



Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 24 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>

Contact Officer: Michael Jones, Principal Committee Officer
Tel: 0151 691 8363
e-mail: michaeljones1@wirral.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

AGENDA

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

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

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

2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 14)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings held on 18 June 2019 and 2 July 2019.

3. 2018/19 OUTTURN AND QUARTER 1 2019/20 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT (Pages 15 - 22)

4. HILBRE ISLAND - UPDATE (Pages 23 - 30)

5. LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

6. **UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION (Pages 31 - 42)**
7. **MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSES SCRUTINY WORKSHOP REPORT (Pages 43 - 56)**
8. **RECYCLING TASK & FINISH SCRUTINY REVIEW (Pages 57 - 78)**
9. **2019/20 QUARTER 1 WIRRAL PLAN PERFORMANCE (Pages 79 - 88)**
10. **WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (Pages 89 - 96)**

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ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 18 June 2019

Present: Councillor C Blakeley (Chair)

Councillors T Cottier T Anderson
G Davies D Burgess-Joyce
K Greaney H Cameron
B Kenny A Hodson
C Muspratt A Brame
S Spoor S Hayes
I Williams

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

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

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

No such declarations were made.

The Chair informed the Committee that he will not be enforcing the five-minute time limit for speeches.

2 CALLED-IN BUSINESS - FUTURE PROVISION OF GOLF COURSES (PUBLIC PAPERS)

The Chair introduced the item of business 'future Provision of Golf Courses' considered by the Cabinet Members as a delegated decision made on 30 May 2019, the decision relating thereto having been called-in in accordance with Council Procedure Rule / Standing Order 35.

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

- the details of the call-in and reasons submitted;
- The decision notice for the delegated decision; and
- the exempt report considered by the Cabinet Member.

The delegated decision made on 30 May 2019 had been called in by Councillors Ian Lewis, Tom Anderson, Helen Cameron, Chris Blakeley, David Burgess – Joyce, Andrew Hodson on the following grounds:-

“We note the decision to approve the recommended preferred provider and to commence negotiations for a lease transfer of The Warren Golf Course (including The Grange) and Arrowse Park Golf Course but are concerned that:

- Brackenwood Golf Course, which must also be affected by the same issues leading to this decision, is excluded from the decision and any proposed benefits to users and taxpayers
- Accurate financial information for the running costs (including income, expenditure and capital works) for both facilities has not been provided
- The scope of the negotiations has not been defined, in particular, any alternative uses for the land or buildings
- The only consultation outlined is the statutory consultation required by the Local Government Act 1972 and that no meaningful consultation has taken place with existing users and clubs on either facility”.

Councillor Ian Lewis, as Lead Signatory to the call-in, spoke to the Committee and stated that he recognised that the decision had been taken by a newly appointed Cabinet Member and that much of the work had been carried out by the previous Cabinet. He noted that the Cabinet had accepted a report that golf was in decline but he had seen that Sport England had mentioned a rise in numbers playing of 10,000 a year. He had noted that the previous Cabinet had been keen on a new golf resort on land at Hoylake and that the Borough would be hosting the Open. He was concerned that the Council was using a report from 2017 which covered only one of the courses in the decision and that no assessment of the Warren had been undertaken. The lack of financial data for each course had been raised by this Committee in the past, and it knew from other asset transfers that figures can be inaccurate. The figures for Arrowse Park and the Warren suggested that the running costs could be reduced and a lease rental would be gained from the operator who would in turn make a profit, but there was no detail as to how the income would be generated. He would be surprised if the bidder used the 2017 figures. He cited Basildon Golf Club as an example where a similar proposal failed, leading to criticism from auditors and costs to the Council when the court of appeal judged it to have acted unlawfully. Under the proposals for the two courses in the decision, they were both to continue to require taxpayer funding without taxpayers having a say in how the money was to be spent.

Councillor Julie McManus, Cabinet Member for Community Services informed the Committee that the reason for the decision was to save money for the Council which required either ending services, increasing income or finding new ways to deliver them. The decision was made to protect services and protect jobs. She spoke to the issues in the call-in:

- Brackenwood was not included in the decision as it formed part of the Local Plan process and so was for full Council to decide.
- Financial information had been provided at a scrutiny review of the budget proposal in 2018 and that review was provided with all the information. It was not included in this report as it was commercial information but could be provided to Members on request.
- Scope of negotiations – the proposal was to seek an expert operator on a long lease, as discussed with all parties in the scrutiny process in 2018. This was not the final decision and there would be a further opportunity to scrutinise the final proposals when they returned to Cabinet. The decision was to progress the supplier who had provided the strongest bid.
- Consultation – the proposal was published last year and was not opposed at the time. When the Council transitioned to a new supplier, she would make sure users of the service had a full voice.

Councillor McManus responded to Members' questions:

- Commercially sensitive financial information such as staffing costs could be made available for Members.
- No consultation with the Cabinet Member and with Clubs and users had been undertaken so far but there had been consultation and budget scrutiny in the past and would be further opportunity.
- A covenant would ensure that fees remained affordable and courses stayed open.
- There had been no 'managed decline' of courses.
- The intention for employed staff was that they would TUPE across on their existing terms.
- Tenants of The Grange had not received notices to quit or been evicted.
- She was satisfied that the cost estimates provided were accurate.
- Invigor8 membership was to continue.

The witnesses for the Lead Signatory were called up to give statements and answer questions.

Patrick Hickey, Honorary Secretary for Arrowe Park Golf Club, explained that the Club had existed since 1932. Their members had always contributed and raised thousands for Wirral hospice and Claire House. It was a thriving club with membership growing. It had witnessed other Councils offering maintenance contracts, having courses become bankrupt and having to be taken back into Council ownership. Also, there was a practice where a new operator registered a new Club at the course and refused old Clubs the right to play. If Arrowe Park and the Warren courses were leased, that could lead to three clubs disappearing. He asked the Council to reconsider and introduce staff to run the course at a profit.

Mr Hickey responded to Members' questions:

- There had only been one opportunity for consultation and that had been at the request of Mr Hickey.

- There had been insufficient investment in Council staff to improve the standards at the course, although at the moment the course was at a good standard.
- Money from the course did not get reinvested back but went into the general leisure fund of the Council.
- It would help to have conversations with users.
- Invigor8 members were scanned in at the shop and registered their play there.
- The details on other clubs being put out of business was from an association which Arrowe Park was part. Some clubs had new operators who had set their own rules and made profit from secondary activities such as restaurants.
- There were about 120 players at the Club, with about 47 of those over 60.
- Wirral did not need more courses.
- There had been drainage improvements at the course which had improved standards but also made it more attractive to sell.
- Membership had been declining but the course improvements had seen increased membership as it offered better value for money.
- Young people were attracted to pitch and putt where they could learn, practice and grow to like the game. Being public, they could play at the course when they liked.

Keith Marsh, Honorary Secretary of Brackenwood Golf Club, informed the Committee that the Club had been in existence since 1935. He provided an analogy of a landlord buying a nice house and having tenants but not maintaining the property. Brackenwood suffered from being waterlogged in parts and was in the Council's Green Belt Review. It had not had any consultation and he wondered if the Council could run the course at a profit rather than getting a private company to gain that profit. Members had been leaving because of the deterioration of playing conditions. It had intended to host the Municipal Championship in June but had to postponed that due to a deterioration in conditions. Brackenwood provided a golf course, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, recreation areas and good air quality.

Mr Marsh responded to Members' questions:

- Brackenwood was more open than other courses and there was an element of people who gain access and start playing without paying. The shop was not open as long as on other courses so may not capture everyone.
- There were active elderly members and there had been a youth section but that had reduced to a single player. People leaving had cited the poor condition of the course, which was due to neglect and a lack of investment.
- It would take money to improve the course but it was an asset and money needed to be spent anyway to maintain it.
- There was little involvement from the Council to the course. The Golf Co-ordinator had stated it was value for money.

- There was a fear that with private investment the club would be closed.

Keith Lewis, Honorary Secretary of the Warren Golf Club and also representing Warren Ladies Golf Club, spoke to Members about the Clubs and course. He said that there had been no consultation on the proposals although he had seen the local Councillors. The Club was the oldest in the UK linked to a 9-hole course and offered an introduction to golf. The clubhouse facilities were in the Grange. The Clubs had invested £15,000 over four years and had seen a growth of 20% in the period, to just under 100 members. He was aware of the financial constraints that the Council faced and the statutory consultation process but was concerned that the facilities would not be protected. The facilities were run by volunteers which helped reduce costs. It was difficult to see how to make money at the course without major investment, but they were happy to work with a new provider.

Mr Lewis responded to Members' questions:

- He could not see the current situation continuing and would want to speak to a new provider.
- The Club had a lease ending in 2022.
- The course was in good condition since it was improved about 18 months ago.
- Money had been invested in the facilities through revenue at the bar and social events and through not having staff costs.

The witnesses for the Cabinet Member were called up to give statements and answer questions.

The Interim Assistant Director Community Services informed Members that over the past 18 months the Council had looked at leisure services partially because of financial pressures, and golf was part of that. The desire was to look at ways of transforming services so they were sustained and potentially improving them. Members of this Committee had a report looking at the potential of going to market. There had been soft market testing of the options, and from that the most likely appeared to be a long-term lease but the detail had to be worked out. After a relatively positive exercise the Cabinet Member decided to begin negotiations. He noted that in the last 18 months there had been a new way of working with a much firmer contractor/client role between Leisure Services staff and Parks/Countryside staff which included a more rigorous attempt to improve the quality of courses. There were differences in quality due to patterns of past investment.

Interim Assistant Director responded to Members' questions:

- It would cost several million to get Brackenwood up to standard.
- The improvement in quality was important to increase the number of players.
- The venues had not been advertised for hospitality purposes in the last 18 months.
- Demand analysis would be needed to see if there were a need for more courses.

- Due diligence would be carried out during the negotiations to see if a provider could provide the facilities.
- There was no specification as to how many of the courses each provider wished to bid for.
- If the contracts were terminated early the courses would revert to the Council, and the details on termination would be part of the negotiations.
- Improving the courses was part of the specification.

The Programme Manager, Business Management, informed the Committee that part of his role was to manage the golf project around Arrowe Park and the Warren. The courses had a history of overspending and took maintenance to remain playable. It was a competitive environment and a report had been taken to cabinet in November 2018. The recommended option was seeking a suitably experienced alternative operator on a long lease to operate them as golf courses, with the Council retaining freehold. There would be further consultation if this progressed. Following a soft market exercise, potential providers submitted proposals which were ranked. The proposals could only be discussed in detail once a decision was made to progress. Wirral was not alone in adopting this course as it generated income and kept courses open.

The Programme Manager responded to Members' questions:

- He had been Programme Manager for 18 months and was aware that the courses had received subsidy and overspent since 2014.
- Brackenwood was not included as it was part of the Local Plan but would be included if Council decided it should. The course had communication links which would make it attractive to investors.
- The agronomists report only mentioned Brackenwood and Arrowe Park as it was concerned with drainage.
- There were lots of variables in the project but providers were experienced providers at other courses. Due diligence could see how they ran those courses. We would seek the approval of Members on any deal which had been negotiated.
- There was not room for another municipal course. The proposal was to enable us to sustain the existing courses and keep them open for residents.
- We could ask bidders to provide their market research about the demand, for municipal golf, during due diligence.

The Principal Accountant informed Members that the budget subsidy for golf courses was £150,000 a year and in the last year, they had overspent by about £9,000. The revenue-saving option was to transfer management to save about £100,000 a year.

The Principal Accountant responded to Members' questions:

- The insurance at different courses varied because of the risk factors.
- The recharge figure would be to fund the supporting activities including the management costs of Leisure Services and the general infrastructure of the Council, including the infrastructure for invigor8.

- If invigor8 members joined at a course, their membership fee would go to that course.

The Head of Communications informed Members that he held a public consultation on budget proposals each year, and for this proposal there had been communication with all of the golf courses. The Council had a large budget shortfall to tackle and the proposal was to do something in a different way, a strategy which never meets with universal approval. With this proposal, the general public expressed little opinion but most were positive, although the Clubs were against it. Their concerns were about the implementation of the decision which is the next stage.

The Head of Communications responded to Members' questions:

- The consultation was clear about which courses were included in the proposal.
- As golf was a niche interest, it was included in the general consultation but there were also conversations with users.

Councillor Ian Lewis, as Lead Signatory, summed up as follows:

This meeting had proved the value of scrutiny. He had been initially concerned about the proposal and that concern was turning into anger. The call-in could have been easily avoided if there had been proper consultation with clubs and users. The lack had allowed rumours to circulate. The clubs had said that a small amount of investment could yield dividends in terms of extra players, and neglect can cause decline. Regarding the soft market testing, no options involved talking to the clubs. Brackenwood improvements costs varied, STRI were clear about costs but said that it was a broad desk-based estimate so there were no accurate figures. By not marketing all four courses together we would not realise economies of scale and it could cause confusion. Protection was said to be covered under covenants, but Members on Planning Committee were aware of how worthless they were. The Grange was a great asset and no mention was made about that. Council tax subsidised every service as well as golf courses for the many and it should be able to maintain the courses.

He questioned the finances being exempt. He accepted that the bids should be, but the running costs had to be available by law, to the public and to the Committee. If the recharge costs included infrastructure and management which the Council was paying that anyway so recharging to courses but not including it in costs with a different provider was wrong. The budget consultation should have included a round table discussion with clubs.

Councillor Julie McManus, as decision maker summed up as follows:

Members were concerned at the finances which had been reviewed already and could be reviewed again. She shared the concerns about the impact on staff and would continue to work with trade unions. Regarding Brackenwood, regardless of the decision tonight, it was to be decided by the whole Council as part of the Local Plan before it could be included. The consultation had been delivered and would be done in future with users about the decision

impact. This was not the last decision – it was letting the officers get on with the budget Council decision, to find an expert operator with which they could go into detailed negotiations and she would fully engage with this Committee during the process. She was disappointed with the answers from the Council officers. All the questions asked by Councillors would be answered in writing within a week.

The Chair moved a motion ‘that this Committee requests the Cabinet Member to pause the process for the future provision of golf courses in Wirral while the Members of this Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee carry out a fact-finding visit to all four municipal courses – Hoylake, Arrowe Park, The Warrens and Brackenwood. On conclusion of that fact-finding visit the Environment Committee will meet again at a date to be determined to make a final recommendation to the Cabinet Member.’

This was seconded by Councillor Muspratt and put to the vote, where it was carried.

RESOLVED:

that this Committee requests the Cabinet Member to pause the process for the future provision of golf courses in Wirral while the Members of this Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee carry out a fact-finding visit to all four municipal courses – Hoylake, Arrowe Park, The Warrens and Brackenwood. On conclusion of that fact-finding visit the Environment Committee will meet again at a date to be determined to make a final recommendation to the Cabinet Member.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 2 July 2019

Present: Councillor C Blakeley (Chair)

Councillors	G Davies	T Anderson
	K Greaney	D Burgess-Joyce
	B Kenny	H Cameron
	C Muspratt	A Hodson
	S Spoor	A Brame
	I Williams	S Hayes

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

Councillor George Davies declared a personal interest in the Local Plan update as he had been involved in earlier stages of the Plan development when he was a Cabinet Member for Housing.

There were no declarations made in respect of the application of a party whipping arrangement.

4 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

Councillor Chris Blakeley nominated Councillor Christina Muspratt as Vice Chair. This was seconded by Councillor Andrew Hodson.

There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Christina Muspratt be appointed Vice Chair of Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2019/20.

5 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 March 2019 be approved as a correct record.

6 LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

The Council's Assistant Director: Major Growth Projects and Housing Delivery provided an update on the development of the Local Plan. The Action Plan had been submitted to the Secretary of State on 5 April 2019 and a formal response was awaited. The Council would continue on the timescales within the action plan which were:

- Cabinet, on 25 November 2019 to consider Regulation 18 Plan
- Council, on 9 December 2019, or after Cabinet approval, to consider the Regulation 18 Plan
- Consultation on Regulation 18 from January 2020, or after Council approval
- Regulation 19 – July 2020
- Submission for Examination – November 2020.

An all Member briefing had taken place on 10 June and a series of future ones had been circulated to all Councillors including a key meeting with the QC on 26 September. The Local Plan Member Advisory Group was scheduled to meeting fortnightly and would in future include the Chair of Planning Committee.

Members asked for clarification on the process for disposal of Council owned land, and also whether a Cabinet decision for the disposal of land in green belt could be referred back to Council. Officers would provide notes on these issues.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

7 DOGS PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

The Lead Commissioner for Environment updated the Councillors on dog control measures. This Committee had last considered the matter in January 2019, and the issue had originally been brought about following public concern about dog fouling expressed in a survey in 2017. The Council had been considering how to address anti-social behaviour by driving behaviour change. It had been thought that existing byelaws could be used to control dogs in play areas and cemeteries but on investigation the byelaws only covered certain areas and could not be amended. Central Government advice was that a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) should be used instead.

