



Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 17 September 2019
Time:	6.00 p.m.
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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

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AGENDA

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

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

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

3. **MINUTES (Pages 1 - 8)**
To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings held on 27 June and 4 July, 2019.
4. **NEW FERRY - A REPORT ON THE INCIDENT AND THE ACUTE AND RECOVERY PHASES (Pages 9 - 42)**

5. **2019/20 QUARTER 1 WIRRAL PLAN PERFORMANCE (Pages 43 - 52)**
6. **FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT OUTTURN 2018/19 AND ESTIMATE FOR QUARTER 1 2019/20 (Pages 53 - 58)**
7. **UPDATE ON LIVERPOOL CITY REGION DEVELOPMENTS (Pages 59 - 64)**
8. **BUSINESS O&S COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 65 - 74)**

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BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 27 June 2019

Present: Councillor D Mitchell (Chair)

Councillors	J Bird	K Greaney
	T Cox	J Stapleton
	M Collins	G Watt
	G Davies	KJ Williams
	S Foulkes	S Williams
	A Gardner	T Norbury (In place of J Walsh)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Walsh.
Councillor T Norbury attended as a substitute.

2 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.

No such declarations were received.

3 CELTIC MANOR RESORT - APPENDIX A

The Chair welcomed Members and Officers to the special meeting of the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee, convened at the instruction of Council 25 February 2019 (minute 93 refers) to consider all aspects of the Celtic Manor Resort scheme proposition, in order to make informed representations to the Cabinet at its special meeting scheduled for 8 July 2019.

4 EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved (13:0) (no abstentions) -

That under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the

following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the relevant paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favoured exclusion.

5 CELTIC MANOR RESORT

The Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee was requested to consider the content of the exempt report of the Director of Finance and Investment (S151), as circulated with the agenda, detailing requested funding arrangements in respect of the Celtic Manor Resort proposal.

It was moved by Councillor Jo Bird, and duly seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes, that:

It be recommended to Cabinet (13:0) (no abstentions)

That –

- 1) The financial and investment landscape has changed significantly since the Council sought the option to further invest in this project in 2016 to sit alongside its commitments under the development agreement.**
- 2) In that time, the Council has expanded its acquisition and investment portfolio considerably, seeking to create income to invest in services, to make wider economic and social returns, to regenerate areas and to continue to attract high quality investment by businesses in the Borough.**
- 3) This has led to increased borrowing by the Council to invest elsewhere than that envisaged by Cabinet when it last looked at the development agreement and outline proposals, a revised risk profile for those wider investments and further thought to the priorities that the Council should employ in making investment decisions.**
- 4) In the light of that, this Committee considers that the Council's investment profile and limited resources would be better served if this business venture was funded on the open market, rather than through Council borrowing, and it is therefore recommended that Cabinet do not enter into a separate agreement to fund the Celtic Manor project at this time.**

BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 4 July 2019

Present: Councillor D Mitchell (Chair)

Councillors T Cox K Greaney
M Collins J Walsh
G Davies G Watt
S Foulkes KJ Williams
A Gardner S Williams

Deputy: Councillor I Williams (in place of J Bird)

Apologies Councillor J Stapleton

6 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Jo Bird, who had a deputy standing in for her and from Councillor Jean Stapleton.

7 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.

Councillors Steve Foulkes and Jerry Williams declared personal interests in respect of agenda item 7, 'Update on Liverpool City Region Developments' as members of the Transport Committee of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

8 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

The Chair invited nominations for Vice-Chair.

It was moved by Councillor George Davies and seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes, that –

“Councillor Jo Bird be appointed Vice-Chair of this Committee.”

It was then moved by Councillor Tony Cox and seconded by Councillor Andrew Gardner, that –

“Councillor Steve Williams be appointed Vice-Chair of this Committee.”

The first motion was put and carried (6:5) (One abstention). It was therefore –

Resolved (6:5) (One abstention) – That Councillor Jo Bird be appointed Vice-Chair of this Committee.

9 **MINUTES**

Members were requested to receive the minutes of the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 5 March, 2019.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 March, 2019, be approved.

10 **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Chair agreed to vary the order of business and take item 6 on the agenda next.

11 **2018/19 QUARTER 4 AND YEAR END WIRRAL PLAN PERFORMANCE**

David Armstrong, Assistant Chief Executive, introduced a report which provided the 2018/19 Quarter 4 (January - March 2019) performance report for Wirral Plan pledges under the Business theme. The Quarter 4 report was included as Appendix 1 to the report, and provided a description of the progress in Quarter 4, including available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

The year-end closedown report was included as Appendix 2 and provided a summary of analysis of performance against measures and Wirral Plan delivery of pledge strategy actions at the year end.

Responding to a comment from a Member, David Armstrong stated that with regard to the number and type of jobs created he would need to request this information from the Chamber of Commerce and respond to this in writing.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

12 **WIRRAL'S CULTURE STRATEGY: IMAGINE WIRRAL 2018 AND BOROUGH OF CULTURE 2019**

Jane Morgan, Senior Manager – Culture, introduced a report and gave a detailed presentation on the progress made in respect of implementing

Wirral's Culture Strategy, with particular reference to the impact of the 2018 Imagine Wirral culture programme and the 2019 Liverpool City Region Borough of Culture programme.

Members made a number of comments and observations following the presentation, including:

- Wirral was now in a good place to build on visitor economy outcomes given progress to date.
- It was important to ensure that residents / neighbouring areas were fully engaged with events about potential impact, e.g. in respect of noise.
- With regard to legacy, there was a need for some sustainable projects to keep residents and visitors coming back.
- In respect of social isolation some of the large scale events were of important social value in terms of volunteering.
- There was a need to engage with some of the cruise ship companies and 'blue badge' guides so that heritage trails and visitor tours benefitted Wirral as well as Liverpool and other parts of the City Region.
- There was also a need to demonstrate the legacy of cultural and sporting events and show this through evaluation methodologies which were both quantitative and qualitative.
- These events had attracted visitors from the wider region and beyond and not just from the Wirral.

Responding to comments from Members, Jane Morgan commented that the data on the economic benefits of investment in culture was based on a standard recognised survey methodology, using a sample of visitors and she would circulate the information on this. With regard to volunteers there was an application process and an induction; a volunteer manager was also in place at each event to support volunteers. With regard to the social impact, quantitative and qualitative data was collected and case studies were also used. There was also lots of evidence nationally and internationally around culture and wellbeing and there was a need to be able to evaluate this in Wirral on an ongoing basis.

Members thanked all those who had been and were involved in organising these events including Lucy Barrow, Jane Morgan and all the team.

David Armstrong also added his thanks and appreciation to all the staff from the Culture and Visitor Economy Team and also all the other Council staff, including those involved in organising road closures, cleaning up and the significant number of volunteers.

The Chair commented upon the comparatively small amount of money spent by the Council on these events in return for such a large economic impact and the need to continue growing the visitor economy through continued investment.

Resolved – That the report, presentation and comments be noted and the thanks of this Committee be accorded to all the staff involved in helping with all these past and future events.

13 UPDATE ON LIVERPOOL CITY REGION DEVELOPMENTS

Rose Boylan, Policy and Strategy Manager, introduced a report and gave a presentation setting out a brief overview of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) landscape, including an overview of the Combined Authority members, roles and responsibilities, and current activity underway to implement the City Region devolution deal.

In response to a comment from a Member, Rose Boylan stated that she would be happy to report back on the benefits for Wirral residents.

Another Member commented upon the £1 tunnel fee which benefited all Wirral residents who had a 'fast tag' and the forthcoming delivery of new all accessible trains for the Merseyrail fleet. Though he acknowledged that there was quite some way to go in making all stations accessible. He also looked forward to the delivery of new ferries.

The Chair thanked Rose Boylan for her update and presentation. He also referred to the regular email he received with an update on LCR developments and suggested that all Members could receive this.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

14 BUSINESS O&S COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report from the Scrutiny Officer which explained the process of developing and managing a scrutiny work programme for the current municipal year. The report also updated the Committee on the current status of scrutiny reviews and workshops on a variety of topics.

With regard to the review of scrutiny arrangements, the Chair referred to a meeting of Scrutiny Committee chairs which would be taking place on 17 July, 2019. The Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee would be referring a report on the matter to Council and it was suggested that the Chair and Party spokespersons from this Committee refer their comments to the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee.

With regard to the Camper Vans Scrutiny Review, Councillor Steve Foulkes agreed that the Labour Group would supply a name to replace Councillor Pat Hackett who was part of the original Task and Finish review.

The Chair referred to the need for a Task and Finish review into road safety issues and it was agreed that this be added to the Committee's work programme.

It was then moved by Councillor Steve Williams and seconded by Councillor Tony Cox, that –

“This Committee writes to the Mayor and asks that Notices of Motion submitted for debate at Council are not sent to this Committee.

For the last few years the Committee's work plan has been at capacity, with items often being carried over to the next municipal year, and some never being debated.

The Committee regularly holds extra meetings and workshops and, in addition, five extra meetings were announced yesterday regarding the Local Plan.”

Some Members expressed the view that it was not the business of this Committee to interfere in constitutional arrangements.

Following advice from the Committee's legal representative, that the referral of Notices of Motion to Overview and Scrutiny Committees was at the discretion of the Mayor and the motion before the Committee was to ask the Mayor to not exercise that discretion, the motion was put and it was –

Resolved (7:3) (Two abstentions) -

This Committee writes to the Mayor and asks that Notices of Motion submitted for debate at Council are not sent to this Committee.

For the last few years the Committee's work plan has been at capacity, with items often being carried over to the next municipal year, and some never being debated.

The Committee regularly holds extra meetings and workshops and, in addition, five extra meetings were announced yesterday regarding the Local Plan.

15 **APPOINTMENT OF HIGHWAYS REPRESENTATION PANEL**

The Chair introduced a report on the need to keep panels under review and, in particular, at the first meeting of a Committee in each municipal year, in accordance with Standing Order 33(1). The Committee was requested to appoint Members to serve on the Highways and Traffic Representation Panel in 2019/20.

The membership of the Highways Representation Panel, since its establishment in 2009 had been three members, the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee and usually the two Party Spokespersons, or their nominees. With the Independent Group now having a place on the Committee it was recommended that four Members be appointed to the Panel.

Resolved –

(1) That the Highways and Traffic Representation Panel be retained in 2019/20, with the terms of reference identified.

(2) That the following Members be appointed to serve on the Highways and Traffic Representation Panel in 2019/20, with Councillor Steve Williams appointed as Chair –

Members	Deputies
1 Conservative – Steve Williams	Tony Cox Mike Collins Andrew Gardner Geoffrey Watt Helen Cameron Alison Wright Tom Anderson Jeff Green
1 Labour – George Davies	Jo Bird Steve Foulkes Karl Greaney Jean Stapleton Joe Walsh Jerry Williams Tony Cottier Samantha Frost
1 Liberal Democrat – Dave Mitchell	Allan Brame Chris Carubia Andy Corkhill Phil Gilchrist Stuart Kelly
1 Independent – Mike Sullivan	Bill Davies Moira McLaughlin



BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2019

REPORT TITLE:	NEW FERRY – A REPORT ON THE INCIDENT & THE ACUTE & RECOVERY PHASES
REPORT OF:	INTERIM DIRECTOR ECONOMIC & HOUSING GROWTH

REPORT SUMMARY

The report evaluates the role played by the Council, the emergency services and other key stakeholders in respect of the gas explosion in New Ferry in March 2017. In particular, the level of effectiveness of the Council and its partners during the respective acute and recovery phases.

