set of proposals from this review will be included for consideration. Overview and Scrutiny will also have the opportunity to consider proposals on other elements of the review prior to any decisions being made.
- 3.10 The BWB Report will be published once options for service areas start to be presented for consideration. The report does contain commercially sensitive information and will therefore be appropriately redacted to enable this to occur.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Any costs and savings associated with proposals for individual service areas will be provided within those separate reports.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are a number of statutory duties which will need to be considered in relation to individual service areas. These will be detailed in reports considering individual proposals for each service. There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

#### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 There are no additional resource implications arising from this report. A programme was developed to support the development of a Business Case on options for the service and this will continue in order to develop proposals.

## 7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 As a key programme within the Council a robust approach to risk management has been adopted to ensure the delivery of evidence based proposals.
- 7.2 A key consideration of the review is to ensure that any future models adopted are sustainable and able to successfully achieve strategic objectives and a rigorous risk/ opportunity analysis will be undertaken in this regard.
- 7.3 All risks associated with proposals will be identified and managed in line with the Corporate Risk Management Procedure as part of the project delivery process.

## 8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 It is proposed that further detailed consultation and engagement with a wide range of residents, staff, elected members and other stakeholders is undertaken as well as formal pre-decision scrutiny by the Council's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This will take place as part of the process of the review.
- 8.2 As part of the project management approach, initial engagement has taken place with Trade Union representatives to seek their views and this approach will continue.

## 9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- (a) Yes and impact review is attached – *(insert appropriate hyperlink)*.

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2017/delivery>

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## APPENDICES

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

Re-imagining Leisure and Cultural Services – Phase 1 Report (Bates Wells Braithwaite) – March 2017

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet: 'Outline Transformation Approach'	21 March 2016
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 'Transforming Wirral'	18 July 2016

<p>Cabinet: 'Leisure and Cultural Services – future provision of Leisure, Parks, Libraries and Cultural Services'</p>	<p>27 March 2017</p>
<p>Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Call In</p>	<p>19 June 2017</p>
<p>Environment Overview and Scrutiny Workshop</p>	<p>11 September 2017</p>



**Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
Thursday, 29 November 2018**

<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>CLIMATE CHANGE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACTION PLAN</b>
<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>STRATEGIC COMMISSIONER – ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY SERVICES &amp; RESILIENCE</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

1.1 The report presents the annual update on climate change action in Wirral. It includes a brief overview of:

- The latest international and national developments pertinent to action on climate change;
- The activities of the Cool Wirral Partnership (formerly Wirral Climate Change Group);
- The latest ‘Cool Steps’ report, produced by the Cool Wirral Partnership, detailing recent progress with the climate change strategy up to the end of July 2018;
- The priority action plan developed by the Cool Wirral Partnership to help progress implementation of the strategy in its final year; and
- Plans to develop a new framework to replace the present strategy.

Climate change is a cross-cutting issue. The present climate strategy has the potential to help contribute to 17 pledges from the 2020 Plan. This matter affects all wards in the Borough. The decision is not a key decision.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

- (1) The work of the Cool Wirral Partnership and the progress outlined in the submitted report to implement the Climate Change Strategy be noted; and
- (2) It be recommended to the Cabinet Member that the ‘Cool Steps’ annual progress report (Appendix 1 to the submitted report) and the Priority Action Plan (Appendix 2 to the submitted report) be formally endorsed and used to meet the Council’s Climate Local commitment.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

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

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

None.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Human induced climate change is a growing problem. To reduce its severity and associated impacts there is a need for deep and rapid cuts in 'greenhouse' pollution. To limit unavoidable impacts, there is also a need to adapt so we are more resilient to changes that are already happening that cannot be stopped.

#### **INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT**

- 3.2 In the wake of a string of extreme weather events around the world, climate change has had a high profile over the last year. This was amplified by new scientific guidance published in October 2018 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The guidance was produced as part of the UN's Paris Agreement on climate change. The Paris Agreement seeks to keep global temperature rises 'well below' 2°C above pre-industrial levels with an ambition to limit the rise to 1.5°C. Under the agreement Governments are tasked to identify their 'nationally determined contributions' to help stabilise temperatures. The IPCC's report focuses on the impacts of 1.5°C of warming compared to 2°C. It also considers pathways to cut pollution in line with this lower threshold. The take home message is stark. Human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming already. Presently we are off course with both targets and remain on a path towards great danger. Pathways to limit global warming to 1.5°C require rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land and infrastructure. The changes needed are on an unprecedented scale. Deep emission reductions are needed in all sectors. Significant increases in investment are required to achieve them. In order to limit warming to 1.5C, net global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions need to fall by about 45% (from 2010 levels) by 2030 and reach "net zero" by around 2050. Keeping temperatures to the lower 1.5°C threshold will reduce the severity of impacts.

#### **NATIONAL CONTEXT**

- 3.3 The implications of the new IPCC guidance are now being considered by governments around the world. In the UK, the Government has asked the independent Committee on Climate Change (CCC) to provide advice on the

implications of limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C for action in the UK. The government is committed to take action through the Climate Change Act 2008. The Act requires the government to set a target to reduce greenhouse pollution by 2050 and set out a path to achieve this. Legally-binding 'carbon budgets' - which indicate the amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted over a five-year period - must also be set. These budgets act as 'stepping stones' to the target. The Act established the CCC to ensure that emissions targets are evidence-based and independently assessed. The present legally binding target is for an 80% reduction in emissions by 2050 compared to 1990 levels. Carbon budgets are already in place up to 2032. In the light of the IPCC report, it seems likely that a more ambitious 2050 goal will now be required. This would mean tighter future carbon budgets with a need for further steps to be identified to reduce emissions. The Clean Growth Strategy (outlined in last year's annual report) has already been challenged by the CCC for lacking detail on measures to meet the present 80% target.

- 3.4 Under the Climate Change Act 2008, the government is also required to assess the risks and opportunities from climate change and to prepare for them. A UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) must be produced every five years and a National Adaptation Programme (NAP) in response. Independent advice comes from the CCC's Adaptation Sub-committee. The government published its second NAP in July 2018 in response to the latest risk assessment. The programme covers actions to address flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure; risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures; risks of shortages in the public water supply for agriculture, energy generation and industry; risks to natural capital- including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity; and risks to domestic and international food production and trade.

## **LOCAL CONTEXT**

- 3.5 Wirral Council is committed to act on climate change. It is a signatory to the Local Government Association's 'Climate Local' initiative (Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 29 January 2013, Minute 63) and has also pledged its support for the UN's Paris Agreement on climate change (Cabinet, 7 November 2016, Minute 58). To meet its commitments, the council must set out its actions on climate change and regularly review and report progress on them. To this end, the council has supported the development of a climate change strategy for Wirral. The five year strategy, Cool (2014-2019), sets a vision and framework for local climate action. It has two overarching goals, to:

- Reduce climate pollution; and
- Adapt to unavoidable change.

Its aims, in support, are to:

- Reduce demand for energy and make Wirral more energy efficient.
- Meet more of our energy needs from renewable sources.
- Make use of more sustainable means for transport.

- Reduce indirect climate pollution.
- Identify risks and develop resilience; and
- Build capacity for action.

3.6 Cabinet has requested annual reports on climate change (Cabinet, 9 October, 2014 minute 67; Cabinet, 7 November, 2016, minute 58). This is the fourth annual report since the strategy was adopted. Annual reports have typically been given in the autumn each year, although last year's report was delayed and was considered by Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2018.

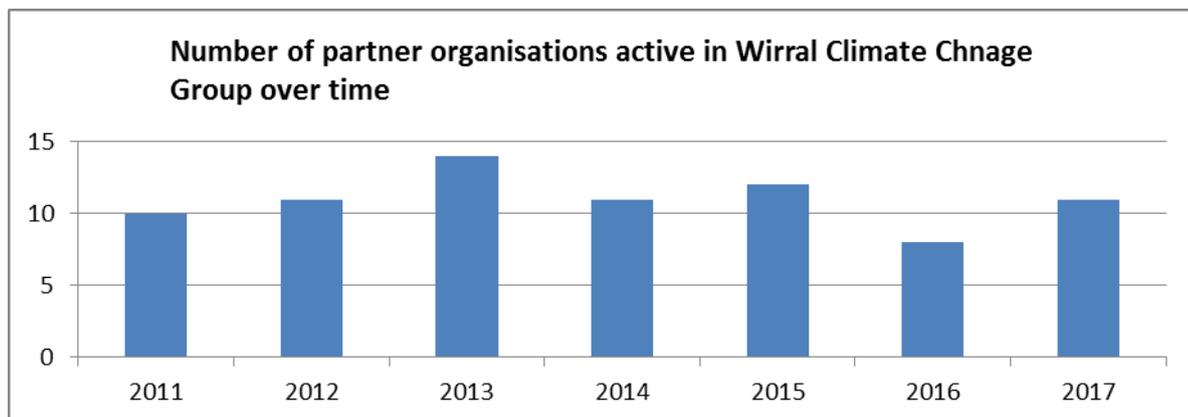
#### **4.0 THE WORK OF THE COOL WIRRAL PARTNERSHIP**

4.1 Local work on climate change is based on a partnership approach. The climate strategy envisages an independent 'Cool Wirral Partnership'. This partnership formally came into being after the Wirral Climate Change Group adopted a new name and terms of reference. The partnership includes councillor representation, key public sector bodies, voluntary and business interests. Those who have played a recent part in include:

- Magenta Living
- Energy Projects Plus
- Faiths4Change
- Wirral Environment Network
- Peel Holdings
- LCR Local Enterprise Partnership
- Merseyside Police
- Merseyside Recycling and Waste Disposal Authority (MRWA)
- Community Action Wirral
- Planet Heswall
- Wirral Chamber of Commerce
- Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Trust
- Wirral Met College

4.2 Since last year's annual report, the Cool Wirral Partnership met in March, June and September. Over this time the group has received presentations on:

**4.2.1 Stakeholder involvement in the partnership** – The number of organisations actively involved in the partnership has varied over time. 21 other organisations have been involved. Three of these no longer exist and six have stopped participating actively following staff restructures.



**4.2.2 Climate change communications** - We rarely talk about climate change. One explanation is that we focus on local and short term matters, not global issues that span generations. Another is that climate change suffers from a socially constructed silence: it's a taboo topic. Several principles for climate communications have been advanced– including the power of stories in helping shift the conversation from a technical one to a human one that resonates more. We need to talk more about climate change and what it means to us in order to engage more people in the topic in a meaningful way.

**4.2.3 Progress at Wirral Waters** - The vision statement for Wirral Waters highlights the opportunity for it to be the most sustainable regeneration project in UK. Several developments are now in the pipeline presenting an opportunity to begin to realise this vision and so help achieve climate strategy objectives.

**4.2.4 RecycleRight** - A campaign to boost recycling and reduce 'contamination' of recyclable materials collected. This MRWA led campaign seeks to address householder uncertainty about what can and can't be recycled at present in Merseyside. The [www.recycleright.org.uk](http://www.recycleright.org.uk) website is designed to be a 'first port of call' for any recycling question across the Liverpool City Region. In preparation for the campaign, collection rounds with higher contamination levels have been identified. Demographic data for these areas has been examined so that campaign messages can be tailored for maximum impact. Material collected for recycling from rounds in selected areas (including parts of Seacombe and Birkenhead in Wirral) will be analysed periodically to test the impact of campaign messages.

**4.2.5 Wirral Met College's Extreme Low Energy Hybrid Combined Heat and Power Project** – This pioneering installation at Wirral Met's 12 Quays Campus is designed to combine efficient gas turbines for generating heat and electricity with electric storage and heat batteries. The plant room will act as a working 'classroom' so students can learn about the technologies being used.

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

**4.3.1 Produced the fourth annual 'Cool Steps' report** - This summary report (Appendix 1) for public consumption details recent steps to help advance climate objectives. It also includes indicators of progress and highlights

changing circumstances that may have an influence. This year's report continues to present a mixed picture highlighting where progress is being made and where things have not advanced as hoped. Several advances have been made on energy efficiency with 1492 LED street lights installed around Wirral and the start of work on an ultra-low energy combined heat and power system at Wirral Met College. However, the number of new energy efficiency improvements being installed in homes continues to be below that anticipated. Looking at renewable energy, Ørsted opened a new operations base to service its offshore wind farms. Installations of solar photo voltaic panels were up on the previous year, but remained a small fraction of the number being installed prior to reductions in the feed in tariff incentive scheme. On the topic of sustainable travel an e-vehicle event was held in Birkenhead to harness growing interest in electric vehicles and showcase local businesses. Improvements in cycling infrastructure continued along the A41 corridor and in and around the Wirral Waters docks redevelopment area. Considering the reduction of indirect impacts, the climate strategy seeks to minimise waste and encourage re-use of materials. However, residual household waste continued to rise in spite to local efforts to the contrary. There continues to be limited local progress in relation to adapting to climate change, although a bid was developed for funding to support a sustainable drainage scheme at Coronation Park. With respect to raising awareness and building capacity for action, several events took place including Wirral Earth Fest, a faith and climate change workshop and a school climate challenge. Wirral Chamber launched a new Wirral Energy & Environment Forum for local businesses. A survey found nine in ten Wirral residents believe in climate change, higher than the national average.

- 4.3.4 Developed a priority action plan** - The group held a workshop at its March meeting in order to help prioritise actions. It has since developed a priority action plan to cover the final year of the strategy. *The focus on a smaller number of actions was part in response to the scrutiny committee's comments on last year's report.* The focus for the final year is now on 13 actions, to:
- i. Develop and implement a 'Cool' communications programme 2018/19. *This programme will take on board comments from the committee about promoting simple messages about what people can do. It should also pick up on some of the campaigns highlighted at committee such as 'Veganuary'.*
  - ii. Develop and implement a 'Cool' event programme 2018/19. *An event has already been planned to coincide with the UN's conference on climate change in Poland. It is due to take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December from 4PM to 6PM hosted by Wirral Environment Network, at the Sandon Building, Falkland Road, Wallasey.*
  - iii. Develop a climate and faith network and faith climate hubs.
  - iv. Develop and promote a 'Green Map' of Heswall to communicate local examples of sustainable living as an illustration for other areas to emulate.
  - v. Establish a 'Sustainability Central' programme – an area-based intervention centred on Wirral Waters, Seacombe and Birkenhead to showcase climate-related action.
  - vi. Conduct audits around rail stations without current provision for cycle parking to identify opportunities to improve secure parking facilities.

- vii. Identify solar generation opportunities and promote the development of viable sites in advance of the withdrawal of Feed-in-tariff incentives in April 2019.
- viii. Improve local e-vehicle charging facilities and develop an on-street residential charging pilot.
- ix. Develop a 'circular economy' initiative and encourage investment in infrastructure to support local resource 'loops'.
- x. Promote self-assessment of climate change risks for local organisations, including those participating in the Cool Wirral Partnership.
- xi. Promote the use of tools to address the impacts of climate change in health and social care.
- xii. Develop the local 'strategic ask' for the Metro Mayor and Combined Authority (CA) in recognition of the areas where the Mayor and CA now have powers and resources that could help meet objectives in the local climate change strategy (e.g. flexible public transport ticketing and integration)
- xiii. Promote appropriate tools (including sustainability appraisal) to inform decision making.

**4.3.5 Initiated work to develop a new strategy** – The present strategy covers the period 2014-19. The strategy makes clear the intention to develop a replacement during its final year 'to ensure a seamless transition to a new framework'. To this end, a group has been convened from the Cool Wirral Partnership to plan the process. The broad goals and aims of the strategy are unlikely to change. However the more detailed objectives will need updating. There is also a need to tighten the link between the actions advocated and emission reduction targets. The first public opportunity to share views about climate action will be at the event planned for 6<sup>th</sup> December. Discussions are taking place to ensure the engagement process links with wider activities under the 'Wirral Together' banner. Some work has already been undertaken to chart changing greenhouse emissions. Further work will be needed to consider future emission reduction pathways.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The report does not commit the Council to any additional expenditure. Work in support of the strategy promotes the efficient use of energy and water that help ensure the Council does not waste money.

## **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no legal issues foreseen associated with the recommendation.

## **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

- 7.1 The report does not commit the Council to any additional staffing or ICT infrastructure. The strategy supports the efficient use of assets to reduce the use of energy and water and promote more sustainable patterns of transportation.

## **8.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 8.1 A failure to develop and pursue a local response to climate change will likely increase the risk of negative impacts locally and further afield. A failure to fulfil obligations under Climate Local could pose reputational risk for the Council.

## **9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 9.1 The latest annual progress report and priority action plan have been developed via the Cool Wirral Partnership which includes representation from numerous partner organisations spanning the public, private and voluntary sectors. The climate change strategy 2014-2019, which this report concerns was developed through a wider public consultation process.

## **10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The impacts of climate change will affect everyone but are expected to be more severe for vulnerable groups. An impact review has not been undertaken for this progress report. However the climate change strategy to which this report relates was subject to an equality impact assessment available here:

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

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## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1: Cool Steps: Wirral Climate Change Strategy 2014-2019 4th Annual Progress Report July 2018**

**Appendix 2: Climate Change Strategy - Priority Action Plan**

## **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

*IPCC (2018) Global Warming of 1.5°C, an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty. (<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>)*

*United Nations (2015) The Paris Agreement*  
[http://unfccc.int/paris\\_agreement/items/9485.php](http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php)

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

Committee on Climate Change (2018) *An independent assessment of the UK's Clean Growth Strategy: From ambition to action*  
(<https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/independent-assessment-uks-clean-growth-strategy-ambition-action/>)

DEFRA (2018) *Climate change: second national adaptation programme (2018 to 2023)*  
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-change-second-national-adaptation-programme-2018-to-2023>)

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

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>31/01/2018</b>
<b>CABINET</b>	<b>07/11/2016</b>
<b>CABINET</b>	<b>08/10/2015</b>
<b>REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY &amp; PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>15/09/2015</b>

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# COOL

# STEPS

WIRRAL CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2014-2019

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Progress report - July 2018



## Background

This report provides an update about local action in the face of climate change in Wirral.

The stability of our climate matters. Our way of life, the fabric of our communities and the places we cherish are shaped by the climate. If the climate changes drastically all these things are under threat too.

Climate change is a global issue. It is one of the biggest challenges facing humanity in the 21st Century and beyond. Human activities, principally the burning of fossil fuels for heat, power and travel, are polluting our atmosphere. This so called 'green-house' pollution is driving a rise in global average temperatures. This unnatural global warming is disrupting climatic patterns and contributing to rising sea levels. To avert potential catastrophe we need to cut greenhouse pollution drastically and fast.

Cool is Wirral's climate change strategy (2014-19). It seeks to encourage and co-ordinate climate change-related action and investment by people and organisations with an interest in Wirral. It seeks to cut local pollution and to adapt Wirral to unavoidable changes in the climate. In doing so it aims to ensure we play our part in the global effort to limit climate change and are better prepared for the consequences of changes locally.