Members were keen that more consultation was undertaken before a policy was drafted, including groups representing particular elements of society, e.g. people with autism. Members suggested that a more conciliatory approach be taken with enforcement to educate people and rely on their goodwill, and they

wished to see the draft at an early stage, possibly with a special meeting of this Committee to consider it.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the position reached in relation to the consideration of future dog control measures be noted; and**
- 2) The Cabinet Member be urged to withdraw in its entirety the existing PSPO proposals and engage with user groups such as, but not exclusively, Wirral Good Dogs and Friends of Birkenhead Kennels to ensure all their views are taken into account before any future PSPO proposals are brought forward for consideration.**

8 FUTURE PROVISION OF THE FLORAL PAVILION

The Assistant Director for Community Services introduced the report which provided an update on progress toward the transfer of the Floral Pavilion Theatre and Conference Centre to an alternative specialist theatre provider on a long lease, while the council retained the freehold ownership.

Members questioned aspects of the proposal, and it was clarified:

- that the fly height for the stage scenery was reduced during planning application following local objections, but there were mechanisms to enable larger sets to be staged
- that the theatre employed more staff directly than other theatres as it did not have a separate centralised office with back office staff and marketing
- that it was hoped that a new operator would be experienced in running other theatres and would have economies of scale because of centralised back office and specialised staff across its portfolio.
- the theatre ran at a higher proportion of seats sold than the national average
- as the theatre was rebuilt in 2008, no major capital costs were expected in the near future

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the new Cabinet Member be thanked in her role in carrying out further consultation so we get the right answers; and**
- 2) The report be noted.**

9 FUTURE PROVISION OF GOLF COURSES

The Assistant Director for Community Services presented this report which provided an update on progress towards the transfer of Arrowe Park and the

Warren municipal golf courses to an alternative specialist golf provider on a long lease, while the council retained the freehold ownership. The approach had been agreed by Council on 4 March 2019 as the most appropriate opportunity for savings in the long term while keeping the courses open for the benefit of residents and visitors to Wirral.

The Cabinet decision to proceed to detailed negotiation with the preferred bidder had been called in and since then the Cabinet Member had accepted the need for more consultations before proceeding, and there were plans for this Committee to undertake visits to all four courses accompanied by trade union representatives.

Members expressed concern at the degree to which people played on the courses without paying. They were informed that staff had a rota, travelling out in a random two-hour period each day to check and collect fees on all four courses. It had generated £13,000 in the first year and £12,000 in the second which indicated that the approach reduced the problem. Members suggested that an intense four-week trial be undertaken to see if more money could be collected and if it was viable to continue this in the longer term.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The cabinet member be thanked for carrying out further consultation;**
- (2) The contents of the report be noted; and**
- (3) Officers be asked to look at ways to stop people playing golf without paying across the four golf courses.**

10 **HOMELESSNESS IN WIRRAL**

The Community Safety Operations Manager gave a presentation which informed Members about homelessness in the Borough and introduced the report which provided Members with an overview of homeless services in the Wirral; statistical data; and an update in regard to the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) from April 2018. The HRA placed new and significant responsibilities on local authorities to prevent and relieve homelessness and changed how services were delivered to households who approached the Council for assistance each year. The new Act changed the categories for reporting which made comparisons with previous periods difficult.

It was explained that homelessness could cover a number of different circumstances but the Council's focus was largely to offer advice and support to people at risk of becoming homeless.

Key changes included:

- the length of time to work with people at risk of becoming homeless increased from 28 to 56 days
- increased emphasis on interim accommodation and meeting a wider range of clients with advice
- personalised housing plan to help people resolve their own situations
- a new duty to refer for bodies such as housing teams and social services although it was noticed that only around 12% of referrals actually needed help.

There had been a 70% increase in cases since the changes (to about 3,500), largely because of the broader definition. This had increased caseloads for workers although it had been noted that the volumes were now decreasing. There had been an increase in the requirement for interim accommodation and Wirral Council preferred temporary accommodation rather than bed and breakfast.

Rough sleeping had increased at the annual count, with a 165% increase. The council provided a range of responses including the housing options 24-hour service and outreach.

The next steps included a review by end of 2019 and employing a Homeless Champion to work with other bodies and internally, raising the profile of the services.

Members questioned the statistics presented, such as whether they could be split by gender and the definitions for rough sleepers and HM forces. Thanks were given to the staff who provided the services.

RESOLVED:

That:

- 1) the statistics and content of this report as it relates to homelessness in Wirral be noted;**
- 2) the services offered by the council to prevent and respond to homelessness be noted;**
- 3) the additional work planned to effectively prevent and respond to homelessness in the future be noted; and**
- 4) a further report be brought back after next annual rough sleeping count.**

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

The Team Leader - Performance and Scrutiny introduced the performance report for the Wirral Plan pledges under the remit of Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report provided an overview of the progress in Quarter 4 and available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures. Overall, there had been a 64% increase in performance against targets.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the report be noted.

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

The Committee considered the existing Work Programme for the municipal year.

Members suggested that an additional item be added, being a working group to consider the Council's tree policy as there was a backlog of maintenance and conflicting views from residents. If the work crossed over with the remit of another Scrutiny Committee then the working group may need to be a joint one.

The Committee needed to determine membership of the statutory Wirral Flood & Water Management Partnership.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The contents of the Committee's Work Programme for 2019/20 be noted with the addition of a working group to consider tree policy;**
- 2) The Member representation on the Wirral Flood & Water Management Partnership be Councillors Chris Blakeley, Christina Muspratt and Allan Brame; and**
- 3) The Mayor be written to and asked not to delegate any Council Notices of Motion to this Committee as it did not have the resources or time to deal with them.**



Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 24 September 2019

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

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the financial monitoring information for the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The report provides Members with detail to scrutinise budget performance for this area of activity. The financial information 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

Members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the report and register 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 operational 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 Environment for 2018/19 was £1.2 million adverse variance compared with budget. The budget and expenditure position, along with accompanying narrative is show in the table below:

Table 1 – Revenue Outturn 2018/19

Reasons for variances from budget	Budget £m	Outturn £m	Variance £m
Economic & Housing Growth: Local Plan and Wirral Growth Company pressures developed in year. They were funded from the use of one-off funding and reserves to produce a nil variance position.	25.6	25.6	0
Delivery Services: The adverse budget variance reflects the non-achievement of savings e.g. expected contract efficiencies on bin collection and targeted garden waste income within Waste and Environment.	65.8	67.0	(1.2)
Net Position	91.4	92.6	(1.2)

3.2 CAPITAL OUTTURN 2018/19

3.2.1 The capital outturn for Environment for 2018/19 was expenditure of £24.2 million against a revised schedule of £29.0 million. This is shown in the table below:

Table 2 – Capital Outturn 2018/19

Spend	Budget £ m	Outturn £m	Variance £m
Delivery Services	17.6	13.8	3.8
Economic & Housing Growth	11.4	10.4	1.0
Total	29.0	24.2	4.8

3.2.2 A summary of progress made in 2018/19 within the Capital Programme is as follows:

3.2.3 Delivery Services

- Transport for Growth - expenditure has been incurred on a number of schemes to date. The most significant being the improvement to the junction of the M53 and A554 (£0.593 million) for which a contribution of £0.1 million was received from Highways England, as additional works were required following the need to lift the highway. In addition, expenditure has been incurred on cycle and footway improvements (£0.233 million) and the A41 New Ferry - Rock Ferry By-pass - speed enforcement measures, surface treatment and signing (£0.124 million). The termination of the BAM Nuttall contract has resulted in significant delays and a backlog of outstanding work, hence the considerable slippage into 2019/20.
- Sustainable Transport Enhancement Programme (STEP). Expenditure focused on 2 significant schemes; Northbank East (£0.65 million) which will provide increased accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists to the Wirral Waters West Float development and increased attractiveness of the area for businesses and investors; The Croft Retail Corridor (£0.22 million) which will also improve accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists, including improved safety for cyclists through the provision of an off road route.
- Highway maintenance - the most significant area of expenditure was in respect of micro asphaltting (£0.91 million).
- £0.575 million was spent on pothole repairs with those considered to be dangerous given priority for action. Efforts are directed both to repairs and prevention.
- Dock Bridges - a further of £0.84 million was incurred during the year in respect of the current replacement scheme.
- The BAM Nuttall settlement payment plus the purchase of 2 of their vehicles was completed at a cost of £0.561 million.
- £2.3 million of grant aid has been provided for the provision of essential aids and adaptations giving disabled people better freedom of movement in and around their homes. A new home adaptation pilot scheme commenced in August. The stair lift contract has also been awarded to facilitate faster installation of lifts and hoists. These 2 factors combined have resulted in greater expenditure than originally envisaged.
- The home improvement project provides a continuation of both financial assistance and intervention to remedy poor housing conditions in the private sector, including serious disrepair/hazardous housing conditions, low market demand and bringing long term empty properties back into productive use. Expenditure in the year was £0.5 million.

3.2.4 Economic and Housing Growth

- Within the Capital Programme is an allocation of £9.8 million for investment in properties; closely linked to the Wirral Growth Company, it is intended to fund potential acquisitions which will, in turn, provide a revenue income stream to the Council. Acquisition of the Vue cinema was completed at a cost of £7.18 million. The acquisition of the leasehold interest in Birkenhead Market has also been completed at a cost of £2.61 million with the management of the Market returning to the Council.

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 Environment.

Table 3 – Revenue Position at Quarter 1 2019/20 (£m)

	Full Year		Variance	Adv/Fav
	Budget	Forecast		
Delivery Services	66.8	68.4	(1.6) (2%)	Adverse
Economic & Housing Growth	20.0	20.0	0.0 0%	
Net position	86.8	88.4	(1.6) (2%)	Adverse

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

3.3.2 Delivery Services

- **Community Services.** There are income pressures (£0.3m) within Sport & Recreation which the service is working to mitigate. Commercial officers have been appointed to the Service to improve demand for memberships and explore new income streams aimed at reducing this adverse pressure. The expectation of the 2019/20 budget was for the approved budget savings, relating to the transfer of operations at the Floral and two golf courses, to be fully achieved. However, continuing delays in the implementation of both projects will mean the £0.66m saving target is unlikely to be realised in 2019/20 and has yet to be found.
- **Highways & Streetscene.** Car parking income is expected to fall short of the budgeted target by approximately £0.300m. This is due to less car parking income available from Asda supermarket customers. The termination of the Council's Litter Enforcement contract highlighted a net budget shortfall of £0.500m within the Waste & Environment Service Area; Officers are reviewing alternative options to bridge this budget shortfall. There has been a slower than anticipated take up of the Garden Waste Subscription service. If this trend were to continue it could cause a budget shortfall of approximately £0.200m, work is ongoing to attract new subscribers through promotional activity and advertising, aimed at reducing this variance.

- Housing. The favourable budget forecast within Housing is predicated on the current cost of Supported Housing contracts based on current occupancy rates.

3.3.3 Economic & Housing Growth

- The majority of the forecast favourable position is driven by savings of £0.073m in employee costs due to the delay in senior recruitment and £0.024m of improvements to income due to increased demand in planning.
- Income of £5.450m was originally anticipated in 2019/20 from development associated with the Wirral Growth company. However, as the partnership with Muse has matured, the partnership agreement has been refocussed to ensure any development is designed in consultation with residents, members and partners to ensure the maximum financial and economic benefits can be realised for the Council. This may result in additional income, but the expectation is that funds will be received later than originally planned. The income variance will be offset by a reduction in associated expenditure of £1.000m, expenditure that can be capitalised of £0.600m and a transfer from the Economic Growth reserve which was established to cover such delays in regeneration developments.
- Delivery of the Local Plan remains a key priority, with regular meetings with the Queens Council (external legal advisors) to ensure robust evidence is in place. Available reserves have been set aside to cover the local plan costs, with an estimated cost of delivery of £2.000m over three years.

3.4 IMPLEMENTATION OF SAVINGS

3.4.1 A summary of the position of 2019/20 Environment savings at Quarter 1, Month 3 (June 2019) is shown below:

Table 4 - Savings 2019/20 (£m's)

	Approved Savings Total	Amount Delivered at Q1	Mitigation	To be Delivered
Delivery Services	2.535	0.375	0	2.160
Economic & Housing Growth	8.350	8.350	0	0
Total	10.885	9.055	0	2.160

3.4.2 The £10.885m comprises the following elements:

- £0.33m - Delivery Services – Assisted Travel Procurement (£0.125m), Street Lighting LED (£0.05m), Cemetery & Crematorium Fees Changes (£0.2m) Golden Hellos, an incentive scheme for recruiting social workers. (budget reduction achieved)

- £2.050m – at risk. Floral - Submissions from preferred providers of an expert operator model for the Floral will be received, with a recommendation passed to the Portfolio Holder to enable negotiations. The saving was predicated on a full year saving of Revenue costs (£0.550m), which will not fully materialise in this financial year.
- £0.11m at risk. Golf - A preferred provider, as an expert operator for the golf courses, has been identified. Following an O&S Committee the saving is yet to be realised. The delay in the project will impact the level of revenue savings which can be achieved in 19/20. The £0.110m shown was predicted on a full year saving.
- £4.150m – Benefits of Economic Regeneration. £3.650m relates to the Wirral Growth Company, please refer to 3.3.2 for full commentary (budget reduction received)
- £0.1m – Increased Planning Income (budget reduction received)
- £4.0m – Sale of Freehold Investment, Capital Sale (budget reduction achieved).
- £0.1m – Culture Income (budget reduction achieved).

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 subject to change. The table below shows the capital strategy agreed at Council then the proposed program as at June 2019 and the expenditure at that date.

Table 5 – Capital Monitoring at Quarter 1 2019/20

	Capital Strategy (as agreed at Council)	Proposed Programme	Q1 Actual Spend
	£m	£m	£m
Delivery Services	36.454	39.646	1.610
Economic & Housing Growth	27.712	19.252	0.132
Total	64.166	58.898	1.742

3.5.2 Current progress on significant schemes: -

3.5.3 Delivery Services

- The demolition of Seacombe Community Centre has been completed at a cost of £0.130m.
- Transport for Growth - the major work to date has focused on Twickenham Drive Leasowe and Liscard Village town centre (£0.048m) and various footway and cycleway improvements (£0.057m).

- Aids, adaptations and DFGs - spend is influenced by several factors including referrals received and the extent/ value of the adaptations required. A new home adaptation pilot commenced August 2018 and the stair lift contract is facilitating faster installation of lifts and hoists. To date £0.523m has been spent.
- Leasowe 3G pitches - work is expected to commence on 29th July with a 22 week build.
- Fitness equipment upgrade - £0.280m has been spent already, with the remaining £0.060m allocated and on order for delivery in August.
- Wirral Tennis Centre facility upgrade – utilising a framework agreement to award the contract which will be supported by assets and procurement. This will be a trial of a partnership approach with the private sector.

3.5.4 Economic and Housing Growth

- Within the Programme is an allocation of £10.00m for investment in properties. Closely linked to the progressing Wirral Growth Company it is intended to fund potential acquisitions.
- Wirral Waters Investment Fund – commitments total £1.800m for this year. £0.300m which must be spent by March on the “Green Civilised Streets” project and a contribution of £1.500m towards the Marine Energy Automotive Park.
- Housing Infrastructure Fund – potential areas to be progressed are:
Woodside Master plan - £0.150m
Urban Brownfield Sites Assessments Study £0.170m
Birkenhead Regeneration Framework and Delivery Action Plans (focused on housing delivery) £0.200m;
There will be further costs associated with the delivery of the Legacy Housing scheme (Wirral Waters One) and with the Urban Splash / Belong housing schemes, the scale of the costs are currently being assessed.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The financial implications represent the content of this 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.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Not Applicable.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Vikki Gregorich**
Project Accountant
telephone: (0151) 666 3104
email: vikki@wirral.gov.uk

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



**Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday, 24 September 2019**

REPORT TITLE:	HILBRE ISLAND INCIDENT REPORT
REPORT OF:	DAVID ARMSTRONG, ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT SUMMARY

In 2016 a report to assess the stability of existing sandstone walls and their likelihood of failure and other health and safety risks associated with maintenance of the walls on Hilbre was undertaken and from this several recommendations were made.

The option of infilling an island littoral opening (a cave formed primary by the wave action of the sea) below a section of the cliff face and restoring the dressed sandstone walling was taken and a project was initiated to undertake this work.

Work started in July 2019 to seal the island littoral opening. During the construction phase to rebuild the sandstone walls, the polyurethane foam product being used to give additional structural support to the cliff caught fire. Work ceased on the island following the fire and investigations were initiated. Safety measures were immediately put into place to secure the area.

The Committee is asked to discuss the options available to either protect the area from further erosion through construction methods or to allow a natural demise of sections of cliff. As this is a live incident Members will be updated on the findings of the investigations as they are gathered.