In addition the report provides an update on the Council and its key strategic partners' role in leading the current regeneration phase and any next steps.

This matter affects the borough's Bromborough ward.

This is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Committee is requested to note the report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Committee on 28th November 2018 it was agreed [minute 33 refers] that a case study be undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of the Council and its partner's roles in the various phases of the New Ferry incident.
- 1.2 Furthermore, that any lessons learnt be reported to Members.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 N/A

3.0 BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

- 3.1 On Saturday 25th March 2017 at approximately 21.14pm hours an explosion occurred at 1 Boundary Road, New Ferry, Wirral, Merseyside.
- 3.2 The explosion resulted in the collapse of the Complete Works dance studio, furniture showroom, charity shop and funeral parlour causing severe structural damage to approximately 30 nearby domestic and commercial properties, plus a number of road closures.
- 3.3 There were 34 reported casualties with 2 assessed as critical, who were taken to a number of local hospitals. All three emergency services responded to the scene along with representatives from Wirral Council and Utility Companies.
- 3.4 An emergency evacuation centre was set up by Life Church (opposite Bebington Rail Station) which remained open over the weekend to support displaced residents and members of the local community.

4.0 EVENTS & TIMELINE

Acute Phase

4.1 Initial response -Saturday 25 March 2017

- 21:14 First call received to Wirral Council Control Room regarding concerns over a very loud bang.
- 21:16 Wirral Council Patrol Officers (WCP) asked to attend area to investigate.
- 21:18 Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) called to report possible gas explosion, initial reports suggest area approx. 40m X 50m affected.
- 21:24 MFRS established rendezvous point (RVP) at junction of Boundary Rd & Bebington Rd. "Major incident declared", WCP officers on site to assist. Duty Mobilising Officer (DMO) contacted and informed of incident.
- 21:40 Building Control requested by MFRS and the need to include David Armstrong and Mark Camborne both on site.
- 21:56 Road Closure put in place by Police & MFRS. Access provided through New Ferry Road from both ends.

- 22:05 The Oval put on standby as a possible rest Centre.
 - 22:07 BAM Nutall (Council Contractors) contacted to provide road closure signs.
 - 22:30 Multi agency Meeting at RVP point. National Grid now on site. 8 MFRS appliances in attendance with Mark Camborne and DMO in attendance too.
 - 22:40 Update from MFRS – Log Number – 40450. Casualties given as 16 walking wounded being assessed by North West Ambulance Service (NWAS). 2x persons with serious injuries. Life Centre Church now place of safe assembly.
 - 22:42 MFRS at Central station due to strong smell of gas. Investigating possible link.
 - 23:25 BAM confirm Crew at incident site awaiting instructions.
- 4.2 The first Council Officer on the scene was Mark Camborne, Principal Health Safety and Resilience Officer, who was soon joined by David Armstrong, Deputy Chief Executive and Wayne Tsoi from the Housing Options Team.
- 4.3 Upon arrival the site was already under the control of Mersey Fire & Rescue Service and the area of the explosion subsequently designated a crime scene under Merseyside Polices' jurisdiction. Dan Stevens, Chief Fire Officer at the time was in attendance and he determined that the level of damage was such that it be declared a "major incident". A Gold Command meeting was then scheduled for the next day.
- 4.4 As responsibility for the site was in the hands of the emergency services, it should be stressed that the Council had no input whatsoever at the time, in determining the designation of the incident.
- 4.5 Arrangements were made initially for the Oval Leisure Centre to provide shelter for residents, however the nearby Life Church came forward to provide a welcoming environment providing essential food, drink, notwithstanding invaluable support from members of the church who stayed throughout the night to support victims. The level of input by the Life Church was of the highest order and in recognition of their sterling work the Council later made a £1,000 financial contribution to reimburse them for costs of heating/lighting and food and drink.
- 4.6 Supported by an "on call" Children's Social Worker and staff from Mark's Community Safety Team, most of the Council's input in the immediate aftermath was focussed on supporting displaced residents. Key matters resolved during the night included making arrangements regarding the recovery of pets (both present and missing), sourcing the delivery of medication from Arrowse Park Hospital to replace those left behind, to providing telephone facilities for residents to contact relatives.
- 4.7 For those individuals unable to make alternative accommodation arrangements with friends or family, the Council made separate arrangements to book accommodation at the nearby Village Hotel. At the same time residents who had left their home with no money at their disposal were provided with cash to fund taxis, buy breakfast and essential toiletries.
- 4.8 Sunday 26 March 2017**
- 00:27 Council social services at church site. Oval site to be closed down.
 - 00:45 Multi Agency Meeting to assess ongoing actions.
 - 01:50 CCTV checked no footage available. Only aftermath and response.
 - 04:15 Site secured with block & mesh.

- 04:17 DMO & Mark Camborne stood down.
- 05:12 Building Control Officer stood down.
- 08:30 On site multi agency meeting.
- 10:00 Council Housing Options service on site to facilitate emergency temporary accommodation multi agency meeting.
- 11:48 Police request assistance over road closure.
- 13:00 Police Gold Meeting.
- 13:25 Mayor attended Life Church.
- 17:26 Building Control stood down.
- 20:35 NHS direct Council Contact Control Room over welfare of persons in Life Church – updated and passed onto Life church.
- 23:30 Life Church site closed down.

- 4.9 The Housing Options service launched an immediate response to the incident, with an initial on-site presence all day on Sunday 26th March 2017, to facilitate access to emergency accommodation using a combination of local Bed & Breakfast accommodation and Council-owned temporary accommodation for 16 households. In addition staff utilised a Wirral Council credit card to provide essential emergency provisions (such as food and personal items) to affected residents.
- 4.10 On Monday 27th March, the team linked with the on-site New Ferry operation to provide housing advice and assistance to a total of 37 households who comprised of owner-occupiers, social, and private rented tenant who had been either displaced or affected by the incident. Over the coming weeks, the team provided emergency accommodation, food, arranged furniture removals, and where appropriate access to taxis to facilitate appointments (due to cars being stuck within the cordon) with expenditure totalling £38,677.
- 4.11 In order to support the households worst affected and individuals unable to return to their homes, Local Welfare Assistance awards were made available, with Bebington One Stop Shop providing a specialist ‘drop-in’ service for affected residents. The service provided a fast track Local Welfare Assistance application for food, fuel, the provision of an enhanced clothing award, toiletries and daily living expenses. In excess of £6,500 of Local Welfare Assistance funding was awarded to 16 residents during this period.
- 4.12 For those residents unable to return to their homes due to significant damage or repair, partner social landlords were requested to provide any available accommodation to help rehouse affected households. This resulted in 7 households being permanently rehoused into social housing tenancies. The team provided financial assistance, in the form of tenancy deposits for a further 2 households to access private rented tenancies. The majority of households requiring rehousing were rehoused within 3 months of the incident. The remaining displaced households returned home as the cordon was removed or property repairs completed, some chose to secure their own properties independently or accessed accommodation provided by their insurance companies.
- 4.13 With everything following the incident now firmly under control and all risks being satisfactorily managed, Merseyside Police at its Gold Command meeting, took the decision to downgrade the classification of major incident status.

Recovery Phase

- 4.14 The Police were in control of the site as a potential crime scene and they had responsibility whilst the complex investigations were continuing. The Council commenced the recovery phase on 27th March, but did not have access to the site initially, focussing on supporting local residents and businesses, with David Ball acting as the Council's lead Recovery Officer.
- 4.15 On Tuesday 28th March a multi-disciplinary operational team consisting of a variety of internal and external stakeholders was established within New Ferry Village Hall to provide co-ordinated support to residents and businesses alike. Operating on a 'drop in' basis, the Village Hall was open from 9.00 – 5.00pm Monday to Friday for a period of two weeks.
- 4.16 A key aspect of the recovery phase was also the establishment of regular meetings and dialogue with a number of key public/private sector partners and agencies. This included representatives from Police, Fire, NHS, DHCLG (Dept of Housing, Communities and Local Government), National Grid, SP Energy Networks alongside a wide range of Council staff from Housing, Highways, Regeneration and Comms. The DHCLG representative, providing a valuable interface with government at the time.
- 4.17 On 6th April Wirral Council assumed responsibility for the area from Merseyside Police, immediately installing 24/7 security in and around the areas affected by the explosion.

A chronology of activity over the subsequent period can be summarised as follows:

April

- New Ferry Village Hall becomes HQ for co-ordination of recovery effort including support agencies (DWP, Homeless & Housing Options Team, Ask us Wirral, Port Sunlight Village Trust).
- Wirral Council take responsibility of incident site following handover from Merseyside Police.
- A multi-agency team of key public/private sector partners established.
- Building Control officers undertake supervised visits with homeowners/business owners to retrieve valuables and personal effects from properties still within cordon.
- Council tax and business rate payments suspensions put in place.
- Numbers of businesses reopen, some residents begin to move back in and repairs begin.
- Start of weekly meetings with local community (St Marks Church Hall).
- Meeting with all key stakeholders, i.e. owners, insurance companies etc.
- NHS Wirral commissioned to provide counselling support & therapy services.

May

- Regeneration Strategy planning gets underway.

June

- All displaced residents housing issues resolved.
- Boundary Road and Bebington Road fully reopened.

July

- Magistrates hearing for Section 77 Demolition notices.
- Site visit by Minister, Local MP, Liverpool City Region Metro Mayor and Council Leader.

August

- Demolitions begin following relevant agreements.

September

- Public consultation begins for regeneration proposals.

December

- New Ferry Regeneration Delivery Plan sent to Minister.
- Last formal Recovery Co-ordinating Group Meeting.
- 'Business as usual' status declared.

4.18 A significant aspect of the recovery phase was the ongoing lobbying of central government for financial intervention by the local MP, Ward Members and local business and resident groups in the community. This was conducted via correspondence and face to face meetings with the Secretary of State and via PM's Question Time in the House of Commons. This can be summarised as follows:

- Secretary of State meeting with Alison McGovern MP - (April '17).
- Letter from Council Leader to Northern Powerhouse Minister – (July '17).
- Impromptu visit from Archbishop of York (Sept '17).
- Submission of Regeneration Delivery Plan to Secretary of State – (Dec '17).
- MP & City Region Mayor letter to Northern Powerhouse Minister– (Feb '18).
- MP, City Region Mayor & Council Leader letter to new Secretary of State - (May '18).
- Meeting with Secretary of State in Parliament (attendees included MP, Ward Councillor, local businesses and residents) - (Sept '18).
- Adjournment debate in Parliament (MP questions Secretary of State) – (March '19).

4.19 At the meeting of the full Council on 10 July 2017 a notice of motion was put to Members, seeking cross party support for the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State and Prime Minister inviting them to New Ferry to meet with community leaders and residents affected by the devastating explosion on 25 March. Cllr Warren Ward, the Ward Member at the time gave an impassioned speech to the Chamber and the motion was put and carried (60:0) with one abstention.

4.20 A further motion was put to the Council seeking the use of the Council's reserves held for 'emergencies and unforeseen circumstances' to be used to support individuals. Following a debate this motion was put and lost (24:36) with one abstention.

- 4.21 Members also sought at the meeting to place on record its thanks for the hard work of our officers, led by David Ball, and the community of New Ferry, involved in supporting the area, since the disaster, including those who had organised and donated various items and money to the appeals.

(The link to the minutes from the meeting can be viewed below – item 35 refers).