**COOL - the climate change strategy for Wirral promotes action at home, at work and in our communities. Its goals are to:**

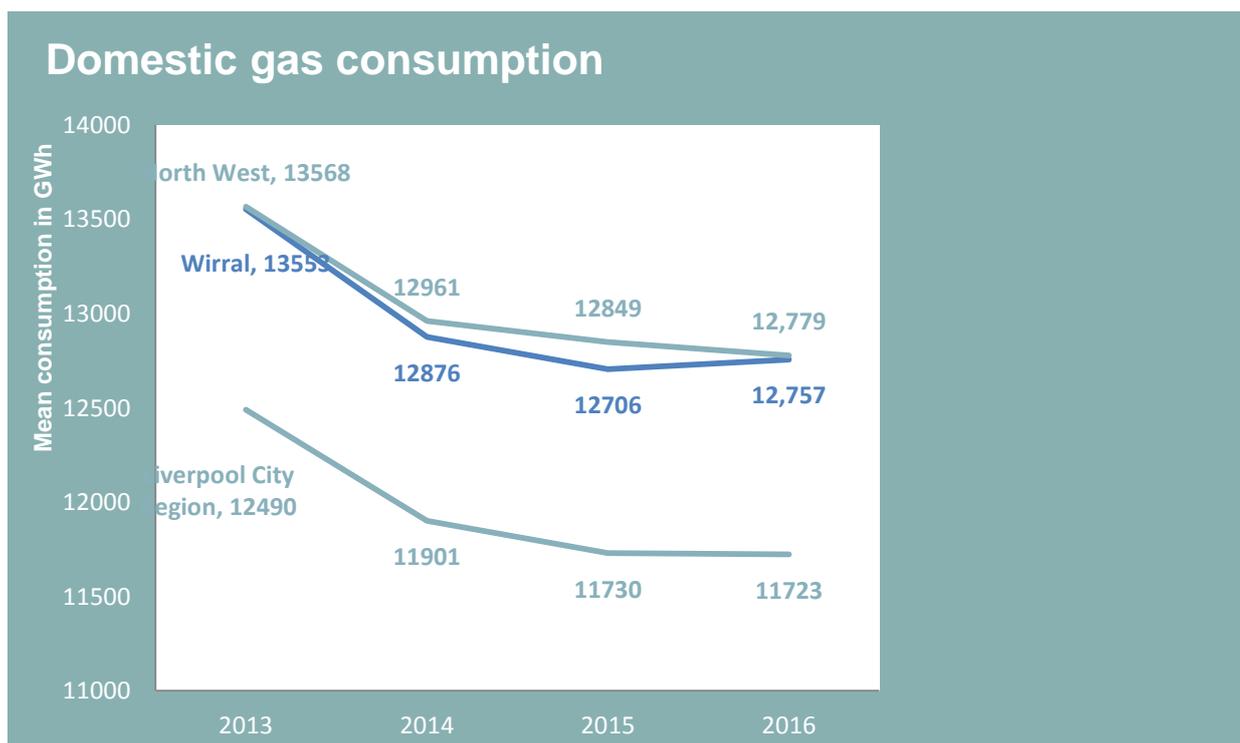
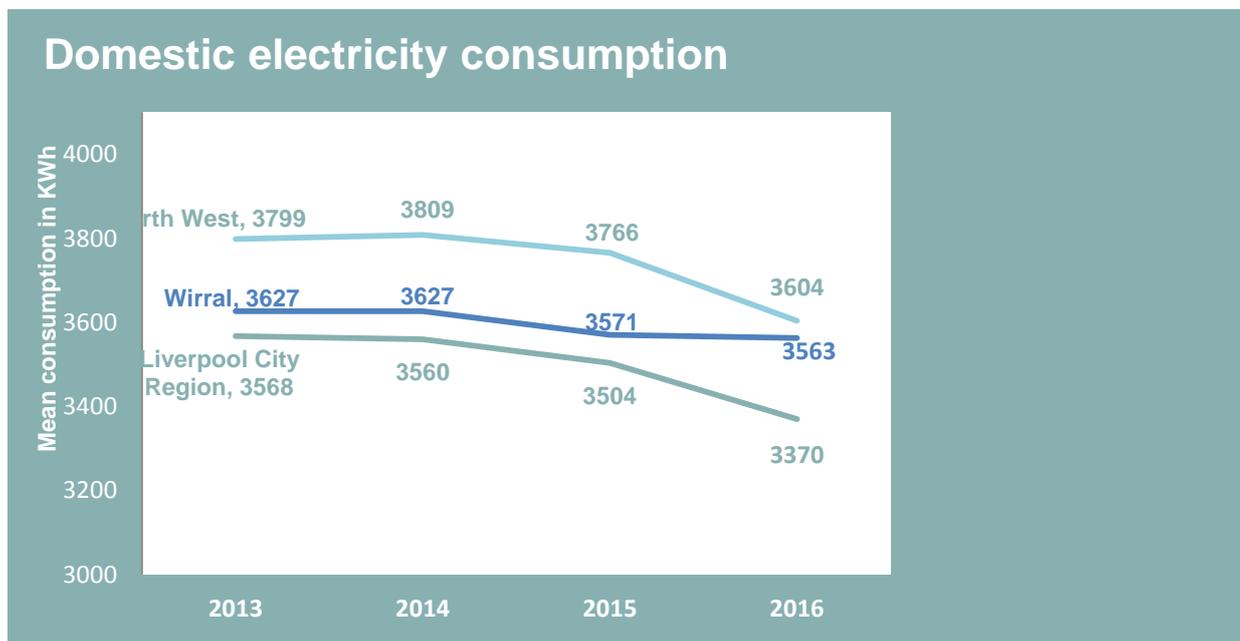


This is the fourth in a series of annual progress reports about Cool. The report sets out steps taken since the last update under each of the strategy's six aims. It presents some data to indicate impact. The report also flags up where there have been changes in context that have had an impact on progress or that present new opportunities.

The actions highlighted in this report have been advanced largely, though not exclusively, by organisations directly involved in the Cool Wirral Partnership (formerly known as the Wirral Climate Change Group). This partnership is tasked with championing and co-ordinating local climate-related action. The actions of the partnership are just part of the picture. For success, there needs to be widespread action from all quarters. As you read this report ask yourself: *Am I doing all that I can do to help at home, at work and in my community? What are the best ways I can help going forward? What can I do to help ensure Wirral plays its part taking action on climate change?*

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

### Local energy consumption in focus ...



### Recent steps...

- 1492 LED street lights were installed as part of the replacement of life expired /condemned street lighting equipment and a £4.3 loan million loan secured to finance the upgrade of the remaining 27,000 street lights to LED.
- Energy Projects Plus through their Save Energy Advice Line provided telephone advice to over 1,600 Wirral households in the period September 2017 to July 2018. The majority of

these were applications for the Warm Home Discount however EPP ensure energy efficiency advice and signposting is provided to all callers when required.

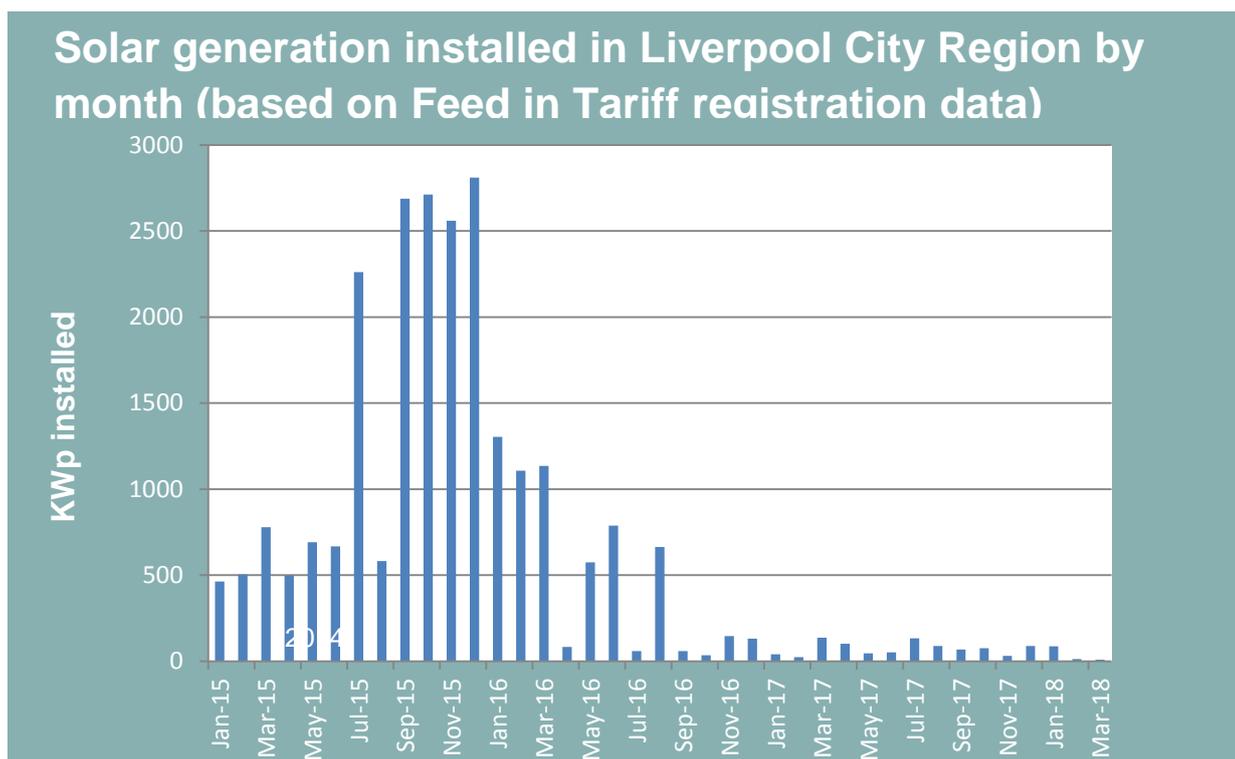
- The Cosy Loans scheme has provided 62 interest-free loans for replacement boilers in Wirral in 2017/18.
- 101 council-funded Cosy Homes Heating Grants were completed in 2017/18, providing a range of heating improvements to low-income households.
- Wirral Met College began implementing the extreme low energy hybrid Combined Heat and Power (CHP) project at its 12 Quays Campus in Birkenhead



The number of new energy efficiency improvements being installed in homes continues to be below that anticipated when the strategy was developed. This follows changes in national funding mechanisms to support home insulation measures. Local partners will continue to seek ways to maximise funding opportunities including that through the new Energy Company Obligation (ECO3) beginning in October 2018.

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

### Local solar installations in focus ...



## Recent steps...

- 513 kWp of solar photo voltaic (PV) panels were installed (registered for Feed in Tariff (FiT)) in 2017/18, bringing the total installed capacity to 9038 kWp. (DECC, Sub-regional Feed-in Tariffs statistics, April 2018).
- Wirral Community Renewables completed its Urban Community Energy Fund supported feasibility investigation looking at local sites for solar generation. The investigation also contributed to a wider study for national charity 10:10 looking into the feasibility of community owned solar powered rail traction.
- Ørsted (previously DONG Energy) opened a new £6m offshore wind farm operations base at Kings Wharf, Seacombe in August 2017 to host around 45 permanent staff to service the Burbo Bank and Burbo Bank Extension offshore windfarms.

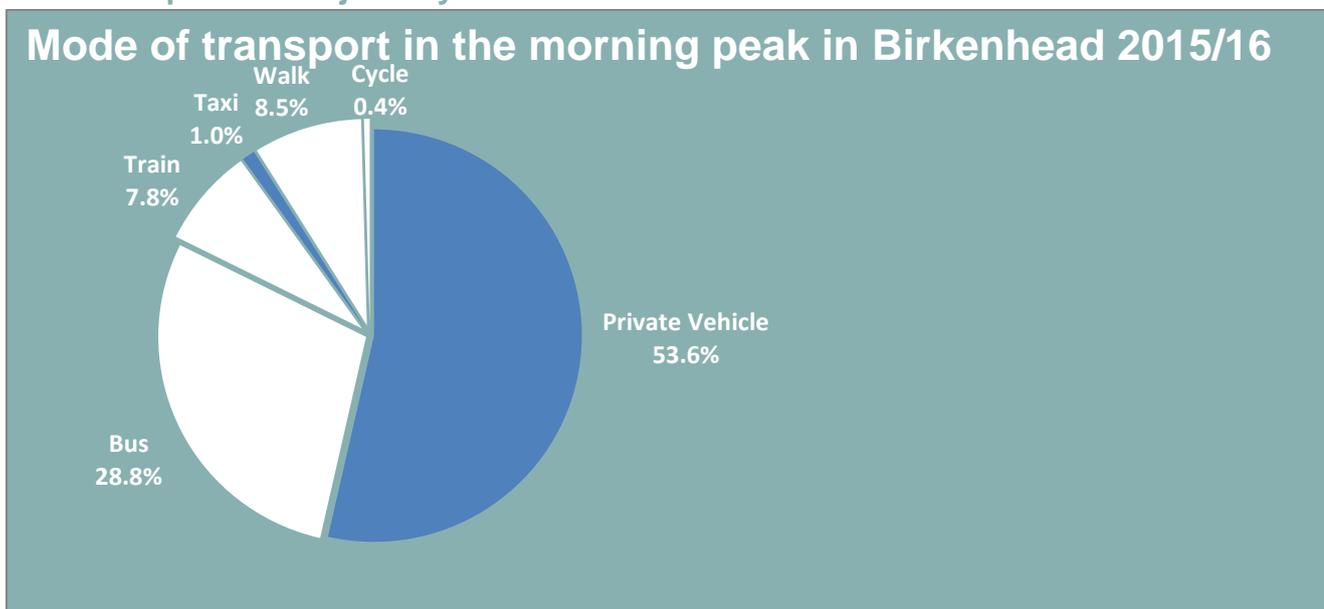


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The solar generation capacity installed in Wirral increased by double the previous year, although remains less than a 10<sup>th</sup> of the capacity installed in the year prior to reductions in incentives under the Government's Feed in Tariff (FiTs) scheme. The FiTs incentive to support small scale renewable generation is due to be phased out completely by April 2019. The opportunity is now closing to get local solar schemes developed in time to benefit from the incentive.

## Aim 3: Making use of more sustainable means for transport

### Local composition of journeys in focus...



## Recent steps...

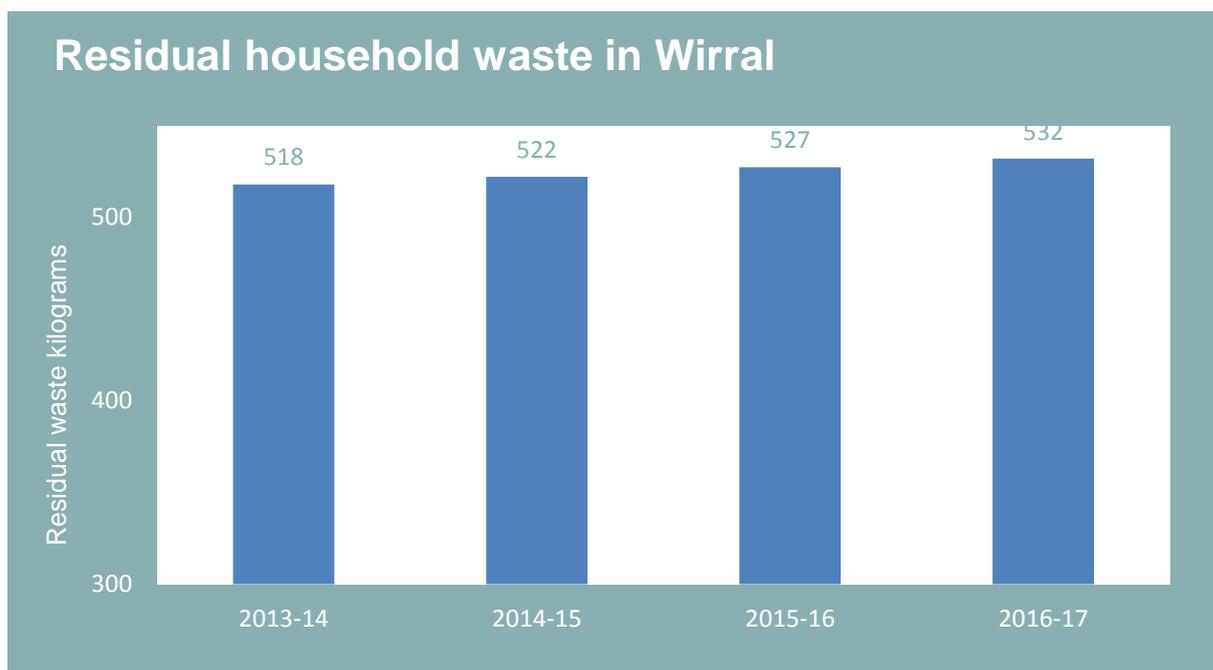
- An e-vehicle show case event was held in Birkenhead featuring local suppliers of electric vehicles and vehicle charging points as part of events to mark Clean Air Day 2018



- The 'Mind your Business' travel safety programme won a national award
- An audit of cycle parking within the main town centres within the borough has been undertaken which has produced a list of recommendations.
- Cycling infrastructure for the Wirral Waters site has been completed on Duke Street, Rendel Street and Dock Road. Whilst on the A41, a scheme at Campbelltown Road has been completed.
- The Cycling and Walking to Work Fund was secured to support newly employed residents access work, the fund also supports working with employers to develop travel plans.

## Aim 4: Reducing indirect climate pollution

### Local household waste in focus...



### **Recent steps...**

- Meetings have taken place to discuss prospects for a local 'circular economy' initiative.
- Wirral Council and its partners have established an improvement plan to address recycling performance
- Wirral Council has updated its domestic refuse collection policy and adopted a resolution to create a Single Use Plastics Free Wirral Policy

The climate strategy seeks to minimise waste and encourage re-use of materials. However residual household waste continues to rise in spite to local efforts to the contrary. Several new actions are set out in the improvement plan in order to address the rise in residual household waste. The problem of plastic waste has gained recent prominence. Heightened awareness has created some public pressure to eliminate single use plastics and thereby create an opportunity to reduce plastic in the waste stream.

The strategy seeks to promote the climate benefits of local and seasonal food and reduced consumption of meat. Locally, the contract to promote the 'Better Food Wirral' programme ended in March 2018. There has since been a pause in awareness raising material promoted via Better Food Wirral as alternative arrangements are made. The absence of the programme has subsequently limited opportunities to highlight the impacts of food choices on climate change.

### **Aim 5: Adapting to unavoidable changes in Wirral's climate**

#### **Recent steps...**

- A bid has been developed for funding to support a sustainable drainage scheme at Coronation Park car park in order to help implement some ideas identified through the earlier 'resilient parks' project

There continues to be limited local progress in relation to adapting to climate change. This situation is unlikely to be unique to Wirral. The House of Commons Environment Select Committee recently highlighted the very limited response it had had from local authorities to its investigation into 'Heatwaves: Adapting to Climate Change'. The committee highlighted the withdrawal of funding programmes to support local authority climate change adaptation which has resulted in the closure of numerous regional climate change partnerships.

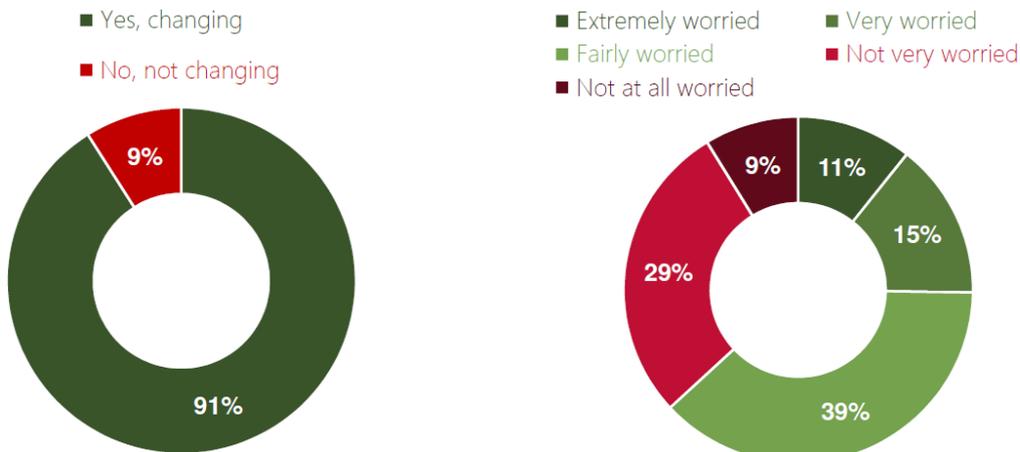
## Aim 6: Building capacity for action

### Wirral residents acknowledge climate change

Nine in ten Wirral residents believe the world's climate is changing (91%). This is a higher proportion than the national average according to Ipsos MORI's 'European Perceptions of Climate Change.' This is a nationally representative survey conducted in 2016, that finds 86% of the UK population believe in climate change.\* Two thirds of residents are worried by climate change (65%) – again higher than the UK average (60%). Females are significantly more likely to acknowledge climate change (96% vs. 86% of males) and be worried about it (71% vs. 58%), whereas older residents aged 75+ are most likely to not be concerned by climate change (43% vs. 35%).

Q 30. As far as you know, do you think the world's climate is changing or not?

Q 31. How worried, if at all, are you about climate change?



\*European Perceptions of Climate Change is based on 1,033 people in the UK aged 15+

Base: Q30. All responding (1157); Q31. All responding (1212); Fieldwork dates: 18th September - 8th November 2017

Source: Ipsos MORI **WIRRAL**

### Recent steps

- Transition Town West Kirby and partners held a successful Wirral Earth Fest event in September 2017.



Reproduced with permission of Transition Town West Kirby

- The Wirral Climate Change Group became the Cool Wirral Partnership after adopting new terms of reference in line with the role anticipated for it in the climate change strategy.