The report supports the Wirral Plan 20/20 pledges through:

- Attractive Local Environment
- Assets and Buildings are fit for purpose

WARDS AFFECTED: West Kirby

THIS IS NOT A KEY DECISION

RECOMMENDATION/S

1. That the Committee be requested to note the report and to support the continuation of work with Agencies and the Friends of Hilbre Island Group following the fire on Hilbre Island
2. That the Committee asks the Cabinet Member to allow a full options appraisal to be undertaken for a range of actions to be considered based on previous reports and new inspections being conducted
3. That a Capital bid be produced to improve the listed properties on the island, including vacant properties to bring them back into use.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The recommendations made will continue to address the concerns raised in the 2016 report and deal with ongoing incident findings. By addressing the preservation needs of assets on the island this will provide a commitment to the special environmental interest of the island going forward.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The 2016 report gave clear expert advice on the safety of Hilbre Island, these options were considered by officers in terms of priority order such as signage and cordoned areas, followed by more engineered projects to provide stability of the cliff and any island littoral openings which had formed.
- 2.2 To do nothing with the wall and island littoral opening would cause the defences to deteriorate and leave the cliff to function naturally thereafter.
- 2.3 Import rock to provide a buttress directly in front of the cliff, this would incur significant cost.
- 2.3 Filling and sealing of the island littoral entrance; the use of polyurethane foam was chosen over more traditional construction materials due to the vehicular access issues of the island, its structural properties and longevity of the repair.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Hilbre Island is formed by natural outcropping bedrock that is subject to natural erosion. In the 1830's Mersey Dock and Harbour Company purchased the islands, during this ownership sections of the sandstone cliffs were reinforced with near vertical profile infills made up of sandstone blocks believed to have been constructed during the second half of the 19th century. It is thought that due to the importance of the buildings and equipment on the island, such works would protect these assets.
- 3.2 In 2016 Coastal Engineering UK Ltd were commissioned by Wirral Council, to undertake a detailed defence inspection and report, following a cliff collapse on a slipway which then triggered concerns about safety of cliffs. The report would address specifically: the stability of the existing walls and their likelihood of failure; the impact of this failure in inducing further cliff falls; and other health and safety risk associated with maintenance of the walls. The report is detailed and runs to 62 pages, and from which a series of options were given. In summary these were:
- (i) Do nothing but allow the defences to continue to deteriorate and leave the cliffs to function naturally thereafter;

- (ii) Provide warning signs along the cliff top (minimum option);
 - (iii) Provide barriers along the cliff top to keep the public away from the danger area;
 - (iv) Filling and sealing the island littoral opening (and rebuilding the wall); or
 - (v) If greater budgets are available imported rock could be used to provide a buttress/revetment directly in front of the cliff to provide long term protection.
- 3.3 It is important to note that the areas of concern are not natural caves but a island littoral opening created following the failure of the main section of wall. A section of infill behind which an island littoral opening under the cliff has formed as material behind has been drawn out creating a void. This area was of particular risk highlighted by the report which if cliff integrity was compromised could cause potential injury to people or death.
- 3.4 There were several management options, the primary constraints were: tidal working, working in an environmentally sensitive area, access for plant and materials, sources of material and cost. Points (ii) and (iii) in the report were undertaken shortly after the publication of the report. Following discussions, advice in point (iv) was activated by way of seeking a Council Capital funding bid to release a budget to undertake the filling and sealing of the island littoral opening.
- 3.5 Asset Management were instructed in 2018 to deliver the project to rebuild the dressed stone wall at the base of the cliffs. As the structural stability of the wall was of paramount importance and the project was supported by the Councils Structural Engineer. At the point of project specification an additional structural dimension was added to prolong the life of the walls being constructed; the use of polyurethane foam which is used in many deep mining, highways and other civil engineering projects globally.
- 3.6 Phases of work were identified as follows:
- (i) Non-shrink grout use to underpin existing walls which were showing signs of scour
 - (ii) Infill of island littoral opening with structural expanding foam to reduce the load of existing perimeter of the walls
 - (iii) Rebuild section of perimeter sandstone wall to the island littoral opening entrance with stone facing
- Works commenced in July 2019, this being the best time for tides, weather and access to the island. The foam infill work started on 5/8/19 and was completed later that week. A storm hits Hilbre on 17/8/19 and a section of the infill was damaged. Grouting and wall construction starts on 19/8/19 and the damaged foam was replaced on 23/8/19.
- 3.7 On 23 August a fire breaks out in the island littoral opening and emergency services are called. The area is placed under the control of Merseyside Fire &

Rescue Services who initiate a fire investigation. Strictly no admittance to the cave.

3.8 Hilbre Island remained closed from 23 August until Saturday 26 August. Following an inspection of the fire damaged island littoral opening and adjacent cliff by Council Officers it was deemed safe for members of the public to access Hilbre Island but with the following precautions in place:

- (i) Improve signage to cliff top, island littoral entrance and paths leading to Hilbre
- (ii) Barriers and fencing installed to cliff tops to prevent access
- (iii) Removal of all contractors' materials and equipment
- (iv) RNLI communications with visitors asking them to follow safety notices
- (v) Residual debris from the littoral opening is cleared by contractors as it is washed out by the tide
- (vi) Daily inspections of the safety arrangements were put in place

3.9 The Fire Investigation report was received on 30/8/19 and stated that no evidence of deliberate ignition, initial findings appear to indicate that a build up of heat in the island littoral opening ignited the product being used and it not being able to readily escape, a chemical reaction during the curing process increased the heat until items in the cave ignited.

3.10 Investigation into the project methodology, product use and events leading up to the fire are still being undertaken.

3.11 A survey has been requested for a specialist company to re-assess the island littoral opening and cliff areas to ensure the overall stability of the cliff and opening have not worsened since the fire. This will be undertaken in the next couple of weeks and will support Members in their deliberations on the course of action to be taken.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost of the project was estimated to be in the region of £85,000 and would be met by Council funding for Capital works. Additional costs will have been incurred following the incident; these have not yet been quantified.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The consent of Natural England is required if operations in the Dee Estuary SSSI amount to modifications of natural features or repair of coast protection works including cliff stabilisation measures, or the construction of walls.

5.2 Under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 a marine licence is required from the Marine Management Organisation if construction activities are carried out in English waters in or under the sea (defined as areas submerged at Mean High Water Spring Tides).

- 5.3 Discussions are taking place with Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation to determine whether the works carried out on Hilbre Island fall within the above definitions.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 Existing internal staff resources have been directed to the investigation as a result of the incident.
- 6.2 Hilbre Island as a Council asset will require further consideration in terms of the safety and monitoring of the cliffs and sea defence walls.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The risks relating to the stability of the island are indicated in the 2016 report and relate to the safety risks to visitors to the island. The report assessed this a medium risk of defence failure spreading and risk of cliff failure due to ongoing undermining/defence failure.
- 7.2 The location of the island poses challenges to all works being undertaken including vehicle access restrictions, weather, tidal working etc.
- 7.3 Risk assessments are essential when working in confined areas and where stability of the environment has been highlighted.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The 2016 report was shared with the Hilbre Islands Management Advisory Committee.
- 8.2 Officers will consult and engage with Natural England and Marine Management Organisation following the incident.
- 8.3 Engagement has occurred with Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, Environment Agency, Coastguard, RNLI and Friends of Hilbre Island.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None

No because there is no relevance to equality.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are environment implications associated with this report in respect of the location of Hilbre Island and the impact the environment has on the island rock structure.
- 10.2 Environment concerns following the fire and the use of Polyurethane foam have been raised and this will be considered by the Committee and using information gathered following investigations.

REPORT AUTHOR: Jeannette Royle
Senior Manager, Asset Management
telephone: (0151) 606 2644
email: jeannetteroyle@wirral.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Hilbre Island Defence Inspection and Report July 2016

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24TH SEPTEMBER 2019

REPORT TITLE	UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION
REPORT OF	Mike Cockburn – Lead Commissioner for Environment

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides Committee with an update on the Council's response to the Environment and Climate Emergency Declaration of July 2019. The Council has renewed its commitment to tackling the causes of climate change for some years. However, the resolution of July 2019 to declare a climate emergency, which received all party support, is a significant move and requires the Council to reset its corporate priorities in order to address the requirements of the climate emergency resolution. Through the Climate Emergency resolution, the Council is committing to do all in its power and influence for Wirral to be carbon neutral by 2050 and is now developing a Climate Emergency Action Plan, which will set out the framework for developing and establishing this.

In order to ensure a quick response to the emergency declaration, the Council has established an initiating action plan, to deliver quick actions and at the same time put in place the framework and clarification of responsibilities that will drive the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

This report provides Committee with an update on the initiating action plan, the actions that have been achieved and are being put in place. The Climate Emergency Declaration and carbon neutral target will require all our partners to commit to the declaration, deliver their own plans and work together in partnership to drive major change for Wirral. The Wirral Climate Change Partnership have renewed the Cool Wirral Strategy for all partners to jointly implement, following extensive joint preparation work this year. The updated Cool Wirral Strategy is currently being prepared to go out to public consultation for establishment this year.

Emphasis is also being placed on urging everyone in Wirral to acknowledge the climate emergency and commit to making the necessary changes to the way they live their lives or operate their businesses in order to make the necessary changes. The Council and its partners within the Cool Wirral Partnership will help people to make changes to their lives by providing advice and support to their activities.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the contents of this report and the steps being taken to respond to the Climate Emergency Declaration.
2. Provide the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change with comments on the Climate Emergency Declaration response.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council has declared an environment and climate emergency in recognition of the urgent need to take action to address global warming and the crisis being created by unavoidable climate change. The Council has committed to making climate the emergency a top corporate priority, realigning responsibilities and resources and establishing a long-term climate emergency action plan to help tackle climate change and enable Wirral to be carbon neutral by 2050.

In order to respond quickly to the climate emergency declaration and prepare for the establishment of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, the Council has established an initiating action plan, a summary of which is attached, see **Appendix 1**. Committee will be provided with an update on progress with this plan and preparations for the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

This report provides Committee with an update on the Council's response to the Environment and Climate Emergency declaration. Since the declaration was made, initial plans have been developed to put in place the framework that will enable the Council to implement the required changes and realignment of responsibilities. However, the Council will consider all options when developing the Climate Emergency Action Plan for Wirral to be carbon neutral by 2050 and be resilient to unavoidable climate change. Committee will be further updated on the options considered for the plan and its impact once implemented.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Climate Emergency Declaration July 2019

Wirral Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency in July 2019. Through the resolution made at the Council meeting of 15 July, the Council welcomed Parliament's UK Climate Emergency Declaration of May 1st. The Council also welcomed the United Nation's Climate Action Summit, taking place this month following the publication of the IPCC and IPBES reports. The Council's resolution also recognised the overwhelming scientific consensus that global emissions will need to fall by around 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching net zero by around 2050 in order to avoid more than a 1.5°C rise in global warming.

Through the resolution the Council recognised the need to support the Climate Emergency Declaration with the required realignment of responsibilities and the delivery of practical local action. A summary of the measures and actions from the climate emergency resolution is set out below:

- In order to progress a meaningful response to reforestation and to the development of sustainable agriculture, Cabinet is requested to ask that the Government, as part

of the forthcoming Spending Review, provides additional funding for schemes that will bring this about.

- Council therefore requests that, as a significant practical step to slow the build-up of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere, Cabinet is requested to ask officers to initiate a major tree-planting initiative, ensuring that they discuss the opportunities for additional tree planting in Wirral with the major landowners, identify land for tree planting to create a range of sites and wildlife corridors and add to the biodiversity of Wirral and involve local schools.
- Further, Council requests that officers work with local landowners, agents and the farming community to increase the scope for the Environmental Land Management contracts suggested by the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP to the Oxford Farming Conference in January 2019.
- Council supports a drive to localise food production and asks Cabinet to support the uptake and maintenance of allotments, offering advice and support to residents to take on an allotment.
- Recognising the need to progress the switch to electric powered cars, Council urges Cabinet to work with large employers, the Chamber of Commerce and other organisations to promote and secure the provision of more charging points for electric vehicles across Wirral.
- Council recalls that at its meeting on 18 March 2019, members voted unanimously to ask Cabinet to explore the possibility of building its own solar farm.
- Set senior leadership responsibilities across all departments to reflect that the climate emergency relates to all aspects of the Council's activities.
- Prioritise the climate emergency as part of a wider partnership ensuring the Cool Wirral initiative has clear reporting links with other strategic partners.
- Implement a long-term climate emergency communication programme including a dedicated web site and a dedicated mailing list to build a network of interest groups.
- Adopt appropriate decision-making tools supported by a staff and member training programme.
- The reintroduction of environmental and climate impacts in committee report templates.
- The reinstatement of carbon budget reports.
- Robust carbon/sustainability appraisals for all significant plans and strategies and
- Establish a cross - department task group to draw up the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan.

3.2 Second Climate Change Strategy – 'Cool Wirral 2'

The Climate Change Strategy for Wirral (Cool Wirral) has been renewed by the Wirral Climate Change Partnership and is being prepared by public consultation, prior to being launched this year. The initial Climate Change 'Cool Wirral' Strategy was established in 2014 by the Partnership and endorsed by the Council as a member of the partnership and to confirm its commitment to tackling climate change. The Cool Wirral Strategy was established to run for 5 years from 2014 to 2019 and each year since the Council has reaffirmed this commitment through the Local Government Association's Climate Local

Declaration initiative. As part of this the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee have received an update of progress with delivery of the strategy's actions.

The initial Climate Change Strategy concludes this year and therefore the Wirral Climate Change Partnership has been reviewing and updating the strategy. Through the updated strategy the Partnership fully acknowledge the Climate Emergency Declaration and the updated strategy sets out the strategic direction and required change for Wirral to be carbon neutral by 2050 in line with the declaration. The Climate Change 'Cool Wirral 2' Strategy is due to go to public consultation this autumn before being launched later this year.

3.3 Response to the Climate Emergency Declaration

The Council is developing a Climate Emergency Action Plan to address the commitments and requirements of the resolution passed in July 2019. The Action Plan will set out the long-term direction for the Council and provide a route map for the changes required to address climate pollution to enable Wirral to become carbon neutral and resilient to unavoidable changes to the climate.

In order to quickly respond to the Climate Emergency Declaration and establish the framework for developing the Climate Emergency Action Plan, officers have established an initiating action plan. A summary of the initiating action plan is set out in **Appendix 1**. The Council is making progress with the actions set out in the initiating plan and the position is evolving and developing quickly. The following are highlights of what has been actioned or is currently being planned as part of the plan.

3.3.1 Awareness and Understanding of Climate Emergency

In declaring a climate emergency, the Council has made tackling climate change a corporate priority and Climate Emergency Action Plan will reflect this. Therefore, it is crucial that everyone connected with the Council has a full understanding of why a climate emergency has been declared and what is required in order to respond to it. The Climate Emergency Declaration resolution makes clear that everyone has a responsibility for delivering the requirements of the Climate Emergency Action Plan and must understand this responsibility. Therefore, an important early action in response to the declaration is for everyone to receive briefing and advice on climate emergency and its implications. This will enable the planning and realignment exercises to be undertaken across the Council and specifically for the all-party taskforce to be established.

The following events are scheduled or being planned to raise understanding of climate emergency:

- Cabinet and the Council's senior management team (SMT) are attending a climate emergency workshop focusing on the use of the SCATTER tool (Setting City Area Targets and Trajectories for Emissions Reduction) on 16th September.
- It is proposed that all Council Members will attend SCATTER tool workshops.
- Senior officers will attend a climate emergency event this autumn to develop the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan.
- A climate emergency briefing programme will be developed for all Council staff.
- The Council's reporting template is being amended so that the environment and climate implications of all recommendations or officer advice are set out.

- The establishment of a Climate Emergency Team, which includes a dedicated graduate placement for climate emergency, to coordinate the 100-day action plan and establishment of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

3.3.2 Community Support and Engagement

The Council is developing public awareness campaign on climate emergency and to offer support to residents wanting advice on how to take action. A climate emergency task group has been established to drive the public awareness campaign. This will include the following:

- The establishment of a dedicated Climate Emergency website.
- Climate emergency information to be available at all Council events and meetings.
- The Eco Schools programme will be overhauled to address climate emergency.

3.3.3 New Strategies and Policies to Support Climate Emergency Action Plan

The Council is developing a range of new policies and strategies that will form important elements of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, these include the following:

- Tree Strategy will set out a commitment to planting trees to increase Wirral's tree canopy cover, the strategy is due to go out to public consultation.
- Report to Cabinet on recommendations for using sustainability appraisal to improve decision making.
- Policy for encouraging pollinators and wildflowers along hedges and verges.
- Review and update the Council's procurement policy to reflect the climate emergency.
- Proposals for developing electric vehicle charging provision.