<http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=5989>

- 4.22 One of the governments early responses to the authority was in signposting it towards The Bellwin Scheme, a scheme intended to reimburse the costs incurred by a local authority, taken in the immediate (acute) phase of an emergency. The key qualifying criteria for this scheme is that Council's will have been expected to have spent 0.2% of its annual budget on eligible works during the emergency phase. In 2017/18, 0.2% of the Council's annual budget equated to £494,424.
- 4.23 In light of this, the Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) at the time, deemed that this level of spend in the acute phase would be unlikely and Wirral would not have had a robust case to put forward. To illustrate this, the cumulative spend currently (as at 1/8/19) on both the acute and recovery phases currently stands at £423,243.

5.0 New Ferry Town Team

- 5.1 In the absence of financial intervention from government it was left to a number of voluntary and business organisations to provide financial assistance and support, no more so than New Ferry Town Team (NFTT).
- 5.2 NFTT had been established in the six months before the explosion. Essentially the group consisted of key stakeholders within New Ferry – residents, businesses, youth and charity groups working for the collective good of the community, mindful that at the time the town centre was in decline and suffering like so many other high streets were across the country. As a result, following the explosion it seemed appropriate to try and co-ordinate support and assistance to residents and businesses via NFTT.
- 5.3 NFTT was at the forefront of support from a wide range of businesses, charities and individuals and this came in various guises from financial donations to material items such as essential goods and clothing and “in kind” support. Such was the level of sympathy towards the community, that donations came from far and wide within the borough and beyond. Supporters included amongst others: Wirral Chamber of Commerce, Wirral Lions, Wallasey Lions, Cheshire Freemasons, Rotary Clubs of Neston, Unite union, alongside numerous churches, youth groups and individual businesses. Allied to this there were significant individual donations made through a Just Giving page set up by the NFTT.
- 5.4 Over £27,000 was donated to NFTT and the breakdown of support as follows:
- 38% towards helping New Beginnings establish themselves and act as a dedicated resource providing help and support in various guises to residents affected by the incident;
 - 6% distributed to local traders and a donation to “Blue for Lewis” supporting the resident who had life changing injuries following the explosion;

- 12% directed towards mental health and counselling provision via MIND;
- 8% on various events to facilitate community cohesion – community picnic, Christmas Day lunch, pantomime trip for schoolchildren, train fares to support businesses and residents attending meeting with Secretary of State;
- 5% used to produce two editions of a New Ferry Business Directory and newsletter for New Ferry Residents Association along with promotional butterfly stickers to improve the image of New Ferry and encourage businesses to thrive;
- The remaining 31% of the fund was directed to Community Action Wirral for distribution among traders.

5.5 In addition, members of the Town Team provided “in kind” help and support to residents offering a listening ear and practical help in providing free transportation of furniture and white goods to residents moving to new accommodation.

6.0 DEBRIEF REPORT

6.1 The events in New Ferry were unprecedented in Wirral and one of the most significant incidents that the Council and the emergency services in the borough had faced in peacetime.

6.2 In February 2018 the Council and the emergency services undertook a detailed review of the respective handling of the incident in the acute (response) and recovery phases. The review focussed on areas for improvement, best practice and perceptions of what went well, concluding with a series of recommendations to assist the Council and partners to improve the planning and management of similar future events.

6.3 A copy of the debrief report (response phase) is attached as Annex 1.

6.4 A copy of the debrief report (recovery phase) is attached as Annex 2.

7.0 NEW FERRY – THE WAY FORWARD

New Ferry Regeneration Masterplan

7.1 Prior to the explosion in 2017, New Ferry had long been recognised as an area suffering from retail decline, evidenced by above average rates of vacant units. It was clear in the weeks following the explosion, the profound effect this was having on local businesses, through the reduction in footfall to the area.

7.2 In order to provide a renewed focus and opportunities for future investment in the town the Council commissioned GVA to develop a Regeneration Delivery Plan for New Ferry. This “visioning” plan was consulted on in September 2017, seeking to protect local businesses and bring a mix of new residential commercial and community uses into the area to create a sustainable future for New Ferry.

Residential Masterplanning

7.3 Building upon the Regeneration Delivery Plan for New Ferry, Homes England alongside consultants BDP have for the past twelve months been working alongside Wirral Council on developing the residential elements of the wider Delivery Plan. The residential master

plan is seen as key to kick-starting the wider plan and revitalising a community still reeling from the impact of the explosion.

- 7.4 A number of 'preferred' residential options have been developed by BDP and these were exhibited at two public consultation events at the end of January 2019, where residents and local businesses were invited and given the opportunity to comment on the various proposals.
- 7.5 Informed by the views of residents, local businesses and Ward Members consultants BDP have been exploring, subject to viability, the potential for some new mixed-use retail/leisure and commercial activity to replace those uses that were lost in the explosion.
- 7.6 This piece of work once completed will inform the collation of all the necessary technical information required for an outline planning application.

Strategic Acquisition's Programme

- 7.7 Running in parallel with this work, the Council has been moving forward with its own plans to invest £1.3 million to support the land assembly exercise that is needed to facilitate the proposed new residential/mixed-use developments. This involves buying in a number of derelict and dilapidated commercial properties in the area, which are currently in private ownership, and demolishing them as part of the redevelopment plans.
- 7.8 This work is now well under way led by the authority's Asset Management Team.

Liverpool City Region (LCR) Town Centre Fund

- 7.9 The LCR Combined Authority (CA) announced in 2018 the creation of a fund to improve the vitality and viability of the city regions town and district centres. It has ringfenced a sum of £1million per local authority district and a prospectus was launched in January 2019.
- 7.10 Wirral's allocation will be split equally between New Ferry and Liscard town centre i.e. £500,000 each and applications to the fund were submitted in March. The proposals for New Ferry and Liscard were formally approved (subject to contract) by the LCR Combined Authority in July and grant due shortly. All activities and spend associated with each proposal will need to be completed by December 2020.

Future High Streets Fund

- 7.11 As part of the government's commitment to help more high streets adapt and meet changing expectations in order to survive, MHCLG recently launched their Future High Streets Fund (FHSF). Expressions of interest (EOI) were invited from local authorities and an application for New Ferry, alongside one for Birkenhead town centre were submitted in March. MHCLG have now informed Wirral that both submissions have been shortlisted and the Council will shortly receive a development grant of £150,000 per location to work up a detailed business plan to enable New Ferry and Birkenhead to have the chance of securing significant capital funding in 2020.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 As previously reported at para 4.19, the cumulative spend on both the acute and the recovery phases within New Ferry now stands at £423,243.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none arising from this report.

10.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING & ASSETS

10.1 The Council deployed significant staff resources to deal with the New Ferry incident and all performed professionally and effectively in dealing with a range of complex challenges. Officers supported residents and businesses in and out of normal office hours and at weekends when required.

10.2 The ongoing regeneration of New Ferry is being led by officers within Regeneration Team within Major Growth Projects & Housing Delivery Directorate using existing resources. The acquisition programme is being led by Asset Management team in conjunction with Legal Services.

11.0 RELEVANT RISKS

11.1 There are none arising from this report.

12.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

12.1 None required.

13.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no direct equality implications arising from the report at this stage.

REPORT AUTHOR: Neil Mitchell
Project Manager
Major Growth Projects & Housing Delivery

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APPENDICES

Annex 1 – Planning for Emergencies (Merseyside Resilience Forum) – Structured Debrief Report (Response Phase)

Annex 2 – Planning for Emergencies (Merseyside Resilience Forum) – Structured Debrief Report (Recovery Phase)

**REFERENCE MATERIAL
SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 Years)**

Council Meeting	Date
N/A	

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Structured Debrief Report

Page 21

Debrief commissioned by:	Wirral Council
Event:	New Ferry Explosion (Response Phase)
Date of Event:	25 th March 2017
Date of Debrief:	Thursday 29 th June 2017
Debrief Location:	Wallasey Town Hall, Conference Room Two, Brighton Street, Wallasey CH44 8ED
Debrief Team:	Mark Camborne & Ian Voce Wirral Council
Debrief Participants:	See Appendix A
<p>Debrief Summary: All persons in attendance were informed of the ethics and purpose of the debrief process.</p> <p>The report focuses on areas for improvement and perceptions of what went well; it concludes with a series of recommendations to assist the Council and MRF to improve the planning and management of similar future events. The report does not include or comment upon matters identified in any other debriefs or post-incident reports that may have taken place.</p>	

ITEM	REC. No.	Comments
AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT		
Activation/Notification Process		
<p>Duty Mobilisation Officer to have been called sooner rather than having to call the Control Room</p> <p>Notification process for agencies unclear following transfer of function over to NHS</p> <p>Delay in notifying Community Trust On Call Manager delayed staffing arrangements to assist with the influx of casualties</p>	1	<p>Current review of Wirral Council's All Hazards Plan to determine whether the activation/notification process requires amending to reflect observation.</p> <p>The rest centre planning for the Council will require review following the transfer of DASS into the NHS Trust.</p> <p>With the Life Church providing the rest centre facility it is acknowledged that a number of work flows contained within the current Council rest centre plan may have been initially overlooked and that verbal updates and briefings needed more clarity.</p>
Response		
<p>The Local Authority may have struggled to provide a similar level of support as the Life church rest centre within a similar timescale</p>	1	<p>See second comment above</p>

ITEM	REC. No.	Comments
Resources		
<p>A number of observations were raised by partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote access to IT systems and records • Access to funding/cost centres to enable purchasing of emergency items and goods. • The availability of health/therapy support on site • Unable to access emergency Store for rest centre equipment. • Did not have the necessary PPE for the inner cordon • Staff need to have Hi-vis vests/tabards in the cars at all times. • Duty Mobilising Officers should have access to the contact details for key staff e.g. Social services, Homeless team etc. • Too few Council officers on scene during the first few hours. There should be a small cadre of staff who can be alerted with larger numbers available to be called in support as required. This needs to be supported with resources, equipment and regular training. • Formalised recording procedure 	1	<p>A number of these issues appear agency specific which should be picked up as part of their development and learning e.g. PPE, access to IT systems etc.</p> <p>Those which have potential multi agency implications e.g. Rest centre to be included within the rest centre plan review.</p>
Command & Control		

ITEM	REC. No.	Comments
<p>With hind sight an SCG may have proved beneficial if only to formalise the recovery aspect of the incident as it was not required to support the response phase.</p> <p>Benefit of a remote SCG in accordance with guidance contained within the MERM</p>	2	<p>This matter has been raised at a number of other Multiagency debriefs e.g. Storm Doris , Remondis Fire in Knowsley, which has resulted in in an action placed against the Merseyside Resilience Forum Capabilities Sub-Group.</p>
Communications		
<p>A number of observations were raised by partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search Audit recording - results of search audits and indications of who was in the properties near the explosion and were they had been evacuated to. • Achieving some clarity as to what exactly had occurred. The reason for this was that the blast had been heard and felt by members of the public across a large area and therefore the number of calls received into the control room caused some confusion as to what had actually happened, where and when. • Limited communications between agencies during the incident. Magenta's Response Team were on scene immediately to offer assistance but was not used. • Lack of updates which could have informed Magenta staff support to local tenants • OCM was not informed of the rest centre until 03:00 hours leading to delays in support for example medication requirements • Dealing with questions from members of the public and also handling media enquiries • Press and media on the day 	3/5	<p>Feedback indicated that the on scene command structure provided a forum for regular updates and actions in response to the event.</p> <p>The comments may be as a result of partner's limited awareness of on scene command protocols.</p> <p>As the rest centre was set up in the life Church it appears that a number of actions were overlooked in the initial phase which is to be picked up in the review.</p>
Welfare		

ITEM	REC. No.	Comments
<p>Needs of the victims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing • Personal Hygiene • Drugs and alcohol addiction • Access to prescribed medication • Access to transport for victims to access accommodation • General communication with the victims • Pets • Catering • Legal status of victims 	4	<p>Overall feedback from residents caught up in the event was that their immediate needs were well catered for at the Life Church however it is acknowledged that there were a number of individual influences which should be included in the rest centre plan and other single agency arrangement reviews.</p>

AREAS OF GOOD PRACTICE

Integrated Emergency Management

The observations below were supported by agencies who responded to the incident.

