



Council

Town Hall
Wallasey

27 November, 2020

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at **6.00 p.m. on Monday, 7 December 2020** virtually, to take into consideration and determine upon the following subjects:

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

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

AGENDA

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Council are asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest, in connection with any matter to be debated or determined at this meeting and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of such interest.

2. CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive the Civic Mayor's announcements and any apologies for absence.

3. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 14)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 October, 2020.

4. PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

To deal with questions, statements and petitions from members of the public and Members, in accordance with Standing Orders 10, 11 and 12.

A. Public Questions

Notice of questions to be given in writing or by email, by 12noon, Wednesday, 2 December, 2020 to the Council's Monitoring Officer and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 10.

B. Statements and Petitions

- (i) Statements
- (ii) Petitions

To be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 11.

C. Members' Questions

To consider Members' questions in accordance with Standing Order 12.

5. MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL OR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

To consider any recommendations and receive reports from the Council's Committees which require the approval or consideration of the Council, and to receive questions and answers on any of those reports.

A. 2020/21 REVENUE BUDGET MONITOR QUARTER 2 AND COVID-19 BUDGET POSITION STATEMENT (Pages 15 - 18)

The Council is requested to agree the following recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee:

Approve the increased budget in relation to Covid-19 funding of £42.538m, which is for Council use and note the additional £132.793m of funds that is to be made available to the Council for onward relay to other organisations as passported funding; a total sum of £175.33m is therefore the combined Covid-19 funding being received by the Council based on current information. This recommendation supersedes the recommendation made by Policy and Resources Committee on 7 October, following the recent notification of additional funding.

Policy and Resources Committee - minute 21 (11/11/20) attached.

The report can be viewed [here](#).

As can be seen, the recommendation above supersedes that in minute 9 of the Policy and Resources Committee (7/10/20)

which is now attached for Members' information. The report in respect of this minute can be viewed [here](#).

B. CAPITAL MONITORING QUARTER 2 2020/21 (Pages 19 - 20)

The Council is requested to agree the following recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee:

(1) approve additional funding for the schemes detailed in paragraph 3.5 of the report as follows:

- Children's System Rationalisation - £0.826m (over a three year period)
- Tree Strategy Delivery - £0.208m (over a four year period)
- Allotments Sites Expansion - £0.127m
- Birkenhead Temporary Market Pre-Development Costs - £50,000
- Concerto Development Asset Management System - £42,000 (over a two year period)
- Capitalisation of Salaries - £0.5m

(2) approve the revised Capital Programme of £95.1 million for 2020-21, including the virements referred to in paragraph 3.7 of the report.

Policy and Resources Committee - minute 22 (11/11/20) attached.

The report can be viewed [here](#).

C. COUNCIL TAX BASE REPORT 2021/22 (TAX BASE, DISCOUNTS AND EXEMPTIONS AND LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME) (Pages 21 - 22)

The Council is requested to agree the following recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee:

(1) **The figure of 94,198.6 be approved as the Council Tax Base for 2021/22 subject to the items below being approved;**

(2) **The level and award of each local discount for 2021/22 be:**

Wirral Women's & Children's Aid

To continue to award Wirral Women & Children's Aid 100% discount. This remains unchanged from 2020/21.

Care Leaver's Discount

To award Care Leavers the requisite discount to reduce their Council Tax liability to zero until they are 25. This remains unchanged from 2020/21.

Empty Property Discounts

Discount category D = 0% Full charge on properties undergoing renovations.

Discount category C = 0% Full charge on empty properties from date they become unoccupied.

Both remain unchanged from 2020/21.

Empty Property Premium = 100% (200% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty for more than two years. 200% (300% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty more than five years. 300% (400% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty more than ten years.

Council Tax Discretionary Hardship Relief Scheme

The Council Tax Discretionary Hardship Relief Scheme, approved by Cabinet in October 2013, continues in its current format for 2021/2022. The Scheme offers help and assistance in exceptional cases of hardship.

(3) Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS)

The Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, be the approved Scheme for 2021/2022. This remains unchanged from 2020/21 apart from the following:

- a. Where an entitlement to the Care Leaver Discount/Exemption has ceased, Local Council Tax Reduction to be awarded without the need for a further application where their eligibility is known.
- b. The scheme is aligned to all of the DWP's upratings and changes for Housing Benefit and Universal Credit.

Policy and Resources Committee - minute 23 (11/11/20) attached.

The report can be viewed [here](#).

D. AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION - COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS (Pages 23 - 24)

The Council is requested to approve an amendment to the Council's Constitution, as recommended by the Constitution and Standards Committee, in that Standing Order 11.1, 'Representations' be amended so that the deadline for the public registering to speak be brought forward to no later than midday, three working days before the day of the meeting, in line with the deadline for the submission of public questions.

Constitution and Standards Committee – minute 6 (25/11/20) attached.

The report can be viewed [here](#).

6. REPORTS AND DECISIONS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND PARTNERSHIP ORGANISATIONS

A. DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING (Pages 25 - 132)

To receive reports about and receive questions and answers on decisions made by Committees since the last meeting of Council.

The minutes of all committees which have met since the beginning of October, up until 19 November are attached, as follows:

- Policy and Resources Committee – 7 October and 11 November
- Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee – 13 October and 19 November (to follow)
- Children, Young People and Education Committee – 20 October
- Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee – 27 October
- Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee – 22 October
- Housing Committee – 28 October
- Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee – 26 October
- Partnerships Committee – 9 November
- Audit and Risk Management Committee – 16 November
- Licensing Act Committee – 14 October
- Pensions Committee – 2 November
- Planning Committee – 15 October and 12 November
- Regulatory and General Purposes Committee – 14 October and 18 November

B. OFFICER DECISIONS (Pages 133 - 134)

Attached is an officer key decision notice, taken by the Director of Neighbourhood Services on 24 November, 2020, in respect of the Covid Winter Grant Scheme, which the Council is asked to note.

C. JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

To receive reports about and receive questions and answers on the business of joint arrangements and external organisations, including the Combined Authority.

7. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (Pages 135 - 142)

Motions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.1, are attached. They are listed in accordance with Standing Order 13.2, and the full text of each motion is attached.

1. Public Sector Pay Freeze
2. Wirral Council Asked to Back the RSPCA's Fireworks Campaign
3. Getting Cancer Services Back on Track
4. Supporting Car Clubs in Wirral
5. Union Learning Fund
6. It's Time to Put New Arrangements in Place
7. Tackling Child Poverty and Deprivation on Wirral



Director of Law and Governance

Audio/Visual Recording of Meetings

Everyone is welcome to record meetings of the Council and its Committees using non-disruptive methods. For particular meetings we may identify a 'designated area' for you to record from. If you have any questions about this please contact Committee and Civic Services (members of the press please contact the Press Office). Please note that the Chair of the meeting has the discretion to halt any recording for a number of reasons, including disruption caused by the filming or the nature of the business being conducted.

Persons making recordings are requested not to put undue restrictions on the material produced so that it can be reused and edited by all local people and organisations on a non-commercial basis.

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COUNCIL

Monday, 19 October 2020

Present: The Civic Mayor (Councillor Tony Smith) in the Chair
Deputy Civic Mayor (Councillor George Davies)

Councillors	T Anderson	JE Green	T Norbury
	B Berry	EA Grey	C Povall
	J Bird	P Hayes	L Rennie
	A Brame	S Hayes	J Robinson
	D Burgess-Joyce	A Hodson	L Rowlands
	H Cameron	K Hodson	C Spriggs
	K Cannon	J Johnson	S Spoor
	C Carubia	AER Jones	P Stuart
	P Cleary	C Jones	M Sullivan
	W Clements	T Jones	T Usher
	M Collins	M Jordan	J Walsh
	C Cooke	S Kelly	S Whittingham
	A Corkhill	B Kenny	I Williams
	T Cottier	A Leech	KJ Williams
	T Cox	I Lewis	S Williams
	S Foulkes	M McLaughlin	J Williamson
	S Frost	J McManus	G Wood
	A Gardner	D Mitchell	A Wright
	P Gilchrist	C Muspratt	
	K Greaney	Y Nolan	

Apologies Councillors S Jones J Stapleton

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Council were invited to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary and / or any other relevant interest in connection with any matter to be debated at this meeting and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

14 CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Civic Mayor announced the recent death of former Councillor Bill Davies and invited the Council to observe a minute's silence in his memory.