3.3.4 Urging Partners to Declare Climate Emergencies and Pledge Action

The Council recognises that addressing climate emergency cannot be achieved in isolation and requires full collaboration and a joint approach from all partner organisations. Therefore, as part of the Climate Emergency Action Plan all partner organisations will be urged to commit to climate emergency declarations and make pledges for action. As part of the development of the Climate Emergency Action Plan it is intended to hold a climate emergency summit of partners to plan joint approaches and pledge action. The Council will also work with other Liverpool City Region authorities on climate emergency and with the Mayor to deliver regional environmental and climate priorities.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are financial implications to declaring a climate emergency and setting a new corporate priority for the Council. Therefore, as part of the process for developing the Climate Emergency Action Plan, an assessment of the funding requirements for the delivery identified actions and commitments will be undertaken.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications of this update to Committee on the response to the Climate Emergency Declaration.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

There are resource implications to declaring a climate emergency and setting a new corporate priority for the Council. The process for developing the Climate Emergency Action Plan will identify areas of responsibility, new resources requirements or realignments.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

The Council's corporate risk register is being amended to reflect the climate emergency declaration and the reasons behind it in terms of the risk climate disaster has on the Council, Wirral as a place and its residents. The Climate Emergency Action Plan and working jointly with partner organisations and residents will form the mitigation to such risk.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

There will be public consultation delivered as part of the development of climate emergency related strategies such as the Tree Strategy and the Wirral Climate Change Partnership's Cool Wirral 2 Climate Change Strategy. Work will be undertaken as part of the development of the Climate Emergency Action Plan to identify approaches to ongoing resident and stakeholder engagement on climate emergency issues.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the development of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

The Climate Emergency Declaration was resolved with all party support at Council in July due to extreme concern about the impact of climate change and the urgent need for action. This report provides Committee with an update on the Council's response to the declaration and progress with the development of the Climate Emergency Action plan called for as part of the declaration. Therefore, the actions and planning set out in this progress report are designed to have a positive effect on the environment and climate. In future all reports and briefing notes produced on behalf of the Council will set out the environmental and climate implications of the recommendations or advice being put forward.

The content and recommendations contained within this report are expected to:

- Reduce emissions of CO2

REPORT AUTHOR: Mike Cockburn
Lead Commissioner - Environment
telephone: 0151 606 2453
email: mikecockburn@wirral.gov.uk;

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Summary of the Climate Emergency Initiating Action Plan

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Extraordinary meeting – Environment and Climate Emergency.	15 July 2019

APPENDIX 1 - SUMMARY OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY INITIATING ACTION PLAN

1	Update corporate carbon reduction target to reflect the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change's recent recommendations that Wirral needs to eliminate CO ₂ pollution by 2041 at the latest.
2	Agree process to set senior leadership climate emergency responsibility and accountability across all Council services.
3	Launch public consultation on the Cool Wirral Partnership's new climate change strategy (Cool 2).
4	Report to Cabinet to recommend the endorsement of the Cool Wirral 2 strategy.
5	Commence review of the Council's environment policy to reflect the climate emergency.
6	Commence action to make the Council's operations and services 'paperless.'
7	Agree mechanism and format to re-establish annual Council carbon budget reporting.
8	Introduce a revised energy management system based on the re-established carbon budget.
9	Set ambitious short-term targets for the further roll-out of renewables and low carbon energy across the Council estate.
10	Continue programme to upgrade the Council's remaining street lighting stock to LED lamps.
11	Prepare a report for the Council on proposals for developing electric vehicle charging provision.
12	Conduct a cycle audit of all council premises.
13	Commence a pilot exercise to extend the use of electric vehicles across the Council's fleet, as well as for a feasibility study into utilising pedal-powered and electric-assist pedal-powered vehicles for local travel needs.

14	Ensure that the environment and climate implications of all committee decisions are considered by amending the Council report template to include an 'environment and climate implications' section.
15	Report to Cabinet on recommendations for using a sustainability appraisal to improve decision making.
16	Review and update the Council's purchasing policy to reflect the realities of responding to the climate emergency.
17	Commission an investigation to identify initiatives to enable the planning system and Local Plan to assist in the Council's response to the climate emergency.
18	Review the Council's catering and food contracts to reduce meat consumption and expand vegetarian and vegan options.
19	Review recycling facilities at all Council locations and establish required infrastructure to support improvements.
20	Support partners from the community and social housing providers to develop and operate projects to enable reuse and repair of furniture and other bulky items.
21	In partnership with MRWA, conduct a pilot and feasibility study regarding the introduction of additional materials to the kerbside recycling service.
22	Establish a tree strategy following a consultation exercise.
23	Submit a bid to the Urban Tree Fund.
24	Initiate a major tree-planting initiative across Wirral.
25	Amend the Council's corporate risk management strategy to reflect the climate emergency and its implications for the way the Council functions and delivers services.
26	Deliver a climate emergency workshop for the Council's Senior Leadership Team and Cabinet utilising the SCATTER emissions reduction model.
27	Encourage Council Members and staff to make public pledges of personal commitment to take action in response to the climate emergency.

28	Update the Council's website and intranet to reflect the climate emergency declaration and 100-day Action Plan and provide a clear list of actions residents can take in response to the climate emergency.
29	Establish a network of Environment and Climate Emergency Champions within the Council's workforce.
30	Create a Climate Emergency promotion resource pack and equipment for utilisation as part of community events and roadshows.
31	Mobilise the Eco Schools scheme to help schools address the climate emergency.
32	Develop and launch a climate emergency communications strategy and programme to explain to the public what the climate emergency declaration means and promote understanding and action.
33	Develop and launch a climate emergency staff training programme and information roadshow.
34	Deliver climate emergency training workshops for all Council members utilising the SCATTER emissions reduction model.
35	The Council Leader to write to the Prime Minister requesting additional powers and funds to address the environment and climate emergency.
36	Establish a cross-party climate emergency task group to provide strategic leadership and oversee the development of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.
37	Direct the Council's climate emergency task group to urge all partner organisations to declare a climate emergency and identify and implement required action.
38	Report to Cabinet on capturing the economic opportunities and green jobs that can be realised through a low carbon economy.
39	Deliver an all Council service planning event for senior officers and heads of service to plan and develop the Climate Emergency Action Plan.
40	Conduct research and produce a plan on planting in areas in the Wirral to attract pollinators with specific emphasis on: cost and maintenance; advice on suitable areas; area for suitable trial; and, proposals for consultation regarding further areas where this could be introduced.
41	Utilise the Graduate Programme to introduce more staff resources to the Council's climate emergency response.

42

Participate in the Wirral Earth Festival to raise awareness of the climate emergency.



Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 24 September 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Municipal Golf Scrutiny Workshop Report
REPORT OF:	Corporate Director Delivery Services

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of key discussion points and findings resulting from the Municipal Golf Scrutiny Workshop held on Wednesday 28th August 2019. The workshop was convened in order for Scrutiny Members to enter into further discussions with officers and relevant stakeholders around the future provision of municipal golf courses in Wirral.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee are requested to;

1. Approve the findings of this workshop report and consider them as part of any final recommendation(s) made regarding the future provision of municipal golf courses in Wirral.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To enable the findings of Scrutiny Members to be considered as part of any decision-making process around the future provision of municipal golf courses in Wirral.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options were considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In June 2019, a delegated decision was taken regarding the future provision of Arrowe Park and The Warren golf courses, with approval given to start negotiations with a preferred provider on a lease transfer of these two courses. This decision was subsequently 'called in' with agreement that the decision-making process be paused to allow Members the opportunity to look at these proposals in more detail and to hold further discussions with relevant stakeholders affected by any change in provision.
- 3.2 Alongside this workshop, a visit to all four municipal courses was arranged, with attending Members given the opportunity to view the courses and speak to staff and trade unions.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Not Applicable.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Not Applicable.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The delivery of the scrutiny work programme is met from within existing resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Not Applicable.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Not Applicable.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

REPORT AUTHOR: **Alexandra Davidson**
Scrutiny Officer
(0151) 691 8381
alexandradavidson@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Municipal Golf Scrutiny Workshop Report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	18 th June 2019

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Future Provision of Municipal Golf Courses
Report of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny
Committee

September 2019



Contents

- 1.0 INTRODUCTION** 3
- 2.0 MEMBER WORKSHOP** 3
- 2.1 Background..... 4
- 2.2 Key Areas of Discussion 4
 - Consultation 4
 - Ground Condition and Maintenance 5
 - Invigor8 Membership 6
 - Maximising income at Brackenwood 6
 - Proposed Options for the Courses 7
- 3.0 SUMMARY AND FINDINGS** 8
- 3.1 Recommendations 8
- Appendix 1 10

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In June 2019, a delegated decision was taken regarding the future provision of Arrowse Park and The Warren golf courses, with approval given to start negotiations with a preferred provider on a lease transfer of the two aforementioned courses. This decision was called in based on the reasons stated below:

- *Brackenwood Golf Course, which must also be affected by the same issues leading to this decision, is excluded from the decision and any proposed benefits to users and taxpayers*
- *Accurate financial information for the running costs (including income, expenditure and capital works) for both facilities has not been provided*
- *The scope of the negotiations has not been defined, in particular, any alternative uses for the land or buildings*
- *The only consultation outlined is the statutory consultation required by the Local Government Act 1972 and that no meaningful consultation has taken place with existing users and clubs on either facility.*

Subsequently, a call-in meeting of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee was held, with Members agreeing the following resolution;

- *'That this Committee requests the Cabinet Member to pause the process for the future provision of golf courses in Wirral while the Members of this Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee carry out a fact-finding visit to all four municipal courses – Hoylake, Arrowse Park, The Warren and Brackenwood. On conclusion of that fact-finding visit, the Environment Committee will meet again at a date to be determined to make a final recommendation to the Cabinet Member.'*

A visit to all four municipal courses was arranged and took place on 13th August 2019, with attending Members given the opportunity to view the courses, speak to staff and trade unions and view the frontline offer as part of municipal golf services.

2.0 MEMBER WORKSHOP

On 28th August 2019, a scrutiny workshop was convened by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) Committee – with an invitation to attend extended to all O&S Members. In addition, a number of stakeholders were asked to attend; with representatives from each of the four municipal courses and trade union spokespersons invited to attend to provide a statement to the workshop on key issues or concerns, answer questions and participate in discussion around the future of the courses.

The workshop included a brief opening statement by the Chair of the Environment O&S Committee and Cabinet Member for Community Services. An officer presentation provided background and an overview of consultation results, with statements from stakeholders to highlight their individual observations. The workshop concluded with a closed session for elected members on commercial opportunities and financial information.

2.1 Background

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in the country with around 650,000 members belonging to one of 1,900 affiliated clubs, and a further 2 million people playing golf independently outside of club membership. Golf participation for adults in Merseyside is in line with national figures at around 2.3% of the population.

Although over the last decade trends have indicated that golf is a sport in decline, this has recently shown signs of levelling off - with participation since 2016 remaining static and a small increase in the number of people participating in adventure golf.

There are currently 19 private and public golf facilities, and 5,498 registered club members across Wirral.

Wirral Council own and operate:

- Three full 18-hole courses (Arrowe Park, Brackenwood and Hoylake)
- One 9-hole course (The Warren)
- Two footgolf courses (Arrowe Park, New Brighton)
- Two 'Pitch and Putt' courses (Arrowe Park & Wallasey Beach)

2.2 Key Areas of Discussion

Consultation

One of the key issues highlighted during the 'call in' process was the lack of meaningful consultation that had been undertaken with clubs and users at the municipal courses. Initial consultation with residents on lease transfer proposals took place in December 2018 as a part of an annual budget consultation. Members and course representatives agreed that this consultation had not been comprehensive enough and failed to properly consider the views of regular users and members of golf clubs on Wirral. Although approximately 1200 residents responded to the budget consultation, this did not identify if residents were users of the golf courses.

User Survey

Following the request of Members that further consultation be undertaken, a user survey took place between 1st August and 16th August 2019. There were 404 responses in total to this survey, with 75% of these responses received from members of Wirral golf clubs. 73.5% of responses were from users with an active 'Invigor8' membership, with 26.5% of respondents being casual users.

Key feedback collated as a result of this survey highlighted the fact that user priorities were that municipal golf courses on Wirral were affordable, good quality and open and accessible.

- Members and Golf Club representatives alike questioned the validity of the consultation results, given the short timeframe in which it had been carried out and during summer/holiday months, and observed that they did not believe it was promoted adequately. Officers responded that within tight timeframes for user feedback, August was the earliest opportunity to carry out the exercise – but that they did appreciate conditions are never perfect for information gathering exercises. Officers also stated that they believed the response rate to be reasonable and a marked improvement in the

response rate when compared to a similar survey carried out a year ago, were only 200 responses were received from the same user group. In addition, attempts had been made to utilise as many social media channels as possible to promote participation. One Member and club representative stated that they had carried out their own informal surveys within their own ward and club respectively, with the majority of respondents preferring the courses stay under Council management.

- Trade Union representatives clarified their position that initial consultation with them had been based only on the original proposals to transfer the leases at the courses at Arrowe Park and The Warren and stated that they were disappointed that there had been a lack of communication regarding the two other courses. The Chair of the Environment O&S Committee made clear the original call in request and subsequent resolution of the Committee that Brackenwood and Hoylake be included in the review at Members' request, and that the user and staff surveys covered all four courses.

Staff Survey

The staff consultation exercise was carried out as a workshop, with officers stating that approximately 80% of staff had attended. According to survey results, staff feedback reflected that of user groups in that affordability, quality and accessibility were most important to them but also that ways of working and course layouts needed to be improved. The survey also sought to capture staff comments on how savings could be made, or income generated – with staff welcoming the idea of the introduction of enhanced golfing activities such as coaching or events and competition days.

Ground Condition and Maintenance

Representatives of each of the four municipal golf courses made a statement on behalf of their respective clubs to highlight key issues. Although priorities for each course differ slightly, and there are variations in terms of membership and facilities, ground conditions were broadly declared to be an area requiring improvement.

- Hoylake voiced concerns around the upkeep of its course over the last few years, and the resulting negative impact on numbers of the visiting public. Along with Brackenwood and Arrowe Park, Hoylake also reported that closures have been necessary during periods of bad weather and that drainage issues often mean unplayable conditions. Officers reported that there has been a phased approach to drainage improvement over recent years, but that Hoylake has been heavily affected by an unprecedented level of rainfall and problems with the wider drainage system in surrounding areas and neighbouring farmland.
- At Brackenwood, similar ground conditions have hindered play over a number of years and have had the causal effect of cancelled memberships whilst also discouraging new players. A representative stated that the course simply cannot compete with other courses of a better quality, and that over a 30-year period there has been no major Council investment in Brackenwood – a contributing factor to its deterioration.
- Although Arrowe Park has seen some improvement to the course, notably some drainage work, it was reported that there had been insufficient investment to progress standards at the course. The Warren is the only sandy links course in Wirral and as a result does not suffer to the same extent with drainage issues reported at other locations.

- Members stated that it would be desirable for the Council to carry out a further survey on courses requiring necessary remediation work, in order to gauge a more accurate understanding of the level of capital expenditure required to bring the courses up to the standard of a 'modern municipal course'. Members commented that the grounds staff employed at each course are specialised and experienced and may be best placed to provide further guidance on how improvements can be made. Officers noted that a review of machinery at each course could go some way to improving maintenance methods. Much of the machinery currently used is not fit for purpose and not stored correctly.
- In addition, there was some discussion on the potential for volunteering on the courses. This approach could mean a provision for volunteers to clear ditches and undertake any non-mechanical tasks in order to make small improvements to ground condition without the need for huge investment.

Invigor8 Membership

The Invigor8 leisure membership provides an option for the inclusion of golf access at Wirral's municipal courses - with 770 of the total 15,000 current Invigor8 members selecting a subscription that is golf inclusive.

- Members requested clarity regarding the re-investment of Invigor8 golf membership fees back into golf facilities in Wirral. Officers confirmed that the £34.00 per month membership fee for 7-day golf is directed back into the golf budget. In addition, assurance was given that if a member signs up at a specific golf course, their fees will be directed to that course – if membership is established anywhere else, the payment is split between all four municipal courses. There was discussion amongst attendees around the difficulties of balancing investment and membership – for example, course representatives and consultation survey results confirmed that many current golf members (55.6% of those surveyed) would be willing to pay more for a better-quality course. However, to improve playing conditions immediately, upfront investment is required which would need to come from the higher fees – a 'Catch 22' situation.
- Discussion took place around the perceived lack of promotion and marketing for golf on Wirral, particularly in comparison to other leisure activities included within the Invigor8 membership. Members questioned whether the Council's own commercial or communications resources could assist each course with improved marketing campaigns. Officers welcomed these comments, however they stated that consideration needs to be given to the fact that current course quality could render increased promotion difficult – if playing conditions are not satisfactory, encouraging new membership could still be very difficult.

Maximising income at Brackenwood

- A key issue for Members and representatives was the ongoing problem with open access to Brackenwood golf course which means players are able to 'bunk' onto the course to play without payment. Several Members stated their disappointment at having to raise this issue again and again due to the lack of any effective action taken to tackle the problem, and the resulting loss of revenue. Officers responded that, although there is work ongoing to address this issue, admittedly not

enough has been done. Officers had undertaken a trial of additional golf patrols at Brackenwood Golf Course and from this were aware of peak times for 'bunking on' were between 6pm to 9pm. These times could be targeted for additional patrols during the summer. In addition, Members were advised that Wirral Council's Golf Co-Ordinator is looking at potential options and alternative ways of addressing this issue.

