



Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Wednesday, 13 March 2019
Time:	6.00 p.m.
Venue:	Committee Room 2 - 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 - 28)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 15 January (special meeting), 30 January and 7 February 2019 (special meeting).

3. LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

The Assistant Director – Major Growth Projects and Housing Delivery to provide a verbal update report to the Committee on this issue.

4. OVERVIEW OF TRADE WASTE ENFORCEMENT

The Lead Commissioner – Environment Strategy and Partnerships to make a presentation to the Committee on this issue.

5. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 3 2018/19 (Pages 29 - 36)

6. SMOKEFREE WIRRAL (Pages 37 - 42)

7. 2018/19 QUARTER 3 WIRRAL PLAN PERFORMANCE (Pages 43 - 60)

8. ENVIRONMENT O&S COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 61 - 70)

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ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 15 January 2019

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	T Jones (Chair)	
	Councillors	J Bird A Brame T Cottier T Cox G Ellis S Jones B Kenny	C Muspratt T Smith A Sykes B Berry C Blakeley (In place of A Hodson) J Stapleton (In place of S Foulkes) EA Grey (In place of K Cannon)
<u>In attendance:</u>	Councillors	I Lewis L Rennie	
<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	K Cannon S Foulkes A Hodson	

34 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 item(s) on this 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 item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

Councillor Christina Muspratt declared a personal interest in general as she is a dog owner.

Councillor Chris Blakeley declared a personal interest in general as he had spoken publicly about his opposition to the proposal and had spoken on behalf of petitioners. He gave assurance however that he would remain open minded at this meeting.

35 DOGS PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

Before the commencement of the meeting the Chair announced that in view of the large number of members of the public in attendance the meeting would be displayed in the Council Chamber if anyone wished to be seated. A proposal to move the meeting to the Civic Hall was discussed however the Chair indicated that there would be no facility to webcast the meeting. Following discussion, taking into account the views of members of the public, the meeting continued in its current venue.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a reminder that this was a Scrutiny Committee – it was not a decision-making Committee and its brief was to make recommendations to Cabinet. The Chair also indicated that Councillors Ian Lewis and Lesley Rennie were in attendance at the meeting as ex-officio Members and would not be voting.

The Chair introduced the report and highlighted that that feedback related to a small minority of dog owners and was clearly not a reflection of the behaviour of many thousands of dog owners in the Borough. The Chair introduced Mike Cockburn, Lead Commissioner – Environment Strategy & Partnerships who gave a presentation on the proposed Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order – Consultation and Proposed Measures. The report set out the proposed dog control outcomes with the aim to create a safer environment for all users at Wirral's open spaces and parks including dog owners and their pets. The Appendices to the report provided the Proposed Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order, the Proposed Locations for the Applications of PSPO Measures and the Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement Summary Report. The presentation gave an outline of dog behaviour issues, current dog control measures and provided residents' survey findings and feedback. The initial set of proposed measures was detailed together with the feedback following an extensive 6 week consultation that had generated more than 9,000 responses. The presentation showed that there had been fairly strong agreement and support with some of these proposals and more of a mixed view of opinions on the introduction of dog free zones in certain locations. The Committee were apprised of the final proposals and it was emphasised that certain measures i.e. Dog restrictions on the 5 bathing beaches and marked sports pitches not meeting the threshold outlined and Dogs on lead measures for A and B roads, public car parks, unbounded picnic sites and play equipment and the public areas within allotment sites were not being put forward. Mike Cockburn concluded the presentation by giving a summary of the final proposals that had been determined following extensive consultation with the public and campaign groups. He informed the Committee that if the proposals were approved work would begin to put them in place starting in the Spring and work would continue to involve campaign groups.

The Chair then invited Mr Rob Wilkinson (Wirral Good Dogs) to address the Committee. Mr Wilkinson thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak

at the meeting. He said that he had been asked to present evidence at this meeting and referred to a previous meeting where the Leader of the Council had referenced 6 cases of toxocariasis in Wirral. Mr Wilkinson said he had been unable to find any evidence of this after making FOI enquiries. He argued that Wirral was one of the best areas in the country for picking up after dogs and that the proposal was 'using a big stick for a small problem' and that PSPO was not the solution to the issue. In response to Mike Cockburn's assertion that the Council had met with campaign groups who were supportive of the proposed measures he maintained that the RSPCA were not in agreement. Mr Wilkinson also argued that the proposal would put in place the enforcement agency, Kingdom, the right to impose fines on owners with dangerous dogs however fines would not impact on lifestyles. He provided examples of various dog owners' concerns e.g. the concerns of an assisted dog owner and disputed that Kingdom would have properly trained staff. He also maintained that alternative suggestions should be considered and that the Council should consider measures that were 'creative not punitive'. He further believed that not many fines would be realised as there was a loophole that dog owners did not legally have to provide their names and addresses.

The Chair then opened the meeting up to questions from members of the Committee.

A member sought clarification on the fact that currently dogs were not allowed in cemeteries and children's playgrounds. The Member asserted that there was an increase in new playing field areas being marked out in some parts of the Borough and asserted that if the proposals were put in place dog owners would only move to new areas. Wirral was promoted as a healthy area to live and there was no evidence that the measures would work. The member further commented that the proposals would demonise the majority and divide people in the Borough.

A member questioned how the Committee was expected to vote on the adoption of measures that were currently in draft form and incomplete. The question was also raised on whether there was existing law to deal with violent dogs and why that could not be utilised. It was also questioned why there was a far greater evidence of littering cases than dog fouling in the last 3 months. The costs were also questioned in that if there was to be no additional cost to the Council how would more staff be employed? A further question was raised on the matter of bowling greens and tennis courts as users of such facilities may also be dog owners and how might such users continue to use and benefit from these facilities. The member also questioned how the proposals would fit with the ethos of encouraging exercise to counter obesity and improve mental health and wellbeing in the Borough. The question was also put as to how Kingdom would enforce the PSPO. The observation was made that 30,000 signatures had been put to a petition against the proposal and that the proposed measures were draconian, punishing the majority for the actions of the few.

A member of the Committee questioned how the proposals would address the problem of the times of day when dogs are most likely to be walked as enforcement officers would not be working at these times. It was anticipated that the enforcement would be 'easy wins' and would not address street cleanliness and would only serve to prevent people from accessing open public spaces which would impact on social isolation.

The Chair invited Mike Coburn to respond to the questions raised by members of the Committee. Mike Coburn explained that a by-law currently excluded dogs from cemeteries however this was not enforced. The proposals would relax current legislation to allow dogs to be taken on a leads which would enable people to visit these spaces with their dogs. The existing by-laws with regard to playgrounds did not include playing fields and the Council was under pressure to maintain the facilities it has. There was a culture of non-reporting of dog fouling on playfields however there was awareness of this issue amongst park staff. He was in agreement with the views raised by members of the public that there was insufficient bins provided for dog waste that resulted in use of public bins and commented that this was one area that the Council would wish to address.

A member then questioned why individuals could not be sent on dog training courses and asked why this was not included as an alternative measure. Mike Cockburn explained that the PSPO was in draft form that set out the principles of the proposed measures and that this would need to be completed as it was not a final document. A member reiterated the point that the Committee was being asked to vote on something incomplete that was still being worked on to which the response given was that working was in the final stage and all that was now to be included was the maps of the locations listed in the draft. Mike Cockburn provided the example of Barnsley Council where the figure of 300 fines gave an indicator of the outcome of the proposed measures. Members were informed that in relation to costs additional resources would have to be appointed by Kingdom to make the proposed scheme work. He added that the key point was that the vast majority of open spaces – including beaches – would be free to go to and there would be no restricting measures.

The Chair addressed members of the public in attendance noting that there would undoubtedly be a public meeting on this matter however it was important that members of the Committee be afforded the opportunity to speak at this meeting.

A member deemed the proposals as a draconian policy and expressed the view that a six dog policy was nonsense. The view was expressed that the issue of dog fouling could be dealt with using existing contracts. It was questioned why the other issue - dealing with dogs attacking people or other dogs could also not be dealt with using existing laws. The idea of no cost to

the Council was also disputed as it was argued there would be infinite cost to the Council.

Another Member questioned the evidence of alleged visits of children to A & E as a result of injuries caused by dogs and posed the question of how the PSPO would address this issue. The question was also raised as to the lengths of extendable leads and why the length of leads had to be limited.

Mike Coburn addressed the questions and explained that where there was no provision the PSPO would give enforcement officers the ability to act out control. He addressed the question of the numbers of enforcement officers employed acknowledging that numbers had been depleted but that staff levels were now being maintained. With regard to signage he informed the Committee that there was a small capital programme to introduce signage. On the question of resources he informed that existing resources would be utilised and that Kingdom would be required to employ more staff and the money for this would be made from Court fines. In relation to dog-biting issues it was explained that extendable leads were not good practice. In relation to the PSPO's there was an abundance of use in other parts of the country e.g. Mid Wales and Devon where people were used to seeing this carried out. The evidence based information on dog bites and attacks gave rise to the need for these issues to be addressed.

A member commented that Wirral clearly did have an issue with dog fouling however, almost without exception, it occurred on private roads not public areas and the proposals would not address this problem. There was huge concern from members of the public about the way Kingdom would pursue enforcement as there was no trust in Kingdom operatives. Mike Cockburn gave details of consultation with campaign groups and other bodies such as the Kennel Club and officers had also consulted the Police and Crime Commission. The issue of 6 dogs per individual had been determined as this was the number of dogs per walker usually adopted for insurance purposes.

A member recognised the need for some measures given the evidence based concern around the increased numbers of dog attacks reported in 2017. However it was noted that the Council's response to the survey needed to be proportionate with the response to the views expressed.

A member questioned why the proposal was to fine irresponsible dog owners as this would not achieve the outcome of showing people where they were going wrong. Again the view was expressed that the majority would be penalised for the behaviour of the few. The member also raised the issue of health benefits that would be denied if residents were to be prevented from accessing public areas as there were clear benefits of dog walking on mental health.

Another member raised the issue of dangerous and aggressive dogs and asked how the PSPO would add to the contract. It was questioned why in-house or Kingdom staff could not enforce existing legislation. It was also questioned whether the fines would be 'easy wins' and not about making the contract more viable.

A member noted that last year officers had been asked to look into appropriate measures and to consult Wirral residents and that is what had happened. A major consultation had been carried out and the results clear. It was suggested that the Committee could recommend that the proposals be adopted for a period of 3 years. A further suggestion mooted the option to agree the proposals be put in place for a period of 12 months on the basis that this be subject to a full review after this time.

With regard to enforcement Mike Cockburn explained that the proposal was that if a dog was not under control and the owner was not compliant with the measures detailed then this would be enforced. A member responded to this with the view that this was not a sensible way forward if the intent was to modify bad behaviour on the part of irresponsible dog owners and that prevention would be the way forward. Mike Cockburn responded that people wished to see a behaviour change and that is what the PSPO would serve to do.

Rob Wilkinson agreed that the Borough wanted dog fouling off the streets and parks but argued that the Council already had the legislation in place for this. Irresponsible dog owners needed to be educated and that other means of dog control by licences, dog chipping and dog tags could result in a possible revenue and address the issue of dangerous dogs.