15 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 28 September, 2020 had been circulated to Members. On a motion by the Civic Mayor seconded by Councillor Janette Williamson it was –

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting be approved and adopted as a correct record.

16 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

The Civic Mayor informed the Council that no questions from the public or Members had been submitted.

17 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS**

The Civic Mayor informed the Council that no statements had been submitted.

In accordance with Standing Order 11.2 the following four petitions were submitted:

1. Councillor Jo Bird presented a petition from Victoria Harris of Mersey View estates requesting an end to ‘unfair leasehold’.
2. Councillor Karl Greaney presented a petition on behalf of 67 residents of Prestbury Avenue regarding changes to local bus service causing isolation.
3. Councillor Tom Anderson presented a petition from 38 residents of Highfield Drive and Duncan Drive in Greasby requesting road repairs
4. Councillor Andrew Hodson presented a petition which was an objection to a planning application.

Resolved – That the petitions be noted and referred to the appropriate Chief Officers in accordance with Standing Order 11.2.

18 **MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL OR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL**

In accordance with Standing Order 2 (x) two matters had been submitted for approval by the Council (see minutes 19 and 20 post).

19 **CAPITAL MONITORING QUARTER 1 2020/21 - CABINET, 27 JULY 2020**

The first item requiring approval was in relation to a revised capital programme.

On a motion by Councillor Janette Williamson seconded by Councillor Anita Leech it was -

Resolved - That the recommendations contained with minute 108 of Cabinet, 27 July, 2020, be approved as follows:

- (1) additional funding for the schemes referred to in paragraph 3.3 of the report, and;**
- (2) a revised Capital Programme of £131.7m for 2020/21.**

20 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20 - CABINET, 27 JULY, 2020

The second item requiring approval was in relation to the Treasury Management Annual Report 2019/20

On a motion by Councillor Janette Williamson seconded by Anita Leech, it was -

Resolved – That the recommendation contained within minute 113 of Cabinet, 27 July, 2020, be approved as follows:

That the 2019/20 Treasury Management Annual Report be agreed.

21 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES FOR CONSIDERATION

In accordance with Standing Order 2 (xi), one matter had been submitted for consideration, a recommendation from Policy and Resources Committee of 7 October, 2020.

On motion by Councillor Janette Williamson, seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, it was -

Resolved - That the Local Plan Steering Sub Committee be removed from political balance requirements in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Housing Act 1989, so that it be constituted in a manner that reflects the membership of the Local Plan Advisory Group, being one member from each political group on the Council.

22 MOTIONS OF NOTICE

Motions had been submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.1 and were determined as detailed in minute 23 to 29 below.

23 MOTION - OVERCOMING COVID FAILURES TO BUILD THE 'TEST AND TRACE' SYSTEM WIRRAL NEEDS

Councillor Janette Williamson moved and Councillor Phil Gilchrist seconded a Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

“Council wishes for the success of any current government in tackling the current global pandemic.

Council places on record its thanks and appreciation of all those involved in the fight to contain and tackle the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

However, there are a number of failures that cannot be ignored by Council. Local government is clearly an important player in the fight against the second wave.

However such government support that has been forthcoming by way of funding or access to national track and trace databases has only been secured in recent times and only after repeated requests to ensure local government is better equipped to help control the virus.

Council recognises that its officers have worked tirelessly to secure data from the national Test and Trace Service and to combine local and national data in the best interests of Wirral’s people.

Council considers that the Government’s determination to reorganise Public Health England in the midst of national and local work to be a diversion of energy and capacity that should be focussed on tackling the virus.

Notwithstanding this work, Council believes that the substantial sums awarded to the contractors by the Government are not, to date, providing value for money in the fight against the virus. There remains considerable public suspicion about the role of contractors that have and are being used, a clear need for greater transparency in the way contractors have been appointed and are operating, leading to growing concern that a system intended to secure public confidence has failed to do so.

Council recognises that further introductions of local lockdowns have become necessary, but only because previous attempts by the government to control the virus have failed.

Council believes that the transfer of Test and Trace funding to this and other local authorities, taking full advantage of local knowledge and contacts, would produce greater public trust in the system than can be secured under the arrangements that have been made.

Council believes that the way to improve this is to give funding to council for the extra costs and loss of income it is experiencing, and to give us the powers, support and capacity to conduct locally run testing, tracking and tracing.

Council recommends this be communicated by Group Leaders in the strongest possible way to ministers.

Council further requests that Wirral's MPs take up this issue and that Wirral Council works with the Local Government Association to secure improvements to the system."

Councillor Chris Carubia moved and Councillor Dave Mitchell seconded an amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.3, such that after the final paragraph, the following be inserted:

"Council lends its weight to all the background work and representations made recently by the Leader and Officers in conveying the views of Members to secure as much funding as possible to support Wirral's residents through this crisis.

Council is anxious that, as the restrictions do appear likely to be in place for some time, the Government needs to recognise that both individual and family finances will come under increasing pressures, so further funding must be added to the levels announced.

Further, as groups or individuals are identified as falling through these provisions, these issues should also be identified and highlighted.

Representations should be made to Wirral's MPs and Ministers urging them to follow these up in the interest of reducing poverty and hardship."

Following a debate conducted in accordance with Standing Order 15, and Councillor Williamson having replied, the amendment was put and carried (59:0) (One abstention).

The substantive motion, as amended, was then put and it was -

Resolved (59:0) (One abstention) – That,

Council wishes for the success of any current government in tackling the current global pandemic.

Council places on record its thanks and appreciation of all those involved in the fight to contain and tackle the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

However, there are a number of failures that cannot be ignored by Council.

Local government is clearly an important player in the fight against the second wave.

However such government support that has been forthcoming by way of funding or access to national track and trace databases has only been secured in recent times and only after repeated requests to ensure local government is better equipped to help control the virus.

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Council considers that the Government's determination to reorganise Public Health England in the midst of national and local work to be a diversion of energy and capacity that should be focussed on tackling the virus.

Notwithstanding this work, Council believes that the substantial sums awarded to the contractors by the Government are not, to date, providing value for money in the fight against the virus. There remains considerable public suspicion about the role of contractors that have and are being used, a clear need for greater transparency in the way contractors have been appointed and are operating, leading to growing concern that a system intended to secure public confidence has failed to do so.

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Council believes that the way to improve this is to give funding to council for the extra costs and loss of income it is experiencing, and to give us the powers, support and capacity to conduct locally run testing, tracking and tracing.

Council recommends this be communicated by Group Leaders in the strongest possible way to ministers.

Council further requests that Wirral's MPs take up this issue and that Wirral Council works with the Local Government Association to secure improvements to the system.

Council lends its weight to all the background work and representations made recently by the Leader and Officers in conveying the views of

Members to secure as much funding as possible to support Wirral's residents through this crisis.

Council is anxious that, as the restrictions do appear likely to be in place for some time, the Government needs to recognise that both individual and family finances will come under increasing pressures, so further funding must be added to the levels announced.

Further, as groups or individuals are identified as falling through these provisions, these issues should also be identified and highlighted.

Representations should be made to Wirral's MPs and Ministers urging them to follow these up in the interest of reducing poverty and hardship.

At 7.30pm, the Civic Mayor announced that the Council would adjourn for 10 minutes.

The Council resumed at 7.40pm.

24 **MOTION - PROTECTING THE PUBLIC'S SAY IN THE PLANNING PROCESS**

Councillor Stuart Kelly moved and Councillor Dave Mitchell seconded a Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Following a debate conducted in accordance with Standing Order 15, and Councillor Kelly having replied it was then

Resolved -

Council notes the recent Government consultations concerning the operation of the Planning system.

Council notes the response made on 1st October to the first consultation 'Changes to the current planning system' and, in particular, welcomes the Council's response challenging the proposed change to the housing need algorithm which will place additional pressure on the Brownfield First strategy and the change to the small sites threshold for affordable housing which will impact on our ability to secure affordable housing.

Council calls on Government to abandon these proposals. Council further notes the ongoing consultation on the Government White Paper, 'Planning for the Future', which set out proposals on reforms to the planning system; in particular, Council is concerned that the proposals seek to reduce or remove the right of residents to object to applications

near them with developers instead being granted automatic rights to build on land identified as 'for growth'.