- A Member suggested enforcement could be carried out by the community patrol team, who could simultaneously enforce action against littering and dog fouling offences, therefore utilising the Council's own staff to maximise revenue. Officers noted this comment but did advise that the use of Community Patrol Officers could be more expensive than using Golf Advisors.
- Assurance was given to Members that there was no plan to make changes to Brackenwood's current offer as an 18-hole course.

Proposed Options for the Courses

In addition to the original proposals for lease transfer, a number of potential opportunities for commercial development at each course were presented to Members, based on user, staff and officer suggestions and research. Golf provision would remain at the heart of any new model, but Members were apprised of the possibility of introducing additional activities, upgrading existing buildings to allow for function hire and allowing diversification of Wirral's current golf offer.

In addition, user survey results stated that customers would be happy with an improved 'secondary spend' option such as coaching or better café / bar facilities.

- Discussion took place around the level of investment necessary at each course in order to bring them to the required quality standard. Broad cost estimates had been provided to Members, and subsequently challenged, but officers stated that despite conversations around the level of investment needed, one thing was clear – substantial investment is required.
In order for municipal courses to be developed enough to attain a good standard, capital expenditure would be essential not just for ground improvements and maintenance, but for course furniture, IT infrastructure and marketing.
- Trade Union spokespersons highlighted their concerns around potential profitability of municipal courses – notably the question that if they were an attractive prospect to private enterprise, then surely any lease transfer is a lost income opportunity for the Council. In addition, club representatives voiced fears that courses are being managed as a leisure service and not as a golf course.
- Club representatives also expressed their concerns that a lease transfer for the course may result in a new provider disbanding established clubs, some of which have been running for many years, and creating a 'pay and play only' environment. General consensus was that most members were less concerned with who it was that was managing the course, whether Council or external provider, as long as courses were properly maintained, of a good quality and honoured current club arrangements. Officers advised that, in the event that negotiations with any preferred provider were to commence, discussion around guarantees to current clubs could be included.

- A representative from The Warren emphasised their feeling that the course is not just a hub for golf clubs but a community association. Municipal courses have always historically been an access point for golf, a feature that they are passionate about retaining. They believe that with additional resources, membership across all four courses can be improved – whilst maintaining the current good relationships with staff.

3.0 SUMMARY AND FINDINGS

As a result of the Member workshop, a number of crucial findings were gathered. In discussing the future provision for municipal golf in Wirral, there was agreement that the following key areas required improvement or consideration as part of any future proposal:

- i) Improved communication with golf courses and club representatives is required. There could be scope for this engagement to be delivered through the implementation of a quarterly user group for Councillors, officers, staff and other stakeholders so that issues may be highlighted, and courses and clubs can be kept apprised of upcoming plans.
- ii) Additional consideration needs to be given to possible marketing solutions and promotion of municipal courses locally in order to increase membership and therefore maximise revenue which can be reinvested into maintenance of the courses.
- iii) Further review of ground conditions is needed at each course, with additional exploration of alternative ways of working. A full appraisal of current machinery and associated supplies is also necessary in order to ascertain a more accurate level of the capital expenditure required at each course.
- iv) Members broadly welcome commercial opportunities put forward to maximise the long-term future of these sites, taking into account the current golf market and the future demand of the sport.
- v) Potential use of self-policing or increased patrols is necessary to tackle issues of non-payment for play, particularly at the Brackenwood course.

3.1 Recommendations

The Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee are requested to;

- Approve the findings of this workshop report and consider them as part of any final recommendation(s) made regarding the future provision of municipal golf courses in Wirral.

Appendix 1

Attendees

Elected Members

Councillor Tom Anderson (Chair)
Councillor Christina Muspratt
Councillor Allan Brame
Councillor Steve Hayes
Councillor Ian Lewis
Councillor Helen Cameron
Councillor Michael Collins
Councillor Mary Jordan
Councillor Jenny Johnson
Councillor Alison Wright
Councillor Geoffrey Watt
Councillor Brian Kenny
Councillor Tony Cottier
Councillor George Davies
Councillor Jerry Williams
Councillor Tony Norbury
Councillor Sarah Spoor
Councillor Karl Greaney
Councillor Jean Robinson
Councillor Moira McLaughlin
Councillor Julie McManus

Officers

Colin Clayton – Assistant Director, Community Services
Matthew Humble – Programme Manager
Damien Walsh – Senior Manager, Leisure Services
Simon Bellamy – Leisure Operations Manager
Neil Price – Golf Co-ordinator
Darran Marquiss – Parks Area Manager, Wallasey
Martin Grayshon – Parks Area Manager, South Wirral
Anthony Bestwick – Parks Area Manager, West Wirral
Mark Goulding – Principal Accountant
Anne Quirk – Senior Solicitor
Julie Horman – Project Officer
Alexandra Davidson – Scrutiny Officer

Golf Club Representatives

John Lawrence - Hoylake
Keith Marsh – Brackenwood
Keith Lewis – The Warren
Pat Hickey – Arrowe Park

Trade Union Representatives

Allan Small - Unite
Steve Bennett - Unison

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ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2019

REPORT TITLE:	RECYCLING TASK & FINISH REVIEW
REPORT OF:	MEMBERS OF THE RECYCLING TASK & FINISH SCRUTINY REVIEW

REPORT SUMMARY

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

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

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

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 As part of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme, a Task & Finish Scrutiny Review on Recycling was agreed. The Review Panel consisted of Councillors Allan Brame, Christina Muspratt and former Councillor Adam Sykes.

- 3.2 It was agreed that former Councillor Adam Sykes would be the Chair of the Review Panel. The review was conducted over a number of meetings held with relevant Council officers and representatives of Merseyside Recycling & Waste Authority. The review considered Wirral's current recycling performance and looked at to

- 3.3 The Review Panel's objectives in doing this work were to understand the current waste management system in Wirral to identify where it can be made to enhance performance and to understanding the requirements of the Resources and Waste Strategy and the impact this will have for Wirral Council.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

Not Applicable.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

REPORT AUTHOR: **Alexandra Davidson**
Scrutiny Officer
0151 691 8381
alexandradavidson@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Recycling Scrutiny Report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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RECYCLING SCRUTINY REVIEW



Scrutiny Report of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

WIRRAL BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECYCLING

SCRUTINY REVIEW

FINAL REPORT

1.	INTRODUCTION	2
2.	MEMBERS OF THE TASK & FINISH REVIEW PANEL	4
3.	ORIGINAL SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY FOR THE REVIEW	5
4.	FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	6
	Appendix 1: Scoping Document	17
	Appendix 2: Cipfa Nearest Neighbour Recycling Rates and materials recycled.....	20

1. INTRODUCTION

At the meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 20th September 2018, Members agreed to undertake a Task & Finish Scrutiny Review on recycling following a presentation delivered to the committee highlighting Wirral's recycling rates. As a result, a Task & Finish Review Panel comprising three Members was established to discuss recycling issues with relevant senior officers and representatives from the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA).

This report highlights the discussions that took place and makes a series of recommendations arising from findings identified from the review.

2. MEMBERS OF THE TASK & FINISH REVIEW PANEL

Former Councillor Adam Sykes (Chair)



CHAIR'S PERSONAL STATEMENT

The importance of the campaign to reduce, reuse, recycle can not be overstated. These three ways that we can reduce the impact that we have on our environment deserve our immediate attention. Working to improve the sustainability of Wirral, both as a council, and as the place we all live, work, and play, is one of most important roles. There is a lot we can do to improve our recycling rates, but much of this needs to be aligned with government strategy to have the greatest impact. The most significant takeaway message from this review, is that we need to stop the waste from getting into our bins in the first place. Reducing the amount of waste, whether food waste, or otherwise, will have the best outcomes for our sustainability as a borough. I look forward to seeing the results of these recommendations and a greener and environmentally friendly Wirral.

Other Panel Members were:

Councillor Christina Muspratt



Councillor Alan Brame



3. ORIGINAL SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY FOR THE REVIEW

3.1 Scope

A scoping meeting for the scrutiny review was convened on 9th October 2018, and the agreed scoping document is included as **Appendix 1** to this report.

The main objectives of the review are:

- To understand the current waste management system in Wirral and identify where improvements can be made to enhance performance.
- To understand the requirements of the Resources and Waste Strategy and the impact this will have for Wirral Council.

3.2 Methodology

The scrutiny review was informed through:

- Evidence sessions with relevant Council officers responsible for waste prevention and specific responsibilities for recycling.
- Evidence sessions with representatives from Merseyside Recycling & Waste Authority.
- Review of relevant research and analysis on recycling undertaken by other local authorities

4. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Overview of recycling in Wirral

Wirral Council is a waste collection authority and has a statutory function to collect household waste which is then consigned to the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA). Controlled Waste Regulations sets out what is classed as household waste. This includes waste collected from residential properties, schools, bring banks and street cleaning and sweepings and contributes to the Council's recycling rate. Commercial waste is not included.

Wirral's current waste collection system includes the provision of three separate bins to residents which are collected on a fortnightly basis. These bins are for:

- Residual waste (Green bin)
- Garden waste (Brown bin)
- Recycling (Grey bin)

Wirral's current contract through the MRWA for recycling is for plastic bottles, paper, card, cardboard, glass bottles / jars and metal cans. Aerosols, foils, textiles, cartons are not included. The contract signed by Wirral is for 20 years from 2009. However, annual reviews on contracts do take place.

Wirral has a national target of 50% recycling rate by 2020 but this will increase to 55% by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035.

4.2 Government's Resource and Waste Strategy

Following the commencement of this review, Government published its Resource and Waste Strategy ¹ on 18th December 2018. The strategy sets out how to preserve stock of material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy. Government is conducting a number of separate consultations on the proposals contained within the Resources and Waste Strategy. These proposals include:

- Every householder having a weekly separate food waste collection from 2023. (Consultation will also consider whether charges for garden waste collections should continue).
- Extending producer responsibility to ensure producers to pay the full net costs of disposal or recycling of packaging
- Introduction of a consistent set of recyclable materials collected from all households.
- Introduction of a deposit return scheme - money back on drinks containers
- A tax on plastics that do not have a minimum recycled content.
- Addressing barriers to reuse at Household Waste Recycling Centres – further measures to boost reuse, including reporting and reuse targets.
- Extending producer responsibility for waste electronic and electrical equipment (WEEE).
- Clamp-down on illegal movements of waste at home and abroad
- A review of joint working arrangements and performance metrics to move beyond current weight-based targets.

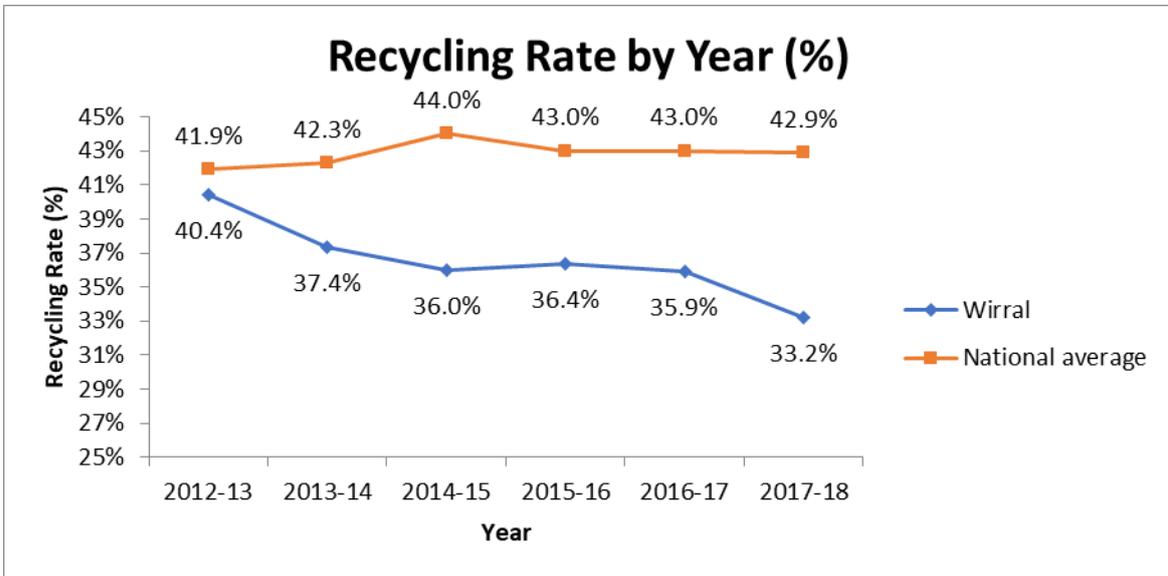
The Review Panel and officers involved in the scrutiny review agreed that the impact of this strategy for Wirral following the outcomes of the consultations will be significant in fulfilling its role as a waste authority. In considering its findings as part of the scrutiny review, Members acknowledged that any recommendations made should not be inconsistent with the Resource and Wastes Strategy and what local authorities may be required to do moving forward.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england>

4.3 Overview of Wirral's recycling performance

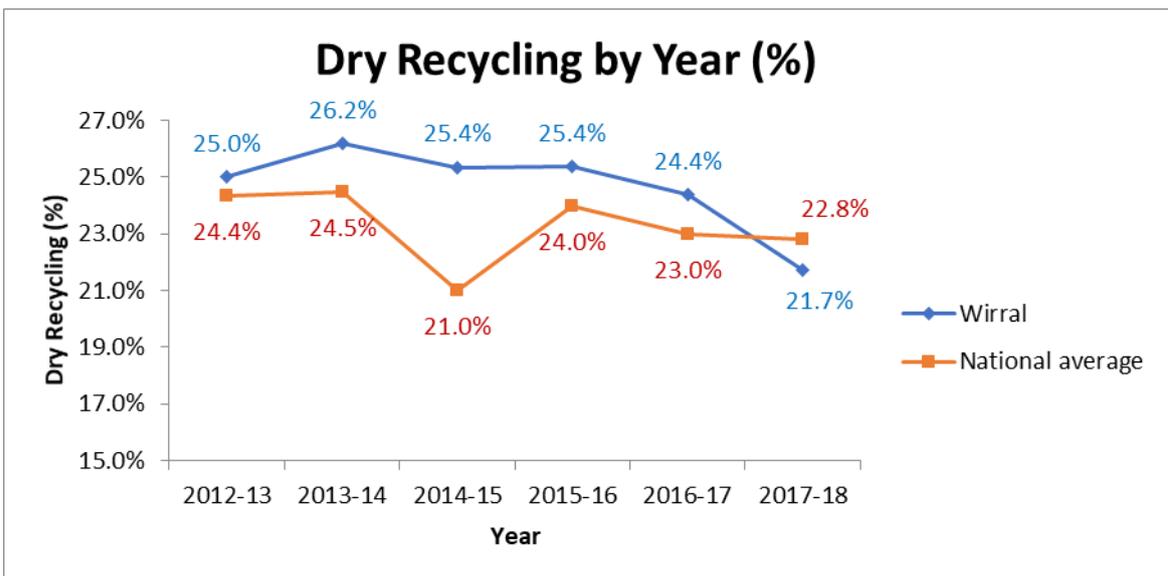
Fig.1 below shows Wirral's recycling rate since 2012. At the end of 2012, Wirral's recycling rate was 40.6% and this has generally declined since. It is understood that the initial decrease was due to the introduction of a charge for the collection of garden waste. By 2014/15, the rate reduced to 36% and this remained consistent until 2017/8 where the rate was reduced further to 33.2%.

Fig.1 – Wirral's recycling rate (MRWA data)



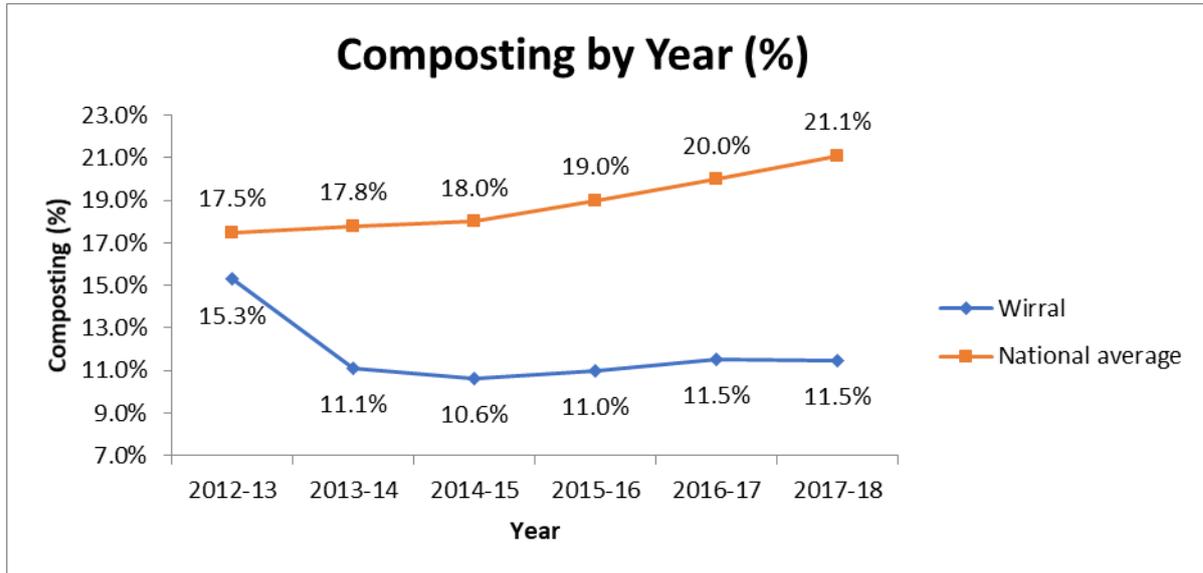
On a national level, dry recycling (paper, cardboard, glass, cans, plastics) has been decreasing and in 2017/18, it was reported that 60% of local authorities saw a decrease. Wirral has traditionally been above the national average until 2017/18 where it has slightly decreased and is now below (Fig 2.)