A member expressed the view that the proposed PSPO was merely being used as a 'cash cow' and that current legislation should be enforced. The PSPO was counter to the Council pledges to residents and the suggested measures perverse in the light of the recommendations to tackle loneliness and isolation in older members of the community

It was then moved by Councillor Brian Kenny and seconded by Councillor Tony Smith that;

This Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee having considered the public consultation exercise agrees to ask Cabinet to implement the final PSPO proposal for a 12 month period, to be subject to a full review after 12 months.

It was moved as an amendment by Councillor Chris Blakeley and seconded by Councillor Adam Sykes that;

1. Committee recognises that to date, the Council and its contractors have failed to use all existing legislation to deal with the issue of dog fouling and anti-social behaviour of the minority of dog owners.
2. Committee believes that banning dogs from public recreation areas and open spaces is causing distress and upset to thousands of people across Wirral.
3. Committee notes that the current proposal does nothing to tackle dog fouling in residential roads, shopping areas and outside schools, but instead makes it easier for Kingdom and the Council to boost income through fines.
4. Committee does not believe the Cabinet Member has taken into account concerns outlined in the consultation or has considered how this problem will negatively impact on the Wirral visitor economy.
5. Therefore Committee asks Cabinet to withdraw these proposals, and instead instruct Council officers to use its existing powers to their full extent to deal with the minority of dog owners who act in an irresponsible manner.

The amendment was put and carried (8:7).

Resolved – That;

- 1. Committee recognises that to date, the Council and its contractors have failed to use all existing legislation to deal with the issue of dog fouling and anti-social behaviour of the minority of dog owners.**
- 2. Committee believes that banning dogs from public recreation areas and open spaces is causing distress and upset to thousands of people across Wirral.**
- 3. Committee notes that the current proposal does nothing to tackle dog fouling in residential roads, shopping areas and outside schools, but instead makes it easier for Kingdom and the Council to boost income through fines.**
- 4. Committee does not believe the Cabinet Member has taken into account concerns outlined in the consultation or has considered how this problem will negatively impact on the Wirral visitor economy.**
- 5. Therefore Committee asks Cabinet to withdraw these proposals, and instead instruct Council officers to use its existing powers to their full extent to deal with the minority of dog owners who act in an irresponsible manner.**

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ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 30 January 2019

Present: Councillor T Jones (Chair)

Councillors	S Foulkes	G Ellis
	J Bird	S Jones
	A Brame	B Kenny
	K Cannon	C Muspratt
	T Cottier	A Sykes
	T Cox	B Berry

In attendance: Councillors L Grey (for T Smith)

36 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / PARTY WHIP

Members were asked to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any 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 were reminded that they should also declare whether they were subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

No such declarations were made.

37 MINUTES

Members were requested to receive the minutes of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held 29 November 2018.

Councillor A Brame commented that he had not yet received information requested at the previous meeting in relation to the Bates Wells Braithwaite (BWB) report (Minute 30 refers)

Resolved – That the minutes be received

38 LOCAL PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

The Assistant Director for Major Growth Projects and Housing Growth addressed the Committee to provide an update on progress of the Local Plan.

A copy of the report considered at Cabinet on 17 December 2018 was appended to the report detailing the current position. Members were advised that a high volume of responses had been received and that a summary of these responses would be published in February 2019.

The Assistant Director informed Members that Counsel had been appointed in November and had received the position and provided advice. Members heard how Counsel had recommended to the Council that the timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan should be reviewed to ensure that any future decisions are robust, legally compliant and take account of all the necessary evidence base.

Members were then advised that in order to facilitate progress in the preparation of the Local Plan, it was recommended that the Scheme of Delegation be amended to delegate decisions relating to the approval and publication of the evidence base and associated technical reports to the Director of Economic and Housing Growth in consultation with the portfolio holder for Housing and Planning. Members were reminded that decisions relating to the implementation of policy changes would be made by full Council via Cabinet.

Members were then provided with an update following a letter received addressed to the Leader of the Council from Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government dated 28 January 2019. In his letter, the Secretary of State set out directions and advised that should the Council fail to comply without a good reason or should the draft Local Plan fail at examination then the Secretary of State would be minded to take over preparation of the Local Plan.

The Chair reminded the Committee that a 'Call In' meeting had been arranged for 7 February so that this matter could be discussed further.

Resolved – That the Local Plan progress update be noted.

39 OVERVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT

Mike Cockburn, Leader Commissioner – Environment, addressed the Committee to introduce an overview of the Environmental Enforcement Contract awarded to Kingdom (2018-2021). He explained that he was accompanied by Mr Michael Fisher, Legal Director at Kingdom who would also be providing a presentation.

The Lead Commissioner – Environment set out the long term journey to drive behaviour change as detailed within the Wirral Plan Pledge 'to create an attractive environment for Wirral Residents and Visitors'. Background information was provided to Members and it was explained that Kingdom won

the tender for Environmental Enforcement Contract after competing with two other companies. The three year contract commenced in August 2018 and included: littering, dog fouling, smoke free, skip permits and trade waste compliance. Members were reminded that the contract was subject to 'call' in which was facilitated and upheld by the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2018.

Members were advised by the Lead Commissioner that full delegation of the Council's enforcement powers had been given to Kingdom with full compliance of the Council's Enforcement Policy with a zero tolerance instruction. He informed the Committee that robust contract management framework, protocols, complaints and appeal processes are adhered to and that regular contract management meetings are being held.

Members were then informed that details of the Environmental Enforcement Contract (redacted), comprehensive set of FAQs and monthly performance reports are available on the Council's website. Information was provided of fixed penalty notices issued in December 2018 detailing offences under age banding categories, demonstrating how the largest proportion of offences were committed by age group 20-49. Interactive maps were shown to detail litter and dog fouling fixed penalty notices (FPN's) that had been issued in the last 36 months. Details of contract performance with regards to littering and dog fouling were also available to Members.

Details were then provided regarding income generation and Members were advised that Wirral Council retains income generated through court costs from prosecutions against offenders of environmental crime. Members then heard how over the past four years income generated had been re invested back into Environmental Improvement Programmes such as tackling 'grot spots', funding the 'Love Wirral' brand, litter bin provision and the 'Love Where You Live' volunteers support programme.

The Lead Commissioner set out current and ongoing operational issues and assured the Committee that allegations of misconduct made against Kingdom Officers are fully investigated. He further advised that Kingdom Officers are suffering from acts of violence, aggression and ridicule on a daily basis and these are subject to ongoing police and community safety investigations.

In response to questions by Members, Mike Cockburn advised that there are a number of campaigns groups and a heavy social media presence against the work of Kingdom Officers, particularly prevalent in Birkenhead Town Centre. He then then informed that the Council are contracted to still pay Kingdom if a fine is not paid. He further advised that fines should not be enforced for accidental littering and informed that no action is taken against minors who drop litter, but acknowledged that this remains a problem outside some local schools and colleges and work is ongoing alongside local schools to target this behaviour.

In response to comment from a Member regarding vulnerability of some adults, not only by reference to age but also with regards to their mental and physical health, the Committee heard that anyone can appeal on medical grounds if they are issued with a FPN. They were then advised that if the appeal is successful fines can be rescinded. A further comment was raised regarding the disproportionate number of FPN's issued due to dog fouling as opposed to dropping cigarette butts and Mr Cockburn agreed that further work needs to be conducted to issue FPN's for dog fouling. However dog fouling detection is difficult and optimum numbers of FPNs issued would run to several hundred maximum.

In response to a further comment, Members were advised that aside from enforcement, there are other initiatives within the Lead Commissioner's remit including eco schools, the 'Love Wirral;' brand and community interaction.

A Member queried the 'members' enquiries reporting function' and asked how many complaints regarding littering and dog fouling had been reported through the CRM system. Mr Cockburn advised that he would obtain this information and report back. Mr Cockburn also advised that he would report back on a question raised regarding proportion of payments to the Council and proportion of payments to Kingdom following issuing of a FPN.

Mr Michael Fisher, Legal Director at Kingdom then provided a presentation to provide Members with background details to the overall management of Kingdom. He advised on overall services provided and advised that Kingdom had been awarded contracts to thirty five Local Authorities and have a workforce of 200 across the LA's. He explained that Officers combined conduct an average of 8,000 enforcement hours per week.

Mr Fisher provided details on team deployment and equipment provided to Officers including bodycams and mobile devices. He informed Members that bodycam equipment is not to film an offence but to capture the interaction between Officers and an offender following enforcement. He also provided details of intelligence and set out locations where FPN's had been given within areas of Wirral. Offence types were categorised and it was reported that the majority of FPN's (74.3%) had been issued for 'LitterDep- Cigarette' Data was then given of offences categorised into age, gender and ethnicity.

Mr Fisher then explained that in addition to Officers on patrol there is also an administrative member of staff who deals with prosecution files, FPN information, letters, complaint management and reports. Examples by screen shots were provided to Members detailing how issues are logged, dealt with and retained.

Members heard from Mr Fisher that Kingdom had recently entered into a partnership with 'Clean Up Britain' and had sponsored the 'Now or Never'

Behavioural Change Project in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire in connection with Clean up Britain and will be a live test-bed incubator unit to research, identify and experiment with new ideas aimed at persuading people to stop dropping litter and use less plastic. He then informed that in 2019, Kingdom would be going out to the local communities to provide education in the prevention of litter.

Responding to comments by Members, Mr Fisher advised that DEFRA guidelines are followed and balanced alongside the policies of the Local Authority to which Kingdom carry out enforcement work for. He then advised that he would follow up a query from a Member about low levels of enforcement in Bidston and St James Ward despite litter dropping being evident.

Responding to further comments and questions, Mr Fisher informed that Officers are not currently advised to ask the offender their ethnicity, but rather to use their own discretion, he offered that if could be deemed to inappropriate the practice can be stopped forthwith. He informed that all Officers are paid an hourly rate above the living wage rate and payment is not linked to numbers of FPN's issued. He agreed with Members that more proactive work needs to be undertaken to target dog fouling, both in terms of locations and times. He explained that targeted areas can be in response to intelligence.

In response to a question, Mr Fisher advised that he would provide details of Officer training modules and programmes and how Kingdom monitor their Officers to ensure that they are following guidelines. He informed the Committee that there is a training induction programme for new Officers with initial training lasting five days followed by a period of buddying up with experienced Officers and a twelve week probation period.

A Member suggested that an advocacy service be consulted with by Kingdom and worked alongside to address issues such as complaints against Officers as it was acknowledged that social media campaigns can be powerful and cause distress to individuals.

Comments were raised about vulnerability of adults, in relation to other factors aside from age and gender such as mental health and it was acknowledged and reiterated that any individual can appeal on health grounds.

In response to a question raised about the termination of the Enforcement Contract at Liverpool City Council, Members heard how this was due to a change of policy at Liverpool and that a clause in their contract stipulated that the Council could terminate the contract with sixty days notice. He then advised that a total of eleven Kingdom Officers are employed as part of the Wirral Council contract.

Comments were raised by a Member in relation to GDPR compliance with particular reference to the use and retention of body cam footage and Mr Fisher advised that he would seek further clarification on this matter with colleagues and report back. In addition, Mr Fisher agreed that Officers should not be following individuals who were not compliant in providing a name or address, however members of the public should be advised to give their name and address to officers and in not doing so they are committing a further offence if the police were involved in the matter.