Council notes that the vast majority of planning applications are given the go ahead by Local Authority Planning Committees, with permission granted to around nine out of 10 applications and that research by the Local Government Association has indicated that there are existing planning permissions for more than one million homes that have not yet been started.

The Royal Institute for British Architects say "these shameful proposals do almost nothing to guarantee the delivery of affordable, well-designed and sustainable homes. While they might help to 'get Britain building' – paired with the extension of Permitted Development – there's every chance they could also lead to the creation of the next generation of slum housing. The housing crisis isn't just about numbers, and deregulation won't solve it."

<https://www.architecture.com/knowledge-and-resources/knowledge-landingpage/deregulation-wont-solve-the-housing-crisis-riba-criticises-jenricks-planning-reforms>

The Town and Country Planning Association say. "The complex proposals in the white paper will move permission to the plan making stage reducing democratic oversight and streamlining public consultations. At the same time, the paper is weak on the contribution the planning system must make to health and well-being. It also puts back the date for achieving zero carbons homes to beyond 2025. It seeks to abolish the much criticised duty to cooperate but offers no framework for strategic planning to replace it."

<https://www.tcpa.org.uk/news/press-release-ripping-up-the-system-wont-build-thehomes-we-need-tcpa-responds-to-planning-for-the-future-white-paper>

Council believes that existing planning procedures allow for local democratic control over future development and give local people a say in planning proposals that affect them. However, these proposals reduce democratic accountability and public scrutiny and significantly reduce the scope for public participation and influence on planning applications within local communities.

Council, therefore, resolves to take part in the consultation in the planning proposals and that this motion be submitted as part of any consultation response.

25 **MOTION - PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**

With the consent of the Council, this motion was withdrawn by Councillors Pat Cleary and Chris Cooke, in accordance with Standing Order 15.8.

26 **MOTION - CROSS PARTY UNITY ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

Councillor Elizabeth Grey moved and Councillor Pat Cleary seconded a Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Following a debate conducted in accordance with Standing Order 15, and Councillor Grey having replied it was then

Resolved -

This council calls for cross party unity and collaboration in the fight to protect our residents from the rapidly escalating dangers of biodiversity loss and climate breakdown. This Council requests that all elected members put aside short term political gain and focus on the longer term need to reduce the worst effects of environmental damage caused by our current lifestyles. This Council urges all members to work together for the sake of our residents on these most important of issues. Council recognises that difficult decisions will need to be made and there will likely be disruption to our lives as we move from heavily polluting activities to more sustainable lifestyles. Council agrees to work positively and cooperatively in the spirit of our new committee system to support policies that will protect our residents from environmental threats.

27 **MOTION - REDUCING ROAD CASUALTIES**

Councillor Allan Brame moved and Councillor Stuart Kelly seconded a Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Following a debate conducted in accordance with Standing Order 15, and Councillor Brame having replied it was then

Resolved -

Council notes that:

- **In the last ten years, there has been no significant decline in the number of people killed and seriously injured on Britain's roads, after decades of reducing casualties.**
- **According to Department of Transport figures, there are still on average five fatalities and 68 serious injuries in England and Wales every day.**

- In the preamble to the consultation published by the Department of Transport in July this year, the Under Secretary of State for Transport said the review sought to ‘build the fairest and most operationally effective enforcement capability in police and other agencies to deliver the best outcome for the safety of all road users’.
- In the same month, the HM Inspectorate of Constabulary published a damning report which predicted an increase in road deaths because,
 - according to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, there has been a 34% cut in funding in real terms for road policing between 2012/3 and 2019/20, leading to a reduction of police officers available for these duties.
 - these officers receive insufficient training and operational support.
 - road policing is ‘seen as less of a priority than it should be’ in most local plans and there is an ‘unclear national strategy.’
- The HM Inspectorate called for urgent action as ‘roads policing is not optional.’
- In September, Merseyside Police and the Merseyside Road Safety Partnership participated for five days in ‘Project EDWARD’ (Every Day Without a Road Death), as part of the welcome initiative to reduce road deaths.

Council resolves to:

- (1) Ask Group Leaders to write to the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Transport, making clear this Council’s position that funding in real terms for road policing should be restored; that the HM Inspectorate’s recommendations be implemented in full as a priority; and that a new national strategy for road policing and safety should be developed.
- (2) Ask the Chief Executive to send copies of this letter to the Liverpool City Region Police and Crime Commissioner, the Police and Crime Panel and our local Members of Parliament to seek their support for the Council’s position.
- (3) Ask the Council’s representatives on the Liverpool City Region Police and Crime Panel to request the Panel revisit the local policing plan to ensure that roads policing is sufficiently prioritised.
- (4) Ask that this Motion be referred to the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee so that it may review and refresh earlier work that was undertaken on the introduction of 20mph speed limits on all residential roads across the Borough with a view to making progress with their introduction.

28 **MOTION - SAVE OUR LOCAL JOBS AND SERVICES**

Councillor Brian Kenny moved and Councillor Jo Bird seconded a Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Having applied the guillotine, in accordance with Standing Order 9.1, the Council did not debate this matter.

Resolved (39:20) (One abstention) – That,

Wirral Council notes:

- 1. Our communities are facing high levels of unemployment and climate change as well as the devastating impact of the Covid 19 pandemic.**
- 2. Instead of “whatever it takes” promised by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, this Conservative Government is threatening Wirral Council with further austerity and cuts.**
- 3. Our appreciation and thanks to thousands of Wirral workers who provide essential services - including social care, waste collection and environmental health workers and many more.**
- 4. Our country is facing an unprecedented jobs crisis. The Office for Budget Responsibility predicts that, by the end of this year, nearly one in eight of the UK’s workforce will be unemployed – and some communities on the Wirral already have over 15% unemployment.**
- 5. The need to work together with other Councils and local residents to challenge the Conservative government to provide the necessary resources to save our vital services – and enable secure, sustainable, fulfilling employment that pays at least the Real Living Wage.**
- 6. Urgent measures are needed here and now to protect workers in many sectors from losing their livelihoods by not pulling the plug on job retention measures.**
- 7. Unless ministers fix the current national funding shortfall for local authorities – estimated to be in the region of £10bn – there could be tens of thousands of job losses and catastrophic cuts to local services in England, according to Unison.**
- 8. This government have found £15bn for so called PPE contracts, but without any transparency.**

Wirral Council therefore agrees to:

- (1) Refer this to the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee to consider supporting the “Alliance for Full Employment” to mobilise all the resources of the UK to end the recession and create good, quality jobs.”**
- (2) Ask Group Leaders to urge the government to provide fair funding to local councils in order to keep communities safe and build back better from the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic.**

- (3) Ask Group Leaders to urge government ministers (in writing and on film) to find additional resources for councils to avoid devastating harm to services that have already suffered ten years of budget cuts.**

29 **MOTION - CANCEL LOCAL AUTHORITY DEBT**

Councillor Jo Bird moved and Councillor Christina Muspratt seconded a Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Having applied the guillotine, in accordance with Standing Order 9.1, the Council did not debate this matter.

Resolved (39:20) (One abstention) – That,

To help save local services and build back better, this government should cancel local authority debt, just as they cancelled NHS debt.

The financial crisis of local authorities is spiralling out of control as councils struggle to respond to the pandemic. The huge increase in expenditure comes on top of ten years of austerity which has severely weakened local authorities. Austerity is to councils what ‘underlying conditions’ are to people who are vulnerable to the virus. The government has told councils to do ‘whatever it takes’ and they will support them. Yet the funding offered thus far falls well short of spending associated with dealing with the pandemic never mind the big loss of income resulting from the lock-down. The Local Government Association has warned that without “a cast-iron commitment” to cover the coronavirus bill councils will begin to fail. The CEO of CIPFA spoke of “a financial tsunami of reduced income and increased costs”. An unprecedented emergency requires emergency measures. One such measure would be the cancellation of local authority debt held by the Public Works Loans Board, currently over £80 billion. This would provide councils with around £4.5 billion extra spending power a year (the cost of servicing the debt last year).