Fig 2. Benchmarking – Dry Recycling (MRWA data)



The national average recycling rate for composting / food treatment is 21.1% with Wirral's composting at 11.47%. Wirral attained its highest composting recycling rate (pre-subscription) of 15.28% (Fig 3.)

Fig 3. Benchmarking – Composting of Bio Waste



The Review Panel note that Wirral's 20-year waste management and recycling contract was awarded in 2009 to Veolia by the MRWA. This contract covers the recycling of plastic bottles, paper, card, cardboard, glass bottles / jars and metal cans. Aerosols, foils, textiles, cartons are not included. A significant issue noted by Members relating to reduced performance is Veolia's secondary processor for recycling no longer being available. This secondary processor is responsible for extracting recyclable material that had been rejected as non-target by the recovery facility at Bidston. Members were informed that an alternative sorting facility is now being sought.

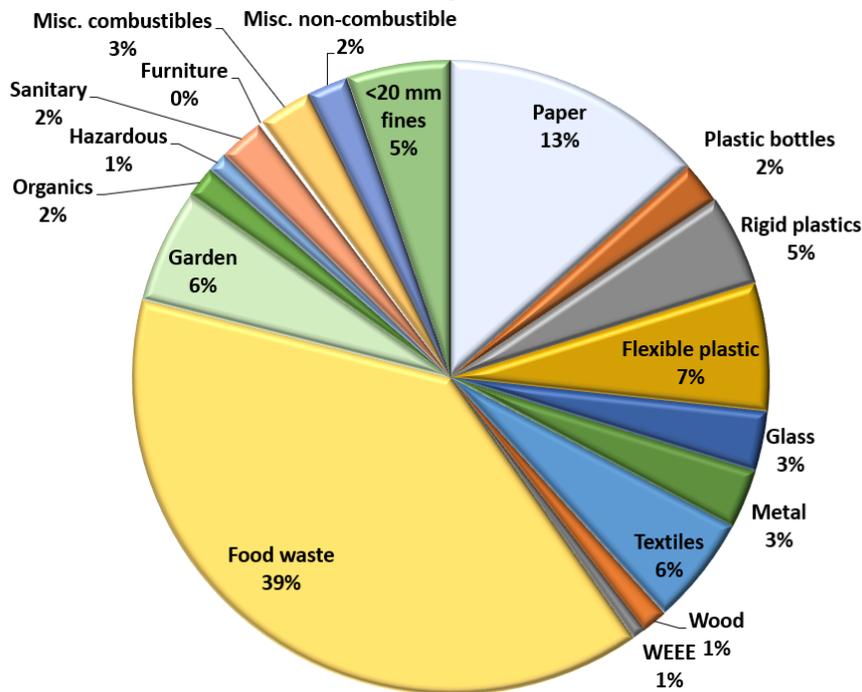
Appendix 2 shows how Wirral's recycling rate and what is recycled compares against Cipfa nearest neighbours. This research was undertaken by the Wirral Intelligence Service Team. Cipfa nearest neighbours are councils that are demographically most similar to Wirral. In 2017-18, recycling rates ranged broadly from 51.7% to 27.2% with the average rate being 40%. Wirral's 33.2% recycling rate is below the average.

Of the top five performing local authorities, three collect free garden waste and food waste and four collect plastic tubs, aluminium foil and aerosols. Two also recycle textiles. Wirral does not currently collect food waste, textiles and other materials such as plastic pots, tubs and trays. Bury has a 50% recycling rate and collects its food and garden waste together. Bury also has a three weekly refuse collection and Members were informed that this encourages people to use the dry recycling and food collection which has been successful.

Waste composition analysis

Merseyside Recycling & Waste Authority produced a detailed waste composition analysis for 2015/16 for Merseyside districts. This involved analysing the contents of recycling, residual and garden waste bins from kerbside collections and waste and recycling received at Household Waste Recycling Centres across Merseyside and Halton. The analysis for Wirral relating to residual waste (green bin) is detailed on the following page (Fig. 4).

Fig 4. Wirral Residual Waste Composition (MRWA 2015-16)



4.4 Collection of food waste

Desktop research was undertaken on other local authorities where information was published and available on recycling. Of the 318 local authorities:

- 44% provide a food waste collection service. Most provide food caddies; some have mixed food and garden waste bins. Food collections are generally weekly.
- There is a correlation between higher recycling rates and food waste collection services
 - 50% or higher recycling rates: 67% of these councils provide this service
 - 40% - 49% recycling rates: 38% of these councils provide this service
 - Less than 40% recycling rates: 19% of these councils provide this service

The composition analysis for Wirral in **Fig.4** identified that around **39%** of what is disposed through residual waste is avoidable food and this is comparable across Merseyside. Only two councils collect food waste - St. Helens and Sefton. Sefton's recycling rate just on food collection is **10%** and the system is 'opt in' with residents having to contact the council to ask for a food waste collection container. St. Helens has an 'opt out' system and all residents receive a food container unless otherwise directed. It's recycling rate for food collection is **21%**.

The MRWA reported to Members that Wirral disposes of approximately 28K tonnes of waste food each year and that around 10K tonnes of this could be extracted for recycling purposes. Wirral Council officers believe that food collection could add approximately **8%** to its recycling rate. Wirral has previously considered food collection but it was not affordable. Members heard from officers that it would cost approximately £1.5M per year to implement a food collection system for operatives, vehicles, caddies and liners.

The MRWA summarised a number of key issues if other local authorities in Merseyside wanted to carry out food collection. These were:

- Dedicated food waste vehicles as the waste is unable to be kept in a standard waste bin.
- The need for dedicated rounds for food waste collections
- The requirement for a joint procurement exercise for a system to ensure cost effectiveness.

Additionally, it was also highlighted to Members that the Waste Levy mechanism does not incentivise any council to make investments into food waste collection as waste treatment and disposal costs are shared amongst all districts, resulting in any savings also being shared.

In principle, Members of the Review Panel support the collection of food waste as, and agreed by officers, this would present the biggest shift in increasing its recycling rate. However, with the Government's consultation still ongoing on requiring all local authorities to introduce a weekly food collection, there is still uncertainty on how this would be implemented nationally and whether consistent systems will be required. Importantly, a subsidy may be provided to offset the costs which has prohibited Wirral previously. Members agreed that it would therefore be prudent to wait for the outcomes of the consultation when all local authorities will be in a better position to understand what will be required.

4.5 Garden Waste

Wirral Council charges for garden waste collection and, on average, collects 13,000 tonnes from those who subscribe. The recycling rate for Wirral's garden waste in 2017/18 was reported as **11.5%** and Members noted that our nearest neighbours that provided a free garden waste service have a higher recycling rate (**Appendix 2**). However, Members were informed that when garden waste was free in Wirral prior to June 2013, around 18K tonnes of waste (an increase of approx. 6K tonnes) was collected and this provided a recycling rate of 15% from composting.

For Wirral to provide a free garden waste service, it is understood that this would cost £1.7M per year and would only represent an approximate 4% increase on the current 11.5% recycling rate. Given the relatively small increase in recycling rate with a free service, Members queried the cost/benefit of this. Purely in terms of recycling, officers and Members queried the cost implication to subsidise it. Similarly, as with food recycling, it is also understood that Government as part of the ongoing consultation may restrict all local authorities in applying charges to garden waste collection and Members feel it is prudent to await the outcome of this where a subsidy may be provided.

4.6 Textile recycling

The MRWA reported to Members that around 17K tonnes of textiles were potentially recyclable based on the 2015/16 composition analysis and this is 93% of textiles left in kerbside waste. Only three local authorities from Wirral's nearest neighbours recycle textiles (**Appendix 2**). Nationally, around 28% provide a textile collection service based on a sample of 318 sampled through desktop research. Many don't collect textiles separately but work closely with local charities.

Wirral does not offer a textile collection service as a separate kerbside collection would be needed and this would represent an additional cost. The MRWA's composition analysis (*Fig. 4*) shows textile waste accounting for approximately 4% of residual waste. Members highlighted that there are numerous competing charity collections that leave a high number of plastic bags to be left out for collection by residents and most are never used.

Members suggested that Wirral could do more to tackle textile waste which is unnecessarily disposed of in residual bins through working with reputable charities to encourage and improve collection. A potential system, which would require the feasibility of it being explored in terms of take-up and cost, could include the Council providing appropriate plastic bags to residents for textiles only and collection of these arranged with reputable charities working

together. For simplicity, collection could be on the same day as recycling bins are collected as this would avoid any confusion with residents on when they are collected. Members see the benefit of eliminating the need to deliver the current flimsy bags, reduced waste and more income being provided to charities. Members highlighted that officers would also need to incorporate a system to capture what is collected to ensure it is included in its recycling rate.

Recommendation 1

The Review Panel recommends that officers explore opportunities to engage with and support local, reputable charities that collect textiles.

4.7 Plastic Recycling

Wirral Council encourages appropriate waste plastic items to be recycled and Members highlighted that one of the barriers to recycling could be confusion with residents on what can be recycled which may result in disposal through residual waste. If all plastic waste is put in the recycling bin, this could contaminate all the good plastic that the MRWA will receive income from. This income is used to offset the Levy, resulting in an increase in the total Levy across all local authorities in Merseyside.

As part of Government's consultations, a specific set of materials may need to be collected in respect to plastics and this may include tubs, pots and trays. As only Wirral uses Bidston Recycling Centre for recycling, it was suggested by the Chief Executive of the MRWA that this would be an ideal location to undertake a geographical pilot for the comingled system to collect all plastics in the grey recycling bin, to assess how the system would work. This pilot would target a few collection rounds deemed appropriate based on their recycling performance and would cover a period of time to allow a full assessment of the results to be taken. It was agreed that the key benefits of undertaking a pilot scheme would be:

- Understanding the impact contamination has on good plastic (plastic bottles).
- Identifying any increase in recyclable plastics.
- Understanding the cost implications of any Wirral-wide system.
- Identifying potential markets for certain plastic products.
- Ensuring Wirral is better prepared for implementing future Government requirements.

Members and officers support this proposal and see it as a barometer of what could work and what will not in terms of recycling, including the potential costs of any system implemented Wirral wide.

Recommendation 2

The Review Panel recommends that officers undertake a feasibility study on introducing a pilot scheme to collect all plastic waste from designated rounds as part of a comingled system. The feasibility study should be undertaken in consultation with the Merseyside Recycling & Waste Authority and any other relevant stakeholder, to determine how this can be delivered, including resources. Upon completion of the feasibility study, an outline report should be presented to Overview & Scrutiny for consideration, detailing how a pilot could be delivered, including timescales and resources required.

4.8 Reuse and Prevention

The Chief Executive of the MRWA recognised that Wirral Council – like any other council – wants to improve its recycling rate. However, there is a strong push for the prevention of waste to remain as a key strategic focus as this is the best way to reduce disposal costs.

The MRWA states that reuse of materials, in general, is not very well undertaken by local authorities and this is an area that should not be dismissed as part of the wider thinking about waste and recycling. Officers acknowledged that Wirral Council is no different. Members also noted from discussions with the MRWA that the volume of residual waste is increasing year on year, despite enforcement policies on what will and will not be collected. This then increases the cost to councils through the existing levy mechanism. Members were informed by the Chief Executive of the MRWA that Wirral could explore reuse with the many voluntary organisations and other social enterprises which can reuse material and keep it out of the system to reduce costs.

The MRWA highlighted the use of reuse shops at Household Waste Recycling Centres across Merseyside but clarified that most reuse is done by charities and not actually councils and Members agreed that more needs to be done in this area. However, the three Household Waste Recycling Centres in Wirral do not have the required space but Members suggest that Wirral Council could look into other feasible options of supporting interested organisations in establishing a reuse hub / shop which can be accessed to drop off bulky items or other items which have a reuse value.

The Review Panel notes that Liverpool City Council has a contract with Bulky Bobs to intercept the furniture and white goods which could be reused. This results in less waste given to MRWA so their levy is less. However, it is acknowledged that the Council pays a significant amount each year to Bulky Bobs for this service. The MRWA reported to Members that it would be in receipt of around 33% more waste without these organisations.

In respect of items that could be reused but often put in the bin, Members suggest that more promotion should be undertaken on where residents can take these to enhance reuse and avoid unnecessary residual waste. These items could include books, electrical items and mobile phones.

Recommendation 3

To improve reuse of materials across Wirral, officers are requested to:

- i) Explore opportunities to support or launch reuse hubs, working with local charities or private organisations.
- ii) Plan and run a campaign to highlight existing repair and reuse channels in Wirral.

4.9 Promotion and Communication

Wirral Council's website details the grey recycling bin collection dates for residents across Wirral. It also provides a list of the items and type of material which are allowed in them. It was reported that stickers detailing these items will be included on recycling bins as part of future plans. The Council website also includes a link to 'Recycle Right' which is a comprehensive guide developed by the MRWA to educate residents across Merseyside on effective recycling. It includes an intuitive search function to confirm if a specific item entered can be recycled or not. A number of roadshows were scheduled to take place during July/August for members of the public to raise awareness of recycling in Wirral.

Wirral has also developed a Single Use Plastic Policy to get rid of single-use plastics in Wirral. The key highlights of this policy include:

- All council procurement processes, services and events being required to be single-use plastic free wherever possible in a bid to reduce their environmental impact.
- A voluntary SUP free code for Wirral businesses being developed in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and Surfers Against Sewage (SAS).
- The council supporting the Refill scheme to encourage residents to fill up drinking bottles and reduce single-use plastic bottles.
- The council working with local community groups to support local schemes and projects working to tackle SUPs.

Members welcomed the work the Council was doing in this area and it is also understood that Wirral has a strategic partnership and one of the objectives is to encourage its partners, including the NHS, Police, Fire Service and housing associations to adopt the policy. Members are keen to ensure that the policy is working and that scrutiny should have an active role in monitoring its effectiveness to enable Wirral to become plastic free. It is anticipated that over the next two years, Wirral could become single-use plastic free. Education for staff has already taken place with some becoming a 'Champion'. Members welcomed the recognition local business receive through 'Surfers Against Sewage' which is an environmental charity campaigning to protect oceans, beaches and marine life.

In addition, Members expressed the importance of raising awareness of recycling, single-use plastics and waste prevention with schools. Schools in Wirral are supported by an Eco Schools Officer who undertakes projects on these key issues but it is acknowledged that this resource is limited. However, Members proposed a further commitment from schools to becoming plastic free by introducing a specific target for when this could be achieved. It was highlighted that when children speak to Members as part of the Civic Award, they are very interested in green issues. To build on this, Members considered that the Civic Award could include a separate criteria built in to raise awareness and reward those children.

Recommendation 4

To monitor the progress and effectiveness of the Single Use Plastic Free Wirral policy, officers are requested to:

- i) Deliver a programme of action to fully implement the Single Use Plastic Free Policy, with set milestones.

Recommendation 5

The Review Panel recommends that officers introduce targets for schools to become Single Use Plastic Free (or be working towards this award) by the end of the 2019/20 school year and to investigate the addition of an SUP element to the Civic Award for Young People criteria.

4.10 Wirral's Waste Improvement Plan

Wirral has implemented the Waste Improvement Plan to look at getting the most efficiency out of the current system. One of the strands includes the provision of grey bins being given out for free to residents and subsidised using the Waste Development Fund. From March 2018, approximately 2000 grey bins were delivered to residents and this is a significant increase of around 1000 bins being delivered from 2017.

Members were informed that the first round of the improvement plan identified the need for more grey bins. This will be followed by looking at the high number of properties authorised to have an additional green bin due to a review not being carried out for a number of years. A recent audit identified around 1700 bins which were previously authorised but a large number of these no longer meet the criteria. Members were assured that new requests for green bins will be subject to review against criteria to ensure provision is appropriate. Any declined requests will include information to residents on how to use their existing bins more effectively. The provision of extra bins will also be monitored periodically and there is assurance that Biffa is aware of the number of bins they should be collecting from each household.

The Improvement Plan also includes a communication campaign targeting the ten lowest performing recycling rounds including campaigning through 'RecycleRight'. The MRWA has two trial areas within Wirral (Birkenhead and Seacombe as the lowest performing rounds) as part of campaigning. An analysis of what was being disposed in grey bins was carried out prior to starting on any campaigns. Campaigns commenced at the beginning of January 2018 including the use of social media, and it was reported that there have been noticeable reductions in contamination from the first round of analysis. Members were also made aware that using the analysis from the data will allow for more targeted campaigning in the future.