- Co-location - a joint control point was designated opposite the first attending appliance initially and moved to the incident Command Unit once set up. This provided a focal point for the 3 Emergency Services and the LA.
- Co-ordination - On Scene TCGs where multi-agency objectives were agreed with a 60 minute battle rhythm. A further TCG set for 0830hrs to allow the IC to report back the outcomes of the canine searches which if negative would trigger a formal handover and transition to recovery.
- Communication – face to face communication aided by the co-location contributed to setting multi agency objectives and a battle rhythm which resulted in an early resolution to the response phase of the incident
- Shared situation awareness and Joint understanding of risk - aided by co-location which facilitated regular updates and co-ordination meetings
- Early multi agency meetings on site in accordance with principles of JESIP assisted with shared situational awareness and agreeing objectives.
- Operational Response Plan to mobilise USAR assets to scene in a timely manner.
- Good liaison with all responders, everyone was working together to save/rescue persons involved.
- On the ground briefings which updated all agencies at regular intervals. I felt well informed and knew what each agency was doing and the forward plans.
- On – site agency partnership working
- Partnership working
- Scene maintained and reduced to a safe and manageable level.
- TCG meetings held to coordinate activity.
- Command structure established to coordinate police response at scene.
- Early identification of numbers of casualties assisted in delivering accurate messages to the media.

These support both the Civil Contingencies best practise and the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) doctrine and helped the efficient and effective response to the event and immediate needs of the community.

Communication

Early declaration of Major Incident and METHANE message sent from initial Fire and Rescue Service Incident Commander.
On scene updates to the Control Room/their assistance in calling out key agencies.
Good communication with Building Control both on the night and next morning, allowing updates for residents.
Councillors/residents within the Contact Centre updated by Council officers.
Early identification of numbers of casualties assisted in delivering accurate messages to the media.

Provided good shared situational awareness and ensured that all persons affected were kept up to date, again in accordance with emergency preparedness and response best practice

Resources

<p>Life Church opening as a Contact Centre – greatly assisted as volunteers already there in place to support and help the residents. They were able to provide food, shelter and support to those displaced residents.</p> <p>The ‘voluntary’ attendance of a representative from Children’s Social Care offered assistance and for the displaced residents throughout the night.</p> <p>The attendance of Adult Social Services and Homeless Team at the Contact Centre the following morning to take over assisting residents.</p> <p>Rest Centre accommodation worked well for scale of issue</p> <p>Role of volunteers at the Church, kitchen facilities / food hot drinks etc.</p> <p>Support from community / organisations re : emergency provisions</p> <p>Support from Leader WBC/MP’s/ local councillors</p> <p>GP was able to assess the requirements of the patients and make arrangements for prescriptions to be faxed to a local pharmacy for collection once they opened.</p> <p>Emergency Centre location and church members were excellent</p> <p>The local Psychological Services (South Staffordshire Healthcare) agreed quickly that referrals could be taken directly without going through the GP</p>		<p>Suitable and sufficient support set up for the people immediately affected by this event which enabled the longer term structures to be set up and put in place.</p> <p>Clearly outlined the desire for those affected to remain close in the initial stages of the incident which will be considered in the rest centre review.</p>
Welfare		
<p>Salvation Army voluntarily attended to offer drinks/food to staff on the ground.</p> <p>Support from community / organisations re : emergency provisions</p> <p>Support from Leader WBC/MP’s/ local councillors</p> <p>Community support and donations</p> <p>Large majority of the New Ferry and surrounding area returned to normality before morning.</p>		<p>Indications of the role of the voluntary and faith sector in supporting emergency response arrangements</p>

No.	RECOMMENDATIONS - Multiagency	OWNER	COMMENTS
1	Since the incident the Council's Adult Social Services function has been commissioned out to Wirral NHS Community Trust, which would ordinarily require review of associated emergency plans. Rest Centre provision/planning needs to be co-ordinated between the Council and Trust	Mark Camborne	Review of plan(s) and arrangements in accordance with new contract Task & Finish Group to be convened to progress planning and management
2	Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) activation: the Merseyside Emergency Response Manual (MERM) contains relevant guidance into the command and control of significant incidents which may not fall into the definition of a Major Incident but see a multi-agency response. The explosion at New Ferry will provide additional evidence in support of an ongoing work stream within the MRF.	MRF Capabilities Sub Group	Linked to similar observations raised following other incidents.
3	On scene command and control structures: Emergency Preparedness and Response awareness to be delivered to non-category one responders to ensure future integration into multiagency command structures.	Ian Voce	Linked into wider business resilience strategy. Engagement with registered providers and voluntary sector to improve liaison and awareness
4	Out of hour's pharmacy provision: review of arrangements and protocols for the provision of emergency prescriptions for displaced or evacuated members of the public following a significant or major incident.	NHS England	<p>There are out of hours GPs and Nurse Prescribers activated via NHS England 1st On Call that can attend rest centres/survivor reception centres. With regards to the New Ferry incident, 1st on call for NHS England was not asked to provide this as part of the response. There is a work plan in place to raise awareness and will provide training to the staff that have moved over from the Council regarding the roles and responsibilities of NHS England on call staff in response.</p> <p>This piece of work will also compliment the action within recommendation 1</p>

No.	RECOMMENDATIONS - Multiagency	OWNER	COMMENTS
5	In consistent information and data in relation to walking wounded casualties (P3s) who go to walk-in-centres for treatment, prior to attending a rest centre/survivor reception centre	NHS England	Task and Finish group to be set up through the Local Health Resilience Partnership (LHRP) Community Providers, mental health providers, CCGs and NHS England will be meeting to discuss what this long term action may look like and how it will be taken forward. It was also raised and agreed at Merseyside Resilience forum (MRF) Human Aspects Group and supported as useful piece of work.

Appendix A – Participants

Agency	Name						
Wirral Council	Mark Camborne	Ian Voce	Sab Spina	Carolyn Hooper	Sheila Jacobs	Wayne Tsoi	Chris Pentecost
Merseyside Police	Jason Pulford	Dave Westby	Georgina Minnery				
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Mark Thomas						
NWAS	Matt Hough	Craig Hooper					
NHS England	Jo Richardson						
Wirral NHS Trust	Mick Blease	Kenny Robinson	Dave Carroll				
Magenta Living	Paul Robinson						

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Structured Debrief Report

Page 33

Debrief commissioned by:	Wirral Council
Event:	New Ferry Explosion (Recovery Phase)
Date of Event:	25 th March 2017
Date of Debrief:	13 th February 2018
Debrief Location:	Committee Room Two Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street
Debrief Team:	David Ball & Ian Voce Wirral Council
Debrief Participants:	See Appendix A
<p>Debrief Summary: All persons in attendance were informed of the ethics and purpose of the debrief process.</p> <p>The report focuses on areas for improvement and perceptions of what went well; it concludes with a series of recommendations to assist the Council and MRF to improve the planning and management of similar future events. The report does not include or comment upon matters identified in any other debriefs or post-incident reports that may have taken place.</p>	

ITEM	REC. NO	COMMENTS
AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT		
Planning & Management Arrangements		
<p>The meeting room at the hall was open plan and there was limited opportunity to conduct discreet and sensitive one to one interviews in private. In the first couple of days emotions were naturally running very high and the hall wasn't conducive to providing any level of privacy or in preserving confidentiality.</p> <p>Without wishing to single out any particular internal service I felt as though there were a couple of instances that I had to push quite hard for reactive and appropriate response. I felt as though there was a lot of agreement "on the hoof" with partners (both internal and external as to what they could commit to. If this was pre-pledged then that research/negotiation period could be minimised/dispensed with.</p> <p>Apart from the council being in a position to come across as a bit more charitable and benevolent in the immediate aftermath, I can't think of anything significant.</p> <p>There was just a feeling even from the very first full day after the explosion that pennies were being counted. There seemed to be a reliance on residents being able to pay for things like accommodation and supplies until they were either able to seek help from their insurers or go through a lengthy and complicated appeal for benefits, which in the case of at least one family I know having to come up to Wallasey to fill in the form at the One Stop Shop.</p> <p>Minutes kept of all meetings/discussions held with all persons involved especially the Community Meetings. It has been difficult to deal with a number of individuals whom for one reason or another where not aware that some of the costs incurred by the Council would be recovered.</p> <p>A number of further observations were raised by the participants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early consideration to include Constituency Manager and Neighbourhood Team • Local Councillor engagement to ensure joined up approach. 	1	<p>The process was planned out using national and local guidance which in general provided a robust framework against which tasks and activities were undertaken. There is recognition that a number of areas could have been improved upon during the recovery phase</p> <p>New Ferry Village Hall's location and proximity to the scene of operations provided a good base from which to focus the recovery effort. It is acknowledged that circumstances led to a number of considerations remained overlooked.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privacy and equality considerations to be included in the planning arrangements • Administration and clerical support for officers • IT Support – Sharing information with partners • Reception/welcome desk for the hub • Consideration of support to meet all members of the community e.g. CYPD • Reinforce press liaison is directed to a single point of contact and through the Communications team • Regular monitoring of social media • Non- English speaking occupiers/residents • Complexities of individuals – Housing issues • Engagement with insurance companies 		
Resources		
<p>A lack of any dedicated administrative resource to establish a comprehensive “all singing and dancing” contact database available at the touch of a button. Initially all visitors were required to complete a signing in sheet with their respective contact details on, which was cumbersome to say the least. (This was however rectified some weeks later, but should have happened much sooner).</p> <p>Not knowing where people where - One centralised database for all Agencies maintained of where Owners/Tenants etc. went to live after the incident and populated with additional information such as Insurance Advisors etc.</p> <p>Co-ordination of contractor/owners entering onto site without authorisation and knowledge to Local Authority.</p> <p>A couple of these owners had a poor command of English and it may well have been beneficial in certain cases to have a dedicated interpreter on hand, particularly when dealing with complex housing benefit and JSA/Universal Credit queries.</p>	1	<p>The observations, in general, are believed to be minor in the greater scheme of events but the consensus is that these would have enhanced the council’s response efforts.</p>
Communications		
<p>Perhaps slightly clearer communication on how to get psychological help, there appeared to be a private provider involved that the NHS weren’t aware of. Use NHS England as the single point of contact.</p>		<p>Overall feedback was that the communications strategy worked well</p>

<p>It was appreciated that the Police were carrying out a complex investigation however they could have provided appropriate updates to support the communications plan.</p>	2	and again these were raised as minor points
Community Engagement		
<p>In the early stages at the weekly communications meetings, they were often tempestuous affairs. Lead officers and Ward Members were often bombarded with queries outside of the jurisdiction i.e.) issues to do with police investigation, questions about liability for the explosion and the role of utility companies etc. (Representatives from the organisations concerned did attend meetings when specifically invited, but it may have been wise to have had them routinely attending in the immediate aftermath, when feelings and emotions were at their highest).</p>	3	
Welfare and Well-being		
<p>The only aspects that we (the Police / all agencies) could have managed better were the provision of facilities. MFRS supplied portable toilets in the first few days but they were then removed. Unfortunately, due to another significant operation occurring at the same time, we were unable to provide a command vehicle and we relied on that provided by MFRS. The mobile PS remained as the police vehicle at scene for a period of time which wasn't ideal in terms of the volume of people at the scene on occasion and a larger vehicle / shelter is required.</p>	4	Due to the complexities of the incident and the ongoing investigations as to the cause of the explosion the Response and Recovery phases ran simultaneously