A Member raised the issue of external regulation and asked for assurance that Kingdom is subject to external regulation and also enquired into trade union recognition by the company. In response, Members heard how the Council regulate through the use of the internal audit section and that Kingdom have a Standards Committee and fully engage with the Information Commissioner. Mr Fisher advised that he would report back regarding trade union involvement.

Resolved (13:1) That:-

- (1) members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee thank Kingdom and members of the public for their attendance;**
- (2) the discussion points be formulated from this meeting into a full report by Officers and be brought to the attention of the Cabinet; and**
- (3) this Overview and Scrutiny Committee continue to monitor performance of Kingdom throughout the duration of the contract.**

40 **BUDGET PROPOSALS**

A report by the Chair of the Committee presented the findings of two scrutiny workshops for the Environment & Scrutiny Committee in relation to scrutinising the 2019/20 budget proposals. Budget proposal workshops for Members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee were held 4 December 2018 and 16 January 2019 and provided the Committee with the opportunity to examine in greater detail a number of budget proposals affecting services that fall under the remit of the Committee.

The report set out budget proposals as follows: Expert Operator of the Floral Pavilion and Expert operator of the golf courses. Summaries of Member and Officer comments were detailed within the report.

On a motion by Councillor A Sykes and seconded by Councillor Lewis it was:

Resolved (8:4: with two abstentions) That-

- (1) committee is concerned that all options have not been explored to make the golf courses listed viable in this proposal; and
- (2) committee is concerned that Brackenwood Golf Course is at a higher risk of being left as a cost to the Council budget, leading to greater risk of sale for development as the only viable future option, if excluded from the proposal, therefore, Committee urges the Cabinet Member to either withdraw this proposal, or only consider this option as a group of three golf courses including Brackenwood

41 **ENVIRONMENT O&S COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

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

A Member requested that homelessness be considered as part of the work programme.

A Member expressed her thanks to Mark Camborne and his team for the organisation of a conference at the Floral Pavilion regarding Modern Slavery.

Resolved – That the work programme be agreed with the addition of a homelessness to be considered.

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ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 7 February 2019

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	T Jones (Chair)	
	Councillors	J Bird K Cannon T Cottier S Jones B Kenny C Muspratt T Smith	A Sykes B Berry A Hodson EA Grey (In place of S Foulkes) I Lewis (In place of T Cox) L Rennie (In place of G Ellis) D Mitchell (In place of A Brame)
<u>In attendance:</u>	Councillors	C Blakeley G Davies	Call-in Lead Member Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning
<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	A Brame T Cox G Ellis S Foulkes	

42 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest or of the application of a party whip in connection with the business to be considered by the Committee.

43 CALL IN BUSINESS - THE LOCAL PLAN

The Chair introduced the item of business "Wirral Local Plan – Update Report" considered by the Cabinet at Minute 47 of the meeting held on 17 December 2018, the decision relating thereto having been called-in in accordance with Council Procedure Rule / Standing Order 35. The Chair advised that he had received a request for additional witnesses to be called but had determined, following receipt of advice, that the calling of the Chief Executive and a former employee was not relevant to the call-in.

The Chair referred to the procedure for the consideration of called-in business that had been circulated with the agenda. The Committee further received -

- the details of the call-in and reasons submitted;
- Minute 47 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 17 December 2018; and
- the related submitted report considered by the Cabinet

The resolution of the Cabinet at Minute 47 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 17 December 2018 had been called in by Councillors Tom Anderson, Bruce Berry, Chris Blakeley, David Burgess – Joyce, Wendy Clements, Tony Cox, David Elderton, Gerry Ellis, Andrew Gardner, Jeff Green, Paul Hayes, Andrew Hodson, Kathy Hodson, Mary Jordan, Ian Lewis, Cherry Povall, Lesley Rennie, Les Rowlands, Adam Sykes, Steve Williams on the following grounds:-

“We note the decision

(2) approval be given to amend the Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions to Officers to delegate to the Corporate Director of Economic and Housing Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, decisions relating to the approval and publication of the evidence base, and associated technical reports, relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan;

1. As the Council does not have a Corporate Director of Economic and Housing Growth in post, Elected Members need to be informed who Cabinet will be delegating this matter to.
2. Regardless of call in reason 1, we have concerns that this decision will give Council Officers far too much control over the Local Plan, removing responsibility and taking away control from Wirral’s 56 back bench Councillors, and could result in Council Officers allocating swathes of our precious Green Belt for housing. The Local Plan will be published in the name of all 66 Elected Members, and it is they who will be held to account at the ballot box, while Council Officers will not and therefore, we believe that Elected Members must have total control over the production and decision making of Wirral’s Local Plan.

We also note in the report it states at 7.4 *External consultants will be appointed to undertake the sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment and any other specialist technical studies.* The appointment of consultants does not appear under financial implications, does not appear as a recommendation in the minutes, or give any indication as to the total costs of employing further consultants, as elected members we have a responsibility to ensure Council Taxpayers money is spent wisely and in line with good corporate governance”.

Councillor Chris Blakeley, as lead signatory to the call-in, explained the background to the call-in. He queried which Officer was in charge given the recent departure of an interim Director. He was losing faith in the Council and Officers to get things right, and considered that Officers were seeking to railroad the Plan through. The calling-in Members wanted elected Members to keep a close eye on progress and make decisions, including at additional scrutiny and Council meetings if necessary: elected Members' names would be on the final Plan which would have impacts for years to come. The use of consultants was buried in the Cabinet report, not referenced in the recommendations or financial implications, and he further noted the Council was also paying a Barrister £600 per hour to work on the Plan. The Council had delayed for 14 years and was now catching up by delegating to Officers at any cost. Members had a responsibility to protect the Green Belt, open spaces etc, and that protection could only be assured by Members being in control.

In response to a Member's query, Councillor Blakely stated that Cabinet was wanting to delegate to Officers the right to make more decisions without reference to Councillors or the Council.

Councillor George Davies, Cabinet Member – Housing and Planning gave an overview and explanation of the decision. The Local Plan will be developed with full political oversight and extensive community involvement, and it was for full Council to agree the Plan. The Conservative Group were aware of this and he was disappointed that simple delegations were being called-in, hoping the delay was not intended to heighten the risk of government intervention which would see members lose control. All are aware of the seriousness of the situation and he hoped all would work together. As Cabinet Member he had worked to accelerate the Local Plan to avoid intervention, for which the Council was under great pressure from the government; would like to think that all Members were inclined to work together for the good of the Borough and wished to see as much of the Green Belt protected with a robust Local Plan delivered meeting local housing need; and confirmed there would be full political oversight.

There was no reducing of Member oversight or asking Officers to approve the Local Plan. The Assistant Director – Major Growth Projects and Housing Delivery had attended scrutiny meetings, provided information and had done what the Committee had asked of him. A cross party working group was to be established to look into the technical documents; the Cabinet decision was about delivering these with speed and efficiency. Technical studies formed the evidence base, covering issues such as flooding and infrastructure and are completed by experts; these would be subject to review and incorporated into the Plan. Members would be able to see and review all studies. He was sure that Members did not want to risk government intervention, which if the Council did not move quickly enough would happen and result in government officials less sympathetic to Wirral's issues taking decisions.

Councillor Davies received and responded to questions from members of the Committee -

- The cross party group would be established as quickly as possible. Officers were looking at the public consultation results and an update to Members would be given as soon as anything was available.
- He had not been satisfied with progress, but was confident with what now the Council now had in terms of planning staff to guide the process through. With regard to meetings with Officers, he had met with the former Director monthly on the Plan, and every two weeks on housing matters specifically.
- Further to a query referencing the difference between sharing information and the approval of policy and publication, the Cabinet Member noted that the Council had not yet reached this position.
- The 'speed and efficiency' had been thrust on the Council and it was noted that Labour had not been in control for all the 14 years. The Council had relied on the UDP, but was now looking for a new direction for growth, new homes and development. He did not want to build on the Green Belt, but government figures were telling otherwise.
- Regarding brownfield sites, the Cabinet Member advised that letters had been sent to owners of brownfield sites regarding house building and Officers were reviewing responses; the outcomes of this would be reported.
- Points that the Council might be in a better position had it been more concise with Peel Holdings with a contractually agreed number homes for development and that the government might therefore have been willing to accept the lower housing need figure were noted. The Cabinet Member advised that he had recently met with and received a better response from Peel Holdings, and would report on this in due course.
- The Cabinet Member supported a comment that up to date figures were needed to prove to the government that the Green Belt was not needed for housing provision.
- The Cabinet Member advised that issues related to Brackenwood Golf Course were different and separate to those of the Local Plan.
- In response to a query as to 'political oversight', the Cabinet Member commented that this was not a political issue but a major thing needing all to work together. The delegated decisions were to deliver speed and efficiency. Members were invited to join with the Cabinet Member to keep fully informed, and involvement of all Councillors was assured.
- With regard to figures for house building, the Cabinet Member confirmed there was a figure from Government that was being disputed. Wirral was unique and had particular issues that needed to be looked at and understood to identify housing and other needs over 15-20 years.

- With regard to the proposed working group and highlighted issues where Members had difficulty obtaining information, the Cabinet Member confirmed that he had asked for the Group to be established.
- The Cabinet Member confirmed that decisions on the Local Plan would be taken by Members. At the current time, there was a need to test and analyse the consultation; when this information came back all Members would get the information.
- The Cabinet Member confirmed an open and transparent process with inputs from Members. While definitive answer could not be given on timelines for technical studies, the first part of consultation responses on which any political decisions should be taken by Members would be available by the end of February.
- It was confirmed that the decision on the Green Belt would be taken by the whole Council.

No witnesses were called by the lead signatory to the call-in.

The Cabinet Member's witnesses - Paul Satoor, Corporate Director for Business Development and David Ball, Assistant Director – Major Growth Projects and Housing Delivery - were introduced. The Director advised that he had recently taken lead Officer responsibility for the Local Plan. The Director further advised that the delegation to Officers was not taking away powers from Members, but the referenced reports were technical studies critical as part of the Local Plan. There was a real and imminent risk of government intervention. The delegation would accelerate development with this potential government intervention in mind. The Local Plan would be owned by Members, and the Director would take away the concerns of Members expressed at the meeting and ensure Members had sight of all necessary information. The decision on content and the final version of the Local Plan would lie with Members. With regard to financial implications, the costs were not known at this stage but would be included in future update reports to Council and this Committee. The Assistant Director was in attendance to respond to any technical questions that Members may have.

The Director and the Assistant Director responded to questions from members of the Committee –

- The release of land from the Green Belt needed to follow the statutory Local Plan process. Any change to the Green Belt boundary would only occur should it be within the final Local Plan adopted by the Council. If Council land then lay outside the new Green Belt boundary, it would be for the Council to decide what to do with that land.
- Detail of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Grade 'A' agricultural land within the Green Belt was information to be provided within the technical studies and assessments.
- The Council was under real pressure from the Secretary of State to meet a January 2020 deadline, and the Director was unable to comment on previous activity going back several years. The lack of a

detailed project plan that would have provided assurances had been identified as an issue and was now being addressed. Discussions were being held with the Planning Advisory Service to provide assurance that the Council was now on track.