In itself it would not resolve the funding issues resulting from austerity. There needs to be a return to funding of councils based on an annual assessment of social needs in each locality (abandoned by the coalition government in 2013). However, debt cancellation would be a simple step which would provide significant funding on an annual basis and would help to stabilise council finances. The government itself has set a precedent by cancelling £13.4 billion NHS debt. An unprecedented crisis requires emergency measures. To stave off a collapse of council services the debt held by the Public Works Loans Board should be cancelled. This would give local authorities around £4.5 billion extra income a year. Wirral Council resolves to:

- (1) Ask Group Leaders to contact ministers (in writing and on video) to cancel local authority debt.**
- (2) Refer this matter to the Policy and Resources Committee to consider that the Council support the Campaign for Council Housing's call to Cancel Local Authority debt.**

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MINUTE EXTRACT

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

11 NOVEMBER, 2020

21 2020/21 REVENUE BUDGET MONITOR FOR QUARTER TWO (APR - SEP)

Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources, introduced a report which provided a summary of the projected year-end revenue position as at the end of Quarter 2 (September 2020) of the 2020/21 financial year, including:

- the financial risk profile presented by the COVID-19 pandemic
- a review of pressures and savings contained within the original budget position and
- an update to the Medium Term Financial Plan.

The year-end forecast recorded as part of September's financial monitoring activity represented an adverse variance to revenue budget of £24.074m; this comprised:

- £21.448m adverse forecast variance in relation to revenue budget, stemming largely from matters arising through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- £2.480m forecast deficit on expected capital receipts, which support the revenue budget position via flexible use of capital receipts and;
- £0.145m gap in direct COVID-19 funding against forecast requirements.

The Government had recently announced further funding for Wirral of £5.428m for a Tranche 4 allocation, and £9.3m mitigations for Sales, Fees and Charges losses, which the Council was awaiting receipt.

The Council's financial position remained challenging and to a certain degree uncertain, with work underway to develop response activity following the initiation of Tier 3 status in the Liverpool City Region whilst details of the forthcoming Spending Round were awaited in relation to 2021/22 funding.

The financial position was fluid and developing with the government having stated its continuing support to the sector. That said, the Council continued to limit spending to essential areas of service delivery only and Corporate Directors were supported to mitigate the risk of overspending.

Shaer Halewood responded to a number of comments and questions from Members and agreed that she would circulate the letter which the Chief Executive had received from the Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton, in which concern had been expressed over the Council's financial position. She acknowledged the difficulties arising from the one year budget settlement which was due to be given on 25 November. Nothing had yet been received in writing from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government on the capitalisation directive application which had been submitted in the sum of £63.5m covering this year and next, 2020/21 and

2021/22, with an indicative plan to achieve this sum over the next five years based around outcomes for residents.

During the debate on this item, Members expressed their thanks to the Director of Children, Education and Families, all his staff and the two previous Cabinet portfolio holders for Children's and Families, following the recent announcement that Children's Services had now been brought out of special measures.

Paul Boyce, in response to a Member's comment, agreed that he would circulate a response on the number of children with special needs in residential care and where they had been placed and the alternative residential provision being pursued.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Anita Leech, it was -

A. Resolved - That the Policy and Resources Committee:

- (1) notes the year-end forecast position at Quarter 2 of £24.074m adverse;**
- (2) notes the risks posed to delivering on the savings proposals within the 2020-21 budget;**
- (3) notes the impact of funding and expenditure as a direct consequence of COVID-19, including the additional funding sources which have been identified, but as yet, not received;**
- (4) notes the revisions to the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2020-2025.**

B. RECOMMENDED - To Council the increased budget in relation to Covid-19 funding of £42.538m, which is for Council use and note the additional £132.793m of funds that is to be made available to the Council for onward relay to other organisations as passported funding; a total sum of £175.33m is therefore the combined Covid-19 funding being received by the Council based on current information. This recommendation supersedes the recommendation made by Policy and Resources Committee on 7 October, following the recent notification of additional funding.

MINUTE EXTRACT

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

7 OCTOBER, 2020

9 2020/21 & 2021/22 COVID-19 BUDGET POSITION STATEMENT

A report by the Director of Resources provided a summary of the Council's financial position following the Covid-19 pandemic. The report highlighted the impact on the Council's 2020/21 and 2021/22 budget following the onset of Covid-19 and the actions in place to mitigate the deficit. The report also described the support available from HM Treasury in mitigating the deficit and asked the Committee for approval to submit a formal application for support and highlighted the options available if this support was not forthcoming.

The report provided information on the additional government funding provided to support the Council's emergency response to Covid-19.

The Director of Resources responded to a number of comments and confirmed that each of the six policy committees would receive a budget report, though no proposals would be included as these were not fully formed yet. The report would contain the budget for each individual committee. There was a need to demonstrate to the MHCLG that the Council had a robust sustainable plan to mitigate any future losses including the staff to deliver on these, so not all non-statutory services would be put forward as potential savings.

Members expressed the view that a very bleak outlook was being painted in the report and of the need to protect communities against potentially damaging cuts. There was also a need to be very cautious in the approach to how decisions on savings were made whilst the funding settlement figures from government were as yet unknown. There was a need to work together to support civic society.

The Chair referred to her meetings with other Combined Authority leaders and that they were all united in making representations to central government to help local government in giving the support to residents that they needed.

A. RECOMMENDED (unanimously) - To Council that an additional £99,731,884 be added to the budget for 2020/21 as a result of additional one off Government funding received since the 2020/21 budget was set on 2 March 2020 to either be spent or passported to support the emergency response to Covid-19 or returned to the Government by 31 March 2021, as described in Section 5 of the report.

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MINUTE EXTRACT

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

11 NOVEMBER, 2020

22 CAPITAL MONITORING QUARTER 2 2020/21

Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources, provided an update on the progress of the Capital Programme 2020/21 at the end of September 2020. The report recommended that the Committee agree the revised 2020/21 Capital Programme of £95.1 million which took account of re-profiling, virements, additional funding requirements and grant variations identified since the Capital Programme was formally agreed on 2 March 2020.

Shaer Halewood responded to a number of comments in respect of some of the schemes to receive additional funding and David Armstrong, Assistant Chief Executive, clarified the position with regard to the reasons for additional expenditure from virements required for the West Kirby Sailing School.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Jeff Green, it was -

A. RECOMMENDED –

- (1) to Council the approval of additional funding for the schemes detailed in paragraph 3.5 of the report as follows:
 - Children’s System Rationalisation - £0.826m (over a three year period)
 - Tree Strategy Delivery - £0.208m (over a four year period)
 - Allotments Sites Expansion - £0.127m
 - Birkenhead Temporary Market Pre-Development Costs - £50,000
 - Concerto Development Asset Management System - £42,000 (over a two year period)
 - Capitalisation of Salaries - £0.5m
- (2) to Council the approval of the revised Capital Programme of £95.1 million for 2020-21, including the virements referred to in paragraph 3.7 of the report.

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MINUTE EXTRACT

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

11 NOVEMBER, 2020

23 **COUNCIL TAX BASE REPORT 2021/2022 (TAX BASE, DISCOUNTS AND EXEMPTIONS AND LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME)**

A report by the Director of Resources brought together related issues regarding the proposed Council Tax Base for 2021/22 upon which the annual billing and Council Tax levels would be set; the proposed Council Tax Discounts including Local Discounts, exemptions for 2021/22 and the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme to be used during 2021/22. These needed to be approved by Council by 31 January 2021.

RECOMMENDED - To Council the following:

- (1) The figure of 94,198.6 be approved as the Council Tax Base for 2021/22 subject to the items below being approved;**
- (2) The level and award of each local discount for 2021/22 be:**

Wirral Women's & Children's Aid

To continue to award Wirral Women & Children's Aid 100% discount. This remains unchanged from 2020/21.

Care Leaver's Discount

To award Care Leavers the requisite discount to reduce their Council Tax liability to zero until they are 25. This remains unchanged from 2020/21.

Empty Property Discounts

Discount category D = 0% Full charge on properties undergoing renovations.

Discount category C = 0% Full charge on empty properties from date they become unoccupied.

Both remain unchanged from 2020/21.

Empty Property Premium = 100% (200% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty for more than two years. 200% (300% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty more than five years. 300% (400% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty more than ten years.

Council Tax Discretionary Hardship Relief Scheme

The Council Tax Discretionary Hardship Relief Scheme, approved by Cabinet in October 2013, continues in its current format for 2021/2022. The Scheme offers help and assistance in exceptional cases of hardship.