AREAS OF GOOD PRACTISE		
Hand Over Process		
<p>The Council's Lead Officer was meticulous and very calm throughout. He provided the community with a thoughtful presence and a level of detail that involved them in the process, observed at heated community meetings. He ran well structured and detailed coordination meetings, which assisted all partners. He was ever present throughout the recovery phase and dedicated an inordinate amount of time to the incident, the recovery phase and to the community as a whole. I felt that he managed the recovery phase exceptionally well.</p> <p>The Lead Officer was accessible at all times, this was vital to the coordination of the incident.</p>		<p>These support both the Civil Contingencies best practise and the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) doctrine and helped the efficient and effective response to the event and immediate needs of the community.</p>
Planning & Management Arrangements		
<p>Senior manager supporting decision making process with regards to costs etc. allowed for a quick response and reduced delays in issuing orders</p> <p>By far the most successful aspect of the recovery phase was the "spirit" of partnership working between all key statutory and non-statutory organisations and their willingness and flexibility to go the "extra mile" on numerous occasions for the benefit of the individual, be they a householder or local business owner.</p> <p>During the initial weeks at New Ferry Hall there were times when colleagues had to deal with very distressed and troubled individuals. The level of compassion shown in their handling of these people was particularly praiseworthy, given the trying circumstances.</p> <p>One to one, personal interaction over a prolonged period, providing honest and transparent information directly to those affected playing a big part in maintaining an overall feeling of goodwill towards the council. Having a named officer and a very proactive councillor also helped, as did having constituency officers on the ground.</p>		<p>As above</p>

Resources		
<p>I think we should be particularly proud of how the relief hub was set up, staffed and the atmosphere that we managed to create there throughout. It really did become the epicentre of the response effort.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External agencies committed to providing staff to offer advice on site etc. • Local residents/businesses affected knew that the village hall was the focal point of the response effort and as such (I believe) felt they always had somewhere to turn, no matter how big or small their needs were. <p>The coordination of the partners was managed well. Almost immediately, coordination meetings were arranged and the appropriate partners invited. These meetings were concise and brief, ensuring that people were informed but could continue with the job of managing the incident.</p> <p>There were with clearly structured regular coordination meetings arranged, vital for the coordination of the partners.</p> <p>Having maps of the area available was important in allowing all staff to visualise exact locations for the coordination of the scene (provided by the council).</p> <p>Information sharing was efficient and appropriate. For e.g., details of all parties involved was gathered and shared with the relevant parties when requested.</p> <p>The speed of response and implementation of the securing works undertaken to the properties affected by the incident in order to allow Owners etc. safe access to their properties to assess damage and recover valuables, pets etc.</p>		<p>Suitable and sufficient support set up for the people immediately affected by this event which enabled the longer term structures to be set up and put in place.</p> <p>Clearly outlined the desire for a co-ordinated approach amongst the key stakeholders.</p>
Communications		
<p>Regular communications with Residents meant they knew exactly what was going on. The fact that face to face meetings were regularly held made all the difference to the resident's perception.</p> <p>Council's presence at and input into weekly communication meetings and monthly recovery team meetings with internal and external stakeholders.</p>		

<p>Circulation of regular press releases to keep broader community informed. This extends to use of social media, Twitter and Facebook. Engagement with regional TV and radio networks,</p> <p>I think the ongoing engagement via the regular meetings in St Mark’s Church Hall were key to ensuring the issues that were developing within the community were dealt with swiftly. Residents and businesses felt as though they had a communication channel to the council after the relief hub was closed.</p> <p>Having regular surgeries where displaced Members of the public could attend for information and assistance was invaluable and inviting partners such as the police to provide reassurance greatly helped.</p> <p>Following on from the above, holding regular meetings at the local church with the same lead people in attendance greatly assisted both the community (in terms of continuity and reassurance / updates) and the partners as it provided both reassurance and a vital conduit for information in both directions.</p>		<p>Provided good ongoing shared situational awareness and ensured that all persons affected were kept up to date, preventing any possible circulation of misleading or “Fake news”</p> <p>Again in accordance with emergency preparedness and response best practice</p>
Community Engagement		
<p>The role of the local community in New Ferry and beyond cannot be understated. In particular the work of local church and community groups in providing emergency accommodation, collecting food, clothing and essential toiletries to donate to those most in need in the immediate aftermath.</p> <p>This is best exemplified by the emergence of New Beginnings during the crisis, providing support through a wide variety of different means for those affected by the explosion. Such has been their impact on the community that they have now been given permanent premises from which to operate and some grant funding to facilitate capacity building opportunities. They have now successfully acquired CIC (Community Interest Company) status, which will enable them to establish a dedicated neighbourhood resource centre, providing advice, information and support on a wide variety of “social” issues.</p> <p>The ‘drop-in’ service worked well, particularly having representatives from specialist areas such as insurance, health etc. Having this ‘open house’ seemed to inadvertently helped to foster a stronger community spirit among affected residents. Being so accessible to</p>		<p>The role of individuals and the community in supporting the Councils vision for recovery of New Ferry following the incident cannot be underestimated in seeking resolutions.</p>

interested journalists also helped position the council as the leaders of the recovery operation and gave the impression of it being a controlled and co-ordinated response.

Regular support meetings at professional level

No.	RECOMMENDATIONS - Multiagency	OWNER	COMMENTS
1	All appropriate plans and guidance should be reviewed following incidents or exercises to check accuracy and validity; this should take into account to those development areas highlighted.	Mark Camborne & Ian Voce	The review should also look at creating a blueprint for the recovery team to compliment the Councils All Hazards Emergency Plan and dovetail with multi agency arrangements.
2	Establish and maintain a clear single point of contact for the psychological and wellbeing support for all those affected by such an event or tragedy.	All agencies	Linked to existing Council and Multi-agency plans and guidance. (compliment recommendation 1)
3	Ensure arrangements for community engagement is maintained to ensure their perspectives are taken into account when formulating action plans and setting milestones.	Lead Officers	Considerations to be included in the revised plan/guidance (compliment recommendation 1)
4	Ensure welfare arrangements and support remains in place for responders as the incident transitions from response to recovery.	Lead Officers	(compliment recommendation 1)

Appendix A – Participants

Agency	Name						
Wirral Council	David Ball	Fergus Adams	Alan Creevy	Neil Mitchell	Sab Spina	Ian Voce	
Merseyside Police	Georgina Minnery						
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Billy McIntyre						
NHS England	Jim Deacon						
SP Energy Networks							
National Grid							
Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG)	Graham Scott						



**Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday, 17 September 2019**

REPORT TITLE:	2019/20 Quarter 1 Wirral Plan Performance
REPORT OF:	Director of Economic and Housing Growth

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the 2019/20 Quarter 1 (April - June 2019) performance report for the Wirral Plan pledges under the remit of the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Relevant Wirral Plan 2020 pledges are:

- Greater job opportunities in Wirral
- Workforce skills match business needs
- Increase Inward Investment
- Thriving small businesses
- Vibrant Tourism Economy
- Transport and technology infrastructure fit for the future
- Assets and buildings are fit for purpose for Wirral’s businesses

The report, which is included as Appendix 1, provides an overview of the progress in Quarter 1 and available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Business 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/S

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to scrutinise the performance of the Council and partners in relation to delivery of 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 pledges partnership groups have 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 2019/20 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. 2018/19 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 set out below:

<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:

- Greater job opportunities in Wirral – Alan Evans
- Workforce skills match business needs – Alan Evans
- Increase Inward Investment – Alan Evans
- Thriving small businesses – Alan Evans
- Vibrant Tourism Economy – Lucy Barrow
- Transport and technology infrastructure fit for the future – Mark Smith
- Assets and buildings are fit for purpose for Wirral’s businesses – Alan Evans

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: STAFFING, ICT 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 (a) Yes and impact review 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 Business 2019-20 Quarter 1 Pledge Report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	4 July 2017
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	19 September 2017
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	29 November 2017
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	27 March 2018
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	4 July 2018
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	18 September 2018
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	28 November 2018
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	5 March 2019
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	4 July 2019

Appendix 1

Wirral Plan Business Theme 2019-20 Quarter 1 Reports



Growth Plan

Greater job opportunities in Wirral

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Delivery of the Growth Plan continues to progress well with year-end indicators on track to meet 2020 targets, with a full schedule of planned activities to support growth. Key activity highlights for Quarter 1 include:

EMPLOYMENT: The employment rate in Wirral is at an all-time high and performance is ahead of target in regard to the numbers of jobs created and safeguarded. The Wirral Ways to Work programme continues to perform ahead of target and helped 170 people into employment or training in Q1.

WORKFORCE SKILLS: Council Officers have negotiated a healthy funding offer for Wirral Council from the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Combined Authority for delivery of adult community learning in the 2019-20 Academic year. Extensive work has been undertaken on the Wirral Skills Strategy, led by the principal of Wirral Met College.

INFRASTRUCTURE: The Wirral Growth Company Partnership Agreement is now in place and the first stage of consultation has now been undertaken.

INVESTMENT: Funding to support the Business Investment Fund has been approved during Q1 and a pipeline of 7 projects has been developed.

COMPETITIVENESS: The Wirral Growth Hub continues to overachieve on targets. Town Hosts, part of Mayoral Town Centre Fund Action Plan, continue to engage with businesses in Liscard and average footfall has improved slightly this quarter. New Ferry & Birkenhead's bids have both been shortlisted out of 300+ applications for the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government's Future High Streets Fund, which is a significant result.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Increase the number of jobs created and safeguarded (via Wirral Chamber Data Reporting)	Quarterly Higher is better	970.0 (2014-15)		4,045.0 (2015-19)	Blue Actual: 178.5 Target: 140 (Apr - Jun 19)					Better	Performance ahead of target representing 171.5 jobs created and 7 safeguarded with strong performance in the manufacturing and accommodation & food services sectors.
Increase the employment rate in Wirral	Quarterly Higher is better	66.7 (2014-15)	England: 75.4 (Jan-Dec 2018) North West: 73.8 (Jan-Dec 2018)	74.5 (Jan 18-Dec 18)	Actual: 76.2 (Q1 2019-20)					Better	Performance, as reported by National Survey Data, has increased 1.7 percentage points since the last quarter and, following on from the trend in 2018-19, is at an all-time high. Wirral's employment rate is higher than both the NW and England benchmark figures.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	Trend	Comment
Percentage of working age people claiming out-of-work benefits (economic in-activity)	Quarterly Lower is better	(n/a)	North West: 10.10% (Nov 2016)	13.48% (2018-19)	13.69% (Q1 2019-20)					Worse	This proxy figure has been locally calculated using the latest benefit data-sets available. Elements of this data-set are calculated using Universal Credit data - as Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded on the Claimant Count is therefore likely to rise. The national indicator set is still subject to change. A new national methodology has been provisionally released this month; this data is classed as experimental and subject to revision for the first 3 months. Subject to confirmation of national roll-out, this new data-set will be adopted to re-enable bench-marking. New data set will be adopted to re-enable bench-marking - this is subject to confirmation

Workforce skills match business needs

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Reduce the Employer Skills Gap in Wirral	Annual Lower is better	15.0% (2015)		11.0% (2017)						n/a	The 2020 target was to reduce the recorded Skills Gap to 12%. The final reporting date for this target was Q4 2018/19 when 11% was recorded via the bi-annual National Skills Survey; this represents an overachievement of the 2020 target set. This indicator set is now complete.