- Wirral Chamber launched the new Wirral Energy & Environment Forum which has met three times
- Questions about climate change were included in the 2017 Wirral Residents' Survey. The survey found nine in ten Wirral residents believe in climate change (higher than the national average) and that over half of Wirral residents are prepared to make fundamental changes to their lifestyle (55%).
- There have been regular updates for the @CoolWirral twitter feed. There were 623 tweets during 2017/18 financial year with 112,756 tweet impressions recorded.
- Four climate change e-bulletins were sent - two via the Cool Wirral network mailing list and two via a merged Cool Wirral and Wirral environmental news mailing list.
- Five stories were posted on the Cool Wirral page on the projectdirt.com website
- Faiths4Change organised a climate change event as part of Interfaith Week in November 2017. Members from different faith communities from across the region took part.



- A school 'Cool Climate Challenge' event was held in June 2018 with nine schools taking part.

## The bigger picture

Cool is not an isolated strategy. It is one of many being pursued around the world at a local level in support of national and international action on climate change. These initiatives from global to local seek to reduce climate pollution and to ensure we adapt to limit impacts.

The UN's Paris Agreement formally came into force in November 2016 and seeks to keep the average global temperature rise this century to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C. The agreement relies on countries submitting plans for their 'nationally determined contribution' to achieve this. Actions committed via the various national plans developed so far are not enough. We are still on course to overshoot global targets and without further progress are heading towards dangerous territory. A lot has been done, but a lot more needs to be done.

The UK has played a leading role promoting climate action. The pioneering Climate Change Act, adopted with cross party support in 2008, obliges the government to identify actions to ensure it stays within a series of five year 'carbon budgets'. These 'budgets' set the path towards the longer term emission reduction target. So far reductions in greenhouse gases are already over half-way towards the 80% reduction envisaged by 2050 (compared to 1990 levels). In October 2017, following concerns raised by the UK's independent Climate Change Committee, the Government published a Clean Growth Strategy. This sets out the broad approach to meet future carbon budgets up to 2032. It sets out a series of interventions designed to: accelerate clean growth; improve business and industry efficiency; improve the energy efficiency of our homes and roll out low carbon heating; accelerate the shift to low carbon transport; deliver clean power; and enhance the benefits of our natural resources. The Climate Change Act also requires government to set out its plans for adapting to changes in the climate. In July 2018 the Government outlined the second national adaptation programme setting out plans up to 2023. This covers actions to address flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure; risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures; risks of shortages in the public water supply for agriculture, energy generation and industry; risks to natural capital- including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity and risks to domestic and international food production and trade.

## Next steps

Locally, the Cool Wirral Partnership has reviewed progress implementing the climate change strategy and has identified 13 priorities to focus on in the final year of the strategy period:

- A communications programme
- An event programme
- A climate faith network and hubs
- A green map of Heswall
- Developing a 'Sustainability Central' programme to showcase the transition to a low carbon, climate-ready place to be focused on Wirral Waters and surrounding areas
- Cycle parking at rail stations
- Solar generation opportunities
- An e-vehicle on-street residential charging pilot
- A circular economy initiative
- Promoting climate adaptation risk assessments
- Developing climate and health tools
- Liverpool City Region strategic ask
- Promoting sustainability appraisal tools

Work to develop a new strategy will commence shortly to ensure that co-ordinated action continues without delay beyond the life of the present strategy.

A 'snap shot' of the rolling plan of action in support of the present climate strategy is reported to Wirral Council each year. This is available publicly.

Success will ultimately depend on a combination of the implementation of this plan and wider support and action beyond. To get involved and find out how you can help put Cool into practice, at home in your community and in your workplace:

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



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Cool Wirral Partnership – Priority Action Plan 2018-19

Ref	Action	Activities	Outcome	Timescale	Measures	Owner of Action (and associated interests)	Risk (Red/Amber/ Green rating)
1	Develop and implement a 'Cool' communications programme 2018/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce calendar of existing campaign days/weeks and significant events (e.g. World Environment Day) that present an opportunity to 'piggy back' climate strategy messages.</li> <li>• Produce a communications plan</li> <li>• Generate local content – media stories, 'listicles', infographics, short videos associated with the calendar,</li> <li>• Liaise with communications leads across partner organisations to co-ordinate activity and amplify impact</li> <li>• Produce minimum of four Cool e-bulletins per year</li> <li>• Maintain social media presence</li> <li>• Promote a Cool resolutions/pledge campaign</li> </ul>	<p>-Greater profile for climate strategy messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase and generate renewable energy</li> <li>• Implement energy saving measures</li> <li>• Access support for energy saving</li> <li>• Use journey planning/travel planning tools</li> <li>• The benefits of reducing meat consumption and of choosing local and seasonal food</li> <li>• Reduce, reuse recycle. Cut single use plastics. Use Warp-it</li> <li>• Use water wisely</li> <li>• Join the Cool Wirral network</li> </ul> <p>-Greater awareness of 'key things you can do' to put the climate strategy into practice.</p> <p>-Pledges of support for climate action in Wirral</p>	July 2019	Content engagement: article clicks, take-up of promoted activities, @CoolWirral twitter followers and tweet impressions Cool mailing list sign-ups	Environment Team, (Communications Team Wirral Council and communications leads in partner organisations Cool)	
2	Develop and implement a 'Cool' event programme 2018/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene task group from Cool Wirral Partnership to develop programme</li> <li>• Organise at least one public event to enable interested parties from the wider Cool network to gather, meet each other, hear about</li> </ul>	<p>-A higher profile for Cool.</p> <p>-Opportunities for those with an interest in local climate action to connect with and learn from one another.</p>	July 2019	Number attending Cool event. Feedback from participants. Number of events featuring Cool content.	Environment Team, Wirral Council (Task group drawn from Cool Wirral Partnership)	

Cool Wirral Partnership – Priority Action Plan 2018-19

		<p>progress with the strategy, to share experiences of taking climate action and help shape future action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise 'Cool' presence/content at other events.</li> </ul>					
Page 46	3	Develop climate faith network and faith climate hubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a working group to develop and shape the Network</li> <li>• Create 'brand'/identity for the network</li> <li>• Develop network communication tools (e.g. Facebook group, blog)</li> <li>• Establish closer relationships with wider interests to bring support and to the Network</li> <li>• Establish dialogue with different Christian denominations and World faith communities on the Wirral</li> <li>• Identify resource needs and opportunities including prospective funding bids</li> <li>• Develop outline event programme linked to world faith festivals/seasons, selecting host faith communities who are already active in the topic as hubs for wider learning</li> </ul>	-There is a locally recognised network where interested parties from local faith communities can connect with each other to share good practice and learning	July 2019	Hits on faith network blog Participation in faith network Facebook group	Faiths4Change (representatives from local faith communities and associated interests)
	4	Develop and promote a 'green map' of Heswall to communicate local examples of sustainable living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilise the open green map system to record examples of sustainable living in Heswall</li> <li>• Encourage submissions from local stakeholders to build/maintain an online green map of Heswall</li> <li>• Subject to funding, produce a physical copy of the green</li> </ul>	-Greater awareness of local examples of sustainable living in Heswall -Networking between Planet Heswall and stakeholders in the wider Heswall community	July 2019	Participants contributing to map Production of physical map (subject to funding)	Planet Heswall

Cool Wirral Partnership – Priority Action Plan 2018-19

		<p>map and disseminate locally to enable wider engagement with the information collected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share experience gained using open green map system with other communities in Wirral and wider Liverpool City Region</li> </ul>	<p>-Demonstration of the use of open green map system in a Wirral community. -Greater awareness about the potential of the open green maps system in Wirral and Liverpool City Region</p>				
Page 47	5	<p>Establish a ‘Sustainability Central’ programme – an area-based intervention centred on Wirral Waters, Seacombe and Birkenhead to showcase climate-related action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify stakeholders and convene meetings</li> <li>• Map existing and planned activity linked to climate strategy themes, to include: community cultivation, waste reduction, food and energy interventions, green infrastructure, green roofs and walls, cycling and pedestrian facilities, heat networks, renewable energy and exemplar buildings</li> <li>• Develop brand for programme</li> <li>• Produce promotional prospectus</li> <li>• Identify and promote investment in sustainability initiatives</li> </ul>	<p>-The ‘Sustainability Central’ area is perceived as a place where the transition to a low carbon and climate friendly Wirral is happening. -Investment is attracted to support the transition (successful funding bids, private and public sector investment)</p>	July 2019	Meetings held Stakeholders involved Prospectus produced	Environment Team, Wirral Council (Stakeholders from Cool Wirral Partnership and beyond – including Peel Holdings, Energy Projects Plus, Wirral Environment Network)
	6	<p>Cycle audit to improve cycle parking provision at or around rail stations without current provision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake cycle audit at stations without secure cycle parking facilities to identify options to improve provision</li> <li>• Develop proposals and seek funding to implement them</li> </ul>	<p>-Improved journey interchange for cycle-rail journeys</p>	July 2019	New facilities created	Transportation team, Wirral Council (liaising with Arriva Trains Wales, Merseyrail)
	7	<p>Identify solar generation opportunities and promote the development of viable sites in advance of the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review ‘Solar 4 Schools’ proposition for development of solar generation at schools. If viable, introduce</li> </ul>	<p>-New solar generation installed</p>	December 2018	KWp solar generation installed	Asset management, Wirral Council [School-related work] Wirral Community

Cool Wirral Partnership – Priority Action Plan 2018-19

	withdrawal of Feed-in-tariff incentives	<p>schools to the scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify new opportunities to develop community-owned solar power generation and explore further the feasibility of sites identified in the UCEF-funded feasibility study conducted in 2017.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for further participation in solar rail traction innovation project led by charity 10:10</li> <li>• Promote the uptake of micro-generation schemes in Wirral ahead of the withdrawal of incentives</li> </ul>				Renewables [potential community owned solar sites] (All partners with potential solar sites)	
8 Page 48	Improve local e-vehicle charging facilities and develop on-street residential charging pilot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote opportunities to develop e-vehicle charging facilities.</li> <li>• Conduct survey to investigate local interest in adopting e-vehicles.</li> <li>• Identify areas suitable for on-street residential charging trial</li> <li>• Develop a bid for OLEV Funding to develop an on street charging pilot.</li> </ul>	<p>-Increase in electric vehicle charging point installations.</p> <p>-On-street charging pilot to help answer technical issues concerning provision of charging infrastructure in residential areas without off street parking provision.</p>	July 2019	EV charging infrastructure installed	Transportation Team, Wirral Council (working with key stakeholders – technology providers, installers, residents)	
9	Develop circular economy initiative and encourage investment in infrastructure to support local resource 'loops'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce a briefing on the circular economy.</li> <li>• Convene local public, private and academic interests to define scope of a local circular economy initiative</li> <li>• Encourage investment to develop circular economy infrastructure and support businesses to adopt circular economy approaches</li> </ul>	<p>-Greater awareness of 'circular economy' concept.</p> <p>-Investment to support development of more 'circular economy' in Wirral</p>	July 2019	Briefing produced. Scope for circular economy initiative defined.	Investment Team, Wirral Council (business interests via Wirral Chamber of Commerce Energy and Environment Forum, Higher education sector)	
10	Promote self-assessment of climate change risks for local organisations, including those participating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation on 'building organisational resilience to a changing climate' at Cool Wirral Partnership meeting</li> </ul>	-More organisations thinking about the implications of severe weather and a changing	July 2019	-Presentation given -Workshop held – number of	Wirral Council (working with Wirral Chamber Energy and Environment Forum)	

Cool Wirral Partnership – Priority Action Plan 2018-19

	in the Cool Wirral Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session for SMEs on business resilience</li> </ul>	climate for their operations.		participants, feedback forms		
11	Promote climate and health tools for health and social care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update JSNA climate and health information</li> <li>• Identify tools available for use in health and social care</li> <li>• Promote use of tools for health and social care stakeholders,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Greater awareness of links between climate change and health issues</li> <li>-Use of climate change-related tools by health and social care sector</li> </ul>	July 2019	-Production of action-focused JSNA climate and health report	Public Health, Wirral Council	
12	Develop city region strategic 'ask' concerning objectives in the climate change strategy where the metro mayor and Combined Authority now have a key role (e.g. flexible public transport ticketing and integration)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop understanding of new city region mechanisms</li> <li>• Identify key contacts for relevant topics</li> <li>• Develop and communicate strategic ask through appropriate channels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Greater awareness of relevant Wirral climate change strategy objectives at City Region level</li> <li>-Cool objectives are reflected in City Region work programmes</li> </ul>	July 2019		Policy Team, Wirral Council	
19	Promote appropriate tools (including sustainability appraisal) to inform decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate approaches used in other areas to encourage climate-friendlier decision taking</li> <li>• Report on approaches used to Cool Wirral Partnership</li> <li>• Propose an approach for Wirral Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-More decisions are taken where the implications of and for climate change are given consideration</li> </ul>	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Report to Cool Wirral Partnership</li> <li>-Recommendation for Wirral Council</li> </ul>	Policy Team, Wirral Council	

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## Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>MODERN SLAVERY</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>MEMBERS OF THE MODERN SLAVERY SCRUTINY REVIEW</b>

### REPORT SUMMARY

This report (included as Appendix 1) provides the findings and recommendations emanating from the Modern Slavery Scrutiny Review.

Members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to consider the contents of this report and support the recommendations arising from this review.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

1. Members of the Committee are requested to support the contents and recommendations of the Scrutiny Report, 'Modern Slavery';
2. The report be referred to the next appropriate Cabinet meeting;

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Scrutiny Review report is subject to review by Members of the Committee and is required to be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

Not Applicable

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3.1 As part of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme, a Task & Finish Scrutiny Review on Modern Slavery was agreed. The Review Panel consisted of Cllrs. Chris Carubia, Christina Muspratt and Tom Usher.

3.2 It was agreed that Cllr Chris Carubia would be the Chair of the Panel. The review was conducted over a number of meetings held with relevant Council officers, attendance at Modern Slavery conferences and a review of briefing papers, documents and publications from other local authorities and public bodies.

3.3 The Review Panel's objectives in doing this work were to understand the implications of the Modern Slavery and the Act for Wirral Council and its partners and to present a series of recommendations designed to shape or influence Council policy on modern slavery.

3.4 This report provides a number of recommendations which the Review Panel believes will assist the Council in tackling Modern Slavery in Wirral.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not Applicable

### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not Applicable

### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

Not Applicable.

### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

Not Applicable

### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

Not Applicable

## 9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

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### APPENDICES:

**Appendix 1: Modern Slavery Scrutiny Report**  
**Appendix 2: Draft Modern Slavery Strategy**

### REFERENCE MATERIAL

### SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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## MODERN SLAVERY

Scrutiny Report of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

November 2018



**WIRRAL BOROUGH COUNCIL**

***Modern Slavery***

**SCRUTINY REVIEW**

**FINAL REPORT**

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**Appendix 1: Scoping Document**

**Appendix 2: Draft Modern Slavery Strategy**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

As part of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee's Work programme, it was agreed to undertake a Task & Finish Scrutiny Review on Modern Slavery. The Review Panel comprised three Members of the Committee.

The report sets the methodology adopted for gathering the evidence, followed by the main body of the report which details the key findings of the review and the recommendations of the Review Panel.

## 2. MEMBERS OF THE TASK & FINISH REVIEW PANEL

***Councillor Chris Carubia (Chair)***



### CHAIR'S PERSONAL STATEMENT

"Our objective in this review was to help the council to develop an appropriate policy and look at other potential responses to tackle Modern Slavery in Wirral. It was pleasing to see that, during the review, a strategy was developed and the Review Panel had an opportunity to study and add to it. It is important that Members retain oversight of Modern Slavery in Wirral, not only to fulfil their role, but also to ensure Wirral is doing its upmost to tackle it."

Other Panel Members were:

***Councillor Christina Muspratt***



***Councillor Tom Usher***



### 3. SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY FOR THE REVIEW

#### 3.1 Scope

A scoping meeting for the scrutiny review was convened and the agreed scoping document is included as Appendix 1 to this report.

#### 3.2 Methodology

The scrutiny review was informed through:

- Meeting key frontline staff from areas which may interface with Modern Slavery.
- Attendance at relevant Modern Slavery conferences.
- Undertaking document reviews on local best practice.

The Review Panel also considered the draft Modern Slavery Strategy which was developed following the commencement of the scrutiny review.

### 4. OVERVIEW OF MODERN SLAVERY

Modern slavery is an umbrella term and captures a wide range of types of exploitation. According to the [National Crime Agency](#), these include:

- **sexual exploitation** - Sexual exploitation involves any non-consensual or abusive sexual acts performed without a victim's permission
- **Forced labour** – Forced / compulsory labour involves victims being compelled to work very long hours, often in hard conditions without relevant training and equipment, and to hand over the majority if not all of their wages to their traffickers.
- **Forced criminality** - victims can be forced to participate in a range of illegal activities including pick pocketing, shop lifting, cannabis cultivation, county lines exploitation and other activities. The Modern Slavery Act provides for a defence for victims who have been forced into criminality.
- **Domestic Servitude** - Domestic servitude involves the victim being forced to work in private households. Their movement will often be restricted and they will be forced to perform household tasks such as child care and house-keeping over long hours and for little if any pay. Victims will lead very isolated lives and have little or no unsupervised freedom. Their own privacy and comfort will be minimal, often sleeping on a mattress on the floor in an open part of the house.
- **Organ harvesting** - Organ harvesting involves trafficking people in order to use their internal organs for transplant
- **Child exploitation** - Persons under the age of 18 who get caught up in aspects of criminal exploitation. They are particularly vulnerable to exploitation by individual opportunists, traffickers and organised crime groups.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015, ("the Act"), gained royal Assent on 26 March 2015. Its stated purpose was to "tackle the worst exploitation" and consolidate various offences relating to human trafficking and slavery.

The Act established the role of an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner with a UK-wide remit to encourage good practice in the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of modern slavery offences and the identification of victims.

The Act makes it incumbent upon any organisation with a turnover greater than £36m to produce a Modern Slavery Act Annual Statement and have an Anti-Slavery Policy.

There are two sections of the Act that immediately impact on the obligations for Wirral Council:

- Section 52 of the Act requires the Council to identify and refer modern slavery child victims and consenting adult victims through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).
- Section 54 of the Act requires the Council to publish a statement of the steps it has taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any of its supply chains, or in any part of its business.

The NRM is the process by which victims of modern slavery, including human trafficking, are recorded. The NRM was extended to all victims of modern slavery - both children and adults - in England and Wales following the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

## 5. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 Centre for the Study of International Slavery - Conference

To inform the scrutiny review, one member of the Review Panel and the Scrutiny Officer attended a conference hosted by the Centre for the Study of International Slavery and reported back to the panel. This conference was arranged to release a report entitled "[Fresh Start – Integrating Survivors of Modern Slavery](#)" which was developed by the Centre for the Study of International Slavery and City Hearts.

The Centre for the Study of International Slavery is a collaboration between the University of Liverpool and the International Slavery Museum. City Hearts works with up to 300 modern slavery survivors in the North West on a weekly basis. It provides a range of accommodation and support services including safe houses, outreach support services and long term support to over 120 survivors via 5 drop-in hubs across the North West. Survivors are offered counselling, welfare advice, and support to access employment.

The Fresh Start report provides an evaluation of a long-term support system for modern slavery survivors, set up by City Hearts. Members of the Review Panel noted the key point raised by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner at the conference regarding the current lack of medium and long-term support available to survivors of modern slavery. Under the National Referral Mechanism, support is provided to victims for a period of 45 days. After this period, support can cease abruptly and this has been described as a 'cliff edge' for survivors. At this point, survivors are at great risk of falling back into modern slavery due to the lack of meaningful support, access to housing, benefits and employment.

City Hearts has set up the Integration Support Programme as a sustainable solution to this challenge of long term support. Through collaboration with the business and voluntary sector, survivors are offered a clear pathway to a more stable and secure future through employment coaching and one to one support.

### 5.2 Merseyside Approach - 'Tackling Modern Slavery in the Liverpool City Region' Conference

A conference was held to gather all agencies and stakeholders from relevant statutory, voluntary, charitable and faith sectors in the Merseyside area with an interest in fighting modern slavery. The aim was to map the regional assets, understand potential gaps and to consider ways to co-ordinate activity and create a local network of practitioners. The Scrutiny Officer attended the conference on behalf of the Panel. Key speakers at the conference included:

#### [The Clewer Initiative](#)

The Clewer Initiative is a 3 year project that enables Church of England dioceses and wider Church networks to develop strategies to detect modern slavery in their communities, and help provide victim support and care. It is believed that the church is well placed within communities to tackle modern slavery.