(3) Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS)

The Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, be the approved Scheme for 2021/2022. This remains unchanged from 2020/21 apart from the following:

- a. Where an entitlement to the Care Leaver Discount/Exemption has ceased, Local Council Tax Reduction to be awarded without the need for a further application where their eligibility is known.**
- b. The scheme is aligned to all of the DWP's upratings and changes for Housing Benefit and Universal Credit.**

MINUTE EXTRACT

CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

25 NOVEMBER, 2020

6 REMOTE MEETINGS UPDATE

Philip McCourt, Director of Law and Governance introduced his report that provided the Constitution and Standards Committee with an update in respect to the implementation of the programme of remote Committee meetings since April 2020 in direct response to the Covid pandemic and requested the Committee give consideration to the future application of Standing Order 11.1 'Representations' for remote meetings .

Steve Fox, Head of Democratic and Member Services informed the Constitution and Standards Committee on the work undertaken by Officers in the delivery of a full committee programme of remote council committee meetings since September 2020. He further informed that during first period of Covid-19 lockdown the Democratic Services team ran a series of Planning, Licensing, and other regulatory committee meetings, delivering in excess of 50 meetings. He added that during May and June a further 408 individual school admission appeals meetings had been successfully delivered remotely.

The Head of Democratic and Member Services apprised Members that this had been challenging, and the speed of transition had been difficult, but successful. He expressed his thanks to the political group office managers and IT department in their assistance in helping to support Councillors and his service in the delivery of meetings, and a series of Member training sessions covering meeting etiquette and the Chairing of meetings.

The Constitution and Standards Committee's attention was drawn to paragraph 3.3 of the Director's report that had identified a key concern in respect of engagement with members of the public and the provision whereby any member of the public can present questions and/or speak for up to 15 minutes at a committee meetings (or Council). Officers requested that in an effort to aid meeting management Members consider aligning the opportunities available to the public, and standardise a deadline of noon, 3 days prior to meeting for all methods of addressing committees.

The Chair sought Members views and comments on the matter of submission deadlines to help provide the public access to meetings alongside a practical way to administer the process.

Following a short debate and noting that any change to procedures would require the consent of Council, Members' also requested that this facility be further communicated to members of the public in the most practical manner.

Additional Recommendation

It was:

Moved by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Steve Williams

“That the provision in respect of public speaking, submission of public questions and statements is made known to members of the public by appropriate means.”

RESOLVED – That

(1) the report be noted;

(2) RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL that in respect to Standing Order 11.1 ‘Representations’ and in line with other provisions – the deadline for the public registering to speak be brought forward to no later than the midday three working days before the day of the meeting; and

(3) the provision in respect of public speaking, submission of public questions and statements is made known to members of the public by appropriate means.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 7 October 2020

Present: Councillor J Williamson (Chair)

Councillors T Anderson A Leech
C Carubia M McLaughlin
P Cleary J McManus
W Clements Y Nolan
P Gilchrist L Rennie
JE Green C Spriggs
EA Grey P Stuart
A Hodson T Usher

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new Policy and Resources Committee and then asked that the committee observe a minute's silence in tribute to the memory of former Councillor Bill Davies who had sadly passed away on 2 October, 2020.

2 APOLOGIES

No apologies had been received.

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and to state the nature of the interest.

Councillor Lesley Rennie declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 7 'Sale of Land at Arrowe Park Road, Upton' by virtue of being a member of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority.

Councillor Jeff Green declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 6 'Site of Rock Ferry High School – Sale to a Registered Provider' by virtue of being a former director of Magenta Living, which had a joint company with Torus.

4 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Chair reported that no questions from members of the public had been submitted.

Notice of representations had been received and two members of the public, Mr P Harrod and Mr T Watson, addressed the committee speaking against the proposed sale of land at Arrowe Park Road, Upton stating that more traffic, and therefore more pollution would be created at an already busy roundabout, if another supermarket were to be built for which there was no need, and which would be damaging to smaller businesses close by.

5 **SALE OF LAND AT ARROWE PARK ROAD, UPTON**

A Report by the Director of Regeneration and Place sought approval to amend a plan attached to an earlier decision to sell land at Arrowe Park Road, Upton.

David Armstrong, Assistant Chief Executive, introduced the report which was purely about the sale of land and did not concern itself with planning issues which would be a matter for another committee.

Prior to debating the item, Councillor Elizabeth Grey informed the committee that she had expressed very strong views about this matter, which could be seen as pre-determination so excused herself from the debate and any vote on the matter.

The Director of Law and Governance explained the matter of pre-determination in which a Member would have gone beyond expressing a strong view to the point at which they would no longer be coming at the issue with an open mind and in effect had said how they would vote.

The Committee then debated the matter at some length during which the Chair agreed to ward Councillor Jean Robinson addressing the meeting, speaking against the proposed sale of land. David Armstrong responded to a number of comments raised by Members.

Councillor Tom Usher moved, and it was seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart, that –

“The recommendations within the report be approved, with the addition of one further recommendation, that the Assistant Chief Executive report back to this Committee with a recommendation on a small amount of the capital receipts from this sale being ringfenced to support local projects in the area.”

An amendment to the recommendation was then moved by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, seconded by Councillor Chris Carubia, that –

“The additional triangular area shown near property 210 be not included in the sale.”

The amendment was put and lost (3:13).

The motion was put and carried (14:2).

Resolved (14:2) - That:

- (1) the public open space land edged red on the attached amended plan set out as Appendix 2 to this report at Arrowe Park Road, Upton (“the Site”), be declared surplus to Council requirements;**
- (2) the Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to agree a sale of the Site to Lidl GB Ltd. at £820,000 plus fees;**
- (3) the Site is appropriated from primarily residential use to planning purposes pursuant to Section 122 of the Local Government Act (LGA) 1972, and disposed of provided no objections are made;**
- (4) if the Site is appropriated as recommended that the Council will advertise the sale of the public open space as required by law;**
- (5) any objections to the appropriation and/or disposal be considered and determined by the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Chair of Policy and Resources Committee.**
- (6) the Assistant Chief Executive report back to this Committee with a recommendation on a small amount of the capital receipts from this sale being ringfenced to support local projects in the area.**

The Chair then adjourned the meeting at 7.35pm for 10 minutes.

The meeting resumed at 7.47pm.

6 SITE OF ROCK FERRY HIGH SCHOOL - SALE TO A REGISTERED PROVIDER

A report by the Director of Regeneration and Place sought approval of the sale of part of the site of the former Rock Ferry High School, Rock Ferry at a revised sale price, following an earlier decision to sell at Cabinet on 20 January 2020.

David Armstrong, Assistant Chief Executive, introduced the report which would enable a Registered Provider of social housing to develop 186 new affordable homes in the borough.

Resolved - That the Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Place, be authorised to negotiate and finalise a sale of part of the site of the former Rock Ferry High School, as defined at paragraph 3.3 of this report, to Torus62 Ltd

(Registered Society No RS007826) for £1,200,000 plus a contribution of £1,500 towards the Council's costs.

7 CAR PARKING CHARGES OPTIONS

A report by the Director of Neighbourhood Services informed Members of options to be considered for the reintroduction of the current car parking charges policy in Wirral in 2020/21 and alternative options for parking charges in 2021/22 and beyond.

Simon Fox, Assistant Director: Highways and Infrastructure, stated that in a normal year, the Council would receive £35,000 a week, but at current levels of parking of 40%, income would be around £14,200 and if charges were re-instated approximately £300,000 income could be achieved.

Many Members expressed concern at the prospect of re-introducing charges at a time when Covid cases were once again on the rise and many local businesses were struggling.

The Director of Resources commented that the loss of income from parking charges would not be able to be offset against any future possible capitalisation directive which the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government were being asked to approve, and that Members would need to ask officers to bring forward alternative savings to offset this.

On a motion by Councillor Jeff Green, seconded by Councillor Julie McManus, it was -

Resolved (16:1) - That:

- (1) this Policy and Resources Committee agrees not to re-introduce car parking charges at this time; and**
- (2) authorisation is given to the Director of Neighbourhoods to consult on the implications of the medium to long term options detailed in Appendix 1 of the report and a further report is brought to the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, as a matter of urgency, in the new year, with a particular emphasis on social inequalities and that in the meantime officers seek to find compensatory savings and that business traders are also consulted.**

8 APPOINTMENT OF SUB COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A report by the Director of Law and Governance advised the Committee, in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions and the terms of the Constitution, to appoint Members to the four Sub-Committees of the Policy and Resources Committee for 2020 / 2021, as follows:

- The Senior Officer Appointments and Staffing Sub-Committee
- The Local Plan Sub-Committee
- The Finance and Procurement Sub-Committee
- The Shareholder Board

Councillor Anita Leech suggested that, as with the current Local Plan Advisory Group, all political groups on the Council should be represented on the new Local Plan Sub-Committee. The Director of Law and Governance advised that a unanimous decision of Council would be required if it were to be removed from the political balance requirements.