Increase inward investment

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Total investment secured into Wirral developments	Annual Higher is better	£38,044,660 (2014-15)		£198,766,672 (2014-2019)						n/a	This data is reported annually, and will be available at the end of the year
Gross Value Added per head of population	Annual Higher is better	£12,482 (Jan-Dec 2013)	England: £27,060 (Jan - Dec 2016) North West: £22,899 (Jan - Dec 2016)	£15,164 (Jan-Dec 2017)						n/a	This data is reported annually, and will be available at the end of the year

Thriving small businesses

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Deliver a net additional 250 new businesses over the life of this Plan	Annual Higher is better	7,400 (2014-15)		8,705 (2018-19)						n/a	This data will be available December 2019

Vibrant tourism economy

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Through the delivery of the actions within the Wirral Visitor Economy Strategy with partners, progress has been made in Quarter 1 to achieve the Vibrant Tourism Economy pledge, which is a key element of the Wirral Growth Plan. Wirral's visitor economy statistics for 2018 have been confirmed and I am delighted to report that they show a significant increase in the tourism economy and highlight the importance of a comprehensive programme of events across Wirral in 2018, which attracted 250,000 visitors (including the Tall Ships Regatta and the annual River of Light fireworks event, to name just two). Wirral's visitor economy is now worth £455.83m, already exceeding the Wirral Plan target of £453m by 2020 and showing an increase of 6.9% since 2017. There has been a continuous increase, year-on-year, in the borough's tourism economy since 2013, totalling an additional £128million. The development of a three-year Destination Marketing Strategy is now complete and has been approved by the WVEB (Wirral Visitor Economy Board). Work continues now to deliver the strategy, starting with digital, campaign and brand development. In order to make significant improvements to the user experience and traffic for visitwirral.com, a website redesign is now complete and will be live in July. The website will better promote major events, reflect new branding and enhance Wirral's destination profile. The full business case is currently being developed with the LCR LEP (Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership) to achieve SIF investment (Strategic Investment Fund) for a city region Destination Marketing bid on behalf of city region partners. This would provide additional support to the delivery of the Wirral Destination Marketing Strategy. In addition, a SIF bid to attract conferences and business events to the City Region has been approved and the project will begin by commissioning a delivery agent in August. A Wirral Ambassador programme is currently being developed to raise the profile of Wirral by identifying Wirral icons, residents and young people who provide a significant contribution to the arts, culture and creative industries. Ambassadors who have been secured so far include TV chef - Simon Rimmer, Olympic cyclist - Chris Boardman, artist - Christian Furr, Olympic boxer – Natasha Jonas and singer/songwriter and music producer – Andy McCluskey. The Wirral Borough of Culture event programme has now attracted an estimated 100,000 visitors to events so far this year, including Animated Square at Hamilton Square, The Witching Hour, The Tour Series and the River Festival, which have made a significant contribution to raising the profile of Wirral as a visitor destination for outstanding arts and cultural events.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Increase visitor numbers each year based on the 2014 baseline (m)	Annual Higher is better	7.59 (Jan-Dec 2014)		8.79 (Jan-Dec 2017)	9.05m (Q1 2019-20)					n/a	Performance for 2018 has confirmed that total visitor numbers have increased in Wirral by an average of 4.8% p.a. since the baseline in 2014. This data comes from Global Tourism Solutions via the Local Enterprise Partnership. It is based on the STEAM model which quantifies the local economic impact of tourism, from both staying and day visitors using a range of visitor economy measures.
Increase value of tourism economy by at least 5% each year (£m).	Annual Higher is better	£355.00 (Jan-Dec 2014)		£426.35 (Jan-Dec 2017)	£455.83 (Q1 2019-20)					n/a	Performance for 2018 has confirmed an average increase of 7% p.a. since 2014. This data comes from Global Tourism Solutions via the Local Enterprise Partnership. It is based on the STEAM model which quantifies the local economic impact of tourism, from both staying and day visitors using a range of visitor economy measures.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	Trend	Comment
Increase overnight stays & hotel occupancy by 5% by 2020 based on the 2016 baseline	Annual Higher is better	77.75% (Jan-Dec 2016)		80.60% (2018)						n/a	Data is Due January 2020
Increase the numbers of Wirral Visitor Economy Network members	Annual Higher is better	85 (Jan-Dec 2016)		88 (2018)						n/a	Data is Due January 2020

Transport and technology infrastructure fit for the future

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Key highlights for the Quarter include:

•A significant rise in cycling, especially commuter cycling, which has been delivered with the support of investment in new infrastructure such as shared cycle and pedestrian routes along the A41 and North Bank East.

•The number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions has improved by 29% since the start of the plan in 2014-15 and by 22% compared to last year. We have continued to develop and implement a wide range of initiatives and incorporating an additional grant from the Road Safety Trust.

We do of course recognise that there are areas we still need to progress. We are also very conscious that despite significant investment in the network the public perception of our highways maintenance service has reduced from last year. Despite Wirral being slightly higher than the national average I am keen to work hard to address this. The additional funding from the DfT and Council maintenance funding will be used to undertake repairs from April 2019 and condition surveys to be undertaken by Merseytravel in 2019 for the Key Route Network in the summer of 2019 and by Wirral Council for the remainder of the road network.

Whilst reflecting on progress to deliver this pledge over the past year I would like to emphasise the importance of the partnership. We are making real progress to deliver this pledge and this is only being made possible due to the commitment and enthusiasm of the partners who continue to the delivery of this pledge.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Increased the volume percentage of people cycling	Annual Higher is better	0% (index for 2013-14)		59% (2017-18)						n/a	The cycling indicator has been calculated from 16 permanent counter sites, however 4 new counters were installed in recent years which for the first time this year have been incorporated within the calculation. Using the 20 sites, but adjusted for the inclusion of new sites, there is an increase of 59% from the base year of 2013/14. With reference now to the data from a 2013/14 base it can be seen that there is a very significant rise from 16/17 to 17/18 – this is slightly exacerbated by an “out of trend” dip in usage recorded in 2016/17 from 2015/16. It could be suggested that the performance indicator is based on the original 16 counters and not the extended new set of 20, however the way in which the indicator is calculated, in theory should not be overly influenced by the inclusion of new sites. However where the new sites are much busier than the old sites, they will provide a great influence on the overall change measured. The new sites, based around the Docklands are now the busiest sites on Wirral and show a very significant rise. As a comparison the calculation of the indicator with the original 16 sites shows a reduction of 8% across the sites. Given that the new sites are based in commuter areas as opposed to some of the older sites being more leisure route based, and to ensure a more holistic understanding of cycling on the network and growth in cycling going forward, the basket of 20 sites will be used to measure this indicator.
Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	Quarterly Lower is better	140 (2014-15)	English Metropolitan Authorities: 107 (2013-15) North West: 90 (2013-15)	99 (2018)	19 (Jan - Mar 2019)					Better	The number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions has improved by 29% since the start of the plan in 2014-15 and by 22% compared to last year. We have continued to develop and implement a wide range of initiatives including the progression of safety engineering schemes together with educational/engagement events such as regular motorcycle safety engagements and Bikesafe workshops. Using an additional grant from the Road Safety Trust we are developing new road safety initiatives aimed at improving safety for taxi use and also aimed at small businesses that utilise vans. All KSI casualty totals are provisional until final verification with Merseyside Police during Q4. Further benchmarking data not yet available.
Maintain the condition of Wirral's strategic network – Principal Roads	Annual Lower is better	1.40% (2014-15)	English Metropolitan Authorities: 4.00% (2015-16) North West: 4.00% (2015-16)	1.90% (2017-18)						n/a	Additional funding has been provided by the DfT and the Liverpool City Region to undertake repairs in the financial year 2019/20. Condition surveys to be undertaken by Merseytravel in 2019 for the Key Route Network in the summer of 2019 and by Wirral Council for the remainder of the principal road network with condition data and performance indicators data available at the latest November 2019.
Maintain the condition of Wirral's strategic network – Non-principal Roads	Annual Lower is better	2.20% (2014-15)	English Metropolitan Authorities: 5.00% (2015-16) North West: 6.00% (2015-16)	1.65% (2017-18)						n/a	Additional funding from the DfT and Council maintenance funding will be used to undertake repairs from April 2019. Next available data November 2019. Condition surveys to be undertaken in Autumn 2019 following the completion of the structural maintenance programme with condition data and performance indicators available at the latest December 2019.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	Trend	Comment
% levels of satisfaction overall with transport and highway services.	Annual Higher is better	56.7% (2015)	National Highways and Transport Survey: 54.0% (2017)	54.0% (2018)						n/a	Next data available December 2019
Increase levels of public satisfaction with public transport	Annual Higher is better	64% (2015)	National Highways and Transport Survey: 61% (2017)	64% (2018)						n/a	This indicator reflects all public transport modes; train, bus and ferry. Wirral has higher levels of public satisfaction than the national average of 61%.
Increase levels of public satisfaction with walking/cycling facilities	Annual Higher is better	56% (2015)	National Highways and Transport Survey: 55% (2017)	52% (2018)						n/a	This percentage has decreased from last year and is lower than the national average of 54%. This is disappointing given that there has been significant investment in infrastructure to support active travel..
Travel Training – Number of successfully travel trained young people (Integrated Transport)	Annual Higher is better	26 (2014-15 Acad Year)		16 (2018-19 Acad Year)						n/a	3 successful travel training outcomes in 1st quarter Apr-June

Assets and buildings are fit for purpose for Wirral's businesses

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

2019/20 is a significant year for the Wirral Partnership with strong asset management being key to the future financial stability of the Borough as a whole. Many significant growth projects are in the pipe-line for development and delivery and these must be robustly progressed.