- The Local Plan had to follow a statutory process and a set route. Consultation had been held and a report would be produced later in the current month. The technical studies referenced were needed to build the evidence base on which Members would base their decisions. The process for the development of a Local Plan was advised as consultation on a draft Plan, modification of the draft following consultation on to an Examination in Public by a Planning Inspector at which the Inspector would receive all submitted representations and receive any personal representations, before the Inspector's report and proposed final Plan was out to the Council.
- With regard to the Working Group, the Director was looking to establish through the Cabinet Member a working group to share information, seek ratification for decisions etc before reporting to this Committee also.
- The Director confirmed that lead responsibilities for the Local Plan project, as requested by the Secretary of State, were held by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning (as elected member) and by himself (as Officer).
- The Assistant Director gave assurance that all working papers, technical studies etc with regard to the Local Plan would be published and consulted upon prior to Members having to make a decision.
- The Director confirmed that he would be responsible for appointment of consultant for the technical studies. When the technical studies were complete, the modified draft Local Plan would be subject to consultation and be submitted to Council.
- Should the draft Local Plan be rejected by the public or by Council, there was still a statutory requirement to produce a Plan and a related process. With the process being followed and all involved, it was hoped the Council could reach that position. The Council at all times had to follow National Planning Policy Framework prescribed guidelines and the government had an expressed expectation for the Plan to be completed in a reasonable time for which the Council was now in process.
- Following observations as to work to be undertaken to achieve submission of a draft plan to Council in July, work was being to assess delivery of that date. Any change to this would need agreement of government.
- It was advised that, in addition to the consideration of agricultural land, the technical studies would consider issues including sustainability, infrastructure, ecology, environmental issues to form the evidence base.
- Discussions were being held with Adult Care and Children's Services as to what the Local Plan might mean for demographics in the Borough

and to look to build in related detail accordingly. Issues such as community services, schools, highways, drainage etc were all part of the sustainability appraisal, and this might direct development to certain areas.

- With regard to Councillor input and public involvement, the Council had agreed a Statement of Community Involvement that specified a six week consultation process. The technical evidence being gathered would be available and open for all Members to see, with final decisions being taken on full information from the evidence base and factual findings that can be reviewed.
- Reference to the presumption in favour of sustainable development in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework, there was an assumption of approval of any planning application that met all policies.
- The Council had 3.6 years of land available for housing development against the government requirement of five years and had also under achieved against housing delivery targets in recent years. Housing need was derived through a formula, including Office of National Statistics (ONS) figures, which varied depending on use of either the 2016 ONS figures as required by the government or the more recent 2018 ONS figures which indicated a lesser housing need figure. It was advised that the Government's methodology produced a minimum figure, not a target.
- It was confirmed that concern over Brackenwood Golf Course had been reflected in consultation responses.
- A lack of a corporate programme for the Local Plan process had been identified and this would be brought before the Committee. Work on the project plan was being undertaken and meetings held with the Planning Advisory Service around the deadline which could need further discussion with the Government's planning service.
- Regarding assessment of housing need, Officers were not aware of any alternate approaches being adopted elsewhere. There were a number of datasets to be considered and the current debate was around the use of ONS figures.

Councillor Chris Blakeley, as lead call-in signatory, summed up as follows. Noting reference the remarks of the Cabinet Member as to the Conservative Group causing delay, he noted the Cabinet minutes had taken four weeks for publication. If elected Members were not being cut out of the process, why did Officers need more powers; Members were the only people Officers could take power from. If Officers had delegated powers they would come with recommendations and only then would Members get a vote. If this was not the case they would not need these powers. The call-in covered delegated powers and the cost of consultants, but Officers had not mentioned consultants and there was no knowledge as to costs. This left Members open to approving something without being involved. At this stage of the process should trust be put in Officers or involve all elected Members in the Local Plan.

Councillor George Davies, as representative of the decision maker, summed up as follows. He considered that much of the debate had missed the point. The Local Plan was not being delegated to Officers; Members were not being kept out of the decision making process; Officers were being asked to review the technical, factual documents; the Council was following best practice for developing a Local Plan; the National Planning Advisory Service was in agreement with what the Council was doing; the Government was in agreement with what was being done; and Leading QC agreed with what was being proposed. Every Member should have a say, he had offered access to the Plan, and the Working Group would bring this through so all would have the opportunity.

The Chair invited comment and debate from Members of the Committee. Councillor Sharon Jones noted that Officers had not responded to the cost of consultants as they had not been asked. With regard to delegations, Cabinet had not deleted power but had delegated responsibility for overseeing the process.

Councillor Christina Muspratt considered the Committee had received an answer about the responsible Officer, and that the Cabinet Member had agreed regarding Member involvement through the proposed working group. While the Committee had not asked about consultants, external consultants were needed with regard to the specialist inputs. Movement on the Plan could now be seen, but on the current timescale it might have been left too late.

Councillor Adam Sykes considered that it had needed the call-in to find out information, including that there had been no project plan or milestones, was concerned that there was no detail as to the proposed working group and that matters had been left too late, and considered that Members needed proper oversight of the process. There were concerns about the process being followed, that Officers were being delegated to compile the evidence base, and the sharing of information was not considered to be the same as Member involvement in decision making.

Councillor Ian Lewis considered that the delegation resolution of the Cabinet did not give powers to all 66 Members. There was an offer of a working group, but all 66 Councillors needed to be involved. There had been insufficient oversight to date and Members would be held accountable.

Councillor Jo Bird considered that while progress had been made, actions spoke louder than words. If progress was made in providing information etc then there might not be a need for a Council referral.

Councillor Dave Mitchell considered that the Cabinet resolution needed amendment otherwise Councillors would be left out, and that pre-scrutiny should be considered.

A Motion was moved by Councillor Brian Kenny such that "This Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee having heard the evidence and debate and assurances given by the Cabinet Member, agrees to uphold the Cabinet decision taken on Monday 17 December 2018". Having failed to be seconded, the Motion was declared to have fallen.

It was moved by Councillor Adam Sykes and seconded by Councillor Andrew Hodson that -

"This matter be referred to Council because the Committee has the following concerns:

- 1) Cabinet has delegated important decision making to a council position, due to speed and efficiency rather than what is in the best interests of Wirral residents.
- 2) Cabinet has delayed plans of a local plan, for which council has had 14 years to prepare, and this committee is concerned that the local plan is being rushed through to achieve government guidelines without regard to the input of the 56 back bench councillors or their constituents.
- 3) Cabinet has agreed to employ consultants without consideration for use of Council Taxpayers money that is there to provide services for Wirral residents.

The Director of Governance and Assurance advised that referral to Council was permitted only on consideration of a breach of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework and Members should have regard to statutory guidance and would have to show that the decision was contrary to the adopted policies or budget of the Council. In response to comment that the Cabinet decision allowed employment of consultants without considering costing, the Director advised that the Committee needed to reflect on whether they had sought or been given advice on which to make reach a decision and whether there was any expectation of the delivery of the Local Plan being against the published budget of the Council.

At the invitation of the Chair, the Assistant Director advised that within the budget for the Local Plan there were sufficient financial resources to meet the costs of the technical studies it was intended to undertake.

Upon being out to the vote the Motion was declared to be lost (6 for: 8 against: 1 abstention).

Councillor Davie Mitchell moved and Councillor Ian Lewis seconded that -

“The Cabinet Member to set out a timetable and programme for publication of all studies;

To set out costs of consultants proposed to be employed and identify all budget headings;

Report to Cabinet on a structure for Member led consultation after discussions with all Parties to ensure details of all studies are available”.

Councillor Liz Grey moved and Councillor Sharon Jones seconded an amendment such that the Motion be agreed subject to the addition of the following words to the end of the Motion -

“To refer the decision back to the Cabinet for Cabinet to reconsider its decision to ensure information on any decision is fully published and that there is as full an involvement as is practicable of a cross party working group”

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was declared to be lost (2 for:12 against).

Councillor Jo Bird moved and Councillor Kate Cannon seconded an amendment such that the Motion be approved subject to the addition of the following words at the end of the Motion -

“The Cabinet Member takes further action towards a cross party working group on the Local Plan and provides continued further information to answer questions from all back bench elected Members”.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was declared to be carried (15 for: none against).

Upon being put to the vote, the substantive Motion was declared to be carried (15 for: none against).

It was therefore -

RESOLVED: That

The Cabinet Member to set out a timetable and programme for publication of all studies;

To set out costs of consultants proposed to be employed and identify all budget headings;

Report to Cabinet on a structure for Member led consultation after discussions with all Parties to ensure details of all studies are available;

The Cabinet Member takes further action towards a cross party working group on the Local Plan and provides continued further information to answer questions from all back bench elected Members.

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Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 13 March 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2018/19
REPORT OF:	Director of Finance & Investment (S151)

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 3 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

- 1 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 3 for the council as a whole was presented at Cabinet on the 18th of February 2019. The quarter 3 revenue forecast is an overall overspend of £0.72 million for the year. Delivery Services forecast overspends make up all of this amount of which £0.2 million belongs under the Environment theme.

The quarter 3 capital report recommends that Cabinet agree the 2018/19 Capital Programme of £53.5 million which takes into account re-profiling identified during 2018/19. Expenditure to date is £33.3 million.

3.1.0 CHANGES TO THE AGREED BUDGET ENVIRONMENT

3.1.1 The 2018/19 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. The Environment Theme includes activity from 5 Cabinet portfolios as shown in table 1 below.

Table 1: 2018/19 Original & Revised Net Budget

Theme	Portfolio	Q2 Budget	Budget Changes Q3	Revised Net Budget
		£000	£000	£000
Environment	Environment	28,632	16	28,648
	Housing and Planning	19,687	414	20,101
	Leisure and Recreation Services	17,761	1	17,762
Net Cost of Services		66,080	431	66,511

Budget movements in quarter three cover a number of issues. The largest of these is the movement of £0.4m into Housing and Planning. This is a reorganisation of staffing budgets within customer services. These

movements have no effect on the bottom line budget of the Council and are just adjustments to better reflect where budgets should be placed.

3.2.0 PROJECTIONS AND KEY ISSUES

3.2.1 The projected outturn position as at the end of December 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 3
Environment	Environment	28,648	29,174	526
	Housing and Planning	20,101	19,954	-147
	Leisure and Recreation Services	17,762	17,586	-176
TOTAL		66,511	66,714	203

Environment

The Environment portfolio continues to face pressures from the non-achievement of savings within Waste & Environment being £0.4m from expected contract efficiencies and £0.2m from reduced targeted garden waste income where attracting additional users has not matched budgeted expectations

Housing and Planning

The underspend in this area is due to in year savings from contract efficiencies found within supported housing.

Leisure and Recreation Services

Within Parks and Gardens there is a £0.2m underspend that includes extra income from Bereavement Services and delays in recruiting to vacant posts. This is netted down by overspends elsewhere in Leisure and Recreation Services.

3.3.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF SAVINGS

3.3.1 A summary of the position of 2018/19 Environment savings at 31 December 2018 is below.

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

Portfolio	Approved Budget Reduction	Amount Delivered at Q3	Mitigation	To be Delivered
Environment	686	306	30	350
Total	686	306	30	178

3.4.0 PERFORMANCE AGAINST CAPITAL BUDGETS QUARTER 3 (December 2018)

3.4.1 Capital Programme 2018/19 at end of Quarter 3 (31 December)

	Capital Strategy	September	December	Actual Spend Dec 2018
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Environment	9,217	9,217	5,855	3,166
Total expenditure	9,217	9,217	5,855	3,166

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

3.4.2 Leasowe 3G pitches - A lot of guidance has been sought and is being given particularly to meet the FA Guidelines for 3G Football Turf Pitch Design, lighting design, drainage solutions for both the new 3G pitch and the proposed extended car park arrangements and requirements for the modular changing room block. The intention is to start the tendering process in early February. Planning approval is pending and expected at the beginning of February.