Following a short debate it was moved by Councillor Anita Leech, seconded by Councillor Pat Cleary and then -

A. RECOMMENDED (unanimously) – That Council is requested to remove from political balance requirements in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Housing Act 1989, the Local Plan Steering Sub Committee, at section 1.7 of Part 3(B) of the constitution, so that it be constituted in a manner that reflects the membership of the Local Plan Advisory Group, being one member from each political group on the Council. It is noted that the Chair of the Sub-Committee has been appointed at the Annual Meeting of Council.

B. Resolved (unanimously) - That the Policy and Resources Committee:

- (1) (a) confirm that the Senior Officer Appointments and Staffing Sub-Committee be appointed for 2020-21 with the terms of reference identified and will consist of:
 - (i) the leader (Chair of Policy & Resources Committee), or in their absence the Deputy Leader (Vice-Chair), who shall chair the Sub-Committee;
 - (ii) a member from each of the other Political Groups represented on the Policy & Resources Committee; and
 - (iii) the Chair, or in their absence the Vice-Chair, of the Policy & Services Committee with terms of reference most closely associated with the post concerned (or if that committee concerned is deemed to be the Policy & Resources Committee then the Deputy Leader (Vice-Chair).
- (b) appoint Members to serve on the Senior Officer Appointments and Staffing Sub-Committee in 2020-21, including the appointment of the Chair and named deputies.

- (2) (a) confirm that the Finance Sub-Committee be appointed for 2020-21 with the terms of reference identified with 5 Members of the Policy and Resources Committee.
- (b) appoint Members to serve on the Finance and Procurement Sub-Committee in 2020-21, including the appointment of the Chair and named deputies.
- (3) (a) confirm that the Shareholder Board be appointed for 2020-21 with the terms of reference identified with 3 Members of the Policy and Resources Committee.
- (b) appoint Members to serve on the Shareholder Board in 2020-21, including the appointment of named deputies.
- (4) confirm that the Monitoring Officer as proper officer be authorised to carry out the wishes of the Leaders of Political Groups in allocating Members to membership and substitute membership of these sub-committees and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.

9 2020/21 & 2021/22 COVID-19 BUDGET POSITION STATEMENT

A report by the Director of Resources provided a summary of the Council's financial position following the Covid-19 pandemic. The report highlighted the impact on the Council's 2020/21 and 2021/22 budget following the onset of Covid-19 and the actions in place to mitigate the deficit. The report also described the support available from HM Treasury in mitigating the deficit and asked the Committee for approval to submit a formal application for support and highlighted the options available if this support was not forthcoming.

The report provided information on the additional government funding provided to support the Council's emergency response to Covid-19.

The Director of Resources responded to a number of comments and confirmed that each of the six policy committees would receive a budget report, though no proposals would be included as these were not fully formed yet. The report would contain the budget for each individual committee. There was a need to demonstrate to the MHCLG that the Council had a robust sustainable plan to mitigate any future losses including the staff to deliver on these, so not all non-statutory services would be put forward as potential savings.

Members expressed the view that a very bleak outlook was being painted in the report and of the need to protect communities against potentially

damaging cuts. There was also a need to be very cautious in the approach to how decisions on savings were made whilst the funding settlement figures from government were as yet unknown. There was a need to work together to support civic society.

The Chair referred to her meetings with other Combined Authority leaders and that they were all united in making representations to central government to help local government in giving the support to residents that they needed.

A. RECOMMENDED (unanimously) - To Council that an additional £99,731,884 be added to the budget for 2020/21 as a result of additional one off Government funding received since the 2020/21 budget was set on 2 March 2020 to either be spent or passported to support the emergency response to Covid-19 or returned to the Government by 31 March 2021, as described in Section 5 of the report.

B. Resolved (Unanimously) – That the Policy and Resources Committee supports the formal application to MHCLG to request a capitalisation directive from HM Treasury on the Council's behalf, as described in Section 6 of the report.

10 2021/22 BUDGET PROCESS

A report by the Director of Resources informed of the process for budget setting as a transition year for 2021/22 in the Committee Process. The report described the financial position for 2021/22 which as at Quarter 1 forecast a deficit of £45m, and the actions being put in place to mitigate the gap. The Director updated the Committee that since the report was written the forecast deficit could potentially be as much as £60m.

The report detailed how these actions included a phased approach of 5 stages and included the timeline for the 2021/22 budget setting process of when individual budget proposals were presented to the Policy and Services Committees to the recommendation for approval by the Policy and Resources Committee in February, to Full Council to set the 2021/22 budget.

Resolved - That the Policy and Resources Committee note the transition process for the 2021/22 budget setting process.

11 BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING

A report by the Director of Resources advised that through the development of Wirral Council's new Governance arrangements and the approval of the Wirral Plan 2025 (currently being refreshed to reflect strategic priorities, as a result of Covid-19) the Authority had committed to developing a budget and performance monitoring framework, which honoured the Council's dedication

to a more accountable, transparent way of conducting business, policy formation and decision making.

The report proposed that the Performance Framework was modelled on the Covid Dashboard set up at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic. The Committee were advised how this would enable clear and accessible data to be presented in a timely and meaningful way.

The report informed that there were a very wide range of data sets that could be included in the Dashboard, and it was proposed that the specific selection would be co-created with members to ensure it was of most relevance and benefit to members.

Resolved - That the Policy and Resources Committee request the Director of Resources to schedule a Members' Workshop to enable members to identify, shape and own the performance data and information presented in future reports.

12 **WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

A report by the Director of Law and Governance, advised how the Policy and Resources Committee, in co-operation with the other Policy and Service Committees was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. The work programme should align with corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions that were in the remit of this Committee.

It was envisaged that the work programme would be formed from a combination of key decisions, standing items and requested officer reports. The report provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. The work programme for the Policy and Resources Committee was attached as an appendix to the report.

Resolved - That the proposed Policy and Resources Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year, be noted.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 11 November 2020

Present: Councillor J Williamson (Chair)

Councillors A Leech C Spriggs
JE Green T Usher
P Gilchrist T Anderson
P Cleary W Clements
M McLaughlin A Hodson
J McManus L Rennie
Y Nolan C Carubia
P Stuart

Deputy: Councillor J Robinson (In place of EA Grey)

13 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

14 **APOLOGIES**

The Chair announced that apologies had been received from Councillor Elizabeth Grey, and Councillor Jean Robinson was deputising for her.

15 **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and any other relevant interest and to state the nature of the interest.

Councillor Moira McLaughlin declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 6 'The Provision of Food and Other Activities for Children in School Holidays during the Covid-19 Pandemic' by virtue of her being a trustee of Feeding Birkenhead, Supporting Wirral and the Citizens Supermarket.

Councillor Julie McManus declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 'The Provision of Food and Other Activities for Children in School Holidays during the Covid-19 Pandemic' by virtue of her work with the Little Centre Beechwood and her membership of the Gautby Road Play and Community Centre Joint Management Committee.

16 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 October, 2020, be approved and adopted as a correct record.

17 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Chair reported that no questions from either members of the public or Members had been submitted. Nor were there any statements or petitions to receive.

18 THE PROVISION OF FOOD AND ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL HOLIDAYS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Chair introduced this item and referred to the Government's recent reversal of its policy on provision of free school meals during school holidays, which had occurred after this report had been written and published.

The Director for Children, Families and Education, Paul Boyce, provided the Committee with an overview of the provision of free school meals (FSM) in school holidays during the Covid-19 emergency pandemic since March. The report also sets out proposals for the funding of FSM between Christmas and the end of the Easter holidays in 2021 and recommended a process for the development of a sustainable approach to the provision of FSM and support to eligible children in the medium and longer term.

With regard to the recent Government announcement he confirmed that there would be three separate funding streams:

- A Winter grant of £1.224m (from a £170m grant for English local authorities) for food, heating and wider support from Christmas to Easter for poorer families, including vulnerable families with children receiving FSM.
- A Holiday Activities and Food Programme of £220m, distributed between English local authorities to run from Easter to Christmas 2021.
- An extension to the 'Healthy Start' programme for low income pregnant women and those with children under 4, with an increase from £3.10 to £4.25 a week from April 2021.