Asset Strategy priorities this year include:

- Significant asset input for alternative delivery of services such as theatre, golf, libraries
- New Birkenhead Commercial District
- A significant exercise to create a new Rock Ferry base for Children and Young People Department

Increased dialogue with Partner Organisations is being improved continuously to align individual Asset Strategies which must support the individual service delivery requirements but also to enable Wirral Growth plans to emerge.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	Trend (See Key)	Comment
£m Income generation from investment properties and underperforming space	Annual Higher is better	£1.6 (2015-16)		£1.4 (2018-19)						n/a	Performance has been impacted by the sale of a number of income generating assets using an opportunity given by central government to utilise capital receipts to fund vital transformation projects. This is considered a corporate priority. The future direction of the investment portfolio will be driven in part by the activities of the Growth Company and more general strategic asset requirements including One Public Estate in respect of regeneration and commercial growth. A number of key strategic acquisitions were made in 2018/19 which will help shape the Birkenhead Commercial District and support the Councils Medium Term Financial Strategy. Until the BCD programme is determined the income streams have not been reflected as part of this performance indicator.
£m Capital Receipts generated by the disposal of Wirral Council's surplus assets	Annual Higher is better	£1.28 (2015-16)		£5.60 (2018-19)						n/a	A pipeline of surplus assets has continued to be disposed of in a consistent manner. These include those large development sites that had become protracted in previous reporting. We will work with finance colleagues over the coming months to determine the future requirements for capital receipts from the sale of assets.
Commercial asset space available for release (m2)	Annual Higher is better	5,711 (2015-16)		39,600 (2018-19)						n/a	The monitoring process is now embedded in the corporate system, enabling users to report on the performance measure(s) associated to each property transaction. Two large sites have been released for residential development, which once completed will make a significant contribution to the socio-economic growth of Wirral.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	Trend	Comment
Reduction in Wirral Council's corporate emissions of carbon dioxide (tCO ₂ e) due to energy use (tCO ₂ e)	Annual Lower is better	31,999 (2013-14)		26,463 (2017-18)						n/a	Corporate performance over the 2017/18 financial year has exceeded the 2017/18 emissions target by 12.3%. To date, we have reduced emissions of CO ₂ by 19,018 tonnes from a 2008/09 baseline of 45,481 tonnes, a reduction of 41.8% over 8 operational years. The year-on-year reduction is 5.85%. Next annual update due September 2019.
Number of multi-use of assets through shared / alternative use	Annual Higher is better	4 (as at April 2016)		15 (2018-19)						n/a	Performance is calculated as a cumulative figure from the baseline data e.g. the number of new/additional assets brought into multi-use within each financial year (added to the baseline figure) to give a cumulative total over the life of the Plan. The monitoring process is now embedded in the corporate system, enabling users to report on the performance measure(s) associated to each property transaction. The number of multi-use assets continues to grow and will be further improved by the opportunities generated by the Wirral Growth Company and the Birkenhead Commercial District.

Report Key

Trend - Performance is shown as Better, Same or Worse compared with the last reporting period except for Increase the number of jobs created and safeguarded (via Wirral Chamber Data Reporting) and Increase the employment rate in Wirral 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)

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Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 17 September 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Financial Monitoring Report Outturn 2018/19 and Estimate for Quarter 1 2019/20
REPORT OF:	Director of Finance & Investment (S151)

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the financial monitoring information for the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The report provides Members with detail to scrutinise budget performance for this area of activity. The financial information covers the final position for 2018/19 and the financial information as at quarter 1 2019/20.

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:

- 2018/19 Outturn Information.
- Performance against the revenue budget (including savings).
- Performance against the capital budget.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Members of the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the report and appendices and give their views.

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 REVENUE OUTTURN 2018/19

3.1.1 The final outturn position for Business for 2018/19 was £1.8 million favourable. This is different by £2.3m from the position forecast at quarter 3. The budget and expenditure along with further description is show in the table below.

Table 1 – Revenue Outturn 2018/19

Reasons for variances from budget	Budget £m	Outturn £m	Variance £m
Business: Treasury Management activities have produced a positive variance positions, mainly attributable to minimising the financing costs of the Capital programme through effective cashflow management.	10.8	9.0	1.8
OVERALL UNDERSPEND	10.8	9.0	1.8

3.2 CAPITAL OUTTURN 2018/19

3.2.1 The capital outturn for Business for 2018/19 was an expenditure of £7.2m against a revised schedule (as at December 2018) of £6.2m. This is shown in the table below.

Table 2 – Capital Outturn 2018/19

Spend	Revised December £m	Actual Out-turn £m
Directorate		
Business	6.239	7.237
Total Programme	6.239	7.237

3.2.2 A summary of progress in the year within the Programme is as follows: -

3.2.3 By the end of March 2019 1,002 Windows 10 devices had been deployed which represents 29% completion of the estimated goal. The progress includes priority group completions (Children’s social care, senior managers and Councillors), creation of the application store for deployment of software and WorkSmart profiling to determine correct equipment deployment.

3.2.4 The new Hyper-Convergence Corporate Storage Solution has been procured and this will replace Wirral's existing SAN storage and Virtual Server Network. It will be implemented during the first and second quarters of 2019 and once installation is complete, services and applications will be migrated to the new Infrastructure.

3.2.5 During 2018/19 employees could leave the Authority on Early Voluntary Retirement/Voluntary Severance. The severance payments and full 5-year pension strain costs have been capitalised allowing services to be transformed through restructures and savings to be achieved in future years. The final cost of £3.4 million was funded from the flexible use of capital receipts.

3.3 REVENUE POSITION AT QUARTER 1

3.3.1 This Statement provides a summary of the projected year-end revenue position as at Quarter 1, Month 3 (June 2019) for Business.

The forecast figure used is a combination of actual transactions happening within the first quarter and estimates based on a number of factors from the finance teams.

Table 3 – Revenue Position at Quarter 1

	Budget £000	Forecast £000	Variance £000	Adv/Fav %	
Directorate Items					
Change & Organisational Design	5,788	5,721	67	1%	Favourable
Finance & Investments	(21,821)	(21,821)	1	0%	Favourable
Commercial Management	67	67	(1)	-1%	Adverse
Governance & Assurance	4,002	4,268	(265)	-7%	Adverse
Directorate (Surplus) / Deficit	(11,963)	(11,766)	(198)	2%	Adverse
Support / Admin Building Overhead	9,711	9,717	(6)	0%	Adverse
Total (Surplus) / Deficit	(2,252)	(2,048)	(204)	9%	Adverse

**An adverse variance is one where the forecast position is worse than the planned position, conversely, a favourable variance is where the forecast position is better than the planned position.*

3.3.2 Business: Forecast - £0.198m Adverse Position

Governance & Assurance - Full Year Forecast: £0.265m Adverse

- The key driver is within the Coroner's service. Deficit position is due to an increase in accommodation costs and an increase in demand for the service. Currently the risk is not mitigated, but analysis is being undertaken with Liverpool City Council, as this is a shared service, with the aim of reducing the expenditure.

Change & Organisational Design - Full Year Forecast: £0.067m Favourable

- This is due to £0.1m favourable variance in HR due to part year vacancies as a result of delays in recruitment following implementation

of the new structure. This is partly offset by an adverse variance of £0.47m within Digital. This is due to a shortfall in projected income as a result of a reduction in work carried out by Printing. Schools Hardware and Software are currently projected to be balanced, as income targets have been set to realistic levels following implementation of the restructure.

Commercial Management – Full Year Forecast: Balanced

- Overall this is projected to be balanced at Quarter 1. This area includes an unachievable income target of £0.368m from Edsential. This income target is historic and has never been fully achieved. There are plans to mitigate these variances throughout the year through generation of additional income from new income streams, resulting in Commercial Management projected to be balanced.

Finance and Investments – Full Year Forecast: Balanced

- Overall Finance and Investments is projected to be balanced as at Quarter 1. Treasury Management is currently projected at budget. However, this area will be reviewed during the year for further savings.

3.4 IMPLEMENTATION OF SAVINGS

- 3.4.1 A summary of the position of 2019/20 Business savings at Quarter 1, Month 3 (June 2019) is below.

Table 4 - Savings 2019/20 (£m)

Portfolio	Approved Savings Total	Amount Delivered at Q1	Mitigation	To be Delivered
Business	7.3	5.5	0	1.8

3.5 PERFORMANCE AGAINST CAPITAL BUDGETS QUARTER 1 (JUNE 2019)

- 3.5.1 The Programme for 2019-20 is a dynamic programme and as a result is always subject to change. The table below shows the capital strategy agreed at Council, then the proposed programme as at June 2019 and the expenditure at that date.

Table 5 – Capital Monitoring at Quarter 1

	Capital Strategy <i>(as agreed at Council)</i>	Proposed Programme	Q1 Actual Spend
	£m	£m	£m
Business	9.951	10.508	0.009

- 3.5.2 Current progress on significant schemes: -

The largest scheme within this area is the Enterprise Resource Planning project. This scheme, relating to core IT financial systems, is currently in the

Discovery stage with the intention to shortly move into the Design phase. The proposed Invitation to Tender is scheduled to go out in the Autumn.

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: STAFFING, ICT 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 No because there is no relevance to equality.

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APPENDICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Budget Council	4th March 2019
Cabinet – Financial Monitoring Outturn 2018/19	22nd July 2019
Cabinet – Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring 2019/20	2nd September 2019

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BUSINESS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17 SEPTEMBER 2019

REPORT TITLE	UPDATE ON LIVERPOOL CITY REGION DEVELOPMENTS
REPORT OF	ROSE BOYLAN, POLICY & STRATEGY MANAGER

REPORT SUMMARY

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

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

This is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Committee is requested to note and comment on latest developments.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Committee have requested regular updates and consideration of LCR developments.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 N/a

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 A wide range of activity continues, of which the following is just a small extract. Further detail on all of the most recent developments can be found here <http://liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/>
- 3.2 The Combined Authority regularly considers progress so far, and future priorities to be delivered as part of the ambitious programme to create inclusive economic growth. These priorities build upon commitments made in the devolution agreement with government and to ensure that the City Region gets maximum benefit from the resources and powers that have been devolved to it.

The Combined Authority recently discussed several developments including the following:

3.3 Developing a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)

- 3.3.1 The Combined Authority is currently developing a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS). It is a key strategic priority that will set out the City Region's economic strengths, challenges, and how we can address them. It will demonstrate the positive contribution Liverpool City Region is making to the national economy and outline what we will do to raise productivity. The document will be central to informing local priorities, guide our future local investment decisions, and support national decision making.
- 3.3.2 The Combined Authority has been gathering a wide ranging evidence review to shape the priorities of the Local Industrial Strategy, drawing on intelligence from businesses, academia, the voluntary and community sector, and residents. This stage is ongoing and will include further extensive public engagement through the summer and autumn.
- 3.3.3 Emerging analysis suggests there are four key priorities that flow from the evidence which align with the themes set by Government in the national Industrial Strategy. These priorities are:
- Good work, health and wellbeing for all;
 - Vibrant and connected communities;
 - More businesses innovating and growing; and
 - Clean growth.

3.3.4 These priorities will be developed as further consultation and analysis takes place in the coming months to produce the LIS with clear policy and proposed interventions to be published 2020.

3.4 Liverpool City Region Listens

3.4.1 The Combined Authority recently launched the first phase of 'LCR Listens', a three-month exercise that will engage with people across all six boroughs that make up the Liverpool City Region, gauging people's opinions on a wide range of topics, including transport, jobs and skills, the environment and housing and culture, to inform the future direction of the city region.

3.4.2 Featuring a host of ways to get involved, from public events, to on-street research, through to an on-line portal, the aims to listen to as many city region residents, from as wide a variety of backgrounds, as possible.

3.4.3 LCR Listens is an opportunity for everyone in the city region to have their say on the issues that are important to them. The feedback the Combined Authority receives will specifically influence its Local Industrial Strategy, which will set out the long-term economic vision for the Liverpool City Region, providing a framework for its investment decisions, and for conversations with government about how we work together, through devolution, to maximise prosperity for all people and communities.

3.5 Households into Work

3.5.1 Households into Work is the innovative scheme to help people who have been long-term unemployed into training and work. It began in March 2018, is co-ordinated and delivered by the Combined Authority and uses a team of 25 advocates working with households across all 6 Local Authority areas.

3.5.2 The Programme was a key part of the devolution deal and is a pilot scheme funded with £3.5m from the Department for Work and Pensions, and £1m from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. Advocates work with clients with a wide range of barriers to employment, including mental health issues, caring responsibilities, experience of domestic abuse, chronic health issues, isolation and homelessness, and put a bespoke intensive support package in place for each individual to help them get into the workplace.