3.4.3 Pool covers - each site requires a bespoke pool cover. Currently researching companies who are able to provide a professional site survey and that will also offer solutions to the practical problems of installing the covers.

3.4.4 Beechwood Recreation Centre - the scheme has been on hold for a number of months pending the decision as to whether it would be a community asset transfer. It has now been decided that it will remain with the Council and works can now progress.

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)

Council Meeting	Date
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
Cabinet – Revenue Monitoring 2018/19 Quarter 3	18 February 2019
Cabinet – Capital Monitoring 2018/19 Quarter 3	18 February 2019

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

Environment	Revised Programme £000	Spend to Date £000	Council Resources £000	Grants £000	Total Funding £000
Aids, adaptations and DFGs	2,000	1,494	-	2,000	2,000
Restore empty homes	60	-	-	60	60
Clearance	50	11	-	50	50
Home improvement	500	370	500	-	500
New house building programme	89	34	89	-	89
CCTV cameras and other equipment	83	62	83	-	83
Eureka	268	165	268	-	268
Hand arm vibration equipment	75	8	75	-	75
Park depots rationalisation	3	114	3	-	3
Transport museum	66	79	66	-	66
West Kirby sailing centre accommodation	564	252	564	-	564
The Oval redevelopment	23	-	23	-	23
Beechwood recreation centre	150	38	150	-	150
Pool covers	5	-	5	-	5
Williamson Art Gallery refresh	250	-	250	-	250
Williamson Art Gallery catalogue	26	-	26	-	26
Arrowe park depot resurfacing, bays etc	150	-	150	-	150
Birkenhead park depot resurfacing	123	-	123	-	123
Play area improvements	180	126	180	-	180
Floral Pavilion audio desk	35	27	35	-	35
Landican Chapel improvements	330	13	330	-	330
Beach Cleaning - replacement of equipment	175	4	175	-	175

Cemetery Extensions and Improvements	375	260	375	-	375
Wirral sailing centre boats/equipment	15	4	15	-	15
Floral Pavilion chiller units	55	44	55	-	55
The Oval grandstand structural works	55	61	55	-	55
Demolish Seacombe Community Centre	100	-	100	-	100
Public toilets upgrade	50	-	50	-	50
Total	5,855	3,166	3,745	2,110	5,855

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ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13TH MARCH 2019

REPORT TITLE	Smokefree Wirral
REPORT OF	Julie Webster, Acting Director for Health and Wellbeing Rebecca Mellor, Senior Public Health Manager

REPORT SUMMARY

Smoking is a major contributor towards health inequalities in the borough and remains the greatest risk factor for poor health and early death. Smoking prevalence has fallen slowly since the 1970s, but a faster pace of change is possible which would mean more lives saved and greater productivity in the borough.

The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee further detail on Wirral Partnership's Smokefree strategy and some of the key challenges and opportunities in relation to helping local people live a tobacco free life; helping to make smoking less acceptable and putting young people off starting.

This report affects all wards within the Borough; it does not contain any key decisions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that The Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the Smokefree Wirral Strategy update and the opportunities identified by the CLear assessment and the NHS Long Term Plan for developing excellence in local tobacco control.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

Our vision is to create a Smokefree Wirral – to achieve this we need to shift emphasis from action at the national level - legislation and mandation of services to focused, local action, supporting smokers, particularly in disadvantaged groups, to quit.

Smoke-free legislation introduced in 2017 was one of the most important public health measures ever to be introduced in the UK and today is often used as an example of how policy change can improve population health. To support a Smokefree Wirral we require collaborative effort from the public, private and voluntary sectors and amongst individuals, families and communities.

In 2018, Wirral Partners participated in the Public Health England CLear¹ improvement process to ensure local action on tobacco control was achieving our vision. This process led to a number of recommendations which are included in this report.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

This report has been developed in response to the suggestion by members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to provide an update on local action to create a Smokefree Wirral.

Tackling tobacco is a key strand of the Wirral 2020 Plan pledge “*Wirral Residents Live Healthier Lives*” and sits within a much broader set of actions designed to address tobacco control and smoking cessation. However tackling tobacco is everybody’s business.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Too many people in Wirral are still smoking, one in six people smoke (approximately 41,000 adults smoke). Smoking rates remain higher amongst those in our communities who already suffer from poorer health and other disadvantages. One in four people doing jobs classed as routine and manual are much more likely than average to smoke. One in 8 pregnant women are still smoking at time of delivery (348 women per year) with all the attendant risks of miscarriage, premature birth, still birth and neonatal complications.

There is no single effective solution. Without action across **agencies, sectors and with local people** the health of individuals will continue to suffer, health inequalities associated with smoking will remain and the economic and social costs will increase to unsustainable levels.

The Smokefree Wirral Strategy was developed using local insight and evidence to determine the key areas for action. These are:

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clear-local-tobacco-control-assessment/the-clear-improvement-model-excellence-in-tobacco-control>

- **Ensuring people understand the risks of smoking and how to quit**

There are significant cost implications associated with long term smoking particularly in patients with chronic long-term health conditions. Helping patients to stop smoking can impact on their quality of life and on healthcare resources. National research² shows that smoking not only contributes to the social care bill but also has a significant impact on the wellbeing of smokers who need care on average nine years earlier than non-smokers.

- **Supporting those who want to quit**

During 2017/2018, Wirral's stop smoking service ABL supported over 1,500 people to quit smoking. Supporting our local people who want to quit is a shared responsibility and progress depends on supporting people to live healthier lives. At a local level, there is the opportunity to go beyond educating people about the harms of smoking to tackling key local environmental drivers of smoking.

- **Creating healthy smokefree environments**

The National Tobacco Control Plan³ recommends creating an environment which encourages smokers to quit.

Our local environment is an important influence on health behaviours. Smokefree places can reduce cigarette litter, set positive role models for children and help to normalise a smoke free lifestyle. An essential element of this is to create more and more smokefree environments and spaces across our communities so that we can challenge the norm of smoking.

- **Taking action on illegal tobacco activity**

The sale of illicit tobacco undermines public health policy by offering a cheaper option for those who might otherwise see price as a reason to stop smoking. Illicit tobacco damages legitimate business and makes tobacco more accessible to children. Tobacco smuggling is serious organised crime and the proceeds made from it are used to fund further criminality, perpetuating the cycle of harm.

Trading standards officers play a key role working closely with businesses to raise their awareness of their legal requirements and ensure compliance. However, the issue of illegal tobacco is complex, continued engagement with the local media to raise awareness of tobacco duty evasion, its effect on society and the consequences for those involved in the fraud.

Next steps

In 2018 Wirral took part in a CLear assessment of its Tobacco Control Strategy. This is a process designed to assess local delivery plans via a self-assessment process and peer review that resources are being invested wisely in tobacco control and smoking cessation

² Reed. H (2017). The cost of Smoking to the Social Care System in England. www.ash.org.uk/SocialCareCosts

³ Department of Health, (2017). Towards a Smokefree Generation. A Tobacco Control Plan for England. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/630217/Towards_a_Smoke_free_Generation_-_A_Tobacco_Control_Plan_for_England_2017-2022_2_.pdf

and that local strategies are delivering. The recommendations from the 2018 assessment were:

- Ensure a wider ownership of the strategic goals
- Highlight the need for continued focus on tobacco control given the significant impact on health inequalities
- Develop a vision for Wirral that incorporates partner action
- Involve the wider partnership in refreshing the action plan and include SMART objectives
- Engage more advocacy for effective population tobacco control levers
- Develop an understanding and awareness of the tobacco industry among elected members and wider stakeholders.
- Smoking in pregnancy remains a challenging areas and greater commitment is needed at a senior level within the acute trust
- Engage partners in a strategic comprehensive approach to media and communication
- Embed tobacco control into the routine work of trading standards
- Engage more with local communities regarding action for a voluntary code for outdoor areas
- A smokefree NHS should lead by example
- Build a broader consensus for tobacco control across a wide range of council functions and partnership agenda, for example community safety, children and young people, debt management and economic prosperity.

In December 2018, the NHS Long Term Plan⁴ (LTP) was published with an emphasis on prevention of poor health. The LTP recognises good health is about more than healthcare alone, and that to be implemented effectively the NHS must work in partnership with local government. The LTP advocates stepping up smoking cessation in hospital trusts; a new smoke-free pregnancy pathway for expectant mothers and their partners, so the entire family can be treated together, and a new universal smoking cessation offer will be made available as part of specialist mental health services. This will include the option to switch to e-cigarettes while in inpatient settings.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is proposed that the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the Smokefree Wirral Strategy update and the opportunities identified by the CLear assessment and the NHS Long Term Plan for developing excellence in local tobacco control.

These opportunities include:

- Encouraging a clean, healthy environment with a focus on children and young people's settings
- Opportunities for local businesses and organisations to operate smokefree sites
- The development of regeneration plans to include smokefree parks, play areas, high streets, areas of beaches and country parks, NHS sites and Council sites

⁴The NHS Long Term Plan: 10 key public health points (2019) <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2019/01/08/the-nhs-long-term-plan-10-key-public-health-points/>

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional legal implications arising directly from this report.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

There are no resource implication arising directly from this report

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

If the actions outlined in this report do not progress it is highly likely that the trends, we are observing in increasing levels of people who smoke in our poorer areas continue.

9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Engagement issues are considered within the report.

10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATION

An equality impact assessment has not been completed due to the nature of this report.

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APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

[Wirral Smokefree Strategy](#)

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 13 March 2019

REPORT TITLE:	2018/19 Quarter 3 Wirral Plan Performance
REPORT OF:	Strategic Commissioner for Environment

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the 2018/19 Quarter 3 (October - December 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 3 as well as available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

Quarter Three Wirral Plan Performance Summary

- Wirral now has 32 national quality awards including 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. At the APSE (Association of Public Sector Excellence) 2018 National Awards Wirral was awarded Best Service Team for Cemeteries and Crematorium, and Best Performer Award for Parks, Open Spaces and Horticulture.
- The 2018 Imagine Wirral programme has concluded, with over 250,000 participants in the events and exhibitions overall an estimated economic impact of over £4 million and over 600 volunteers participated in our events during 2018.
- Admission episodes for alcohol related conditions has improved from the previous reporting period (2015-16), however is higher than at the start of the Wirral Plan. Wirral's Alcohol Strategy is being delivered to reduce alcohol consumption to improve resident's health outcomes.
- The percentage of mothers known to be smokers at the time of delivery has worsened from 12% in 2016-17 to 13.5% in 2017-18; higher than the Northwest and National Average. This is viewed as a priority area of action in Wirral and a range of initiatives have been put in place through the Tobacco Strategy to address it.
- 93 more people were helped to lose weight in the first half of 2018-19 (1,496) compared to 1,403 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.