#### [City Hearts](#)

The speaker acknowledged the range of good work going on to end modern slavery and stressed the necessity for more efficient joined up working between agencies.

#### [Medaille Trust](#)

The Medaille Trust is a charity founded by groups of Religious congregations in 2006 to work against human trafficking in response to the plight of thousands of people who are being trafficked into the UK each year.

The conference also allowed stakeholders to discuss mapping anti-slavery resources in the local system. A summary of the key ideas which were supported by all stakeholders included:

- Drawing up a local map showing responsibilities of organisations which aims

to avoid duplication and assist in identifying gaps. A requirement for a clear and consistent message from all organisations was agreed. As an example, it was noted that the major agencies involved in fighting slavery (The Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority, Modern Slavery Helpline, Crimestoppers, Stop the Traffik) have different contact telephone numbers and online reporting arrangements.

- Standard training should be in place to assist front line staff including NHS, Social Services, and GPs to spot signs of Modern Slavery and to understand referral processes. Stakeholders were informed that Merseyside Police offers free awareness raising training to local health providers and local authority staff in the region.
- The introduction of a regional scheme to recognise trades and businesses as “Slavery Free”. This could be used to raise awareness with the public and to promote good practice with local businesses. Similar ‘gold standard’ schemes exist in other industries, such as food standards or sports clubs.
- The development of a Merseyside wide network of key anti-slavery contacts across different agencies (including statutory and charitable, voluntary and faith sectors).
- A regional modern slavery awareness raising campaign should be considered alongside the National Crime Agency media campaign.

Members of the Review Panel endorsed these suggestions. Furthermore, these were also acknowledged by Wirral’s Strategic Commissioner for Environment, Community Services & Resilience and it is understood that a number of actions are being undertaken as a result. This includes developing a Regional Ethical Organisations Scheme in partnership with Wirral Chamber of Commerce which will carry a “Quality Mark” for businesses. Modern Slavery will form a part of this standard. Additionally, key contacts and networks are also being developed through the Safer Wirral Hub and the City Region and Partnership events on Modern Slavery.

### 5.3 Document Reviews - Local Authority Responses to Modern Slavery

The Review Panel reviewed a number of documents which gave examples of good practice by organisations across the U.K. in their response to Modern Slavery.

#### **Merseyrail**

In response to the Modern Slavery Act, Merseyrail has produced and published a Modern Slavery statement. The statement can be found on the Merseyrail website or via the public Modern Slavery registries mentioned previously. The statement outlines Merseyrail’s commitment to tackling the issue of Modern Slavery by ensuring their supply chains are slavery free.

<http://www.merseyrail.org/about-merseyrail/our-values-behaviours/merseyrail-s-anti-slavery-and-human-trafficking.aspx>

#### **Bristol City Council**

Bristol City Council has a dedicated webpage which helps users identify victims of modern slavery and human trafficking within the community. The website also gives advice on reporting suspicions and provides service users with a helpline number and online form.

#### **Basildon Council**

Basildon also has an advice page on their website for people worried about trafficking and modern slavery.

#### **Nottingham City Council**

Nottingham City Council’s Modern Slavery statement states that they have taken a number of steps to tackle modern slavery and have further steps planned. As a Council, Nottingham recognises that for certain members of staff, modern slavery training to raise awareness is invaluable and have taken steps to review their training policy.

## **Marks & Spencer**

According to a report by the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC), Marks & Spencer are leading the way in terms of tackling Modern Slavery. The company now provides bespoke Modern Slavery training to all Marks & Spencer food suppliers. In addition, all UK Marks & Spencer food suppliers employing migrant workers are required to attend Stronger Together workshops, cascade the training within their supply chains. Over 200 attendees from the M&S supply base have taken part in this training to date.

## **Cheshire Modern Slavery Strategy**

The Cheshire Modern Slavery Strategy was also reviewed by the Review Panel and the particular strong features of the strategy were highlighted:

### Cheshire-wide Strategy

The Modern Slavery Strategy for Cheshire was published in 2017 by Cheshire East, Halton, Warrington, Cheshire West and Chester Councils and Cheshire Constabulary. These partners have worked collaboratively to develop a Pan-Cheshire strategy to address modern slavery in Cheshire over the next two years.

### Succinct and Clear Message

The Strategy provides a brief explanation of modern slavery, the forms it can take, its impact on victims and statistics demonstrating the extent of the problem in the UK. There is also a short summary of the 2015 Modern Slavery Act and the powers and responsibilities this bestows on local authorities.

### Case Studies & Ongoing Operations in Cheshire

The Strategy relates the issue to the local area with descriptions of operations to break-up slavery and trafficking activities in towns across Cheshire.

### Simple Vision and Clear Priorities

The document contains a simple and unambiguous vision. This is underpinned by four priorities, aimed at embedding the Modern Slavery Act, raising awareness, supporting victims and prosecuting offenders.

### Spotting Signs of Modern Slavery and Reporting

Finally, clear advice is provided on how to spot the signs of modern slavery and how to report suspicions.

The Panel was interested in how a partnership approach may be replicated in Merseyside to strengthen the message and increase the impact of anti-slavery initiatives. The clarity of message was noted, especially the use of local case studies to help readers put this into context within their community. The Review Panel also welcomed the simplicity of the vision and choice of universal priorities, together with advice regarding spotting slavery and reporting suspicions.

A number of local authorities publish annual Modern Slavery Statements on their websites, including Nottingham City Council, Essex County Council and Belfast City Council. The Panel also reviewed a Modern Slavery Policy and Statement produced by Telford & Wrekin Council, which outlines the Council's responsibilities and commits to a zero-tolerance approach to Modern Slavery. Both of these documents are published on the [Telford & Wrekin website](#)

## **5.4 Wirral's Frontline Services**

In order to gather evidence of existing Wirral Council practice and to understand how the council could interact with Modern Slavery, the Review Panel sought to meet with key staff from a number of front line areas. Members spoke with representatives of the Council's Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Licensing departments and discussed the main areas where Council officers might encounter instances of modern slavery and human trafficking.

## 1. Cockle and Mussel picking

The North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NWIFCA) are responsible for the cockle and mussel beds off Wirral's Northern coastline, whilst Natural Resources Wales (NRW) manage the cockle fishery within the Dee Estuary.

Both NWIFCA and NRW are responsible for issuing and managing permits for cockle and mussel fishing. Their primary aims are to manage the beds and secure the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry. Wirral Council pays a precept to NWIFCA to manage the fishing beds and Wirral's Cabinet Member for Environment sits on the NWIFCA Board.

The Gangmasters Licensing and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) is responsible for the licensing and regulation of organised commercial shellfish picking and their role is to ensure that all businesses who provide workers on the cockle and mussel beds meet the employment standards required by law.

Wirral Council's primary interest is to ensure food safety once the catch crosses the high tide (mean high water) line, (i.e. once cockles and mussels are brought to shore they are considered by Wirral Council as food to be sold commercially). This would be considered as a low risk food assuming the shellfish are gathered from a classified (and thus microbiologically tested) bed. Issues around litter and the misuse of sites leading to the beds (i.e. Leasowe coastal car parks) are also a concern for the Council. At the start of the season an inter-agency meeting is arranged prior to the opening of the North shore beds. NIFCA, GLAA and Wirral Council attend this meeting. Information is shared between agencies, including details of the permit holders, and numbers of people on the sand etc.

## 2. Formal Requests from Merseyside Police for intelligence and multi-agency operations.

Merseyside Police make requests for intelligence or multi-agency operations including HMRC, utility companies, UK Immigration Service etc. Food hygiene and trading standards regulations can be used as a way of gaining access to premises to disrupt criminal activities. There are good working relationships between Wirral and other agencies including UK Border Patrol, HMRC and UK Immigration Services, but it is acknowledged that these relationships are largely informal. Each agency has their own resource issues and as a result often only acts on high profile or large scale operations. Merseyside Police leads on multi-agency operations.

## 3. Project Based Work

Multi-agency project work such as the 'Reduce the Strength' (RTS) and 'Eat Well Wirral' (EWW) campaigns have increased the knowledge and experience of Wirral staff in identifying indicators of criminal activity including modern slavery and trafficking. Through work with other agencies such as the Police, Wirral Officers are now more experienced in asking questions designed to unearth modern slavery or trafficking, such as asking workers questions about days off or normal working hours. It was accepted that outside of project work, no pro-active work or activity to target modern slavery took place. There was no dedicated resource for Environmental Health, Licensing and Trading Standards teams to carry out operations or activity to detect Modern Slavery in Wirral businesses.

The Panel acknowledged the resource issue and was concerned that no systematic detection arrangements are in place regarding modern slavery in Wirral. Project work has helped to increase the knowledge and understanding of some Wirral staff, but detection remained largely 'hit and miss'.

## 4. Routine Operations

Officers visiting business premises, including fast food restaurants and off licences as part of routine inspections, report any obvious signs of modern slavery, such as multiple beds in rooms and other indicators. This is reported to Merseyside Police and then officers continue with their

routine work. It is acknowledged that this is not pro-active detection or prevention and it was also noted that officers who have not worked on multi-agency projects may be less experienced in spotting signs of modern slavery.

The language barrier can be an issue for officers as it can be difficult to capture and relay information to workers during inspections. To help with this, one officer has created a crib-sheet of basic questions in a number of different languages, based on the most common languages and nationalities that they encounter in Wirral.

**Unregulated and Low-Priority Businesses.** A number of business types are either unregulated (e.g. nail bars) or considered by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) as low priority (e.g. car washes). HSE guidance to local authorities encourages a focus on high priority health & safety issues such as heavy machinery and working at heights. Due to staff capacity, officers are only able to inspect high priority areas. As a result, officers do not routinely visit these premises - even if there is an increasing perception that this type of business is known to operate Modern Slavery practices.

**Staff Expertise.** Due to the wide ranging responsibilities of Trading Standards and Environmental Health teams, and the impact of reduced staffing, it can be difficult to keep staff competency and expertise levels to a high level. Public safety areas such as gas safety and legionella are prioritised for training along with highly prescriptive requirements pertaining to food hygiene competencies. Networking with colleagues from neighbouring local authorities takes place, with Mutual Aid Agreements in place to aid with risk management and planning.

It was noted by the Review Panel that intelligence from Wirral Trading Standards and Environmental Health officers led to recent high profile prosecutions in Wirral and these staff have been recommended for commendations. Furthermore, as an outcome of the Review Panel's discussions, the Strategic Commissioner for Environment, Community Services & Resilience reported that Trading Standards, Licensing and Environmental Health now report into the Safer Wirral Hub. To further support intelligence gathering and connectivity with Modern Slavery, a police officer is now integrated 2 days a week to link investigation activity across modern slavery and associated crime and this was supported by the Review Panel.

## 5.5 Development of a Modern Slavery Strategy for Wirral

During the review, the Panel identified a requirement for Wirral Council to develop and publish a Modern Slavery Statement and accompanying policy / action plan to comply with the Modern Slavery Act. In addition, Wirral Council received a publication entitled 'Modern Slavery, A Council Guide' from the Local Government Association which is endorsed by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. This is a high level guide for councils in England and provides an overview of the steps councils can take to understand and tackle modern slavery within their area. The guide covers:-

- Identification and referral of victims
- Safeguarding and supporting victims
- Community safety and disrupting modern slavery crimes
- Public procurement (ensuring that council supply chains are slavery-free)

In response to the requirement to develop a Modern Slavery policy / statement, and to comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, Wirral Council officers moved forward to develop a Modern Slavery Strategy that was consistent with guidance produced by the LGA. It is noted that the guidance also details:

- The need to create awareness of modern slavery at all levels, including ward councilors, council staff, the public and the voluntary sector in terms of identifying and reporting it;
- The identification of training within councils at all levels to recognise the issues; and

- The role of overview & Scrutiny to challenge their councils to justify actions, or lack of them.

It was further agreed that the draft strategy would be presented to the Review Panel to conclude the review and a session was subsequently arranged for this. The draft strategy is included as **Appendix 2**. A summary of the key points raised at that session are detailed below:

- The draft strategy was developed consistent with LGA guidance. The Strategic Commissioner for Environment, Community Services & Resilience noted the Panel's endorsement of the strategy produced by Cheshire West and Chester and adopted key aspects of it. In addition, Wirral's strategy dovetails with both the Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside's Modern Slavery Strategic Group and the Merseyside Police Modern Slavery partnership initiative, 'Operation Sanctuary', without losing sight of localism for Wirral.
- The strategy has been shared with key agencies and officers, including Adult Care and Health, Children's Services, Public Health, Corporate Strategy, Early Help and Prevention, Community Safety, Housing Services and the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Services and Merseyside Police. Environmental Health, Licensing and Trading Standards were also engaged as a result of initial feedback from Members.
- The strategy details a national picture for Modern Slavery, including the plan to tackle it and key statistics. At a local level, Wirral enforcement activity is detailed and it is noted that the number of offences has increased. Three offences were reported in 2016/17, eleven in 2017/18 and 12 in the first half of 2018/19. The increase is partly due to the complexity of the cases and the time taken for cases to come through but also increased awareness and coordination across agencies and communities.
- Members were assured that there will be appropriate governance arrangements in place. The Safer Wirral Partnership Board (SWPB) oversees a range of effective partnership processes to prevent and reduce criminal behaviour, and also to protect and safeguard potential victims. The Board will administer and deliver Wirral's obligations for Modern Slavery.
- In conjunction with the strategy, an Action Plan is being developed to show how Wirral is addressing the risk of Modern Slavery. Members suggested that this Action Plan is presented to a future Overview & Scrutiny Committee for scrutiny. Additionally, performance measures will be presented to Overview & Scrutiny Members as part of quarterly performance reporting. The Review Panel suggested that performance reporting should also be presented to Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee as well as Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- Although Members did not liaise with Wirral's Safeguarding Team, it was reported that the Lead Officer for Modern Slavery is a member of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. The Adults Board has moved to a City Region Adults Safeguarding Board and has representation from Adults, Children's and Strategic Housing. This is a partnership of all members of the Safer Wirral Partnership Board and therefore will be engaged on Modern Slavery through this forum as well as having oversight of Wirral Councils Modern Slavery Work Plan.
- Members received assurance that those cases involving language barriers would be managed appropriately. The Wirral Family Safety Unit has access to translation/interpreting services for domestic abuse which could be utilised. There are also a number of multi-national officers that work in the Wirral Safer hub which cover a wide range of languages. The Modern Slavery Strategy will also be published in other languages and braille for wider circulation.
- The Review Panel noted that there was no reference to Women's Refuge as a key contact and there was concern that there may be a number of cases where females, particularly with poor English, may only want to speak to another female and to also seek immediate accommodation.

- In respect to cases where an individual may not feel comfortable contacting the Police, Members were informed that, nationally, the Salvation Army will be the lead for support. Their contact number was therefore included in the strategy and Wirral will be working with them closely.
- The Panel identified the need to ensure younger people were engaged when creating awareness about Modern Slavery. It was accepted by the Lead Commissioner for Communities and Resilience that there could be more focus on developing a strategy aimed at young people and liaising with schools to create awareness.
- Although raised as a concern, the Panel was assured that support mechanisms are in place for individuals to ensure they do not become trapped in the system again through safeguarding teams, and emergency accommodation. In terms of specialist accommodation, Wirral commissions a refuge and has successfully bid to put further accommodation units in place. Importantly, Members welcomed the option to move individuals outside of the area if appropriate, as is currently the case with Looked After Children.
- The Panel supports the '4 Ps framework' (Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare) being adopted in the Strategy. It is noted that the strategy addresses the Modern Slavery Act's requirement for referring child victims and consenting adults through the National Referral Mechanism. All calls coming in to the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) / Safer Wirral Hub are coordinated by the SPOC (Single Point of Contact) who is a Police Officer embedded within the service.
- Members were assured that the Modern Slavery Act's requirement for the Council to publish a statement of the steps it has taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place within its supply chains, or in any part of its business, will be undertaken. Wirral's 'Modern Slavery Transparency Statement' will be signed by the Chief Executive of Wirral Council and the leader of Wirral Council. This will be published on Wirral's Website demonstrating Wirral's zero tolerance commitment and outlining the policies and steps it has taken ensuring that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any part of its supply chains or any part of its business.
- The Review Panel recognised the importance of community groups and other stakeholders in dealing with Modern Slavery from the scrutiny review and it is now understood that a launch event to raise awareness for these stakeholders is being planned for early 2019. This was welcomed by the Review Panel.

#### **Recommendation 1**

The work and contents of this report is considered before the draft Modern Slavery Strategy is referred to Cabinet for approval.

#### **Recommendation 2**

A Council webpage is developed to raise awareness of Modern Slavery, to provide a link to the Modern Slavery Strategy and advice on who to contact.

#### **Recommendation 3**

Overview & Scrutiny receives a report detailing the impact and effectiveness of the Modern Slavery Strategy and Action Plan in twelve months.

In undertaking this review, Members of the Review Panel identified a number of other areas that it considers appropriate to enable Wirral Council to strengthen its responsibilities to deal with Modern Slavery. With the immediate recognition of the requirement to develop a Modern

Slavery Strategy, the Review Panel believes this should complement the strategy moving forward for Wirral.

#### The requirement for dedicated Modern Slavery training

The Review Panel recognised the need for Modern Slavery training for appropriate staff and Members to raise awareness and to ensure responsibilities are understood. In particular, the training other organisations and local authorities have carried out to raise the profile and potential organisational impact on Modern Slavery was noted by Members. This is also highlighted by the LGA in its guidance document. The Review Panel recognises the responsibility of Members in relation to Modern Slavery. Therefore, there needs to be specific training in place for Members to identify instances of Modern Slavery, and how cases/referrals should be reported. It is suggested that Members of the Review Panel, in liaison with the appropriate council officer, identify how this training should be delivered to ensure it is appropriate for the role of an elected member.

#### **Recommendation 4**

To raise awareness of Modern Slavery in Wirral, it is recommended that:

- i) Dedicated training is provided to front-line staff, including multi-agency, and staff who may come into contact with Modern Slavery.
- ii) Dedicated Elected Member training is developed that is specific to the role of members. It is further recommended that the Review Panel is delegated to identify the specific requirements of the training and to ensure the needs of Members are met.

The Review Panel identified the need to ensure there is a regional response to Modern Slavery and to ensure that Wirral joins any regional anti-slavery multi-agency networks that emerge. This is essential in order to share ideas and good practice in combatting Modern Slavery. This was evidenced through feedback to the Review Panel of the outcomes of the Liverpool City Region conference. It is understood that Wirral Council's Modern Slavery Strategy will link to the wider City Region through the Safer Wirral Hub initiative. The Lead Officer for Modern Slavery and their team will engage with the Police and Crime Commissioner as well as the City Region Group in relation to protecting vulnerable people, of which Modern Slavery is part of.

#### **Recommendation 5**

It is recommended that Wirral explores all existing and emerging anti-slavery multi-agency networks with a view to joining them to in order to help combat Modern Slavery.

## **6.0 Conclusions**

The Modern Slavery Panel set out this review with the objective to understand the implications of Modern Slavery for Wirral Council and its partners through exploring best practice for its implementation as well as understanding existing local detection, prevention and victim support arrangements. These objectives were achieved through a programme of activities including attending conferences on Modern Slavery, undertaking document reviews on local best practice and holding evidence sessions with key officers from front-facing services.

This review should enable an ongoing reporting line for Overview & Scrutiny with a dedicated Officer being responsible for ensuring the delivery of the Modern Slavery Strategy & Action Plan. Members will hold the Council and its partners to account over the effectiveness of services in place to protect Wirral residents from Modern Slavery which was required as an outcome from this review. Through the development and implementation of the Modern Slavery Strategy and accompanying Action Plan, Wirral will ensure compliance with the provisions of the Modern Slavery Act and will lead on efforts to tackle Modern Slavery within Wirral.