3.5.3 The recent review of the Programme's first year indicates that Households into Work is performing well and has:

- Worked with 834 households against a target of 800
- Had 376 households make significant improvements/move closer to work, against a target of 200
- Seen 460 households complete at least one activity, against a target of 400
- Successfully moved 11% of clients into employment, against a target of 15% (this figure had increased to 14% by May 2019)

3.5.4 In Wirral, there are now 301 participants being supported on the programme against a target profile of 344 which represents total of 88% of the profile. The programme is over achieving in supporting participants into employment with 27 job outcomes to date against a target profile of 23.

3.6 Funding for Tower Road

3.6.1 The Combined Authority recently approved funding of up to £3m in Strategic Investment Fund monies to support the development of a new office building on Wirral Waters. This links to the Tower Road Streetscape project which is due to start on site January 2020 immediately outside No 1 Tower Road which will introduce major public realm and highway improvements to the A554 Tower Road. This includes provision of wider pavements to provide high quality facilities for pedestrians and cyclists and reduced carriageway widths - the objective of the scheme is to lower traffic speeds through the area and to create an improved environment for all.

3.7 LCR Town Centre Fund

3.7.1 The CA has agreed to award £6m Town Centre Fund to support the viability and vitality of identified town centres. The Fund will provide each constituent local authority with up to £1m for their identified town centre priorities.

3.7.2 Wirral has 2 applications – Liscard and New Ferry - and detailed project planning is currently underway;

3.7.3 Linked to this is the further positive news that Government recently announced that Wirral is successfully through to next stage to secure Future High Streets funding from Government to help redevelop Birkenhead and New Ferry.

3.8 Funding for Eureka! National Children’s Museum

3.8.1 Funding of up to £6.642m from the CA Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) has been agreed to support the development of the Eureka! Mersey museum at Seacombe Ferry Terminal. The museum will focus on promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (“STEAM”) activities for children across the LCR. This builds on the successful experience of Eureka! National Children’s Museum in Halifax. The Museum will target a broad range of visitors and the core audience will be children aged 6-14.

3.8.2 Eureka! Is using an inclusive engagement approach to plan the museum, developing the offer to ensure that it appeals to the target audience. The co-creation process includes pairing groups from The Hive Youth Zone and pupils from local primary and secondary schools with experts from industry/academia to explore ideas, content and delivery methods for the museum.

3.8.3 The SIF money will be used to help fund the renovation of the Seacombe building and the building of the exhibitions. The remaining project costs are being met by a combination of grant support, including £3m won competitively from the national Inspiring Science Fund, and partner/philanthropic sponsorship. The museum is scheduled to open 2022.

3.9 LCR Cultural Awards

- 3.9.1 Nominations for the first LCR Culture and Creativity Awards are now open, to stimulate, recognise and celebrate excellence and innovation in art, culture and creativity.
- 3.9.2 The awards are part of the Metro Mayor's 1% for Culture Initiative and aim to honour the value and contribution that the cultural and creative sector brings to the Liverpool City Region.
- 3.9.3 The 1% for Culture Initiative means that Liverpool City Region currently uses the equivalent of 1% of its £30 million annual devolution funding on utilising many of the region's existing assets and talent to stimulate cultural and creative opportunities. As we know, Wirral is 2019 Borough of Culture, and an exciting and diverse schedule of events and activity is currently underway.
- 3.9.4 Nominations for these awards can include an individual, organisation, group or partnership that is involved in the creation, promotion and use of art and creativity that has significantly benefitted the residents or visitors to the LCR.
- 3.9.5 Nominations can be completed online and the closing date for entrants and nominations is Friday 20th September at 4pm. After this date the judging panel will shortlist the finalists for the People's Choice Award – Outstanding Contribution to Culture, and the Liverpool City Region community will be able to vote for their chosen winner.
- 3.9.6 The awards ceremony will take place on 28th November 2019 at the Lady Lever Art Gallery hosted by the Wirral as the current Borough of Culture for 2019.

3.10 Conclusion

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

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Devolution arrangements set out the devolution of financial resources to LCR.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 N/a

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 N/a

7.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

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

8.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

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SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council	13 September 2016
Cabinet	14 November 2016
Council	8 December 2016
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	6 December 2016
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	24 January 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	29 March 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	4 July 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19 September 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	29 November 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	23 January 2018
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	27 th March 2018
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	4 th July 2018
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	September 2018
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	November 2018
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	January 2019
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	March 2019
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	July 2019



Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee **17th September 2019**

REPORT TITLE:	BUSINESS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE – STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER

REPORT SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are requested to:

1. Note the contents of the Committee's Work Programme for 2019/20.
2. Consider any additional items to be included on the Committee's work programme for 2019/20 and prioritise as appropriate.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND THE WIRRAL PLAN

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

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

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

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

3.2 PRINCIPLES FOR PRIORITISATION

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

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

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

3.3 DELIVERING THE WORK PROGRAMME

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

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

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

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

4.0 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS

4.1 Camper Vans Task & Finish Scrutiny Review

Following a change to membership of the task & finish panel, the review into management of campervans at coastal locations in Wirral is due to resume with its approach set out in the review scope. A schedule of activity has been drafted for the coming months, including a stakeholder focus group and discussion around the potential for a commercial solution.

4.2 Review of Council's Overview & Scrutiny Arrangements

At the Council meeting held on 14th May 2019, Council agreed for the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee to conduct a review of the Council's overview and scrutiny committee arrangements and to determine the number of committees and their respective terms of reference. A workshop for all non-executive Members was subsequently held on 17th July and a scrutiny report detailing the outcomes from this session was developed. The report was referred to the Standards & Constitutional Oversight Committee meeting on 19th September for consideration alongside a separate review that was undertaken concurrent to this one.

4.3 Special Meeting / Scrutiny Workshop – Celtic Manor Golf Resort

A Special Meeting of the Committee was convened on 27th June, 2019, to consider the Celtic Manor Golf Resort proposals. Committee agreed a resolution for Cabinet "to not enter into a separate agreement to fund the Celtic manor at this time"

At the Cabinet meeting held on 8th July, 2019, the following was resolved:

1) Wirral is open for business. We've secured more than £140million in new investment into the Borough over the past four years and, through our partnership with Muse in Wirral Growth Company, we're moving forward with major developments at Birkenhead, Bromborough and Moreton;

2) This Council is determined to bring investment, jobs and prosperity to Wirral. That's why major players like Celtic Manor and Redrow want to build here in the first place. This is a scheme which will create hundreds of new jobs and give Hoylake high-street a huge boost;

3) However, it is a massive investment for the Council. We are a new Leadership, with new priorities, and after much deliberation, we've decided the money we would borrow to invest in this scheme would be better spent on securing affordable and social housing for the many residents who need it elsewhere in our borough; and

4) Therefore, we won't be investing in the Hoylake development. Instead, we will immediately start work on a plan to increase social housing in our

borough, meeting our pledge to deliver good quality housing to everyone who needs it, and will also move forward on developing an action plan to provide real support to our struggling high streets.

4.4 Milton Pavement / Tower Road Projects

A scrutiny workshop session has been scheduled for 5th September, 2019, as part of pre-decision scrutiny on both the Tower Road and Milton Pavement projects prior to any decisions taken to Cabinet in late September. The workshop also gives Members an opportunity to receive information around Birkenhead Town Centre.

4.5 Future items

At the previous agenda setting meeting for this committee, it was agreed by the Chair and Party Spokespersons for a number of agenda items to be considered at future Committee meetings. These are:

- An update on the use of consultants and interim appointments within the Council.
- A report detailing how the Council is delivering its commercial strategy and the successes it has achieved.
- A report outlining the work of the Council's Programme Office and the key transformational projects that have been delivered and future plans.
- A report on the current situation relating to Business Rates collection.

5.0 **LCRCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**

5.1 The role of the LCRCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to:-

- Scrutinise the decision and actions taken by the Combined Authority or the Metro Mayor;
- Provide a 'critical friend to policy and strategy development;
- Undertake scrutiny reviews into areas of strategic importance for the people of the Liverpool City Region; and
- Monitor the delivery of the Combined Authority's strategic plan

5.2 The LCRCA O&S meeting schedule can be found via the link below:

[LCRCA O&S Meeting Schedule and Agenda](#)

The LCRCA O&S Committee has not met since the last update to the Business O&S Committee on 4th July, 2019. The work programme has been included within the Business O&S Committee's work programme (**Appendix 1**).

6.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not Applicable

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

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

9.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable

10.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

11.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

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APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work programme

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

**BUSINESS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME**

(As at 27/08/2019)

AGENDA ITEMS – Thursday 17th September 2019

Item	Format	Officer / Councillor
2019/20 Quarterly Finance Monitoring Report	Report / Presentation	Finance Team to present
New Ferry – Lessons Learnt	Report / Presentation	David Ball
Universal Credit	Report / Presentation	Lisa Jamieson Nicky Dixon
2018/19 Quarter 4 and Year End Wirral Plan Performance Report	Report /Presentation	Shaer Halewood David Armstrong
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Update	Officer Report / Presentation	Rosemary Boylan
Scrutiny Work Programme Update	Report	Chair of the Committee

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Item	Format	Officer / Councillor
2019/20 Quarterly Finance Monitoring Report	Report / Presentation	Finance to present report
2019/20 Quarterly Wirral Plan Performance Report	Report	Shaer Halewood - Director of Finance and Investment David Armstrong - Corporate Director for Delivery Services / Assistant Chief Executive
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Update	Report / Presentation	Rosemary Boylan, Policy and Strategy Manager (External)

WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE COMMITTEE

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Departmental Officer	Progress / Comments
Camper Vans Scrutiny Review	Task & Finish	September 2019	Mark Smith	Focus groups to be arranged with relevant stakeholders.
Review of Scrutiny Arrangements	TBC	July / August 2019	TBC	Workshop held and report referred to Standards & Constitutional Oversight Committee.
Celtic Manor Golf Resort	Workshop	June 17 th , 2019	Shaer Halewood	Referred to Cabinet. Cabinet agreed with Committee resolution to not continue funding Celtic Manor.
Budget Scrutiny	TBC	December 2018 / January	TBC	
Reality Check Visits	Site Visit	TBC	TBC	
Road Safety & Infrastructure	Task & Finish	TBC	TBC	
Milton Pavement / Tower Road	Workshop	September 5th 2019	Alan Evans	

SPECIAL MEETINGS / CALL-IN MEETINGS CONVENED

Item	Format
Celtic Manor Golf Resort 27 th June, 2019	Special Meeting

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED (Subject to Committee approval)

Item	Format	Approximate timescale	Lead Officer
Use of Consultants and Interims	Report	TBC	Nicola Boardman
Commercialisation Developments	Report	TBC	Stuart Bellerby
Council's Programme Management Update	Report	TBC	TBC
Business Rates	Report	TBC	TBC

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY O&S COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME

Item	Format	Timescale	Progress / Comments
Local Enterprise Partnerships	Task & Finish	September 2019	Review Panel of three Members confirmed
Bus Services Act and bus Ticketing	Workshop	September 2019	Workshop established with a further Task & Finish review undertaken if required.
Air Quality Action Plan Update	Committee Report	September 2019	
Year of the Environment	Committee Report	September 2019	
Mersey Tidal Power Project	Committee Report	September 2019	
Housing Strategy Update	Committee Report	November 2019	
Housing First Update	Committee Report	November 2019	
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Financial Performance Report 2018/19, 2019/20	Committee Report	January 2020	
Liverpool City Region Budget for 2021/21	Committee Report	January 2020	

Apprenticeships	Committee Report	January 2020	
Digital Connectivity Update	Committee Report	January 2020	
Skills Investment Strategy	Committee Report	January 2020	