Paul Boyce suggested that, as greater clarity with regard to the newly announced Government funding streams was yet to be provided, it would be prudent to agree the recommendations and set aside the £200,000 Tranche 4 of Government Covid-19 funding, as detailed in the report.

The Committee debated the matter at some length and expressed their gratitude to all those community groups, including Feeding Birkenhead, involved in supporting vulnerable residents. Members also acknowledged the support required by residents struggling in all areas of the borough, including more affluent areas and the need to consider support for families where children were not necessarily in receipt of FSM.

On a motion by Councillor Julie McManus, seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, it was -

Resolved – That,

- (1) the proposal to provide funding for Free School Meals (FSM) during school holidays up until the end of 2021 Easter holidays, be agreed.**
- (2) the Children, Young People and Education Committee be asked to develop proposals for consideration by the Policy and Resources Committee on a sustainable approach for the provision of FSM and support to eligible children in the medium and long term, including children who are not necessarily in receipt of FSM.**

19 **COMMUNITY LAND TRUST LTD - TRANSFER OF 78-80 NEW CHESTER ROAD, NEW FERRY**

David Armstrong, Assistant Chief Executive, introduced a report from the Director of Regeneration and Place which sought approval to dispose of the freehold interest of 78-80 New Chester Road, New Ferry, at nominal value, to New Ferry Community Land Trust Limited (CLT), following the refurbishment and renovation of the property. This followed the purchase of the property on behalf of the CLT for the purposes of carrying out a scheme of refurbishment to bring the building back into use, using the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Combined Authority Town Centre Fund.

The Chair thanked David Armstrong and all the officers involved in the work at New Ferry and commented that all the ward councillor were supportive of this proposal.

Resolved - That the Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Place, be authorised to enter into a legal agreement with New Ferry Community Land Trust Ltd which requires the property to be renovated and refurbished to an acceptable standard, following which, the freehold of the property will be transferred to the CLT at nominal consideration, subject to the recipient meeting agreed conditions.

20 **ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOCAL PLAN WORKING GROUP**

Vicki Shaw, Head of Legal Services, introduced a report from the Director of Law and Governance on the establishment of a Local Plan Steering Sub-Committee along with a Local Plan Working Group with the same membership.

The Committee, at its previous meeting on 7 October, 2020 had resolved to recommend to Council that, as with the previous Local Plan Advisory Group,

all political groups on the Council should be represented on the new Local Plan Sub-Committee. This recommendation was unanimously approved by Council, at its meeting on 19 October, 2020. This was on the understanding that the membership of the Working Group would mirror that of the Local Plan Steering Sub-Committee.

The Local Plan Working Group would enable a continuation of the detailed consideration, guidance and support for the production of the Wirral Local Plan previously undertaken by the former Local Plan Member Advisory Group.

On a motion by Councillor Anita Leech, seconded by the Chair, it was -

Resolved – That,

- (1) the Local Plan Working Group be established with the Terms of Reference as attached to the Director’s report at Appendix 1, subject to an amendment to the quorum required being three and not four Members;**
- (2) the Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members of the Policy and Resources Committee to membership and substitute membership of the Local Plan Steering Sub-Committee and the Local Plan Working Group and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members;**
- (3) for clarity, both the Sub-Committee and Working Group will be time limited until the adoption of the Local Plan by the Council.**

21 2020/21 REVENUE BUDGET MONITOR FOR QUARTER TWO (APR - SEP)

Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources, introduced a report which provided a summary of the projected year-end revenue position as at the end of Quarter 2 (September 2020) of the 2020/21 financial year, including:

- the financial risk profile presented by the COVID-19 pandemic
- a review of pressures and savings contained within the original budget position and
- an update to the Medium Term Financial Plan.

The year-end forecast recorded as part of September’s financial monitoring activity represented an adverse variance to revenue budget of £24.074m; this comprised:

- £21.448m adverse forecast variance in relation to revenue budget, stemming largely from matters arising through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- £2.480m forecast deficit on expected capital receipts, which support the revenue budget position via flexible use of capital receipts and;
- £0.145m gap in direct COVID-19 funding against forecast requirements.

The Government had recently announced further funding for Wirral of £5.428m for a Tranche 4 allocation, and £9.3m mitigations for Sales, Fees and Charges losses, which the Council was awaiting receipt.

The Council's financial position remained challenging and to a certain degree uncertain, with work underway to develop response activity following the initiation of Tier 3 status in the Liverpool City Region whilst details of the forthcoming Spending Round were awaited in relation to 2021/22 funding.

The financial position was fluid and developing with the government having stated its continuing support to the sector. That said, the Council continued to limit spending to essential areas of service delivery only and Corporate Directors were supported to mitigate the risk of overspending.

Shaer Halewood responded to a number of comments and questions from Members and agreed that she would circulate the letter which the Chief Executive had received from the Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton, in which concern had been expressed over the Council's financial position. She acknowledged the difficulties arising from the one year budget settlement which was due to be given on 25 November. Nothing had yet been received in writing from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government on the capitalisation directive application which had been submitted in the sum of £63.5m covering this year and next, 2020/21 and 2021/22, with an indicative plan to achieve this sum over the next five years based around outcomes for residents.

During the debate on this item, Members expressed their thanks to the Director of Children, Education and Families, all his staff and the two previous Cabinet portfolio holders for Children's and Families, following the recent announcement that Children's Services had now been brought out of special measures.

Paul Boyce, in response to a Member's comment, agreed that he would circulate a response on the number of children with special needs in residential care and where they had been placed and the alternative residential provision being pursued.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Anita Leech, it was -

A. Resolved - That the Policy and Resources Committee:

- (1) notes the year-end forecast position at Quarter 2 of £24.074m adverse;**
- (2) notes the risks posed to delivering on the savings proposals within the 2020-21 budget;**
- (3) notes the impact of funding and expenditure as a direct consequence of COVID-19, including the additional funding sources which have been identified, but as yet, not received;**
- (4) notes the revisions to the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2020-2025.**

B. RECOMMENDED - To Council the increased budget in relation to Covid-19 funding of £42.538m, which is for Council use and note the additional £132.793m of funds that is to be made available to the Council for onward relay to other organisations as passported funding; a total sum of £175.33m is therefore the combined Covid-19 funding being received by the Council based on current information. This recommendation supersedes the recommendation made by Policy and Resources Committee on 7 October, following the recent notification of additional funding.

The Chair then adjourned the meeting at 7.45pm for 10 minutes.

The meeting resumed at 7.58pm.

22 CAPITAL MONITORING QUARTER 2 2020/21

Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources, provided an update on the progress of the Capital Programme 2020/21 at the end of September 2020. The report recommended that the Committee agree the revised 2020/21 Capital Programme of £95.1 million which took account of re-profiling, virements, additional funding requirements and grant variations identified since the Capital Programme was formally agreed on 2 March 2020.

Shaer Halewood responded to a number of comments in respect of some of the schemes to receive additional funding and David Armstrong, Assistant Chief Executive, clarified the position with regard to the reasons for additional expenditure from virements required for the West Kirby Sailing School.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Jeff Green, it was -

A. RECOMMENDED –

(1) to Council the approval of additional funding for the schemes detailed in paragraph 3.5 of the report as follows:

- Children’s System Rationalisation - £0.826m (over a three year period)
- Tree Strategy Delivery - £0.208m (over a four year period)
- Allotments Sites Expansion - £0.127m
- Birkenhead Temporary Market Pre-Development Costs - £50,000
- Concerto Development Asset Management System - £42,000 (over a two year period)
- Capitalisation of Salaries - £0.5m

(2) to Council the approval of the revised Capital Programme of £95.1 million for 2020-21, including the virements referred to in paragraph 3.7 of the report.

B. Resolved – That this Committee agrees that the outcome of the on-going review and reprofiling of the Capital Programme is reported to members in the next quarterly capital monitoring report.

23 **COUNCIL TAX BASE REPORT 2021/2022 (TAX BASE, DISCOUNTS AND EXEMPTIONS AND LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME)**

A report by the Director of Resources brought together related issues regarding the proposed Council Tax Base for 2021/22 upon which the annual billing and Council Tax levels would be set; the proposed Council Tax Discounts including Local Discounts, exemptions for 2021/22 and the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme to be used during 2021/22. These needed to be approved by Council by 31 January 2021.