## APPENDIX 1

### Scope Document

**Review Title:** Modern Slavery

**Responsible Committee:** Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017

1. Contact Information:	
<p><b>Panel Members:</b> <b>Councillors:</b> Christopher Carubia (Chair) Christina Muspratt Tom Usher</p>	<p><b>Key Officers:</b> Mark Camborne, Lead Commissioner Community Services &amp; Resilience Patrick Torpey, Scrutiny Officer Michael Lester, Scrutiny Officer</p> <p><b>Other Contacts:</b> Not applicable at this stage</p>
2. Review Aims:	
<p><b>Wirral Plan Pledge/s:</b></p> <p>The primary pledge associated with this review is <b>Wirral's Neighbourhoods Are Safe</b>. Additional associated pledges:</p> <p><b>Reduce child and family poverty</b> <b>Vulnerable children reach their full potential</b> <b>Young people are ready for work and adulthood</b> <b>Children are ready for school</b> <b>Wirral residents live healthier lives</b></p> <p><b>Review Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To understand the implications of the Modern Slavery Act for Wirral Council and its partners.</li><li>2. To review and assess the emerging best practice in this field to inform how the Modern Slavery Act may be implemented by Wirral Council and its partners.</li><li>3. To review existing local arrangements with regard to the prevention and detection of modern slavery and the support services offered to victims.</li></ol> <p><b>Scrutiny Outcomes:</b></p> <p>The Panel will present a series of recommendations designed to shape or influence Council policy on modern slavery.</p> <p>Members will hold the Council and its partners to account over the effectiveness of services in place to protect Wirral residents from modern slavery.</p> <p>Wirral Council becomes compliant with the provisions of the Modern Slavery Act and leads on efforts to tackle it locally.</p>	
3. Review Plan	
<p><b>Review Approach:</b> Workshop, Evidence Day, Task and Finish? Task and Finish.</p>	

The review will be carried out through via a series of evidence gathering sessions with Wirral Council officers and other partner organisations.

The Panel will also review a number of briefing papers, documents and publications from local and central government, government advisory bodies and leading charities in the modern slavery / human trafficking field.

**Review Duration:**

(2 to 3 months expected)

**Scheduled Committee Report Date:**

July 2018

**Scheduled Cabinet Report Date:**

To be confirmed

#### 4. Sources of Evidence:

**Key Witnesses (subject to availability):**

Expert Witnesses

- City Hearts - Phill Clayton, Regional Director of City Hearts.
- University of Liverpool / Centre for the Study of International Slavery – Dr Alex Balch
- Local Government Information Unit / Local Government Association

Wirral Council and Partner Organisations

- Wirral Council – Safeguarding (Adults & Children), Trading Standards, Licensing, Private Sector Housing Team
- Merseyside Police – (Supt. Tracey Hayes, Safer Wirral Hub)
- Wirral Registered Social Landlords

**Supporting Papers / Documentation:**

A number of briefing papers and supporting documentation will be reviewed by the panel, including:

- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Local Authority guidance / policies / best practice on modern slavery
- City Hearts, University of Liverpool Fresh Start Report
- ATMG Hidden In Plain Sight executive summary
- Human Trafficking Foundation Report
- Salvation Army bulletin

**Involvement of service users / public:**

Not applicable for this review

#### 5. Key Communications:

**Cabinet Member:**

The scoping document and final report will be shared with the relevant Cabinet Member.

**Press Office:**

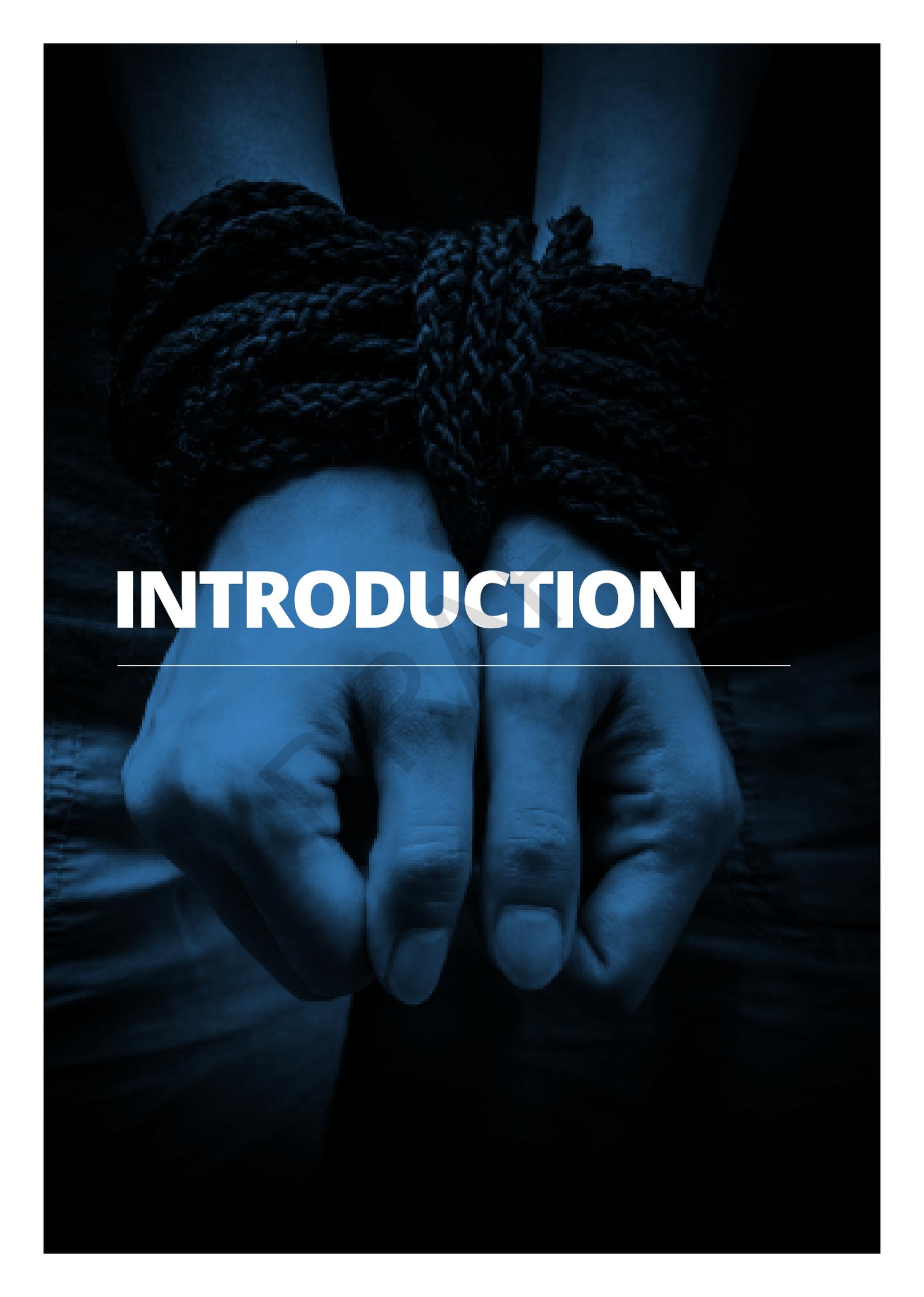
Not applicable at this stage

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# WIRRAL MODERN SLAVERY STRATEGY

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**2018 - 2021**



# INTRODUCTION

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## FOREWORD

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I am proud to present Wirral’s Strategy for Modern Slavery on behalf of Wirral Council and the Wirral Partnership.

*Wirral recognises that slavery is not a thing of the past but continues in the modern era, often with devastating effects upon its victims*

Aligning with the Merseyside Police and Crime Plan 2017-2012 we will improve upon the good work that is already taking place across the Wirral to deliver on our Pledge:

**‘Wirral Neighbourhoods are Safe’**

Wirral will not tolerate Modern Slavery in any of its guises under any circumstances.

The purpose of this document is to set out the strategic approach Wirral will adopt, working together as an effective partnership with communities, to protect our most vulnerable and ensure criminals are held to account using all the powers at our disposal.

We will ensure the successful implementation of the strategy through the oversight of the Safer Wirral Partnership Board.



*Councillor Paul Stuart  
Wirral Cabinet Member - Law and Order  
Chair of Safer Wirral Partnership Board*

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## INTRODUCTION

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The word **'slavery'** is synonymous with one of the darkest chapters in human history, where for over 400 years, more than 15 million men, women and children were the victims of the tragic transatlantic slave trade where the enslaved person became considered the legal property of someone else, to be bought and sold.

### MODERN SLAVERY

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*Modern slavery refers to slavery that continues to exist in present day society*

Modern slavery is a serious crime. It encompasses slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking. Modern slavery victims can often face more than one type of abuse and slavery, for example if they are sold to another trafficker and then forced into another form of exploitation.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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A person is trafficked if they are brought to (or moved around) a country by others who threaten, frighten, hurt and force them to do work or other things they don't want to do.

**In 2016 it was estimated 45.8 million men women and children from every part of the globe were victims of modern slavery.<sup>1</sup>**

Estimates of the number of modern slavery victims in the world today vary between 21 and 70 million.

Modern Slavery goes unnoticed or unreported because many victims are unable or reluctant to engage with authorities (or may not be recognised as victims of this kind of offending if they do) and may be moved frequently across geographical boundaries. While the plight of victims remains unseen and unresolved, offenders can and will continue to exploit them.

**In 2014 the Home Office estimates there were between 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims of modern slavery in the UK.<sup>2</sup>**

The true number is likely to be far higher. In the National Crime Agency press release, 10 August 2017, Director of Vulnerabilities, Will Kerr stated: "The growing body of evidence we are collecting points to the scale [of modern slavery in the UK] being far larger than anyone had previously thought."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 2016 Global Slavery Index 2016 Website

<sup>2</sup> Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Strategic Plan 2015-17

<sup>3</sup> [www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/1171-law-enforcement-steps-up-response-to-modern-slavery](http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/1171-law-enforcement-steps-up-response-to-modern-slavery)

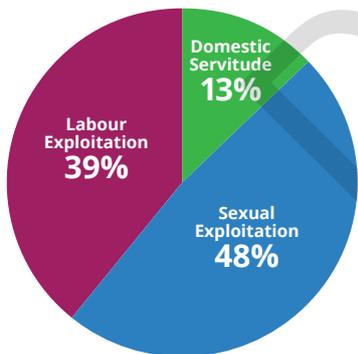
## VICTIMS OF SLAVERY

*Between 2011 and 2017 there was a 300% increase in the number of modern slavery victims in the UK, being supported as a consequence of a referral into the NRM*

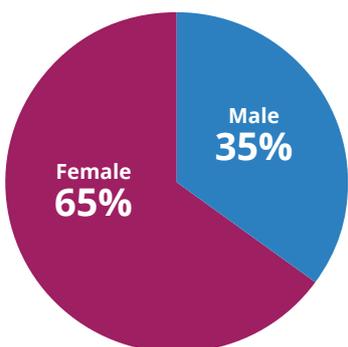
Of those victims almost two thirds are women and just over a third male.

Grouping victims into three broad exploitation categories; 13% suffered domestic servitude, 39% labour exploitation, and 48% sexual exploitation.

### EXPLOITATION TYPES 2017

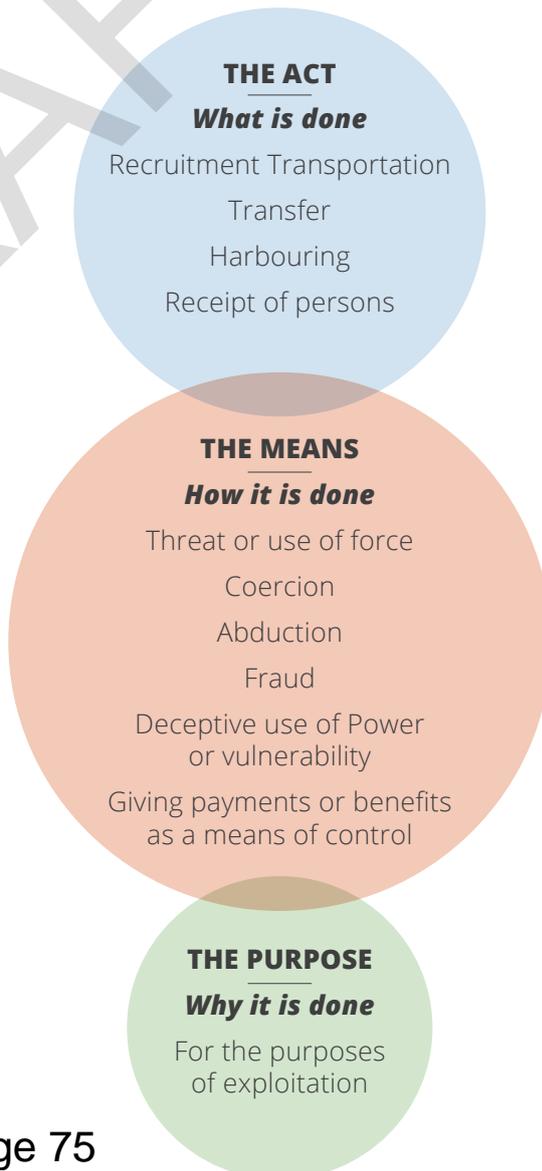


### VICTIM GENDER 2017



## PALERMO PROTOCOL

The Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children is a protocol of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It provides an internationally recognised definition for human trafficking. To be considered human trafficking, a situation must meet three conditions: The act (e.g. recruitment), the means (e.g. through the use of force or deception), and the purpose (e.g. for the purpose of forced labour). All three components must be present in an adult trafficking case. However in a child trafficking case the 'means' component is not required as they are not able to give informed consent.



<sup>4</sup> Salvation Army – 2017 Annual Report

## THE MODERN SLAVERY ACT 2015

The stated purpose of the Modern Slavery Act was to “tackle the worst exploitation” and consolidate various offences relating to human trafficking and slavery.

### THE ACT:

- Established the role of an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner with a UK-wide remit to encourage good practice in the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of modern slavery offences and the identification of victims.
- Provides victims with greater protections and police with greater powers. It also requires businesses to report on the action they are taking to identify and address slavery in their supply chains. Any organisation with a turnover greater than £36m needs to produce a Modern Slavery Act Annual Statement and have an Anti-Slavery Policy.
- Allows for the introduction of independent child trafficking advocates.
- Introduces new civil restriction orders, including a new reparation order to compensate victims where assets are confiscated from perpetrators.
- Brings in new statutory defence for victims who are compelled to commit crimes.

## DEFINITIONS

**Slavery** Someone is in ‘slavery’ if they are:

- Forced to work through mental or physical threat
- Owned or controlled by an ‘employer’, usually through mental or physical abuse
- Dehumanised ~ treated as a commodity or bought and sold as ‘property’
- Physically constrained or have restrictions placed on their freedom.<sup>5</sup>

**Servitude**<sup>6</sup> is similar to slavery, in that a person is under an obligation to provide a service which is imposed on them, but there is no element of ownership.

**Forced work**<sup>7</sup> is defined as ‘work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the person has not offered himself voluntarily<sup>6</sup> and has been found in a number of different industries including manufacturing, food processing, agriculture and hospitality.

**Human trafficking** is when men, women and children are moved and forced into exploitation. The movement could be international but also within the country, from one city to another or even just a few streets. A person is a victim of human trafficking even if they haven't yet been exploited but have been moved for the purposes of exploitation.

*Merseyside was the first police force to successfully prosecute under the act*

<sup>5</sup> [www.unseenuk.org/about/the-problem/modern-slavery](http://www.unseenuk.org/about/the-problem/modern-slavery)

<sup>6</sup> [www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/human-rights-act/article-4-freedom-slavery-and-forced-labour](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/human-rights-act/article-4-freedom-slavery-and-forced-labour)

<sup>7</sup> [www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/definition/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/definition/lang--en/index.htm)

There are a number of different types of exploitation that victims of modern slavery may be subjected to, and victims may experience more than one type of exploitation at the same time. The most common forms of exploitation are:

**Sexual exploitation:** Victims may be forced into prostitution, pornography or lap dancing for little or no pay. They may be deprived of their freedom of movement and subjected to threats and violence.

**Organ harvesting:** Victims are trafficked in order for their internal organs (typically kidneys or the liver) to be harvested for transplant.

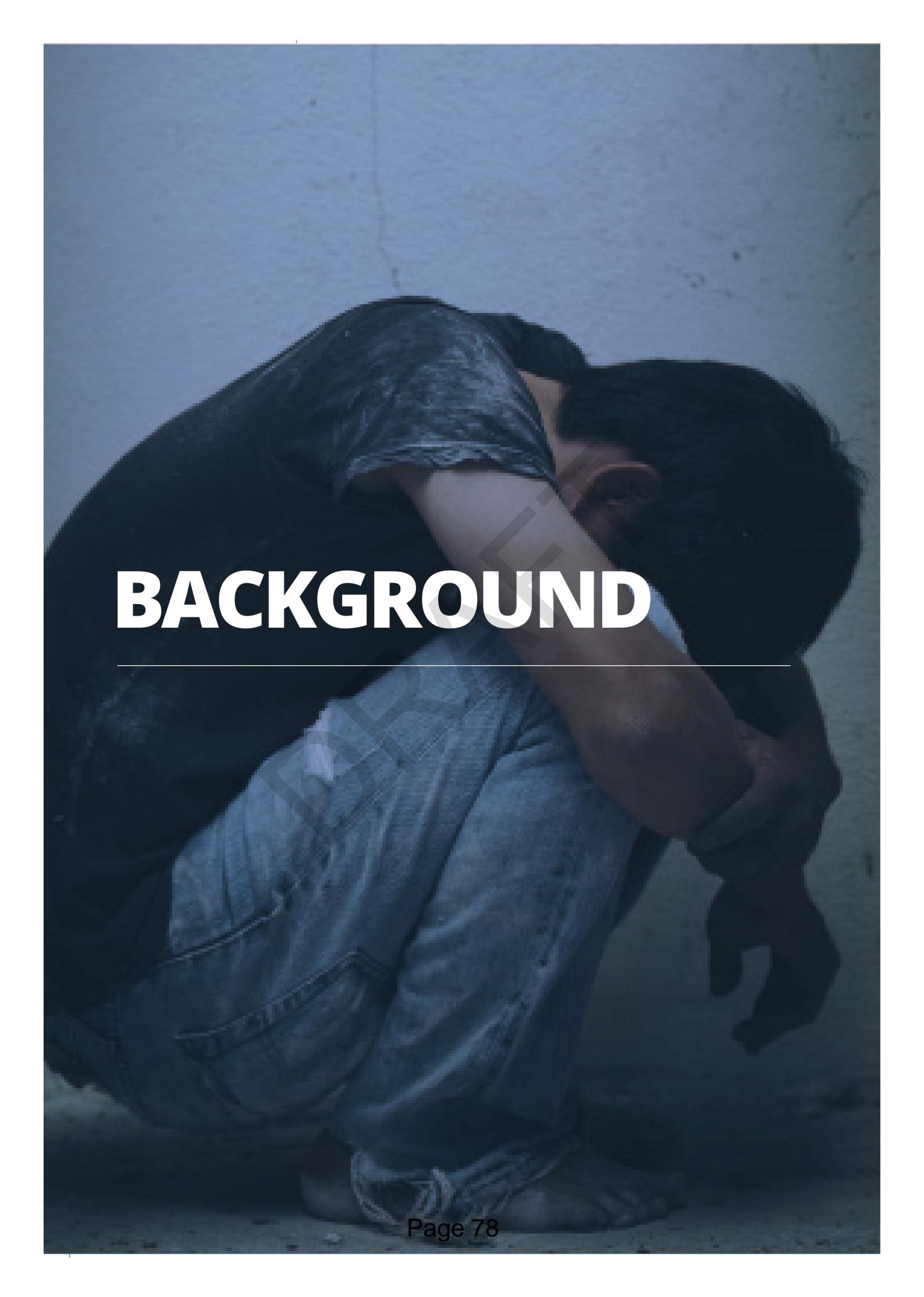
**Labour exploitation:** A victim is made to work with little or no pay, and may face violence or threats. If they are foreign nationals, their passports may be confiscated by their exploiters and they may be made to live in unsafe conditions and under constant threat and control.

**Domestic servitude:** victims are forced to work in a household for little or no pay where they may be ill-treated, humiliated, subjected to exhausting hours, working and living under unsafe conditions under constant threat and control.

**Forced criminality:** Victims can be forced to participate in a range of illegal activities including pick pocketing, shop lifting, cannabis cultivation, county lines exploitation\* and other activities. The Modern Slavery Act provides for a defence for victims who have been forced into criminality.

**County lines:** County Lines is the police term for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and towns using dedicated mobile phone lines – these are the county lines. It involves child criminal exploitation (CCE) as gangs use children and vulnerable people to move drugs and money.



A photograph of a person crouching against a light-colored wall. The person is wearing a dark t-shirt and light-colored jeans. The word "BACKGROUND" is written in large, bold, white capital letters across the center of the image. A thin white horizontal line is positioned below the text.