However, it was explained to Members that the Waste Improvement Plan by itself will not achieve the higher recycling rates required in the future. With a perfect system that has all residents recycling correctly all the time, including garden waste, the following increased rates were reported as what would be achieved (Based on the 2015 composition analysis):

- Current system → 42.4%
- Add cartons, aerosols, other plastics → 44.7%
- Add food → 69.7%

Members and officers agreed that Wirral needs to improve the performance of the current system through maximising its potential. This includes fewer green bins (including removing those which are unauthorised), more grey bins, better targeted communication on poor performing rounds and better application of policy in respect to requests for additional green bins through site visit audits. However, the higher recycling rate required by the Resources and Waste Strategy will require significant service change in the future.

Appendix 1: Scoping Document

Scrutiny Review Scoping Template

Review Title: Recycling

Responsible Committee: Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th October 2018

1. Contact Information:	
Scrutiny Panel Chair: Cllr Adam Sykes Panel Members: Cllr Christina Muspratt christinamuspratt@wirral.gov.uk Cllr Allan Brame allanbrame@wirral.gov.uk	Lead Officer(s): Mark Smith marksmith@wirral.gov.uk Mike Cockburn mikecockburn@wirral.gov.uk Scrutiny Officer(s): Michael Lester michaellester@wirral.gov.uk
2. Review Aims:	
Wirral Plan Pledge/s: "Attractive local environment"	
Key Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A report to Environment O&S Committee on 20th September indicated a declining trend in Wirral's recycling rate following the implementation of the garden waste subscription in 2012.• A national Resources and Waste Strategy is being developed by Government and will be published towards the end of 2018. The strategy will have an impact on local authorities and has a number of key objectives, including becoming a zero avoidable waste economy by 2050 and phasing out avoidable plastic waste by 2042.	
Review Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding the current waste management system in Wirral to identify where improvements can be made to enhance performance.• Understanding the requirements of the Resources and Waste Strategy and the impact this will have for Wirral Council.	
4. Risks and Implications	

Potential Risks/Implications:

- Failure to address issues may see the continual decline in recycling rates.
- The Council may not be able to deliver on the Resources and Waste Management Strategy.

5. Review Plan

Review Approach:

A Task & Finish approach will be undertaken for the review.
It is proposed to have two key evidence sessions and a wrap up session

Evidence Session 1

- Officers to present the current waste management system in Wirral, supported by representatives of Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority overview.
- Review of research / intelligence into recycling for Wirral and other local authorities

Evidence Session 2

- Review of the Resources and Waste Strategy to understand the impact for Wirral
- Consider views from supermarkets on how Wirral can work together to improve recycling.
- Consideration of any other evidence requested as an outcome of Evidence Session 1.
- Consideration of key findings and recommendations.

Review Duration:

It is expected that the review will be completed by early 2019.

Scheduled Committee Report Date:

March 2019

Scheduled Cabinet Report Date:

The report will be referred to the first Cabinet meeting in the new municipal year.

6. Sources of Evidence:

Key Witnesses:

- Mike Cockburn, Lead Commissioner – Environment
- Claire Brandwood, Team Leader (Waste Prevention)
- Carl Beer, Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority
- Ian Stephenson, Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority
- Performance Officers, Wirral Intelligence Service

Supporting Papers / Documentation / Wirral Intelligence Service Website:

Supporting documents are likely to include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Wirral's Recycling Performance Presentation – Committee Presentation
- Detailed analysis of Wirral's recycling performance
- Research on other local authority recycling initiatives and marketing campaigns
- Feedback from supermarkets on how Wirral can work together to improve recycling.
- External publications and key findings

Involvement of service users / public:

Not applicable for this review

7. Key Communications and timings:

Cabinet Member:

- The scope document will be shared with the relevant portfolio holder at the start of the review.

Press Office:

- Not relevant at this stage

Appendix 2: Cipfa Nearest Neighbour Recycling Rates and materials recycled (2017-18)

	Household Recycling rates				Materials Recycled							Residual Waste	
	Waste recycled	Recycling direction	Green recycled	Waste dry recycled	Food	Free garden waste	Plastic tubs, pots and trays	aluminium	Aerosols	Split recycling	Textiles	Collection Frequency	Size of Residual Bin
Bury	51.70%	Worsening	27.10%	24.50%	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	3-weekly	240
Wigan	48.50%	Improving	18.50%	29.90%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	3-weekly	240
Calderdale	48.00%	Worsening	15.70%	32.20%	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Fortnightly	240
Southend-on-Sea	47.10%	Improving	20.40%	26.70%	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Weekly	Black sack
Rotherham	43.60%	Improving	20.50%	23.10%	N	to Oct '18	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Fortnightly	240
Torbay	42.40%	Improving	15.30%	27.10%	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Fortnightly	240
Darlington	40.60%	Improving	8.60%	32.00%	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Fortnightly	240
Durham	40.00%	Improving	12.40%	27.70%	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Fortnightly	240
Redcar and Cleveland	39.90%	Worsening	17.50%	22.40%	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Fortnightly	240
Sefton	36.90%	Worsening	18.30%	18.60%	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Fortnightly	240
Northumberland	36.20%	Worsening	13.90%	22.30%	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Fortnightly	240
St Helens	35.90%	Worsening	15.90%	20.00%	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Fortnightly	240
Dudley	35.50%	Worsening	17.50%	18.00%	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Weekly	Black sack
North Tyneside	33.40%	Worsening	16.20%	17.20%	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Fortnightly	240
Wirral	33.20%	Worsening	11.50%	21.70%	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Fortnightly	240
Kirklees	27.20%	Worsening	10.30%	16.90%	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Fortnightly	240
Average / Total	40.00%	6 improved	16.20%	23.80%	7	7	7	10	14	10	3		



**Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday, 24 September 2019**

REPORT TITLE:	2019/20 Quarter 1 Wirral Plan Performance
REPORT OF:	Managing Director for Delivery

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the 2018/19 Quarter 1 (April-June 2019) performance report for the Wirral Plan pledges under the remit of Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Relevant Wirral Plan 20/20 pledge(s) are:

- Leisure and culture opportunities for all
- Wirral residents live healthier lives
- Community services are joined up and accessible
- Good quality housing that meets the needs of residents
- Wirral's neighbourhoods are safe
- Attractive Local Environment for Wirral residents

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

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Wirral Plan is an outcome-focussed, partnership plan which has 18 supporting strategies that set out how each of the 20 pledges will be delivered. For 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. 2019/20 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:

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

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: 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>

REPORT AUTHOR: *Nancy Clarkson*
Head of Intelligence
telephone: (0151) 691 8258
email: nancyclarkson@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Wirral Plan Environment 2019/20 Quarter 1 Pledge Report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	28 March 2017
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	4 July 2017
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	21 September 2017
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	30 November 2017
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	28 March 2018
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	5 July 2018
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	20 September 2018
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	29 November 2018
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	13 March 2019
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	2 July 2019

Appendix 1

Wirral Plan Environment Theme 2019-20 Quarter 1 Reports



Leisure and cultural opportunities for all

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Leisure Strategy:

170 events were held in Wirral's Parks, Beaches and Open Spaces in Q1 2019-20, which is 42 more than during the same quarter last year.

The Macmillan project is now in its final year of funding which ends April 2020 and is currently exceeding expectations. Within its first year, the project was targeted to support 250 people affected by cancer on the Wirral but has in fact managed to support over 700 and achieved its 2-year target within 8 months. The project has now been implemented and has gone live with the volunteer pathway with people being recruited as a volunteers on a monthly basis to support delivery. The project has been shortlisted for a National Macmillan Excellence award and is awaiting the draft report from an evaluation for year . Discussions are also underway with the local Clinical Commissioning Group. All these elements will hopefully secure sustainability and further funding of the project. The sustainability is yet unknown but talks within the steering group are underway.

Work on the Leasowe Leisure Centre 3G pitches is due to commence July 29th and work is taking place to procure a development partner through the Denbighshire framework; we seek to trial this at the Tennis Centre. Dependent on this, the plan is to roll out further projects in 2019 including reception areas at West Kirby & Guinea Gap Leisure Centres, a wet change area and reception upgrades at The Oval, a soft play centre (venue TBC) and Adult Day services co-location at Leasowe.

Culture Strategy:

Substantial progress has been made against all culture strategy priorities during the first quarter of 2019, as the Borough of Culture programme has gotten underway with a series of incredible public events and already proving to be a catalyst for development in the cultural sector.

Our events so far this year have engaged over 100,000 people, with events including Animated Square, The Witching Hour and the OVO Energy Tour Series; satisfaction levels are showing an increase from last year's Imagine Wirral programme. These events have reached many more people through social media, with the following and engagement for our cultural programme continuing to grow. We've also attracted significant positive media coverage around all Borough of Culture events so far this year.

Over £140k has been secured through grant, sponsorship and commercial opportunities to support the delivery of our Borough of Culture programme. A funding strategy is being developed for culture, visitor economy and heritage which will recognise all potential sources of income at regional, national and international level.

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 people who regularly use the boroughs parks and open spaces	Annual Higher is better	67% (Oct 2015)		66% (2018-19)						n/a	The percentage of Wirral Residents who say they use the boroughs parks and green spaces at least once a month decreased slightly from 67% reported in the previous survey in 2016 but not enough to be deemed as statistically significant.
Increase the number of events in Wirral's parks, beaches and open spaces	Quarterly Higher is better	300 (2014-15)		378 (Q4 2018-19)	170 (Q1 2019-20)					Better	170 events were held in Wirral's Parks, Beaches and Open Spaces in Q1 2019-20, which is 42 more than during the same quarter last year.
Percentage of physically active adults	Annual Higher is better	(2014-15)	England: 66.0% (2016-17) North West: 65.1% (2016-17)	67.5% (2016-17)						n/a	This indicator has replaced "Adult (14+) Participation in sport (at least once per week)". A new indicator was required as the source data for the superseded physical activity indicators has been discontinued. The data provider, Sport England, has replaced the Active People Survey with Active Lives. The new survey provides the same indicators but the methodology has changed, both in terms of questions and the mode of completion (telephone to online/postal version).

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 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 national quality awards for Wirral's parks, coastal sites and open spaces: Green Flags	Annual Higher is better	22 (2015-16)		32 (2018-19)						n/a	Wirral has now received 32 national quality awards, 3 more than the start of the year and 10 more than the start of the plan. These include 27 Green Flag Awards, Country Park Accreditation for Wirral Country Park, 2 Charters for the Bereaved – Silver Award for Burials, Gold Award for Cremations at Landican and the APSE (Association of Public Sector Excellence) Best Service Team for Cemeteries and Crematorium, and a Best Performer Award for Parks, Open Spaces and Horticulture at the 2018 National APSE Awards.
Utilisation of outdoor space for exercise / health reasons	Annual Higher is better	20.7% (2013-14)	England: 17.9% (Mar 15-Feb 16) North West: 17.5% (Mar 15-Feb 16)	23.4% (Mar 15-Feb 16)						n/a	Utilisation of outdoor space for exercise / health reasons continues to improve on the baseline figure from the start of the plan and is also performing considerably better than North West and nationally despite decreasing since the previous period. It's worth noting that there is a time lag for this data which comes from the Public Health Outcomes Framework. The data released in quarter 1 was for March 2015 to February 2016. Also, the data comes from a relatively small sample size (less than 100) which may not give an accurate representation of overall activity in Wirral. This measure should therefore be viewed alongside other data for an overall picture of progress.
Increase the number of residents who say they regularly volunteer / support community groups in Wirral	Annual Higher is better	26% (Oct 2015)		24% (Dec 2017)						n/a	The percentage of Wirral Residents who say they volunteer at least once a month has decreased from 26% reported in the previous survey in 2016. The volunteering includes having given unpaid help either by taking part in or supporting any group, club or organisation (e.g. helping to run an activity/event, coaching, counselling, raising money, admin help).

Wirral residents live healthier lives

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

We're very pleased to report that smoking prevalence in adults in Wirral has improved considerably according to the latest figures released by the public health outcomes framework. Now only 12% of adults in Wirral smoke, a reduction from 15.9% from last year and from 17.2% at the start of the plan. The improvement in Wirral from 2017 to 2018 is better than both the North West and National benchmarks and smoking prevalence in Wirral (12%) is now lower (better) than both the North West (14.7%) and England (14.4%) averages.

Focus on reducing smoking in pregnancy continues. Wirral Smoking in Pregnancy pathway is being reviewed and the Cheshire and Merseyside steering group will reconvene in September 2019.

Wirral University Teaching Hospital Maternity team and Maternity Voices Partnership service user group are leading on gaining insight with pregnant women at a local level and Wirral University Teaching Hospital (WUTH) are being supported to implement a smoke free policy and offering in-patients support to quit.

Excess weight in adults has improved to 62.5% in 2017-18 from 63.3% in 2016-17 and from 66.2% at the start of the plan (66.2%) The North West (64.3%) and National (62%) benchmarks both increased from last year. 87 more people were helped to lose weight in 2018-19 (2,044) than in 2017-18 (1,971). The latest Q1 figures don't include July but we're on track to show another increase in Q1 from the previous year.

The Making Every Contact Count programme is being re-framed locally to align it with the Healthy Wirral programme and the approach we are taking to promoting person-centred care. There's also work ongoing around mapping training that's available locally and this work will be linked to the Cheshire & Merseyside Health Care Partnership, Making Every Contact Count programme.

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
Admission episodes for alcohol related conditions	Annual Lower is better	853.0 (2013-14)	England: 632.0 (2017-18) North West: 700.0 (2017-18)	859.0 (2017-18)						n/a	There is a 12 month time lag on validated data being released. This data from the Public Health Outcomes Framework relates to 2017-18. Performance has improved year on year since 2015-16 (901). Wirral's Alcohol Strategy sets out an action plan for continuing to reduce alcohol consumption to improve public health outcomes.
Smoking prevalence in adults (age 18 and over) in Wirral	Annual Lower is better	17.2% (2014)	England: 14.4% (2018) North West: 14.7% (2018)	15.9% (2017)					12.0% (2018)	Better	Smoking prevalence in adults improved to 12% in 2018, reducing from 15.9% in 2017 and from 17.2% at the start of the plan. The improvement in Wirral from 2017 to 2018 is better than both the North West and National benchmarks and smoking prevalence in Wirral (12%) is now lower (better) than both across the North West (14.7%) and England (14.4%).
Excess weight in adults	Annual Lower is better	66.2% (2012-14)	England: 62.0% (2017-18) North West: 64.3% (2017-18)	63.3% (2016-17)					62.5% (2017-18)	Better	Excess weight in adults has improved to 62.5% in 2017-18 from 63.3% in 2016-17. The latest figure are reducing (improving) despite the North West (64.3%) and National (62%) benchmarks both increasing (worsening).
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 (See Key)	Comment
Smoking status at time of delivery	Annual Lower is better	13.9% (2014-15)	England: 10.8% (2017-18) North of England: 13.4% (2017-18)	13.5% (2017-18)						n/a	Smoking at time of delivery has worsened from 12% in 2016-17 to 13.5% in 2017-18 and is higher than the Northwest and National Average. Addressing smoking in pregnancy has been a priority recently in the Tobacco Strategy. ABL stationed an adviser at Wirral University Teaching Hospital to increase engagement with pregnant women and midwifery team and address the high attrition rate from the number of referrals to the number of women engaged with the stop smoking service. Public Health also led a Pregnancy workshop to bring together partners across Cheshire & Merseyside and as a result Wirral has an established Smoking in Pregnancy working group (which includes Clinical Commissioning Group, both maternity providers and ABL) that have developed a delivery action plan.
Number of smokers helped to stop smoking	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		3,009 (2018-19)						n/a	Our commissioned service helped 54 less people engage in the process of stopping smoking in 2018-19 (3009) when compared to same period last year (3063). There is a 6 week follow up period which delays the provision of this data therefore the data is reported a quarter behind.
Number of smokers still quit at 4 weeks	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		1,523 (2018-19)						n/a	21 more people have continued to stop smoking 4 weeks after deciding to quit in 2018-19 (1523) when compared to the same period last year (1502). There is a 6 week follow up period which delays the provision of this data therefore the data is reported a quarter behind.
Number of pregnant women helped to stop smoking	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		53 (2018-19)						n/a	53 pregnant women were helped to stop smoking by the end of 2018-19. This is 3 more than the 53 helped in the same period last year. There is a week follow up period which delays the provision of this data therefore the data is reported a quarter behind.
Number of people helped to lose weight	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		2,044 (2018-19)	419 (Q1 2019-20)					Worse	185 less people were helped to lose weight by Q1 2019-20 (419) compared to 604 helped in the same period last year. An increase in the number of people eating healthily in Wirral should reduce the prevalence of excess weight and obesity which is a key contributor to premature mortality and avoidable ill health.
Successful completion of drug treatment - opiate users	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)	England: 6.1% (Feb 18 - Jan 19)	5.7% (Apr 18 - Mar 19)						n/a	5.7% of opiate users successfully completed their drug treatment from April 2018 to March 2019 compared with 6.1% from February 2018 to January 2019 and 7.5% during the same period last year. Wirral was slightly worse than the National Average (6.0%).
Successful completion of drug treatment - non-opiate users	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)	England: 37.8% (Feb 18 Jan 19)	58.4% (Apr 18 - Mar 19)						n/a	58-4% of non-opiate users successfully completed their drug treatment from April 2018-March 2019, an increase from both 57.6% from February 2018 to January 2019 and 54.4% from the same period last year. Wirral is performing much better than the National average (37.7%).
Successful completion of alcohol treatment	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)	England: 38.9% (Feb 18 Jan 19)	39.1% (Apr 18 - Mar 19)						n/a	39.1% of people successfully completed their alcohol treatment from April 2018 to March 2019. This is slightly less than 39.2% from February 2018 to January 2019 and also less than 43.2% from the same period last year. Wirral is performing better than the National average (38.9%).