- Wirral achieved the most substantial gains Drink Less Enjoy More project (compared to the other participating areas) for reduction in sales of alcohol to customers who are drunk (reducing from 90% sales to 36.8%).
- The Reduce the Strength scheme has now signed up 100 businesses across Wirral. An evaluation of the project demonstrates strong achievement in the key areas set out in the original project plan.
- In the lead up to Bonfire Night a range of services worked with residents to deliver a series of Operation Banger Clean ups. In total around 23 tonnes of combustible waste was collected from hotspot areas across Birkenhead to prevent fires in those areas. The work has contributed to a 35.7% reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour fires.
- In this quarter there were 8 successful funding applications to help organisations to develop and deliver community initiatives. Between September 2017 - September 2018 the total funding secured for Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise organisation is £244,835.
- To date this year 1,090 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.
- The action for Cabinet Approval of the final Core Strategy Local Plan and submission to Secretary of State is off track and will not deliver on time. The Council is fully committed to delivering a high-quality Local Plan within the shortest possible timescale and additional support is being put in place.
- In Quarter 3 low income households have been supported by Energy Projects including the "ECHO" scheme which resulted in 28 replacement boilers installed and the Warm Home Discount resulted in 814 householder applications by Energy Projects Plus totalling just under £114,000 in reduced electricity bills.
- Reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) continue to fall, down by a third compared to last year. During this quarter there have been several successful targeted initiatives and campaigns working with residents finding informal and formal resolution with all powers available.
- Merseyside Fire Service have organised eight Community Action days in 2018, with two partnership events between October-December in Oxtton and Moreton and altogether 160 properties and a range of residents engaged.
- Significant support has been put in place with Kingdom to improve performance in enforcing against environmental crime and support a clean borough. The close working relationship and focus has helped drive improved litter and dog fouling enforcement performance during quarter 3.
- For recycling there is a continued a focus using targeted communications on the ten lowest performing rounds to reach the 25% target; the current figure is 21.61%.

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 3 Pledge Reports

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	21 September 2016
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	30 November 2016
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	28 March 2017
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	4 July 2017
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	21 September 2017
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	30 November 2017
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	28 March 2018
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	5 July 2018
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	20 September 2018
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	29 November 2018

Appendix 1

Wirral Plan Environment Theme 2018-19 Quarter 3 Reports

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Leisure and cultural opportunities for all

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Leisure Strategy:

30 events were held in Wirral's Parks, Beaches and Open Spaces in Q3 2018-19, which is exactly the same amount as Q3 last year. The cumulative total this year is 327, which is 10 more than during the same period last year.

Wirral's now has 32 national quality awards including 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, and a Best Performer Award for Parks, Open Spaces and Horticulture at the 2018 National APSE Awards.

The Draft Nomination Dossier to put forward for Birkenhead Park for World Heritage Site (WHS) status is progressing well. The World Heritage Site Project Officer started in post on 24th September, and the WHS Project Manager started in post on 19th October 2018. A two year project plan has been produced for the project. It's also good news that Birkenhead Park also received £20,900 funding from Public Health to deliver its Forest School programme during 2018/2019.

We're recruiting two Business and Commercial Development Officers to deliver a programme of commercial projects for Wirral's parks, coast and countryside. Applicants are currently being shortlisted for interview.

The 3 GP practices taking part of the physical activity pilot, have been tasked with identifying their patient cohort and are starting their activity during January 2019. Community Action Wirral, has been introduced to the practices to explore a volunteering buddy system. The project demonstrates the desire to make a difference to this patient group, but also highlights the difficulties in delivering it in on top of existing care management.

Wirral are working on a number of funding bids to delivery programmes to encourage participation. Mid-Wirral Crime Prevention Panel again approved funding of £2500 to fund 15 weeks 'Friday Night Football' at the Oval Leisure Centre and funding was secured for the Pathways Project and from the Police Crime Commissioner's Office for Operation Banger, which delivered a range of sports development diversionary initiatives to combat ASB and fires during, Mischief Night, Halloween and Bonfire Night periods. An unsuccessful bid for funding with Merseyside Sports Partnership has impacted on projects focused on improving young people's mental health. That said, all programmes that we run for young people will have mental health as a positive outcome and we are looking at alternative ways to deliver specific projects.

Tenders are being developed for release in January 2019 for the Reception upgrade at West Kirby and Guinea Gap, complete building refurbishment for Bidston tennis centre, 3G pitch and associated changing facilities at Leasowe and Soft Play awarded to Alliance Leisure.

We have 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>

Culture Strategy:

The 2018 Imagine Wirral programme has now concluded, with over 250,000 participants in the events and exhibitions overall and an estimated economic impact of over £4 million. Over 600 volunteers have participated in our events during 2018, and this quarter, we saw an increase in volunteer numbers year-on-year for our annual River of Light event.

Approximately £150k was secured from external funders for the 2018 Imagine Wirral programme. Plans are in place to secure funding again for Wirral's 2019 Borough of Culture Year. An Arts Council England bid was submitted at the end of Q3 and a commercial approach is also in development to generate income from the private sector.

We have also announced some key highlights from our 2019 programme which include specially commissioned outdoor spectacles, visual arts and heritage exhibitions, family festivals and waterfront celebrations, classical and new music events and community projects. The programme was previewed for stakeholders at Lady Lever Art Gallery in November and generated positive coverage from local and regional media. A media briefing with key print and broadcast media is scheduled for the start of Q4 to outline the programme to support coverage of our tenure as Borough of Culture.

The Culture and Visitor Economy Team worked throughout Q3 and throughout 2019 with a range of key stakeholders from across Wirral, including members of the Wirral Cultural Partnership, the Liverpool City Region and beyond to develop and put in place the building blocks for the delivery of the Borough of Culture programme in 2019.

Throughout Q3 we have continued to engage local businesses, including creatives, providing opportunities to be involved in our events which this quarter have included the Wilfred Owen Commemoration and River of Light. This is continuing through the planning for our Borough of Culture programme.

Four 'think tank' events were advertised at the end of Q3 to take place in January to ensure wider engagement and foster new partnerships among local creative individuals and organisations, communities and volunteering and heritage.

At a city region level, as part of the LCR Culture and Creativity Strategy and through our Borough of Culture status, we will host the first LCR Cultural Awards, celebrating fantastic arts and culture projects across the region and formally closing our Borough of Culture year. We are also participating in discussions with each of the boroughs for a new city region project, which follows the success of the Lost Castles project.

Work is continuing on the 'meanwhile use' creative hub and a new music venue in Birkenhead which would benefit local cultural and creative organisations. The review of leisure and culture assets also continues, with significant consideration being given to establish robust solutions for future delivery.

Wirral Metropolitan College remains committed to supporting Wirral's Culture Strategy and is establishing new cultural degree programmes and encouraging participation among student cohorts. WMC is engaging College Alumni as role models and champions for local talent to raise aspirations around careers in the arts, culture, heritage and tourism sectors.

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)	327 (Q3 2018-19)			Better	30 events were held in Wirral's Parks, Beaches and Open Spaces in Q3 2018-19, which is exactly the same as during the same quarter last year. The cumulative total this year is 327, which is 10 more than during the same period last year.
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

The latest information shows that the percentage of mothers known to be smokers at the time of delivery has worsened from 12% in 2016-17 to 13.5% in 2017-18. It's also higher than the Northwest and National Average. Wirral public health had already identified smoking in pregnancy as a priority and a number of measures have been put in place through the Tobacco Strategy to address it. ABL, Wirral's Stop Smoking Service, stationed an adviser at Wirral University Teaching Hospital to increase engagement with pregnant women and midwifery team and address the high attrition rate from the number of referrals to the number of women engaged with the stop smoking service. Public Health also led a Cheshire & Merseyside system wide Smoking in Pregnancy workshop which brought together Clinical Commissioning Groups, Local Authority Tobacco Leads, Maternity services and Stop Smoking Services and Wirral has an established Smoking in Pregnancy working group and a delivery action plan as a result. ABL has also implemented the direct supply method for Nicotine Replacement Therapies and this appears to be having a positive influence on client retention. ABL staff reported a significant improvement in service delivery.

Wirral achieved the most substantial gains according to an Evaluation of the Drink Less Enjoy More project (compared to the other participating areas) for reduction in sales of alcohol to customers who are drunk (reducing from 90 sales to 36.8%). The Reduce the Strength scheme has now signed up 100 businesses across Wirral. An evaluation of the project demonstrates strong achievement in the key areas set out in the original project plan.

An online guidance tool for members of the public who are interested in being involved in the licencing process is nearing completion. All information is with the developers and the website is expected to go live in the next few weeks.

The number of people accessing specialist services for alcohol is falling nationally and this is reflected in the slow decline of people accessing specialist structured treatment for alcohol or alcohol and non-opiate use in Wirral over the last 12 months. 1,235 people accessed the treatment between Dec 2017 and November 2018 which is slightly less than the previous period (1,253 - year-to-August 2018). A recent Public Health England enquiry into this cited a variety of potential causes and stressed the importance of prioritising alcohol treatment as essential to (and effective in) reducing unplanned hospital admissions and alcohol-related harm. The percentage of local people completing treatment for alcohol addiction and not re-presenting has levelled off above the national average at 43%. (Latest data to November 2018).

93 more people were helped to lose weight in the first half of 2018-19 (1,496) compared to 1,403 helped in the same period last year.

A report recommending full integration of planning, transport, housing, environment and health systems to tackle health inequalities will be presented at the next Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The recommendations aim to tackle the growing trend in obesity and also outline local work that is addressing social determinants of health in Wirral. Work to review the current weight management treatment pathway continues in collaboration with the Clinical Commissioning Group including establishing a task & finish group to engage members of the public, service users and professionals and a patient/public survey. We are also liaising with other local weight management commissioners to identify what is happening across Cheshire & Merseyside.

Champs Public Health Collaborative (of which we are part) has been successful in its latest bid to the British Heart Foundation which will result in (among other things) accredited training 250 local health and wellbeing champions/workplace champions to undertake blood pressure checks and the provision of 100 blood pressure monitors to organisations that attend the training.

The Pacific Road Wellbeing Network has been established where lots of small, micro and sole trader businesses have been brought together into a mutually supportive network increasing their awareness of wellbeing and related resources.