# BACKGROUND

## BACKGROUND

In the UK, today and every day, thousands of men, women and children who are victims of modern slavery and human trafficking are being degraded and dehumanised.

These crimes are multi-faceted. Cases may involve single or multiple offenders or victims, and may be national or international, organised or opportunistic. They occur in both rural and metropolitan areas, in settings ranging from nail bars to construction sites, and involve activities from domestic servitude to the trafficking of children for sexual exploitation.

**The National Crime Agency** is the national law enforcement agency established in 2009 with the responsibility for tackling serious

and organised crime and reducing its impact on the UK and on our communities.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 builds on the **Modern Slavery Strategy** published by the Coalition Government in 2014. The UK is the first country in the world to have dedicated legislation in place to tackle modern slavery. Like the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy, it is based around the 4Ps framework of pursue, prevent, protect and prepare:

	<p><b>PURSUE</b></p> <p>Prosecute and disrupt individuals and groups responsible for modern slavery</p>		<p><b>PROTECT</b></p> <p>Safeguard against modern slavery by protecting vulnerable people from exploitation</p>
	<p><b>PREVENT</b></p> <p>Prevent people from engaging in modern slavery</p>		<p><b>PREPARE</b></p> <p>Reduce the harm caused by modern slavery through improved victim identification and enforcement support</p>

The Government's Modern Slavery Strategy is particularly focussed on the law enforcement response, although the roles of Local Authorities in safeguarding and caring for children and tackling child sexual exploitation are particularly referenced.

In 2016 the Prime Minister announced a new Modern Slavery Taskforce, which sits at the center of Government, to drive further progress in tackling slavery and human trafficking.

## THE GANGMASTERS LABOUR ABUSE AUTHORITY

The Immigration Act 2016 addresses labour exploitation and abuse in the UK and included measures to reform the Gangmasters Licensing Authority, renamed the Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority, (GLAA). The GLAA was given additional powers under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE), to investigate allegations of labour abuse in all aspects of UK business.

Since March 2017, modern slavery and human trafficking have been included in the group of national priority serious organised crime threats (alongside firearms, organised immigration crime, child sexual exploitation and abuse, cyber-crime and high-end money laundering).<sup>8</sup>

Police Regional Organised Crime Units, (ROCU), investigate and disrupt organised crime groups and act as a point of contact between Police Forces and the National Crime Agency. Merseyside Police Force is one of six police forces within the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit, 'Titan'.

## NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking or modern slavery and ensures they receive the appropriate support.

Referrals to the NRM can only be made by 'competent', (authorised), agencies known as 'First Responders.' These include all those working in Local Authorities, alongside Police, UK Border Force, Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority, and several NGOs including the Salvation Army.

The **Salvation Army** was awarded the Government contract in 2011 to provide alongside twelve subcontractors (including City Hearts, and the Medaille Trust used in Merseyside), specialist support to adult victims of modern slavery in England and Wales:

- Safe accommodation
- Counselling
- Medical care
- Translation and interpretation services
- Medical care
- Legal counselling.

Being international and working in 131 countries, the Salvation Army also has projects in other countries to try to assist enslaved and trafficked people. It seeks to raise awareness, and where possible to support victims as they escape from their entrapment.<sup>9</sup>



## MERSEYSIDE STRATEGY

Modern Slavery sits squarely within two of the Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner's five priorities<sup>10</sup>:

- Tackle serious and organised crime
- Support victims, protect vulnerable people and maintain public safety

The Merseyside Modern Slavery Strategic Group has adopted the 4Ps framework of 'pursue, prevent, protect and prepare' reflecting the Government's Modern Slavery Strategy.

<sup>8</sup> [www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/790-nca-annual-report-2017-18/](http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/790-nca-annual-report-2017-18/)

<sup>9</sup> [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/modern-slavery](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/modern-slavery)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.merseysidepcc.info/home/about-us/janes-priorities.aspx>

In 2017, UK referrals to the National Referral Mechanism increased by 35% on the previous year, from 3,805 to 5,145, whilst in Merseyside the increase was from 38 to 89, an increase of 134%.

In 2017 Merseyside made 89 referrals to the National Referral Mechanism of which there were 5 first responders. The graph below shows the number of referrals from each first responder:

Merseyside Police works closely with key partners to tackle organised crime and protect vulnerable victims. In April 2018 Merseyside Police deployed a dedicated unit of specialist officers to work closely with key stakeholders under Operation Sanctuary. This reflects both the increasing priority of Modern Slavery and the importance of working as a coordinated multi-agency unit.

As well as the central team there are five Police Officer SPOCs (Single Point of Contact), one for each Merseyside authority.





## WIRRAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

As with most areas of the country Wirral has experienced a sharp increase in prosecutions made under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 since soon after its inception. Prosecutions have increased from 3 in 16/17 to 11 prosecutions in 17/18 and 12 during the first six months of 18/19.

*The use of Modern Slavery legislation is expected to continue to increase across Wirral, Merseyside and nationally for the foreseeable future*

The legislation predominately used to prosecute for Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking has been Sections 1 and 2 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. This applies to both adults and minors (Under 18's) and whilst crime types such as Sexual

Exploitation, Labour Exploitation and Criminal Exploitation are common for adults, the legislation is also utilised to prosecute for Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation.

During **2016/17** there were 3 Modern Slavery offences in Wirral; one related to Labour Exploitation, one Criminal Exploitation and the other a Child Trafficking case.

In **2017/18**, 11 Modern Slavery offences were in Wirral, one related to Child Sexual Exploitation, three to Child Criminal Exploitation, two to Criminal Exploitation, two to sexual exploitation, and three to Labour Exploitation.

In the first half of **2018/19** there were 12 cases in Wirral of which five related to Child Criminal Exploitation, five to Child Sexual Exploitation and two related to Adults; one Labour Exploitation and one Criminal Exploitation.

Businesses identified as most likely to include workers vulnerable to exploitation through Modern Slavery have included car washes, nail salons, massage parlours, and from a criminal perspective; brothels and cannabis cultivations.

## WIRRAL COUNCIL OBLIGATIONS

### *Wirral Council recognises its responsibilities under the Act to take a robust approach against modern slavery and human trafficking*

Under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act Councils have a duty to do all that they reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in their areas, which includes modern slavery and trafficking.

There are two sections of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 Act that immediately impact on the obligations of Wirral Council:

- **Section 52** of the Act requires the Council (as an authorised agency and 'First Responder') to identify and refer modern slavery child victims and consenting adult victims through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).
- **Section 54** of the Act requires the Council to publish a statement of the steps it has taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any of its supply chains, or in any part of its business



# OUR VISION

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## OUR VISION

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Modern Slavery exists on Wirral’s high streets, in local businesses and in our communities.

The victims are extremely vulnerable, scared and feel powerless to speak out. This ‘hidden’ crime must be uncovered and survivors rescued.

We will ensure that everyone with a stake in Wirral understands that Modern Slavery is happening, recognise the signs and know what to do when we see them.

We will work in league with regional and national agencies in adopting the ‘4Ps’ framework:

*It is up to Wirral’s public servants, businesses and community members, to give Modern Slavery victims a voice and put an end to their suffering, by working together in partnership to identify and protect them.*





## PERPETRATORS WILL BE DETERRED, DISRUPTED AND PROSECUTED

### WHY?

Enforcement agencies and regulatory bodies have between them a combined arsenal of tools and powers that can be used to disrupt the activities of those individuals and criminal networks involved in Modern Slavery.

The Safer Wirral Partnership Board oversees a range of effective partnership processes to prevent and reduce criminal behaviour and protect and safeguard potential victims. Within its governance arrangements the 'Safer Wirral Hub' operates a co-located multi agency body which is able to share enforcement information and is committed to protecting the most vulnerable.

The Police Modern Slavery 'Single Point of Contact' (SPOC) is an officer embedded within the Safer Wirral Hub, as the information conduit for both Wirral partners and Merseyside's 'Operation Sanctuary' partnership team.

### HOW?

Apply all appropriate tools and powers to deter, disrupt and prosecute offenders

Ensure all partners share enforcement information

Build on the success of embedding Modern Slavery prevention into the Safer Wirral Hub



## RAISE AWARENESS – IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES TO IDENTIFY VICTIMS

### WHY?

It is vital that practitioners and public alike are aware of the signs and indicators of Modern Slavery so that they can respond.

Wirral will prioritise the prevention of Modern Slavery by raising awareness of the Modern Slavery agenda across all communities and increase its priority within existing networks which support and safeguard the vulnerable.

### HOW?

Develop a Modern Slavery communications plan for practitioners and the public including multi agency training

Mainstream modern slavery across all areas of work

Prioritise Modern Slavery issues within existing networks which support and safeguard the vulnerable



## PROTECT VULNERABLE PEOPLE FROM EXPLOITATION

### WHY?

The vulnerabilities of victims are frequently re-exploited soon after the services available under the National Referral Mechanism come to an end.

In order to safeguard against repeat victimisation, the vulnerabilities particular to Modern Slavery victims needs to be understood and addressed. This understanding will come not only through new links forged with specialist support provided through the National Referral Mechanism but through existing grass roots community networks.

Early intervention and victim-focus are paramount for victims of Modern Slavery. This is well established within Wirral's crime reduction strategies, and needs to be rolled out amongst communities, partner agencies, and businesses.

### HOW?

Promote links with both specialist support agencies and communities to ensure Modern Slavery survivors are given the ongoing support they require

Provide guidance to our suppliers to help them address coercive, abusive and exploitative work practices in their own business and their supply chains

Early intervention and victim-focus within communities, partners and businesses



# Prepare

## COORDINATE PARTNERS TO PREVENT AND REPORT MODERN SLAVERY

### WHY?

In both the safeguarding of victims and enforcement activity Modern Slavery involves partner agencies working at local, regional and national levels. Wirral's response will ensure strategic and operational coordination to avoid duplication or oversight.

As Modern Slavery victims become controlled and coerced their opportunity and ability to report becomes increasingly diminished providing very few opportunities to intervene, so it is imperative we make every contact count.

Frequently it will be a Wirral community member who becomes the first point of contact with whom Modern Slavery victims can confide. Our community voluntary and faith groups are the gatekeepers for our communities. They must be as involved and engaged as their agency counterparts to fight Modern Slavery as a coordinated unit.

### HOW?

Coordination at strategic and operational levels to avoid duplication or oversight

Make every contact count to safeguard vulnerable victims of Modern Slavery

Voluntary, Community and Faith groups will be engaged, and involved in the identification, referral and support of victims of Modern Slavery

A close-up photograph of a hand gripping a chain-link fence. The hand is positioned in the center-right of the frame, with fingers wrapped around a vertical link. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. The overall image has a blue color cast. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'DRAFT' is oriented diagonally across the center of the image.

# MEASURING SUCCESS

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## MEASURING SUCCESS

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To ensure the success of the strategy a comprehensive Wirral Modern Slavery Action Plan coordinates all activity amongst partners and communities.

This is a living document constantly updated to reflect best practise and emerging trends.

Within the Action Plan we will ensure the Strategy is underpinned by an outcomes framework that will measure the effectiveness of all actions under the core principals of the strategy.

We will evaluate the impact the impact of Wirral's Modern Slavery Action Plan through developing performance and quality measures that will be reported back to the Safer Wirral Partnership Board.

*The success of this strategy will be monitored through the Safer Wirral Partnership Board*

It is important that we not only judge our success on meeting targets set but also that our work is rooted in tangible outcomes improving the quality of people's lives in Wirral.

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### **University of Liverpool Fresh Start**

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/media/livacuk/csis/Fresh,Start,A5.pdf>

### **Anti-Slavery Commissioner - Modern Slavery A Council Guide**

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### **Duty to notify the Home Office of potential victims of modern slavery**

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### **Home Office - Factsheet: Modern Slavery**

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### **National Crime Agency Guidance**

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### **HM Government - 2017 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery**

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# REPORTING MODERN SLAVERY

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In an emergency call:	<b>999</b>
To report a crime call the Police:	<b>101</b>
Crimestoppers (ring anonymously):	<b>0800 500 111</b>

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## **For Help Guidance or to Report Modern Slavery in Wirral**

Between Mon-Fri, 9:00am - 5.00pm Tel:	<b>0151 606 2008</b>
Outside of these hours:	<b>0151 677 6557</b>
Modern Slavery National Helpline:	<b>0800 0121 700</b>

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## **If the identified individual has requested support contact**

The Salvation Army (24/7 Support):	<b>0300 3038 151</b>
National Referral Mechanism - Forms and guidance: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms</a>	

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## Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 29 November 2018

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>2018/19 QUARTER 2 WIRRAL PLAN PERFORMANCE</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC COMMISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENT</b>

### REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the 2018/19 Quarter 2 (July - September 2018) performance report for the Wirral Plan pledges under the remit of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report, which is included as Appendix 1, provides an overview of the progress in Quarter 2 as well as available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

### Quarter One Wirral Plan Performance Summary

- Events held in Wirral’s parks and open spaces was 169 in Quarter 2; this is an 8% decrease on the same period last year (184 events) however as a running year total we have had 297 events this year, up 3.5% on last year’s running total of 287.
- Wirral has now received 31 national quality awards, 2 more than the start of the year and 9 more than the start of the plan. These include 27 Green Flag Awards, Country Park Accreditation for Wirral Country Park, 2 Charters for the Bereaved – Silver Award for Burials, Gold Award for Cremations at Landican and the Association of Public Sector Excellence Best Service Team for Cemeteries and Crematorium.
- Over 200,000 people have now engaged with the Imagine Wirral programme through our various events and exhibitions, which in Quarter 2 have included New Brighton Revisited and Lost Castles, with The Giant in October. Media coverage has reached a global audience, with highlights including BBC’s The One Show, NBC News, Vogue Italia, The Times, The Guardian, Observer and BBC Breakfast.
- After a period with a substantial reduction of people smoking across Wirral, smoking prevalence has increased slightly from 15.7% to 15.9% in the latest survey. We still have areas of the borough with smoking rates above 30%, it is these areas that activity is focused on. The Smoke Free Wirral Strategy is being delivered to tackle smoking prevalence and the local provider for stop smoking services has been working with GPs and practice nurses to improve referral pathways for their services.
- Overall latest nationally produced figures for excess weight in adults has worsened from 59.6% in 2015-16 to 63.3% in 2016-17. Wirral is in line with the rest of the North West and slightly above the National average. However,

it is positive that local figures show that 988 people were helped to lose weight in Quarter 2 this year compared to the 869 helped in the same period last year. An increase in the number of people eating healthily in Wirral should reduce the prevalence of excess weight and obesity which is a key contributor to premature mortality and avoidable ill health.

- Over the Summer 27 Community Clean Up days have taken place with local people and partner organisations working together. Birkenhead was key area, where it is estimated that 17 tonnes of waste has been removed.
- The summer months also saw the continuation Feeding Birkenhead by providing meals for children during the school holidays. Over 5,000 volunteer hours were registered from two projects alone, equating to tens of thousands of pounds' worth of support from the community.
- In the first six months of this year £100,800 of external funding has been brought into the borough to support third sector organisations and community groups to thrive.
- To date this year 1,012 empty properties have been brought back into use which is performing on target and we envisaged that the pledge target of 1,250 empty properties brought back into use by 2020 will be met.
- A cumulative total of 189 homes were completed by the end of quarter two. It is expected that activity will accelerate mid-programme, with 465 homes due to commence construction in 2018-19. This is a lot higher than was anticipated due to greater investment confidence from Registered Providers.
- Anti-Social Behaviour fluctuates in a similar pattern each year, affected by the seasons, school holidays and events such as fireworks and Halloween. The annual peak in ASB is most commonly in August. Comparing the first two quarters of 2018/19 with the same months the previous year, there was a marked drop of 31.2% from 5,273 to 3,628. During this quarter there have been a number of successful targeted initiatives and campaigns working with residents and finding informal and formal resolution with all powers available.
- First time entrants into the youth justice system latest figure of a rate of 152 is lower compared to the same period in the previous year (174). It is also significantly lower when compared to the Merseyside Youth Offending Teams rate of 324.
- Youth re-offending latest figures are 39.6%, a slight reduction of 0.1% when compared to previous figures and is lower than England (41.6%) and Merseyside's (46.2%) rates for the same period.
- Quarter 2 figures continue to show that Local Environmental Quality in key gateway and shopping areas continues to exceed the target score of 93.3%, with an increase in performance on the previous quarter.
- There has been a decrease in the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued for both litter and dog fouling offences compared to previous reporting periods.

Continuing work is underway with the contractor to look to optimise the work underway to support a clean borough.

- For recycling, there has been an increase in both the number of garden waste subscriptions and the kerbside (green and grey bin) recycling rate for the ten lowest performing rounds.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION**

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

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

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

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Wirral Plan is an outcome-focussed, partnership plan which has 18 supporting strategies that set out how each of the 20 pledges will be delivered. For each pledge, a partnership group has been established to drive forward delivery of the action plans set out in each of the supporting strategies.
- 3.2 A Wirral Plan Performance Management Framework has been developed to ensure robust monitoring arrangements are in place. The Wirral Partnership has a robust approach to performance management to ensure all activity is regularly monitored and reviewed.
- 3.3 Data for the identified indicators is released at different times during the year. As a result of this, not all Pledges will have results each quarterly reporting period. Some indicators can be reported quarterly and some only on an annual basis. Annual figures are reported in the quarter they become available against the 2018/19 year end column.
- 3.4 For each of the indicators, a trend is shown (better, same or worse). In most cases, this is determined by comparing the latest data with the previous reporting period i.e. 2017/18 year end. In some cases, i.e. where data accumulates during the year or is subject to seasonal fluctuations, the trend is shown against the same time the previous year. This is indicated in the key at the end of the report.
- 3.5 For some indicators, targets have been set. Where this is the case, a RAGB (red, amber, green, blue) rating is provided against the target and tolerance levels set at the start of the reporting period, with blue indicating performance targets being exceeded.
- 3.6 All Wirral Plan performance reports are published on the performance page of the Council's website. This includes the high-level Wirral Plan overview report and the detailed pledge reports which include updates on progress on all activities set out in the supporting strategy action plans. The link to this web page is: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/council-performance>

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

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

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

#### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

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

#### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

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

#### **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The Wirral Plan equality impact assessment can be found at:  
<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2014-15/chief>

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#### **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Wirral Plan Environment Committee 2018-19 Quarter 2 Pledge Reports

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

### SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>21 September 2016</b>
<b>Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>30 November 2016</b>
<b>Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>28 March 2017</b>
<b>Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>4 July 2017</b>
<b>Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>21 September 2017</b>
<b>Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>30 November 2017</b>
<b>Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>28 March 2018</b>
<b>Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>5 July 2018</b>
<b>Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>20 September 2018</b>



# Appendix 1

## Wirral Plan Environment Theme

### 2018-19 Quarter 2 Reports

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## Leisure and cultural opportunities for all

### Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

#### Leisure Strategy

169 events were held in Q2 2018-19. This is 8% down on the same period last year (184 events) however as a running year total at the end of Q2 2018 - 19 we have had 297 events so far, up 3.5% on last year's running total of 287.

Wirral has now received 31 national quality awards, 2 more than the start of the year and 9 more than the start of the plan. These include 27 Green Flag Awards, Country Park Accreditation for Wirral Country Park, 2 Charters for the Bereaved – Silver Award for Burials, Gold Award for Cremations at Landican and the APSE (Association of Public Sector Excellence) Best Service Team for Cemeteries and Crematorium.

All 12 of the 'Measured Mile' routes have now been created and are on the following website. <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/leisure-parks-and-events/parks-and-open-spaces/walking-miles-wirral>

The routes are a flexible way to build towards your weekly 150 active minutes (or 2.5 hours) as well as enjoying our parks all year round. They include a map, accessibility information and information about the landmarks on your route so you can learn about the park as you walk. A Soft promotional launch took place during July's 'Love Parks' Week.

The Leisure review is working through a number of options for Leisure and Cultural services. This is a complex process with options being considered by elected members prior to formal decision making. While this is taking some time it is necessary in order to ensure that the options put forward provide the services with the strongest possible foundation for future delivery and meet the needs of Wirral's residents and visitors.