Community services are joined up and accessible

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member										
Wirral Together continues to progress with the development of the priority deals for health and wellbeing, environment, economy and children and families. This quarter's successes include:										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased funding coming into the borough to help organisations to develop. Sixty groups have taken advantage of networks and training this quarter. With support from University of Chester, Community Action Wirral have engaged with local community organisations who support black and minority ethnic communities to develop a knowledge base to further understand the profile and scope of their organisations. Community Action Wirral have supported the following partners and organisations to encourage their staff to volunteer within the local community: Wirral Council, DWP, Wirral Chamber of Commerce, Wirral Metropolitan College, Unilever, Heap & Partners, Hi Impact Media and Magenta Living. 										

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 residents who say they regularly volunteer / support community groups in Wirral	Annual Higher is better	26% (Nov 2015)		24% (Dec 2017)						n/a	The percentage of Wirral Residents who say they volunteer at least once a month has decreased from 26% reported in the previous survey in 2016. The volunteering includes having given unpaid help either by taking part in or supporting any group, club or organisation (e.g. helping to run an activity/event, coaching, counselling, raising money, admin help).

Good quality housing that meets the needs of residents

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member										
Progress has been made regarding key priorities during quarter one of 2019/20 and the detailed actions which support them. An overview is provided below:										
<p>Building more homes in Wirral to meet our economic growth ambitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarter 1 saw the completion of 69 affordable homes, bringing the cumulative total to 439 (which include 247 Help to Buy units). Work is ongoing to progress the grant funding agreement with Homes England and Peel Holdings which will enable some 1,000 new homes to be built on a brownfield site (first phase of residential development at Wirral Waters) <p>Improving the quality of Wirral's housing offer for our residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarter 1 the Warmer Wirral referral network generated 541 referrals to the Local Energy Advice Programme, resulting in 366 home visits that provided energy efficiency and fuel poverty related advice, leading to over £127,000 worth of energy bill savings so far. New enforcement powers (civil penalties and Rent Repayment Orders). Wirral's Housing Enforcement Strategy Statement has been revised to include all new powers and policies if approved at Cabinet on 22nd July 2019, the powers will be rolled out where appropriate. <p>Meeting the needs of our most vulnerable people to enable them to live independently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A procurement exercise to select a consultant to carry out the Homelessness Review has taken place. Consultants should be appointed in July 2019, with the review completing in late autumn and a finalised Homeless Strategy in place for March 2020. The Council has participated in the identification of suitable clients to implement the Housing First model and the initial Test and Learn phase is due to commence in July. A draft action plan has been developed to respond to the Liverpool City Region Asylum Seeker and Refugee action plan, the Controlling Migration Fund outcomes and local priorities in Wirral. Meetings to review existing services are taking place, which will allow the identification of any gaps in services to inform the commissioning brief. The plan to work with Registered Providers and private companies to deliver 300 additional extra care homes by 2020 remains as amber. Whilst the target of 300 will be surpassed with more than this figure being delivered, timescales will not be met due to the impact of the government delay in making their decision regarding funding of supported housing until August 2018. 										

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
3,500 new homes will be built by 2020	Annual Higher is better	(n/a)		2,550 (Feb 2019)						n/a	The cumulative figure for 2018/19 is now reported as 2,550 as it has been finalised and submitted to Government. This indicator is an annual target and the provisional figure for 2019/20 will be reported in Q4. The number of affordable homes completed in Q1 was 69.
Improve 2,250 private sector properties	Annual Higher is better	(n/a)		2,220 (2016-19)						n/a	Work is ongoing across a number of housing standards schemes which contribute towards this target. This is an annual target which will report at year end but the target is likely to be exceeded.
Bring 1,250 empty properties back into use	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		1,252 (Dec 2015-Mar 2019)	Green Actual: 1,249 Target: 1,186					Better	Achieved 84 units in Q1 which exceeds the target. Cumulative total within 1 unit of achieving overall 5 year target. This should be met in Q2.

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 (See Key)	Comment
Complete compliance inspections for all homes requiring a license	Annual Higher is better	(n/a)		1,009 (2015-19)						n/a	Compliance checks are ongoing for properties subject to a Selective Licence or HMO licence. This is an annual target which will be formally reported at year end
An increase in the percentage of people over 50 living in appropriate housing, that meets their needs	Annual Higher is better	52.3% (Oct 2015)		52.3% (Oct 2018)						n/a	Data to be available October 2019
Number of home adaptations completed	Quarterly Higher is better	2,257 (2014-15)		2,732 (Apr 2018 - Mar 2019)	Blue Actual: 702 Target: 638					Better	Achieved 702 for Q1 which is above the target for the quarter of 638
Reduce homelessness through prevention	Quarterly Higher is better	707 (2014-15)		1,154 (Apr 2018 - Mar 2019)	328 (Q1 2019-20)					Better	no target set for 2019/20

Wirral's neighbourhoods are safe

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

As we move into the final year of the Wirral Plan it is encouraging that reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) continue to fall. This endorses the 'Safer Wirral Hub' approach which serves to coordinate and focus those organisations that have an influence upon crime levels, along with the traditional statutory agencies and more importantly the communities themselves. Reports of crime also continue to fall, however crime reporting standards are updated annually and this must be considered when comparing data. Most types of crime have seen a reduction this quarter, including all types of acquisitive crime (theft), criminal damage and violence that causes an injury. Links and information sharing between the Wirral Ways to Recovery (WWWR) teams and Children and Young People (CYP) dept continue to strengthen. WWWR have maintained a significant increase in the successful engagement rate for offenders leaving custody, via initiatives such as increasing the numbers of Alcohol Treatment Requirements and Drug Rehabilitation Requirements given to local offenders.

Wirral continues to adapt to the new challenges such as cyber-crime and modern slavery. As a partnership we are delivering programmes in secondary schools to raise awareness of Cyber Safety. This quarter, 5 schools are undertaking the programme and 3 more will join the project in September. To help protect the elderly and vulnerable groups in our community against fraud whether on-line, via bank or the doorstep, our Local Policing Team and 'Home Instead' a local home care provider, are giving talks at community centres across Wirral. The first of these talks took place in June. Modern Slavery Training has been provided by Merseyside Police and partners to over 100 trainees in Wirral, targeted those agencies dealing with vulnerable service users. Arson is a complex and serious crime and frequently results in loss of life, serious injuries, financial loss and environmental damage. Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service will deliver 1 Wirral Together Arson Awareness Day per month across Wirral. 3 have been delivered this quarter in Moreton, Liscard and Royden Park. We see our monthly campaigns as an excellent opportunity to promote multi-agency action in key demand wards in order to engage communities and tackle deliberate fire setting / serious and organised crime. Finally we continue to raise awareness of and tackle Hate Crime wherever it occurs and I was particularly proud to attend a Remembering Srebrenica event which was organised by the Safer Wirral Service. This annual event brought together members from different faiths and backgrounds and demonstrated the fantastic work taking place to eradicate Hate Crime wherever it occurs.

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
Reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB) to Merseyside Police	Quarterly Lower is better	11,837 (2014-15)		6,029 (2018-19)	1,409 (2019-20 Q1)					Better	Reported ASB has fallen by 512 (26.7%) compared to the same period last year when 1,921 reports were made. 44.4% of ASB was in Birkenhead ward. However, the biggest reduction was in Birkenhead, with a reduction of 291 (31.7%). We expect to see an increase next quarter in line with seasonal trends.
Proportion of residents who state they feel safe when outside in their local area (daytime)	Annual Higher is better	88% (Oct 2015)		90% (2017)						n/a	Date of next survey to be announced
Proportion of residents who state they feel safe when outside in their local area (After Dark)	Annual Higher is better	55% (Oct 2015)		51% (2017)						n/a	Date of next survey to be announced
Number of crimes recorded by the police	Quarterly Lower is better	19,061 (2014-15)	Ranking within 15 Most Similar Community Safety Partnership Groups: 4 (Mar 2018-Feb 2019)	25,510 (2018-19)	6,064 (2019-20 Q1)					Better	Recorded crime fell by 645 crimes (9.6%) compared to the same period last year.
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 (See Key)	Comment
First-time entrants to the youth justice system (10-17 year olds, as a rate per 100,000 of the local general population)	Quarterly Lower is better	380 (Apr 2014 - Mar 2015)	Merseyside YOT (Police Crime Commissioner area): 324 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	254 (Jan - Dec 2018)						n/a	Data available Q2
Violence that causes an injury to an individual victim (not including homicide) recorded by the Police	Quarterly Lower is better	1,982 (2014-15)	Ranking within 15 Most Similar Community Safety Partnership Groups: 4 (Nov 2017-Oct 2018)	2,825 (2018-19)	722 (2019-20 Q1)					Better	Violence that causes an injury fell by 24 crimes (3.2%) compared to the same period last year.
Percentage of Youth Re-Offending (age 10-17 years)	Quarterly Lower is better	51.4% (Jul 2012-Jun 2013)	England: 41.6% (Oct 2015- Sep 2016) Merseyside YOT (Police Crime Commissioner area): 46.2% (Oct 2015- Sep 2016)	40.5% (Jul 2016 - Jun 2017)						n/a	Data available Q2

Attractive local environment for Wirral residents

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

During this first quarter we have set out plans for delivering the actions within our delivery plan for 2019/20. We are now in the final year delivery of the Wirral Plan and Attractive Local Environment Pledge, therefore it's important that we see signs of behaviour change in terms of the way residents act within their local environment and people taking more responsibility.

We want to push further on our initiatives to get people involved and active in their neighbourhood, building on 'Love Where You Live' support to volunteers campaign. We have received very positive feedback and want to provide this opportunity to as many people as possible across Wirral.

During this year we will focus on:

- Working with Community Action Wirral in delivering Love Where You Live training. The next forum is planned for September.
- Delivering an education campaign to encourage support for good dog ownership. Expanding the Tikspac boards, we will develop education campaigns. A delivery plan is due to start in Q2.
- Developing the "Wirral Together for the Environment" deal, utilise the City region's Year of Environment to engage people and raise the profile of environmental issues.
- The Neat Streets programme. The programme started in May and so far, we have removed 270 abandoned bins, removed 22 tonnes of weeds and removed 81 tonnes of litter and fly-tipping.

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
Maintain local environmental quality (LEQ) via the street cleansing of litter, detritus, graffiti. (Main Gateways and Retail Areas)	Quarterly Higher is better	97.5% (2014-15)		98.4% (2018-19)	Blue Actual: 98.8% Target: 93.5% (2019-20 Q1)					Better	Street cleansing performance remains strong along the borough's gateways and district centres. The borough was also well presented for the Borough of Culture events that took place in the first quarter.
Achieve 50% kerbside recycling of domestic waste by 2020.	Quarterly Higher is better	36.30% (2014-15)		32.50% (2018-19 YE)						n/a	Q1 data available in Q2.
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 (See Key)	Comment
Reduce the overall collected general waste (non-recycling) per household	Quarterly Lower is better	502.15 (2014-15)		538.33 (YE 2018-19)						n/a	Year end 2018/19 – reported at end of Q1 the following financial year. Total collected general waste decreased by 7.6kg per household, which is moving in the right direction. Could be due to increased publicity regarding waste free shopping and single use plastics and packaging.
Increase level of school recycling	Annual Higher is better	35.00% (2014-15)		49.00% (2018-19)						n/a	Data available mid-month after quarter end.
Increase the number of garden waste subscribers	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		39,966 (2018-19)	34,523 (Apr-June 2019)					Worse	The number of subscribers this quarter has fallen by 2,120 compared with Q1 last year. Almost 5,000 less households renewed their subscription in April compared to the year before. We are reviewing the communication plan to promote the service again in the coming months and also looking to develop additional garden centre partners.
Using targeted communications, increase kerbside (green and grey bin) recycling rate for the ten lowest performing rounds to at least 25%	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		21.36% (2018-19)						n/a	Data available mid-month after quarter end.

Report Key

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

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

Action - These are shown as either:

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



**Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday, 24th September 2019**

REPORT TITLE:	ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME REPORT
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE (SCRUTINY TEAM MANAGER) BUSINESS SERVICES

REPORT SUMMARY

The Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in co-operation with the other three Overview & Scrutiny Committees, is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual scrutiny work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the Wirral Plan pledges which are within the remit of the Committee.

It is envisaged that the work programme will be formed from a combination of scrutiny reviews, standing items and requested officer reports. This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. The work programme for the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are requested to:

1. Approve the proposed Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2019/20, making any required amendments.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND THE WIRRAL PLAN

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

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

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

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

3.2 PRINCIPLES FOR PRIORITISATION

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

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

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

3.3 DELIVERING THE WORK PROGRAMME

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

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

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

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

4.0 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS

4.1 Update on Scrutiny Work Programme Items

Wirral Flood & Water Management Partnership

At the last meeting of the Committee on 2nd July 2019, three Members of the Committee were selected as representatives for the statutory Wirral Flood & Water Management Partnership. The next meeting of the Partnership is due to take place early in 2020, with all outcomes reported back to the Committee.

Municipal Golf Courses

Following the 'call in' of the decision to commence negotiations regarding a lease transfer of two of Wirral's municipal golf courses, Committee requested that further opportunity was given to Members to consider the detail around the proposal and discuss alternative options. A fact finding visit to all four municipal courses took place on 13th August 2019, with a workshop for all Overview & Scrutiny Members and key stakeholders held soon after. The report of this workshop can be found elsewhere on the agenda.

4.2 Forthcoming Committee Activity

Notice of Motion – Verges and Pollinators

At the Council meeting held on 15th July 2019, a Notice of Motion regarding 'Verges and Pollinators' was submitted, with agreement by Members that a report on creating an attractive visual environment through the planting of native wildflowers and encouragement of pollinators be presented to this Committee. This report will provide detail on the cost and maintenance of this kind of scheme in Wirral, including areas where it might be implemented, and will be presented to Members later in 2019.

West Kirby Marine Lake – Future Management

It is proposed that Committee consideration is given to the future management of the Marine Lake waterspace in West Kirby. Work is underway within the Council to identify key issues with a view to implementing an action plan for this area, with potential for a future agenda item to be presented to Committee.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

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

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable

9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

11.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Not Applicable.

REPORT AUTHOR: Alexandra Davidson

Scrutiny Officer

0151 691 8381

alexandradavidson@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work programme

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	2nd July 2019

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ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME

AGENDA – Tuesday 24th September 2019

Item	Format	Lead Departmental Officer
Minutes from Environment OSC (2 nd July)	Minutes	
2018/19 Q4 & Year End and 2019/20 Q1 Financial Monitoring	Report	Peter Molyneux
Hilbre Island – Update	Verbal Update	David Armstrong/Jeannette Royle
Local Plan Update	Verbal Update	David Ball
Council Response to Climate Change	Report	Mike Cockburn
Municipal Golf Courses Scrutiny Workshop Report	Report	Scrutiny Officer
Recycling Task & Finish Scrutiny Report	Report	Scrutiny Officer
2019/20 Q1 Wirral Plan Performance Monitoring	Report	David Armstrong
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Update	Report	Scrutiny Officer
Deadline for cleared reports: Tuesday 3rd September 2019		

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Item	Format	Officer / Councillor
Local Plan Update	Report / Verbal Update	David Ball
2019/20 Quarterly Finance Monitoring Report	Report	Peter Molyneux
2019/20 Wirral Plan Performance Monitoring	Report	David Armstrong/Nicola Butterworth
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Update	Report	Scrutiny Officer

ADDITIONAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED

Item	Format	Proposed Timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
Verges and Pollinators	Report	November 2019	TBC
Marine Lake Management	Report	TBC	Colin Clayton
Local Plan	Proposed Special Meeting	Late 2019	David Ball
Homelessness Update	Report	TBC	Lisa Newman
Budget Scrutiny	Report	January 2020	Shaer Halewood
Flood Risk Management Annual Report	Report	March 2020	Mark Smith

WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE COMMITTEE

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
Tree Policy Development	Task & Finish	2019/20	TBC
Transformation Programme	TBC	TBC	Tim Games
Wirral Flood and Water Management Partnership	Meeting	TBC	Mark Smith
Reality Check Visits	Site Visit	TBC	TBC