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
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: 10.8% (2017-18) North of England: 13.4% (2017-18)	12.0% (2016-17)					13.5% (2017-18)	Worse	Smoking at time of delivery has worsened from 12% in 2016-17 to 13.5% in 2017-18 and is higher than the Northwest and National Average. Addressing smoking in pregnancy has been a priority recently in the Tobacco Strategy. ABL stationed an adviser at Wirral University Teaching Hospital to increase engagement with pregnant women and midwifery team and address the high attrition rate from the number of referrals to the number of women engaged with the stop smoking service. Public Health also led a Pregnancy workshop to bring together partners across Cheshire & Merseyside and as a result Wirral has an established Smoking in Pregnancy working group (which includes Clinical Commissioning Group, both maternity providers and ABL) that have developed a delivery action plan.
Number of smokers helped to stop smoking	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		3,063 (2017-18)	767 (Q1 2018-19)	1,471 (Q2 2018-19)				Better	Our commissioned service helped 17 more people engage in the process of stopping smoking in the first half of 2018-19 when compared to 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)	718 (Q2 2018-19)				Better	45 more people have continued to stop smoking 4 weeks after deciding to quit in the first half of 2018-19 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)	29 (Q2 2018-19)				Worse	29 pregnant women were helped to stop smoking in the first half of 2018-18. (89 pregnant women had set a quit date.) This is 1 less than the 30 helped in the same period last year. There is a 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)	1,496 (Q3 2018-19)			Better	93 more people were helped to lose weight in the first half of 2018-19 (1,496) compared to 1,403 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)	England: 6.2% (Nov 17 - Oct 18)	7.5% (2017-18)	6.4% (Jul 17 - Jun 18)	6.1% (Nov 17 - Oct 18)				Worse	6.1% of opiate users successfully completed their drug treatment from November 2017 to October 2018 compared with 6.4% from July 2017 to June 2018 and 6.9% during the same period last year. Wirral was slightly below the National Average (6.2%).
Successful completion of drug treatment - non-opiate users	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)	England: 38.3% (Nov 17 - Oct 18)	54.4% (2017-18)	56.1% (Jul 17 - Jun 18)	59.0% (Nov 17 - Oct 18)				Better	59% of non-opiate users successfully completed their drug treatment from November 2017 to October 2018, an increase from both 56.1% from July 2017 to June 2018 and 50.2% from the same period last year. Wirral is performing much better than both the National average (38.3%).
Successful completion of alcohol treatment	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)	England: 38.6% (Nov 17 - Oct 18)	43.2% (2017-18)	40.0% (Jul 17 - Jun 18)	38.3% (Nov 17 - Oct 18)				Worse	38.3% of people successfully completed their alcohol treatment from November 2017 to October 2018. This is less than 40% from July 2017 to June 2018 and than 39.7% from the same period last year. Wirral is performing slightly worse than the National average (38.6%).

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. In the lead up to Bonfire Night Birkenhead Constituency Team and the Merseyside Probation Service were supported by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and Merseyside Police by delivering a series of Operation Banger Clean ups in conjunction with local residents. In total around 23 tonnes of combustible waste was collected from hotspot areas across Birkenhead to prevent fires in those areas. The work specifically carried out in Birkenhead and Tranmere ward has contributed to a 35.7% reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour fires.

The third quarter of this year has seen the work with communities continue to progress but there is still lots to do and we will be looking to refresh the plan for 2019/20 between now and March. A full calendar of volunteer-related material for 2019 has been planned, this will include a number of volunteering related workshops and events. Between September 2017 and September 2018, 374 organisations took advantage of opportunities to meet funding organisations and improve their skills to support local groups to develop and flourish. During the same period £226,785 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

Progress has been made regarding key priorities during quarter three of 2018/19 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

- A cumulative total of 271 homes, which includes 182 Help to Buy units were completed by the end of quarter 3. It is expected that activity will accelerate mid-programme, with 465 homes due to commence construction in 2018-19. In quarter 3, 54 units started on site, bringing a total of 218 units started on site for the year to date. This is a lot higher than was anticipated due to greater investment confidence from Registered Providers.
- Phase 1 development by the Wirral Growth Company is set to achieve 262 new housing units (150 family houses, 52 town houses and 60 apartments)
- Homes England approved the Housing Infrastructure Fund award to support housing development at Wirral Waters in November 2018. The funding will enable some 1,000 new homes to be built on brownfield sites as a first phase of residential development. A grant funding agreement is being progressed with Homes England.
- The action for Cabinet Approval of the final Core Strategy Local Plan and submission to Secretary of State is off track and will not deliver on time. The Council is however fully committed to delivering a high quality Local Plan within the shortest possible timescale. To this end it has invested in additional staff (currently being recruited) and the budget is available to appoint specialist consultant support required for the technical studies. In addition, Leading Counsel has now been appointed and in January 2019 AECOM have been appointed to undertake the Sustainability Appraisal will be appointed. This will enable a review to be undertaken of the Local Development Scheme which will be reported to Members for approval in March 2019. A weekly Local Plan Officers Group is in place to ensure progress on the Local Plan and the Corporate Projects Board are monitoring performance. Regular update reports are provided to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the next update proposed for January 2019.

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

- Energy Projects Plus's "ECHO" scheme for low income households who are vulnerable, cold or living in fuel poverty resulted in 28 replacement boilers installed in Wirral households in this quarter. A mailshot in October promoting the Warm Home Discount to households in receipt of certain welfare benefits in areas of high fuel poverty resulted in 814 householder applications by Energy Projects Plus totalling just under £114,000 in reduced electricity bills. 85% of applicants would not have applied for the Warm Home Discount if they hadn't received a letter from the council.
- A number of settings have been agreed to trial home smart monitoring. It is anticipated that both community and extra-care facilities will be included, incorporating people with dementia, people with learning disabilities and older people. Three equipment packages have been identified that can be tailored to meet different needs.
- The Selective Licensing consultation report is now complete and agreed by Cabinet on 1st October 2018 to implement selective licensing in four additional areas of Wirral from 1st April 2019 following a 12 week period of designation which took place in quarter 3. The designation period will end in quarter 4.
- Mandatory Housing of Multiple Occupation licensing changes were operational from 1st October 2018

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

- A draft homelessness review scope has been completed, and Officers are currently liaising with procurement colleagues regarding the requirement to tender for consultants to undertake the homeless review with tender to be issued in Quarter 4. Work has been deferred to allow for the impact on service of the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.
- Evaluation of the pilot of enhanced sheltered housing scheme for recommendations for the future delivery of services will be completed after six months of live operation. Work is currently being undertaken on schemes and confirmation of Domiciliary Care arrangements on pilots is being negotiated. Capital funding has been agreed to improve access and bathing facilities for pilot enhanced sheltered schemes.
- 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 Liverpool City Region officers group secured funding for enhanced homeless services; 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 and Phase 5 completed December 2018 however for two contracts, the tender process were unsuccessful and have been re-advertised with new timescales. There has been a strategic decision to defer tendering of two other services that have been previously identified through the commissioning plan for tendering, as a consequence of the introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act, the need to determine the impact of this on local supported housing provision and their ability to meet changes in demand.
- The action to work with Registered Providers and private companies to deliver 300 additional Extra care homes has also been identified as amber. Four schemes are either completed or currently onsite, providing a total of 75 units of extra care by the end of 2019/20. The remaining four identified schemes (total of 296 units) are currently at detailed design stage, or have been or are due to be submitted for a planning decision and should be fully completed (subject to planning approval) by the end of 2021/22. We will therefore be delivering over the original target of 300 units however timescales will not be met due to the impact of the significant delay on the Government decision regarding funding for Extra Care schemes as part of its review of funding for supported housing schemes.

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 (2015-18)						n/a	This is an annual indicator which will report at year-end. The 2015/18 figure has been confirmed as unchanged at 1,752
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)	Green Actual: 1,090 Target: 1,022 (Dec 2015-Dec 2018)			Better	On target to exceed overall pledge 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. Target for 2018/19 is 902. Quarter 3 performance is 119 units completed and we are on target for the year end figure.
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	2,257 (2014-15)		2,597 (2017-18)	642 (Apr-Jun 2018)	1,309 (Apr-Sep 2018)	2,042 (Apr-Dec 2018)			n/a	Home adaptations is a demand led service based on clients needs. From April-December 2018 there were 2042 adaptations completed. Trend indicates that we will complete a similar number of adaptations as last years performance.
Reduce homelessness through prevention	Quarterly Higher is better	707 (2014-15)		998 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	246 (Apr-Jun 2018)	523 (Apr-Sept 2018)	715 (Apr-Dec 2018)			n/a	Due to the new Homeless Reduction Act, trend comparison against previous years data has been removed. Performance is currently at 715 in response to new legislation and is on track to meet the target of 900 for 2018/19

Wirral's neighbourhoods are safe

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

It is pleasing to see that reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) continue to fall, with reports down by a third compared to last year. This reduction was particularly evident during the bonfire night and Halloween period, a time period of perennial ASB issues. Operation Bangor on the lead up to bonfire night was carried out to ensure high visibility in areas dealing with the distress of overnight ASB fires; Operation Stay Safe tackling young people involved in risk taking behaviour and an Arson Awareness day. This work continues alongside multi agency engagement with residents through Community Days of Action taking place this quarter in Wallasey and Oxton with 160 properties engaging. Wirral ASB Team supported this campaign by assisting Merseyside Police with door knocks to provide reassurance to the community and to gather any further intelligence.

Crimes reported to the Police have increased by 13% when compared to the same period last year, a similar increase reflected in the latest figures for Violence with Injury. Crime reporting standards are updated annually and this must be taken into consideration when comparing data. There has also been an improvement in recording of crimes and more victims reporting. Wirral continues to maintain the third lowest crime rate amount most similar force groups.

One of the priorities set out in this pledge was to build communities where people feel safe, as part of this work we have commissioned a specialist organisation to deliver specialist age appropriate training to schools, this is being prioritised within schools within communities where racial tensions have been identified.

Working with Wirral Ways to Recovery we have increased the engagement rate for offenders leaving custody, evidence telling us that meaningful engagement with drug and alcohol services reduces reoffending. Collaborative working with the Troubled families team, which has built on good work already taking place has seen significant improvements in data and information sharing being embedded, which will improve outcomes for these families.

Building on the success of the Safer Wirral Hub we are aligning with the Local Policing Model and planning further integrated partnership working as part of Phase 2. Consultation is currently taking place with services/agencies following discussions with Senior Leadership team.

In January we will be holding a Wirral Modern Slavery Conference to raise awareness and understanding of the fastest growing crime in the world. The event will bring together agencies, working with communities to protect our most vulnerable and ensure criminals are held to account using all the powers at our disposal. In February a workshop has been arranged to agree next year's priorities and work programme to ensure we continue to progress the aims of this pledge.

We are delighted that the Safer Wirral Hub has been shortlisted for the highly prestigious Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards for 2019 in the Public/Public Partnership category. This is a great testament to this unique partnership which brings together all the public and community safety functions of Wirral Council, Merseyside Police and Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service into one single management structure and operations base.