A "Best You", digital tool is being developed that creates a joined up experience for users, service providers and carers to activate and sustain behaviour change of lifestyle habits and long term condition management. Best You offers self-assessment and behaviour change content, advice. [www.best-you.org](http://www.best-you.org)

Various funding has been secured during Q2 allowing Wirral Sports Development to host 15 weeks of 'Friday Night Football' at the Oval Leisure Centre for boys and girls aged 12 – 19 between September and January. It also enabled the Wirral Fit and Fed programme to provide 5,704 meals to 360 underprivileged young people over the summer holidays. Additional funding from Macmillan for 0.5 of a post was brought forward due to the success of the project. We're seeking an additional 1.5 FTE for 2019. 137 patients were triaged during this quarter and referred to sport & leisure activities. The Pathfinder project continues to be delivered with funding from the Police Crime Commissioner's Office targeting the most challenging young people in key schools. 96 young people completed the programme in Q2.

Approval has been granted from the Transformational Change Board to progress a complete facility overhaul of the Tennis centre, a new reception in West Kirby Concourse, a new reception in Guinea Gap Leisure Centre and the new build of Wirral Sailing Centre continues despite some difficulties with the foundations. Drainage issues in the Leasowe Leisure Centre 3G pitches have also finally been resolved and tender is being placed in November.

We've also set up a website to promote Volunteer Opportunities in Wirral's Parks and Countryside sites. (<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/leisure-parks-and-events/parks-and-open-spaces/volunteer-with-us>) Promotion of the volunteering programme is included in the overall Leisure Transformation Communications plan.

#### Culture Strategy

There has been great progress on the delivery of the Culture Strategy during the second quarter as our Imagine Wirral year of culture, creativity and ideas has continued and we have further developed our plans for our LCR Borough of Culture year in 2019.

Over 200,000 people have now engaged with the Imagine Wirral programme through our various events and exhibitions, which in Quarter 2 have included New Brighton Revisited, Lost Castles and the Giant Spectacular. Media coverage has reached a global audience, with highlights including BBC's The One Show, NBC News, Vogue Italia, The Times, The Guardian, Observer and BBC Breakfast.

Looking ahead to 2019, planning for our Borough of Culture year is ongoing and we are confident in our initial programme which will create memorable moments for our residents, as well as use the status as a platform to reach new audiences and change perceptions. We have taken inspiration from the launch of the RRS Sir David Attenborough and the plans to bring Eureka! to Wirral, and used this to shape a programme themed around discovery, exploration and the great outdoors. This will be officially launched at an event on 28th November where we will share some key highlights and collaborations to look forward to.

We are continuing to bolster our relationships with local creative businesses and suppliers through the delivery of our Imagine Wirral programme and the development of our 2019 calendar. In August, we hosted a city region session which provided opportunities for stakeholders, key funders and local creatives and organisations to find out more about the LCR Borough of Culture initiative, our plans and how they can get involved, both here and as part of the initiative more broadly.

We are also providing support for these groups through ongoing promotion and inclusion in our Imagine Wirral and Borough of Culture programmes. In September, the Creative Bulletin was relaunched – a monthly round up of news and opportunities for Wirral's creative community which provides an outlet for our artists and creatives to showcase their work. Work is also ongoing to create spaces which will benefit local creativity and entrepreneurship, including a 'meanwhile use' creative hub and a new music venue in Birkenhead.

We are developing our funding strategy for next year and LCR sessions have been held with key funders to establish the potential for support across the wider Borough of Culture initiative from 2019 onwards. To date, we have secured approximately £150k for our Imagine Wirral programme and as well as the discussions at city region level, we have plans in place to attract additional funding for next year.

After the success with volunteers during our Tall Ships celebrations, we have been building on this to establish our volunteer database. The award-winning Lost Castles project in August saw over 500 volunteers come together in West Kirby to erect and demolish a 20m-tall Viking stave church made of cardboard and there was a high level of interest for volunteering during the Giant Spectacular. We are looking to establish a more formal programme for volunteers during our Borough of Culture year.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Increase the number of people who regularly use the boroughs parks and open spaces	Annual Higher is better	67% (Oct 2015)		66% (Dec 2017)						n/a	The percentage of Wirral Residents who say they use the boroughs parks and green spaces at least once a month decreased slightly from 67% reported in the previous survey in 2016 but not enough to be deemed as statistically significant.
Increase the number of events in Wirral's parks, beaches and open spaces	Quarterly Higher is better	300 (2014-15)		363 (2017-18)	128 (Q1 2018-19)	297 (Q2 2018-19)				Better	169 events were held in Q2 2018-19. This is 8% down on the same period last year (184 events) however as a running year total at the end of Q2 2018 - 19 we have had 297 events so far, up 3.5% on last year's running total of 287.
Percentage of physically active adults	Annual Higher is better	(2014-15)	England: 66.0% (2016-17) North West: 65.1% (2016-17)	67.5% (2016-17)						n/a	This indicator has replaced "Adult (14+) Participation in sport (at least once per week)". A new indicator was required as the source data for the superseded physical activity indicators has been discontinued. The data provider, Sport England, has replaced the Active People Survey with Active Lives. The new survey provides the same indicators but the methodology has changed, both in terms of questions and the mode of completion (telephone to online/postal version).

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Increase the number of national quality awards for Wirral's parks, coastal sites and open spaces: Green Flags	Annual Higher is better	22 (2015-16)		29 (2017-18)					31 (2018-19)	Better	Wirral has now received 31 national quality awards, 2 more than the start of the year and 9 more than the start of the plan. These include 27 Green Flag Awards, Country Park Accreditation for Wirral Country Park, 2 Charters for the Bereaved – Silver Award for Burials, Gold Award for Cremations at Landican and the APSE (Association of Public Sector Excellence) Best Service Team for Cemeteries and Crematorium.
Utilisation of outdoor space for exercise / health reasons	Annual Higher is better	20.7% (2013-14)	England: 17.9% (Mar 15-Feb 16) North West: 17.5% (Mar 15-Feb 16)	23.4% (Mar 15-Feb 16)						n/a	Utilisation of outdoor space for exercise / health reasons continues to improve on the baseline figure from the start of the plan and is also performing considerably better than North West and nationally despite decreasing since the previous period.  It's worth noting that there is a time lag for this data which comes from the Public Health Outcomes Framework. The data released in quarter 1 was for March 2015 to February 2016. Also, the data comes from a relatively small sample size (less than 100) which may not give an accurate representation of overall activity in Wirral. This measure should therefore be viewed alongside other data for an overall picture of progress.
Increase the number of residents who say they regularly volunteer / support community groups in Wirral	Annual Higher is better	26% (Oct 2015)		24% (Dec 2017)						n/a	The percentage of Wirral Residents who say they volunteer at least once a month has decreased from 26% reported in the previous survey in 2016. The volunteering includes having given unpaid help either by taking part in or supporting any group, club or organisation (e.g. helping to run an activity/event, coaching, counselling, raising money, admin help).

## Wirral residents live healthier lives

### Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

767 smokers were helped to stop smoking in Q1, 24 more people than in the same period last year. 368 people continued to stop smoking 4 weeks after deciding to quit. This is also an improvement of 26 more people when compared to the same period last year. Whilst more people are engaging in our stop smoking services in general, 20 less pregnant women were helped to stop smoking in Q1 compared to the same period last year. (18 compared to 38).

This is the result of a high attrition rate between referrals and people engaging with the service. Last year just 31% of women referred went on to take up the service. To try to improve this an adviser now works a session per week in Wirral University Teaching Hospital's (WUTH) Antenatal Unit to engage with the midwifery team, build relationships & raise awareness of the service she offers promoting referrals. She will also see those women who have been referred by the midwives.

Wirral Council also arranged to host a Cheshire & Merseyside Smoking in Pregnancy workshop in October to bring together CCGs, Local Authority Tobacco Leads, Maternity services and Stop Smoking Services to discuss pathways, look at current processes, agree enablers and come up with an action plan to reduce the number of women who smoke during pregnancy.

119 more people were helped to lose weight in quarter 2 compared to the 869 helped in the same period last year. We're meeting with the North West Public Health Lead to see how we translate the Whole Systems Approach to Obesity, released by Public Health England, to Wirral. We're also liaising with Planning to see about supplementary planning documentation for takeaways. For example, we've updated the evidence base to support the criteria in the supplementary planning document for applying for planning permission for hot food takeaways.

6.4% of opiate users successfully completed their drug treatment in the year to June 2018 compared with 7.5% last quarter and 6.9% during the same period last year. Wirral was in line with the National Average (also 6.4%) and 0.4 percentage points above the average for the North West (6.0%). 56.1% of non-opiate users successfully completed their drug treatment from July 2017 - June 2018, an increase from both 54.4% last quarter and 46.4% from the same period last year. With non-opiate drug treatment Wirral is performing much better than both the National average (39%) and the average for the North West (44%).

A new schools drugs policy template has been developed to include emerging trends in drug use by young people. The policy template will be available to all schools in Wirral with direct support for completion and implementation from the Schools Drugs adviser if required.

40% of people successfully completed their alcohol treatment from July 2017 to June 2018. This is less than 43.2% last quarter but an increase from 38.2% from the same period last year. Wirral is also performing slightly better than the National average (39.4%) but slightly worse than the North West average (41.3%).

The work on the guidance tool for members of the public who are interested in being involved in the Licensing process is now complete and all the necessary information is with the company who are developing the website.

The pathway from Hospital to Community Services has been reviewed and is working well locally with all key partners in the pathway now well connected. Further work is now underway with Cheshire and Merseyside colleagues to develop a shared, common blue print, so that all areas have in place a broadly similar pathway model.

Evaluation of Drink Less Enjoy More project showed Wirral to have achieved the most substantial gains (compared to the other participating areas) for reduction in sales of alcohol to customers who are drunk (reducing from 90 sales to 36.8%). We're now awaiting the findings from the evaluation of the Liverpool programme (which has now been delivered for 4 consecutive years) so that the potential for further and sustained gains to be assessed before determining the next phase for Wirral.

The Reduce the Strength scheme has now signed up 95 businesses which are now spread out across Wirral.

Stronger and wider connections are being developed between the specialist alcohol service and Children and Young People's teams, particularly the Troubled Families team. To this end WWtR have audited their in treatment group and are using their data to analyse how service cohorts overlap and what should be done to improve joint working.

What Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Admission episodes for alcohol related conditions	Annual Lower is better	853.0 (2013-14)	England: 636.0 (2016-17) North West: 719.0 (2016-17)	901.0 (2015-16)					889.0 (2016-17)	Better	There is a 12 month time lag on validated data being released. This data from the Public Health Outcomes Framework relates to 2016-17.  Performance has improved from the previous reporting period (2015-16). Wirral's Alcohol Strategy sets out an action plan for continuing to reduce alcohol consumption to improve public health outcomes.
Smoking prevalence in adults (age 18 and over) in Wirral	Annual Lower is better	17.2% (2014)	England: 14.9% (2017) North West: 16.1% (2017)	15.7% (2016)					15.9% (2017)	Worse	After a period with a substantial reduction of people smoking across Wirral, smoking prevalence has increased slightly from 15.7% 2015 to 15.9% in the latest (2017) Public Health Outcomes Framework Annual Population Survey.  Smoking prevalence across Wirral has improved significantly since the start of the plan however this is an average for the borough, we still have areas of the borough with smoking rates above 30%, it is these areas that activity will focus on.  There is a time lag on this data and the latest data available is for 2017. The Smoke Free Wirral Strategy sets out an action plan for the borough to tackle smoking prevalence and the local provider for stop smoking services has been working with GPs and practice nurses to improve referral pathways for their services.
Excess weight in adults	Annual Lower is better	66.2% (2012-14)	England: 61.3% (2016-17) North West: 63.3% (2016-17)	59.6% (2015-16)					63.3% (2016-17)	Worse	Excess weight in Adults has worsened from 59.6% in 2015-16 to 63.3% in 2016-17. Wirral is in line with the rest of the North West and slightly above the National average.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Smoking status at time of delivery	Annual Lower is better	13.9% (2014-15)	England: 10.7% (2016-17) North of England: 13.4% (2016-17)	12.0% (2016-17)						n/a	From April 2017, the definition used in Public Health Outcomes Framework changed to exclude women with unknown smoking status from the calculation to provide a more accurate representation of the true proportion of women smoking at time of delivery. We've backdated this method to the start of the plan. The latest available data is from 2016-17.  Because of the changes in capturing the data the percentage of women smoking at time of delivery has increased as expected. Whilst Wirral figure is worse than the National average, it's improving at a much faster rate highlighting the positive work being done locally. Wirral is also performing better than the North of England average.
Number of smokers helped to stop smoking	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		3,063 (2017-18)	767 (Q1 2018-19)					Better	In quarter 1 our commissioned service helped 24 more people engage in the process of stopping smoking than in the same period last year. There is a 6 week follow up period which delays the provision of this data therefore the data is reported a quarter behind.
Number of smokers still quit at 4 weeks	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		1,502 (2017-18)	368 (Q1 2018-19)					Better	26 more people have continued to stop smoking 4 weeks after deciding to quit when compared to the same period last year. There is a 6 week follow up period which delays the provision of this data therefore the data is reported a quarter behind.
Number of pregnant women helped to stop smoking	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		50 (2017-18)	18 (Q1 2018-19)					Worse	18 pregnant women were helped to stop smoking in quarter 1. This is 20 less than the 38 helped in the same period last year. There is a 6 week follow up period which delays the provision of this data therefore the data is reported a quarter behind.
Number of people helped to lose weight	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		1,971 (2017-18)	604 (Q1 2018-19)	988 (Q2 2018-19)				Better	119 more people were helped to lose weight in quarter 2 (988) compared to the 869 helped in the same period last year. An increase in the number of people eating healthily in Wirral should reduce the prevalence of excess weight and obesity which is a key contributor to premature mortality and avoidable ill health.
Successful completion of drug treatment - opiate users	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		7.5% (2017-18)	6.4% (Jul 17 - Jun 18)					Worse	6.4% of opiate users successfully completed their drug treatment in the year to June 2018 compared with 7.5% in the year to March 2018 and 6.9% during the same period last year.  Wirral was in line with the National Average (also 6.4%) and 0.4 percentage points above the average for the North West (6.0%).
Successful completion of drug treatment - non-opiate users	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		54.4% (2017-18)	56.1% (Jul 17 - Jun 18)					Better	56.1% of non-opiate users successfully completed their drug treatment from July 2017 - June 2018, an increase from both 54.4% in the year to March 2018 and 46.4% from the same period last year.  Wirral is performing much better than both the National average (39%) and the average for the North West (44%)
Successful completion of alcohol treatment	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		43.2% (2017-18)	40.0% (Jul 17 - Jun 18)					Worse	40% of people successfully completed their alcohol treatment from July 2017 to June 2018. This is less than 43.2% from April 2017 to March 2018 but an increase from 38.2% from the same period last year.  Wirral is performing slightly better than the National average (39.4%) but slightly worse than the North West average (41.3%).

## Community services are joined up and accessible

### Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

We have made good progress to deliver the actions set out in this pledge; making it easier to volunteer and in ways which work for a range of people. Every day, all across the borough, people living in communities work tirelessly to improve their local areas: through residents associations, tenants groups, neighbourhood forums and more informal groups of volunteers. Over the Summer 27 Community Clean Up days have taken place which saw local people and partner organisations working together. The main focus of these days has been in Birkenhead where it is estimated that 17 tonnes of waste has been removed by working in partnership with local residents. The summer months also saw the continuation of the fantastic work Feeding Birkenhead is doing by providing meals for children during the school holidays. Over 5,000 volunteer hours were registered from two projects alone, equating to tens of thousands of pounds' worth of support from the community.

The second quarter of this year has seen the work continue to progress and build on quarter one. GP practices have started to roll out 'Volunteering for Health' with their patients with a number of sessions taking place between now and the end of the year. A full calendar of volunteer-related material for 2019 has been planned, this will include a number of volunteering related workshops and events. Between July and September 2018, 31 organisations took advantage of opportunities to meet funding organisations and improve their skills to support local groups to develop and flourish. In the first six months of this year £100,800 of external funding has been brought into the borough to support third sector organisations and community groups to thrive.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Increase the number of residents who say they regularly volunteer / support community groups in Wirral	Annual Higher is better	26% (Nov 2015)		24% (Dec 2017)						n/a	Latest data is from the 2017 Wirral Residents Survey.

## Good quality housing that meets the needs of residents

### Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Further progress has been made during Quarter 2 to deliver our pledge to provide good quality housing to meet our residents' needs whilst supporting the Council's aspirations for economic growth. Progress has been made regarding key priorities and the detailed actions which support them. An overview of these key priorities is provided below.

#### Building more homes in Wirral to meet our economic growth ambitions

The majority of the outstanding actions supporting this priority remain green and are making good progress. These include:

- The Core Strategy Local Plan Review of Development Options and sites identified were published for public consultation in September 2018 and the initial draft Local Plan will then be reported to Cabinet on 17th December 2018.
- A cumulative total of 189 homes were completed by the end of quarter two. It is expected that activity will accelerate mid-programme, with 465 homes due to commence construction in 2018-19. This is a lot higher than was anticipated due to greater investment confidence from Registered Providers.

#### Improving the quality of Wirral's housing offer for our residents

All actions under this priority are identified as green and are making good progress and two actions have been completed. These include:

- The 12th Merseyside Collective Energy Switch resulted in 40 Wirral households switching to cheaper tariffs. Following a competitive open tender process in quarter 2, Energy Projects Plus was appointed as the Council's contractor for the Fuel Poverty & Energy Efficiency Programme 2018-20, which commences on 1st October 2018. Energy Projects Plus re-launched a replacement boiler scheme in quarter 2 for low income households who are vulnerable, cold or living in fuel poverty; the number of Wirral households benefitting will be reported in quarter 3, however 17 cases have been referred for replacement boilers so far. This scheme is targeted at households across the Liverpool City Region and is available until the funding available is used up.
- The Selective Licensing consultation report was completed and a report was tabled at Cabinet on 1st October 2018 for the proposal to implement Selective Licencing in four additional areas from 1st April 2019. This has subsequently been approved.
- The action relating to raising awareness of the new Housing of Multiple Occupation mandatory licensing in the borough, under the new Government regulations, was completed on 1st October 2018 and the Mandatory HMO Licensing changes are now in operation. A new software system has been procured and implementation programme commenced.
- The action to identify the number of empty homes vacant for longer than two years and prioritise action to bring them back into use has been completed. An appraisal document and scoring matrix for the process of prioritising tackling long term empty properties, following mapping of data has been completed. All of the current Selective Licencing areas are in the highest ranking Super Output Areas along with two of the proposed new Selective Licencing areas. Following this analysis, properties vacant for longer than two years in the current Selective Licencing areas will be targeted to support the work being undertaken in those neighbourhoods. The next step will be for officers to review and prioritise the remainder of the properties to identify those premises receiving the most complaints / having a negative effect on neighbourhoods.