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	
Page 57 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)	4,936 (Apr-Dec 2018)			Better	<p>There has been a reduction in reports of anti-social behaviour of almost one third compared to 7,193 reported incidents in the same period last year. The breakdown of reports during quarter 3 with the biggest reduction (40%) being in October. Increased reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) across the bonfire night and Halloween period is a perennial issue so it was positive to note the reduction in reports this year.</p> <p>Activities undertaken by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team (WASBT) during the quarter include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-agency Operation Stay safe to tackle young people involved in risk taking behaviour, Arson Awareness day in Slaty Road/Devonshire Road, Operation Bangor patrols Operation Bangor (lead up to bonfire night) - high visibility in areas that suffered overnight ASB fires Multi-agency days of action in Wallasey in Rice Lane, Liscard and Seacombe New volunteer training delivered to 7 people for the ROCRestore (Restorative Justice project) Supporting West Kirby residents with ongoing ASB incidents and requesting assistance from colleagues from British Transport Police/Revenue Officers on trains Letter drops completed in Rappart Road, Wallasey, Gannys Meadow Road, Woodchurch Residents meeting in Banning Close, Birkenhead regarding concerns of anti-social behaviour Door knock exercise following report of ASB in Cross Street Met with Merseyside Police and driving instructors to provide advice on reporting and recording incidents of anti-social behaviour within the Birkenhead area. Assisted within the Joint Command Centre for the River of Light event. Multi-agency meeting regarding ongoing ASB issues in the Bentinck Street, Birkenhead. Supported a private landlord in to evict a tenant causing ASB for local residents. Email received from a resident thanking Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team for their support. Without notice interim Injunction Order with Power of Arrest obtained for violence against staff member (now awaiting trial). <p>Individuals causing ASB have also been targeted including: Criminal Behaviour Order, Acceptable Behaviour Contract, home visits and letters sent.</p>	
	Proportion of residents who state they feel safe when outside in their local area (daytime) Annual Higher is better	88% (Oct 2015)		90% (Dec 2017)							n/a	Latest data is from the 2017 Wirral Residents Survey.
	Proportion of residents who state they feel safe when outside in their local area (After Dark) Annual Higher is better	55% (Oct 2015)		51% (Dec 2017)							n/a	Latest data is from the 2017 Wirral Residents Survey.
Number of crimes recorded by the police	Quarterly Lower is better	19,061 (2014-15)	Ranking within 15 Most Similar Community Safety Partnership Groups: 3 (Nov 2017-Oct 2018)	23,096 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	6,709 (Apr-Jun 2018)	13,318 (Apr-Sep 2017)	19,451 (Apr-Dec 2018)			Worse	<p>There has been a 13% rise in the number of crimes recorded when compared to the same period last year. However Wirral continues to maintain the 3rd lowest crime rate compared to the Home Office 'family' of 15 demographically comparable Community Safety Partnerships. It should be noted that Police recorded crime data has changed over time, with improvements in recording practices, this has had an impact on the number of recorded crimes. Where there is an increase in the number of recorded offences, it is due largely to recording improvements or more victims reporting, rather than a genuine rise in crime. Primarily the case for offences of violence, public order offences, domestic abuse and sexual offences.</p>	

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)	173 (Jul 2017-Jun 2018)			Worse	Latest data is for July 2017-June 2018. Following a reducing trend over the past 2 years data shows a slight increase when compared to the same period last year (171). Figures are presented as a rate per 100,000 young people aged 10-17 and this equates to 51 young people compared to 50 last year. The Youth Offending Service continues to focus on 'Out of Court' work to maintain Wirral's low rate.
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: 4 (Nov 2017-Oct 2018)	2,569 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	746 (Apr-Jun 2018)	1,506 (Apr-Sep 2018)	2,157 (Apr-Dec 2018)			Worse	There was an increase of 13% in crimes of 'violence with injury' compared to the same period last year, (in which there were 1,912). However this increase is the same for all other 15 Community Safety Partnerships with which Wirral is benchmarked in the Home Office 'Most Similar' Group, as Wirral's ranking remains consistent. Wirral is ranked 4th lowest amongst 15 for violence with injury an improvement from 5th at the same time last year. It should be noted that Police recorded crime data has changed over time, with improvements in recording practices, this has had an impact on the number of recorded crimes. Where there is an increase in the number of recorded offences, it is due largely to recording improvements or more victims reporting, rather than a genuine rise in crime. A significant proportion of this increase can be attributed to successes in victims of domestic violence having the confidence to come forward.
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)	41.2% (Jan-Dec 2016)			Worse	Latest data for the percentage of youth re-offending is for the period January-December 2016. At 41.2% it shows a reduction of 1.5% when compared to previous year's figures.

Attractive local environment for Wirral residents

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

During the third quarter we have made progress on a number of the key actions for this year. We have been working hard to support our enforcement contractor Kingdom to overcome operational difficulties such as the recruitment and retention of staff to improve performance. New aspects of the enforcement contract have also been established during this quarter such as 'smoke free' and trade waste. We are pleased with the local environmental quality scores achieved through monitoring this quarter, particularly given the leaf fall programme started in October and then we experienced several powerful and disruptive storms. We have also re-engaged with our Love Where You Live colleagues and supporters and discussed new requirements and support to drive voluntary activity. We continue with the Waste Management Improvement Plan to focus on improving recycling performance and reducing non recycled waste and right at the end of the quarter the Government launched its Waste and Resources Plan to set out new waste management targets and requirements. We are now reviewing the Government's new plan and determining its implications for Wirral and the City Region. We have much to be working on as we move into the final quarter of the year, including making the final recommendations for a dog control PSPO, taking forward actions set out in the SUP Free policy, launching our programme for Year of Environment and completing this year's grot spot action plan. We are on course to complete the Delivery Plan's actions by the end of the 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
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)	Blue Actual: 98.9% Target: 93.3% (Q3 2018-19)			Better	The 2018 Q3 figures continue to show that Local Environmental Quality in key gateway and shopping areas exceed the target score of 93.3%, with an increase in performance on the previous quarter. The quarter 3 performance of 98.9% is particularly impressive given the time of year with leaf fall and a number of weather storms. The strong LEQ performance also demonstrates that behaviour change in terms of littering is beginning to occur with a reduction in cigarette litter.
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 2018-19)	Red Actual: 33.50% Target: 38.50% (Q2 2018-19)				Same	79% of councils in England saw a reduction in the recycling rate compared with the same quarter last year and there was an average drop of 2.2 percentage points, which is consistent with the reduction experienced by Wirral Council. This is likely to be due to the low quantity of garden waste collected this quarter, as a result of a particularly warm and dry summer (not good growing conditions). Projects to help increase capture of Wirral's available recycling are continuing (updates further down in this report).
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 Littering N'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: 3,018 Target: 4,000 (Apr-Sep 2018)	Red Actual: 4,205 Target: 5,750 (Apr-Dec 2018)			Worse	We have been working closely with Kingdom and providing the support they need to improve performance in enforcing against environmental crime through optimum officer numbers. The close working relationship and focus has helped drive improved litter enforcement performance during quarter 3. During this quarter we have also launched an interactive map of litter enforcement via the Council's website enabling residents to view exactly where action has been taken.
Number of Dog Fouling N'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)	Red Actual: 61 Target: 130 (Apr-Dec 2018)			Worse	The Council expects to see an increase in notices issued for dog fouling offences, with volumes comparable to last year. The support given to Kingdom to get officer numbers back up to optimum have enabled Kingdom to improve their performance in enforcing against dog fouling during quarter 3. As for littering offences the interactive map also includes details of dog fouling enforcement enabling residents to view exactly where action has been taken.
Reduce the overall collected general waste (non-recycling) per household	Quarterly Lower is better	502.15 (2014-15)		545.98 (2017-18)	142.98 kg/hh (Apr-Jun 2018)	131.60 kg/hh (Apr-Sep 2018)				Better	
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.
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)	39,331 (Apr-Dec)			Better	There are 157 more subscribers than at the same point last year. However, this is still far short of the 40,121 subscribers achieved in 2016/17. An offer was introduced in December for a reduced price subscription (£18) for December to May 2019. The number of new subscribers in December more than doubled as a result.
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)	21.61% (Apr-Dec 2018)			Better	The recycling rate is slightly lower than expected, but is an improvement on last year's recycling. The Recycle Right campaign is being rolled out in Qtr 4.

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 Wednesday, 13th March 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme Report
REPORT OF:	The Chair of the Committee – Councillor Tony Jones

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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are requested to:

1. Note the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2018/19.

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:

Pledge	Strategies
Leisure and cultural opportunities for all	Wirral's Leisure Strategy Wirral's Culture Strategy
Wirral residents live healthier lives	Wirral's Residents Live Healthier Lives Strategy
Community services are joined up and accessible	Wirral Together Strategy (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:

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

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

3.3 DELIVERING THE WORK PROGRAMME

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

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

As some of the selected topics may 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, scrutiny workshops were scheduled on 4th December 2018 and 16th January 2019 for Members to consider two budget proposals before Cabinet made its final decision as part of the budget setting process. The scrutiny report of the workshop was presented at the previous Committee meeting on 22nd January, 2019 and was referred to the Cabinet meeting on 18th February, 2019.

4.2 Recycling Task & Finish Scrutiny Review

The Review Panel has convened a number of evidence sessions, including representatives from the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) in attendance. At a recent session, Members discussed Wirral's Waste Improvement Plan and considered research undertaken on recycling by other local authorities. The Review Panel will convene for a final session to consider Government's recently released Resources and Waste Strategy and the impact this has for Wirral.

4.3 Wirral Flood & Water Management Partnership

At the Committee meeting held on 20th September 2018, the terms of reference for the Wirral Flood & Water Management Partnership were agreed. The first inaugural meeting was convened on 12th March, 2019, and was attended by the Chair and Party Spokespersons of this committee.

This meeting gave stakeholders an introduction to the role of the Partnership and the associated reporting arrangements. A presentation was also delivered covering the Flood & Water Management Act, the Lead Local Flood Authority and Partnership Working as well as an update on delivering the recommendations from the Section 19 Investigation relating to the July 2017 flooding.

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 – Wednesday 13th March 2019

Item	Format	Officer
Local Plan Update	Verbal Update	David Ball – Assistant Director Major Growth Projects & Housing Delivery.
Overview of Trade Waste Enforcement	Presentation	Mike Cockburn – Lead Commissioner (Environment)
2018/19 Quarterly Finance Monitoring Report – Quarter 3	Report / Presentation	TBC
Wirral Smoke Free Strategy	Report / Presentation	Rebecca Mellor, Public Health Manager
2018/19 Quarterly Wirral Plan Performance Report – Quarter 3	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 Monitoring 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 7th December 2017</i>	Report / Verbal update	David Ball - Assistant Director Environmental Services
Kingdom Environmental Services <i>Standing item agreed at Call-in on 17th July 2018</i>	Report / Verbal update	Mark Smith – Strategic Commissioner (Environment)

SPECIAL / CALL-IN MEETINGS CONVENED

Item	Format
Grass Cutting and Weed Clearance Programme 5th July, 2018	Special Meeting
Delivery of the Environmental Enforcement Contract 17 th July, 2018	Call-in
Dogs Public Spaces Protection Order 15 th January, 2019	Special Meeting
The Local Plan 7 th February, 2019	Call-in

WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE COMMITTEE

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress / Comments
Recycling in Wirral	Task & Finish Scrutiny Review	Report to July 2019 meeting	Mark Smith	First evidence session convened on 3rd December 2018. Second session convened 11 th February 2019 . Final session to be scheduled for March.
Libraries (deferred pending outcome of transformation scrutiny)	Task & Finish Scrutiny Review	TBC	TBC	
Wirral Flood & Water Management Partnership	Formal meeting	TBC	Mark Smith	First meeting convened 12 th February 2019. Minutes to be circulated when received. Frequency of meetings to be confirmed.
Transforming Wirral – Further business cases	Workshops	TBC	TBC	

Impact of Gambling				Recommendation from Public Health Report (Cabinet 16 th July 2018). Further Scrutiny to be considered on completion of Officer/Gambling Commission Working Group work.
Reality Check Visits	Site visit	TBC	TBC	

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED (Consideration for new municipal year)

Item	Format	Approximate timescale	Lead Officer
Healthier Lives Strategy / Action Plan update	Committee Report / Presentation	TBC	TBC
Alcohol Strategy update	Committee Report / Presentation	TBC	
Safer Wirral Hub update	Committee Report / Presentation	TBC	TBC
Update report on implementing Playing Pitch, Min 32(2), November 2017 OSC	Committee Report	TBC	TBC
Modern Slavery – Monitoring of recommendations made in scrutiny review	TBC	TBC	Mark Camborne

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