#### Meeting the needs of our most vulnerable people to enable them to live independently

The majority of the outstanding actions under this priority are identified as green and are making good progress. These include:

- Wirral Council, in collaboration with the other LCR authorities responded to a Central Government invitation to bid for funding to enhance accommodation-based supported housing provision for victims of domestic abuse. The LCR submission sought funding to improve access to the private-rented sector for both male and female victims of domestic abuse, and to ensure that children of victims are able to access relevant therapeutic services.
- Relevant stakeholders have been contacted to make them aware of the new duty to refer, as set out in the Homeless Reduction Act. Meetings have taken place with agencies to discuss referral mechanism and the relevant section of Wirral Council's website has been updated to reflect this duty. The next stage will be to review referral systems and offer agencies support to embed in their organisations.
- The new Home Adaptation Pilot commenced (June 2018). The stair lift contract has been awarded to facilitate faster installations of lifts and hoists. Contract commenced 1st August 2018. A review of policies and procedures for DFG's is due to commence this quarter as part of transformation team work and conclude March 2019. Review of Pilot to be undertaken with programme to be embedded permanently from 2019/20.
- The action to Commission Phase four and five of new services for homelessness and socially excluded groups in line with the commissioning plan has been identified as amber. The LCR officers group secured funding for enhanced homeless services, with Wirral to enhance triage, private rented sector programme and debt advice services. Phase 4 of the process is due to conclude imminently with tenders awarded. Phase 5 has been rescheduled at the request of the Council's Procurement Team, and will conclude in December 2018.
- The action to deliver 300 additional Extra Care homes has been rated amber. Some schemes may run slightly over the timescale of March 2020 due to delays from central government on funding for supported housing schemes following consultation. This has now been clarified.
- The action to respond to the new requirements as part of the Governments new Supported Housing Funding Model for short term funding has been recommended to be withdrawn. This is because in August 2018, following consultation, Central Government advised that funding for short-term supported housing provision would continue to be met through the current funding model (Housing Benefit) and not be separated and ring fenced via a new programme. Government have announced their intention to implement a "robust oversight regime" in regard to supported housing and consequently additional actions may be identified for future plans when government releases further information to Local Authorities.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
3,500 new homes will be built by 2020	Annual Higher is better	(n/a)		1,752 (P) (2015-18)						n/a	This is an annual indicator which will report at year-end. (The 2017/18 figure will be finalised in November when the Annual Monitoring Report is completed but indications are that the 1,752 figure is not likely to change)
Improve 2,250 private sector properties	Annual Higher is better	(n/a)		1,535 (2016-18)						n/a	This is an annual indicator which will report at year-end.
Bring 1,250 empty properties back into use	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		887 (Dec 2015-Mar 2018)	Green Actual: 955 Target: 932 (Dec 2015-Jun 2018)	Green Actual: 1,012 Target: 977 (Dec 2015-Sep 2018)				Better	Performance is expected to exceed the overall Wirral Plan target of 1250 units brought back into use by March 2020.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Complete compliance inspections for all homes requiring a license	Annual Higher is better	(n/a)		678 (2017-18)						n/a	This is an annual indicator which will report at year-end. In quarter 2, 50 units were completed.
An increase in the percentage of people over 50 living in appropriate housing, that meets their needs	Annual Higher is better	52.3% (Oct 2015)		52.3% (Dec 2017)						n/a	This is an annual indicator which will report at year-end.
Number of home adaptations completed	Quarterly Higher is better	2,257 (2014-15)		2,597 (2017-18)	642 (Apr-Jun 2018)	1,309 (Apr-Sep 2018)				n/a	Home adaptations is a demand led service based on clients needs. The number of adaptations completed in quarter 2 cannot therefore be compared with previous quarters or years. From April-September 2018 there were 1309 adaptations completed.
Reduce homelessness through prevention	Quarterly Higher is better	707 (2014-15)		998 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	246 (Apr-Jun 2018)	523 (Jul-Sept 2018)				n/a	Due to the new Homeless Reduction Act, trend comparison against previous years data has been removed.

## Wirral's neighbourhoods are safe

### Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

It is encouraging to see reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) to Merseyside Police have decreased by 31.2% from same period last year. Through this pledge we are strengthening multi agency engagement with residents and a particular focus has been a series of Community Days of Action, led by Merseyside Fire Service. Partners include Merseyside Police, Wirral Council, Involve North West, Magenta Living and Riverside Housing. From July-September 3 Action Days have taken place in New Brighton, Tranmere and Rock Ferry areas and altogether 450 properties engaged. I encourage all residents to continue to report incidents of ASB when they occur to inform work priorities and areas to be tackled.

Data for youth offending show an improvement when compared to this time last year. First-time entrants to the youth justice system and youth re-offending are also both lower when compared to the rest of Merseyside.

Crimes recorded by the police show an increase of 16.8% when compared to same period last year with the increase in violence that causes an injury crime contributing towards the overall increase. Crime reporting standards are updated annually and this must be taken into consideration when comparing data. Wirral does however maintain the third lowest crime rate amount most similar force groups

Part of the partnership work this year has been to support residents who are vulnerable to cyber-crime. Under reporting in this area is a factor though the scale unknown. Residents and small businesses are being supported with social media campaigns such as www.getsafeonline.org to warn public about internet fraud. Preventative work is also taking place in schools to raise awareness of cyber-crime. It is pleasing to report that this work will be further strengthened following the appointment of a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) to deliver crime prevention education

Campaigns raising awareness of Respect, Equality and Diversity have taken place this quarter including the Council's commitment to commemorate the victims and survivors of Srebrenica; the Woodlands Festival promoting community cohesion in an area of reported racial tension; 'Great Get Together' campaign held outside Birkenhead Library; 'Come Out of the Shadows' event lighting up three of Wirral's landmark buildings in rainbow colours in collaboration with the Liverpool Pride initiative. Some of Wirral's newest and most vulnerable residents, the asylum seekers and Syrian refugees residing in Wirral over the last two years, have now found the courage and confidence to report hate crime. Through the collaboration and engagement of the charity 'Refugee Action' these issues can now be addressed as when they arise.

Following the successful launch of the Safer Wirral Hub last year we are now looking to embark on Phase2 which will inform future delivery direction. This will take place aligning with the Local Policing Model and is due to commence in next quarter with a completion date schedule for March 2019.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
<div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; font-size: 2em;">Page 60 of 09</div> Reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB) to Merseyside Police	Quarterly Lower is better	11,837 (2014-15)		8,617 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	1,920 (Apr-Jun 2018)	3,628 (Apr-Sep 2018)				Better	Anti-Social Behaviour fluctuates in a similar pattern each year, affected by the seasons, school holidays and events such as fireworks and Halloween. The annual peak in ASB is most commonly in August. Comparing the first two quarters of 2018/19 with the same months the previous year, there was a marked drop of 31.2% from 5,273 to 3,628. Multi-agency action days have taken place during quarter 2 in three roads in Birkenhead (Oriol Road/Hope Street/Bentinck Street). Following one of these days the Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team (WASBT) team was working towards a Closure Order on a premises, which resulted in the occupants vacating the property before legal action was required. In September a multi-agency action day in West Kirby Concourse due to ongoing ASB issues which included an advice surgery from the mobile police station, mounted police, traffic enforcement, ASB Team resident door knock, Kingdom Litter Enforcement which then led into the evening of an Operation Staysafe to tackle young people involved in risk taking behaviour/ASB. WASBT and Merseyside Police continue to tackle a group of Travellers who are moving around Wirral. A multi-agency visit was conducted in Banning Close Birkenhead where youths gather and cause ASB. Arrangements have been made to have tree stumps removed - as this is where the youths congregate around and sit on, also the possibility of cameras is being investigated. WASBT and Merseyside Police continue to tackle a group of Travellers who are moving around Wirral. A multi-agency visit was conducted in Banning Close Birkenhead where youths gather and cause ASB. Arrangements have been made to have tree stumps removed - as this is where the youths congregate around and sit on, also the possibility of cameras is being investigated. Responding to complaints of ASB around Victoria Gardens, West Kirby, 6 letters sent out to parents/guardians of named young people found within the area to advise them of the issues being experienced and offer advice/support.
	Annual Higher is better	88% (Oct 2015)		90% (Dec 2017)						n/a	Latest data is from the 2017 Wirral Residents Survey.
	Annual Higher is better	55% (Oct 2015)		51% (Dec 2017)						n/a	Latest data is from the 2017 Wirral Residents Survey.
	Quarterly Lower is better	19,061 (2014-15)	Ranking within 15 Most Similar Community Safety Partnership Groups: 3 (Aug 2017-Jul 2018)		23,096 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	6,709 (Apr-Jun 2018)	13,318 (Apr-Sep 2017)				Worse

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
First-time entrants to the youth justice system (10-17 year olds, as a rate per 100,000 of the local general population)	Quarterly Lower is better	380 (Apr 2014 - Mar 2015)	Merseyside YOT (Police Crime Commissioner area): 324 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	157 (Oct 2016-Sep 2017)	150 (Jan-Dec 2017)	152 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)				Better	Latest data is for April 2017- March 2018. At 152 this is lower when compared to the same period in the previous year (174). It is also significantly lower when compared to the Merseyside Youth Offending Teams rate of 324.
Violence that causes an injury to an individual victim (not including homicide) recorded by the Police	Quarterly Lower is better	1,982 (2014-15)	Ranking within 15 Most Similar Community Safety Partnership Groups: 3 (Aug 2017-Jul 2018)	2,569 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	746 (Apr-Jun 2018)	1,506 (Apr-Sep 2018)				Worse	Comparing the first two quarters of 2018/19 with the same period in 2017/18, violence with injury recorded by the Police increased from 1303 to 1506, a 14.7% increase. Much of this is explained by the change in counting rules, particularly the proportion of those crimes that are domestic abuse related that previously were under-reported. This is further exemplified when making the comparison between the same two periods on violence without injury, which rose 68% from 1,950 to 3,276. Together, the increase in both violent crime types; crime with and without injury, are responsible for a large proportion of the overall increase in crime
Percentage of Youth Re-Offending (age 10-17 years)	Quarterly Lower is better	51.4% (Jul 2012-Jun 2013)	England: 41.6% (Oct 2015- Sep 2016) Merseyside YOT (Police Crime Commissioner area): 46.2% (Oct 2015-Sep 2016)	42.3% (Apr 2015-Mar 2016)	39.7% (Jul 2015-Jun 2016)	39.6% (Oct 2015-Sep 2016)				Better	Latest data for the percentage of youth re-offending is for the period October 2015-September 2016. At 39.6% it shows a slight reduction of 0.1% when compared to previous figures. It is lower than England (41.6%) and Merseyside's (46.2%) rates for the same period.

## Attractive local environment for Wirral residents

### Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

During the second quarter we have focused on the early and medium term key actions within this year's delivery plans such as preparing the single use plastics free policy for ratification, carrying out a full audit of properties with additional refuse capacity, establishing the new Environmental Enforcement Contract and getting the Love Where You Live initiative to the next stage of engagement following last year's successful establishment.

During the next quarter we will focus on the following:

- Holding a Love Where You Live forum for volunteer groups in November
- Driving forward with the Waste Management Improvement Plan which focuses on improving recycling performance and reducing non recycled waste
- Progressing with the conditions for the Wirral Together for the Environment agreement and other actions in support of Wirral Together

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Maintain local environmental quality (LEQ) via the street cleansing of litter, detritus, graffiti. (Main Gateways and Retail Areas)	Quarterly Higher is better	97.5% (2014-15)		98.1% (2017-18)	Blue Actual: 96.7% Target: 93.3% (Q1 2018-19)	Blue Actual: 98.7% Target: 93.3% (Q2 2018-19)				Better	The 2018 Q2 figures continue to show that Local Environmental Quality in key gateway and shopping areas continues to exceed the target score of 93.3%, with an increase in performance on the previous quarter.
Achieve 50% kerbside recycling of domestic waste by 2020.	Quarterly Higher is better	36.30% (2014-15)		33.20% (2017-18)	Red Actual: 34.10% Target: 38.50% (Q1 18-19)					Worse	Data is submitted to DEFRA Quarterly, one quarter behind, so Q1 data is only confirmed at the end of the 2nd quarter in 2018/19. The current national recycling target is 50% by 2020 and further targets have been agreed by European Parliament for 55% reuse/recycling by 2025, 60% reuse/recycling by 2030 and 65% reuse/recycling by 2035. Recycling in Wirral continues to fall and there is recognition that work needs to be done to reverse the trend. Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee has therefore made recycling the focus of a task and finish group. Declining recycling rates are being seen nationwide, in part due to increased quality requirements from recyclers. On a positive note, the amount of garden waste collected this quarter increased slightly compared with the same period last year..

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Number of FPN's issued for environmental offences (Littering)	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		7,797 (2017-18)	Red Actual: 1,672 Target: 2,000 (Apr-Jun 2018)	Red Actual: 3,031 Target: 4,000 (Apr-Sep 2018)				Worse	The volume of FPN's issued for littering has been declining in recent months, however the Council expect the enforcement contractor to issue the same or a higher volume FPN's in future months as were issued last year as intelligence highlights that environmental crime is occurring to the detriment of Wirral's environment. Moving forward with the new environmental enforcement contract, efforts will be very much geared towards deterrent - moderating offenders behaviour in the short term, leading to a longer term cultural and behaviour change to address levels of environmental crime committed. The council is also considering ways of targeting known risk areas and groups; including the 16-18 age group, tackling night-time economy litter and poorly contained domestic waste.
Number of FPN's issued for environmental offences (dog fouling)	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		192 (2017-18)	Red Actual: 35 Target: 45 (Apr-Jun 2018)	Red Actual: 45 Target: 90 (Apr-Sep 2018)				Worse	The Council expects to see an increase in notices issued for dog fouling offences, with volumes comparable to last year. Two changes coming into force are: (1) the new contact does not specify minimum start and end shift times, as the previous contact did, therefore early morning and late night dog walkers can now be targeted to identify and enforce against those not picking up after their dog. (2) Kingdom have been prohibiting staff from action days involving plain clothes enforcement officers. This issue has now been resolved with approval from the Council and plain clothes patrols were reinstated in mid September..
Reduce the overall collected general waste (non-recycling) per household	Quarterly Lower is better	502.15 (2014-15)		545.98 (2017-18)	142.98 (Apr-Jun 2018)					Worse	Data is submitted to DEFRA Quarterly, one quarter behind, so Q1 data is only confirmed at the end of the 2nd quarter in 2018/19. The amount of general (non-recycling) waste continues to increase. This is in line with all other Merseyside Districts and National trends (73% of the 183 councils that have so far submitted their Qtr 1 data to Waste Data Flow have had an increase in general waste per household). The Council is tackling this by removing additional green rubbish bins where they are either not authorised or no longer required. An assessment of authorised additional bins was completed in October 2018, with the results expected soon.
Increase level of school recycling	Annual Higher is better	35.00% (2014-15)		48.00% (2017-18)						n/a	Data available Month after year-end. 107 of Wirral schools are on the Council's waste and recycling collection and one other school is just receiving a recycling collection. 79% of these schools are recycling at least 50% of their rubbish (16% are recycling over 60% of their rubbish). Only 8 schools are recycling less than 30% and these are receiving additional advice to help them to change from rubbish bins to recycling bins.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Increase the number of garden waste subscribers	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		39,565 (2017-18)	36,772 (Apr-Jun 2018)	39,010 (Apr-Sep 2018)				Better	Concentrated communications campaign has now been in place since April. Compared with the end of quarter 2 last year, there are 417 more subscribers. However, this number is still considerably below what was projected following a promotions campaign..
Using targeted communications, increase kerbside (green and grey bin) recycling rate for the ten lowest performing rounds to at least 25%	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		21.20% (2017-18)	20.23% (Apr-Jun 2018)	21.90% (Apr-Sep 2018)				Better	Data up to end August 2018 – September available soon. Data has been compiled and we are working with colleagues at Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority to analyse the areas using ACORN classification. This information will be used to develop appropriate communication methods and materials to deliver to these areas.

#### Report Key

**Trend** - Performance is shown as Better, Same or Worse compared with the last reporting period except for: Increase the number of events in Wirral's parks, beaches and open spaces, Number of smokers helped to stop smoking, Number of smokers still quit at 4 weeks, Number of pregnant women helped to stop smoking, Number of people helped to lose weight, Bring 1,250 empty properties brought back into use, Reduce homelessness through prevention, Reports of ASB to Merseyside Police, Number of crimes recorded by the police, Violence that causes an injury to an individual victim (not including homicide) recorded by the Police, Kerbside Recycling, Littering FPN, Dog Fouling FPN, Household Waste and Garden Waste and recycling lowest performing rounds, which are compared with same period the previous year.

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

**Action** - These are shown as either:

- Green (on track to deliver on time)
- Amber (off track but action being taken to deliver on time)
- Red (off track and won't deliver on time)



## Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME REPORT</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE – COUNCILLOR TONY JONES</b>

### REPORT SUMMARY

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

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

### RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are requested to:

Approve the proposed Environment 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 Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of the annual work programme.

### 2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

### 3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### 3.1 THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND THE WIRRAL PLAN

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

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

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

<b>Pledge</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
Leisure and cultural opportunities for all	Wirral's Leisure Strategy Wirral's Culture Strategy
Wirral residents live healthier lives	Wirral's Residents Live Healthier Lives Strategy
Community services are joined up and accessible	Wirral Together Strategy (in development)
Good quality housing that meets the needs of residents	Housing Strategy
Wirral's neighbourhoods are safe	Ensuring Wirral's Neighbourhoods are Safe Strategy
Attractive local environment for Wirral residents	Managing our Waste Strategy Loving our Environment Strategy

### 3.2 PRINCIPLES FOR PRIORITISATION

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

<b>Principles for Prioritisation</b>	
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 well cut across the Wirral Plan themes, it is anticipated that some of the scrutiny topics 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 work will be explored.

Regular work programme update reports will provide the committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly 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, it was agreed for scrutiny to be undertaken on any potential budget savings proposals before approval by Cabinet. Following agreement with the Chair and Party Spokespersons, a scrutiny workshop has now been scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and Members have been notified of this. A report of the outcomes of the workshop will be presented to the committee meeting scheduled on 22<sup>nd</sup> January before the report is referred to Cabinet as part of the budget setting process.

### **4.2 Recycling Task & Finish Scrutiny Review**

A Task & Finish Scrutiny Review on 'Recycling' was added to the committee's work programme for 2018/19. A Review Panel consisting of three Members was agreed and includes Cllrs Adam Sykes, Christina Muspratt and Allan Brame. A scoping meeting has now convened and it was agreed that Cllr Adam Sykes would be the Chair of the Review Panel. Members will be looking at how Wirral can improve its recycling. As part of the review, Members will consider how this is achieved by other local authorities and will also be considering Government's new waste strategy and the impact for Wirral.

### **4.3 Wirral Flood & Water Management Partnership**

At the previous Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September, the terms of reference for the Wirral Flood & Water Management Partnership were agreed. It was further agreed that the Chair and party Spokespersons would represent scrutiny on the partnership. It is anticipated that the first meeting will be scheduled for February 2019 and an update will be provided at the committee meeting scheduled on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not Applicable

## **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not Applicable

## **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

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

## **8.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

Not Applicable

## 9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

## 10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

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## APPENDICES

**Appendix 1:** Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work programme

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

### SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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**AGENDA ITEMS – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Item	Format	Officer
Financial Monitoring Report – 2018/19 Quarter 2	Report / Presentation	Finance to present report
Kingdom – Performance Update  <i>Standing item agreed at Call-in on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018</i>	Verbal update (Briefing note to be provided prior to Committee meeting)	Mark Smith – Strategic Commissioner (Environment)
Libraries, Leisure, Cultural Services	Report	Andrew Elkington (Assistant Director – Community Services)
Climate Change Annual Report and Action Plan	Report	Dr. Bryan Lipscombe, Sustainability Liaison Officer
Modern Slavery Scrutiny Review	Report	Chair of the Review Panel
2018/19 Quarter 2 Wirral Plan Performance Report	Report	Mark Smith – Strategic Commissioner (Environment)
Scrutiny Work Programme Update	Report	Report of the Chair of the Committee, Cllr Tony Jones

**STANDING AGENDA ITEMS**

Item	Format	Officer / Councillor
2018/19 Quarterly Finance Performance Report	Report / Presentation	Finance to present report
2018/19 Quarterly Wirral Plan Performance Report	Report	Carl Gurnell, Team Leader – Performance & Scrutiny
Core Strategy Local Plan Progress Update  <i>Standing Item agreed at Special Meeting of the Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017</i>	Report / Verbal update	David Ball - Assistant Director Environmental Services

Kingdom Environmental Services  <i>Standing item agreed at Call-in on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018</i>	Report / Verbal update	Mark Smith – Strategic Commissioner (Environment)
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#### ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED

Item	Format	Approximate timescale	Lead Officer
Healthier Lives Strategy / Action Plan update	Committee Report / Presentation	TBC	TBC
Alcohol Strategy update	Committee Report / Presentation	TBC	TBC
Smoking Strategy update	Committee Report / Presentation	TBC	TBC
Safer Wirral Hub update (progress on phase 2 implementation)	Committee Report / Presentation	TBC	TBC
Update report on implementing Playing Pitch, Min 32(2), November 2017 OSC	Committee Report	TBC	TBC

#### WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE COMMITTEE

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress / Comments
Recycling in Wirral	Task & Finish Scrutiny Review	TBC	Mark Smith	Scooping meeting convened. Evidence sessions to progress.
Libraries (deferred pending outcome of transformation scrutiny)	Task & Finish Scrutiny Review	TBC	TBC	
Wirral Flood & Water Management Partnership	TBC	TBC	Mark Smith	It is expected that the first partnership meeting will be scheduled for February
Budget Scrutiny	Workshop	TBC	TBC	Budget Proposals Workshop scheduled for 4 <sup>th</sup> December, 2018.
Transforming Wirral – Libraries, Leisure and Cultural Services, Future Provision of Services.	Workshop / Presentation	TBC	Andrew Elkington	To be confirmed.

Transforming Wirral – Further business cases	Workshops	TBC	TBC	
Impact of Gambling				Recommendation from Public Health Report (Cabinet 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2018). Further Scrutiny to be considered on completion of Officer/Gambling Commission Working Group work.
Reality Check Visits	Site visit	TBC	TBC	

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