RECOMMENDED - To Council the following:

- (1) The figure of 94,198.6 be approved as the Council Tax Base for 2021/22 subject to the items below being approved;
- (2) The level and award of each local discount for 2021/22 be:

Wirral Women’s & Children’s Aid

To continue to award Wirral Women & Children’s Aid 100% discount. This remains unchanged from 2020/21.

Care Leaver's Discount

To award Care Leavers the requisite discount to reduce their Council Tax liability to zero until they are 25. This remains unchanged from 2020/21.

Empty Property Discounts

Discount category D = 0% Full charge on properties undergoing renovations.

Discount category C = 0% Full charge on empty properties from date they become unoccupied.

Both remain unchanged from 2020/21.

Empty Property Premium = 100% (200% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty for more than two years. 200% (300% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty more than five years. 300% (400% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty more than ten years.

Council Tax Discretionary Hardship Relief Scheme

The Council Tax Discretionary Hardship Relief Scheme, approved by Cabinet in October 2013, continues in its current format for 2021/2022. The Scheme offers help and assistance in exceptional cases of hardship.

(3) Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS)

The Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, be the approved Scheme for 2021/2022. This remains unchanged from 2020/21 apart from the following:

- a. Where an entitlement to the Care Leaver Discount/Exemption has ceased, Local Council Tax Reduction to be awarded without the need for a further application where their eligibility is known.
- b. The scheme is aligned to all of the DWP's upratings and changes for Housing Benefit and Universal Credit.

24 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2020/21

A report by the Director of Resources advised that the Authority's treasury management activity was underpinned by CIPFA's Code of Practice on

Treasury Management (“the Code”), which required the production of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement on likely financing and investment activity. The Code also recommended that Members were informed of treasury management activities at least twice a year.

The report fulfilled the Authority’s legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Investment Guidance.

Whilst in past years Treasury Management had generated savings against budget the COVID situation had contributed to the current forecast being:

- A projected overspend of £2.3 million on Treasury activities was presented at the midyear point, which was attributable to 2020/21 budget savings that were considered to be of a high risk of not being achieved due to implementation delays emanating from COVID response activity and significant changes in interest rates on investments.

In response to a Member’s comment, the Director agreed to supply further information in respect of where the consultation, ‘Future Lending Terms’ (paragraph 3.36 of the report) was up to.

Resolved - That the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report for 2020/21 be noted.

25 **WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

A report by the Director of Law and Governance advised how the Committee, in co-operation with the other Policy and Service Committees, was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which were within the remit of the Committee.

It was envisaged that the work programme will be formed from a combination of key decisions, standing items and requested officer reports. The report provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. The work programme for the Committee was attached as an appendix to the report.

Resolved – That the proposed Policy and Resources Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year, be noted.

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ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 13 October 2020

Present: Councillor Y Nolan (Chair)

Councillors B Berry S Frost
D Burgess-Joyce P Gilchrist
K Cannon (In place of S Jones) M Jordan
M Collins M McLaughlin
T Cottier T Usher

1 APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

2 MEMBER DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

The following declarations were made:

Councillor Tony Cottier	Personal interest by virtue of his wife's employment as a nurse at Claire House.
Councillor Mary Jordan	Personal interest by virtue of employment within the NHS; and involvement a Trustee for 'Incubabies' a charity raising funds for the neonatal unit at Arrowe Park; and her son's employment as a GP.
Councillor Tom Usher	Pecuniary interest in matters relating to the real living wage item by virtue of his employment with Autism Together – Cllr Usher indicated he would leave the meeting at the appropriate time, and would not take part in discussions.

3 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Head of Legal Services informed the Adult Social Care and Health Committee that no Public questions, or requests to make a statement had been received.

4 UPDATE ON WIRRAL COVID-19 OUTBREAK CONTROL PLAN

Julie Webster, Director of Public Health for Wirral submitted a report and provided the Adult Social Care and Health Committee with an update on the implementation of the Wirral COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan to date. The

appendix to the report provided the COVID-19 weekly surveillance Report (25 September 2020).

The report informed that on 22 May the government had asked all councils to develop local COVID-19 outbreak plans. Wirral's local outbreak plan gave an overview of how Wirral would Keep Wirral Well and could be found on the Wirral Council website:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/Health%20and%20social%20care/Health%20in%20Wirral/Coronavirus/COVID-19%20Outbreak%20Management%20Plan%20for%20Wirral.pdf>

It was reported that the Outbreak Plan set out how this target would be implemented and outlined the three key principles that formed the basis of the Plan namely to prevent, control and manage outbreaks of COVID-19.

Since the publication of the plan 7 priority actions - Intelligence and Surveillance, Care Homes and Schools, High Risk Workplaces, Communities and Locations, Local Testing Capacity, Contact Tracing in Complex Settings, Vulnerable People and Communication & Engagement - had been progressed. A summary of key progress was provided in the report.

Members questioned the Director of Public Health on a number of matters that included actions relating to Care Homes, Ethnicity and Track and Trace arrangements for Wirral. Further questions followed on the subjects of procedures in respect of asymptomatic individuals attending A&E and actions being taken to tackle the backlog of issues arising from the period of lockdown earlier in the year. The Director responded accordingly.

Moved by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, seconded by Councillor Moira McLaughlin, it was:

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report the progress made to date be noted and the ongoing COVID-19 response be supported.

5 DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY

Elizabeth Hartley, Assistant Director Early Help and Prevention, introduced the report of the Director of Children, Family and Education that provided Members with an introduction to the 5-year partnership strategy, *Domestic abuse - No excuse*. Appendix 1 to the report contained Domestic abuse – No excuse Strategy 2020-25 and Appendix 2 contained the Domestic abuse – No excuse Delivery Plan 2020-25.

The report provided an overview of the co-production process, strategic priorities, delivery plan, and phased approach to reducing domestic abuse whilst improving support for people affected. The report and strategy were aligned to the priorities of Wirral Council's Plan 2025:

- Working for brighter futures for our children, young people and their families by breaking the cycle of poor outcomes and raising the aspirations of every child in Wirral.

- Working for safe and pleasant communities where our residents feel safe, and where they want to live and raise their families.

Members were informed that in Wirral during the period 01 February 2019 to 21 January 2020, there had been 8,410 individuals known to have been affected by domestic abuse. This included 2,786 who were victims, 2,844 perpetrators and 2,780 children who had been referred to Children's Services due to being impacted by domestic abuse. These individuals required access to a co-ordinated, accessible and effective support offer, which the partnership domestic abuse strategy would enable.

The report highlighted that domestic abuse was an important issue for all public services, with far-reaching implications and high cost to both the public purse and life chances. A strategic approach to reduce the prevalence and impact of domestic abuse in Wirral required a strong partnership strategy and delivery plan.

Members were further informed that the previous partnership strategy, Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse, had been one of a suite of pledge strategies relating to the Wirral Plan 2020, which had now reached its conclusion.

Members noted that there was a requirement to build on the work of the previous strategy with a new approach aligned to the Wirral Plan 2025.

Members questioned the Assistant Director Early Help and Prevention on a number of matters highlighted in her report. The Assistant Director responded accordingly.

Moved by Councillor Tom Usher, seconded by Councillor Samantha Frost, it was:

RESOLVED – That

- 1) the partnership strategy '*Domestic abuse - No excuse*' be supported; and**
- 2) the partnership delivery plan be noted and endorsed.**

6 2021/22 BUDGET PROCESS

Graham Hodgkinson, Director of Adult Care and Health introduced his report that provided the Adult Social Care and Health Committee with details of the process for budget setting as a transition year for 2021/22 and described the financial position for 2021/22, which as at Quarter 1 was deficit of £45m, and the actions being put in place to mitigate the gap.

These actions included a 5 STAGE phased approach and included the timeline for the 2021/22 budget setting process when budget proposals were presented to the Policy and Resources Committee for the recommendation to Full Council to set the 2021/22 budget.

Members were apprised that as this was a transition year, proposals had been identified and would continue to be presented to the Committee by Officers. The Committee was however encouraged to identify its own proposals for Officers to work up, if within the timescale, to be included for the 2021/22 Budget. For future years this would become the usual process and throughout the year the Committee would be identifying proposals for Officers to work up for the following years budget. Members noted that a workshop session in respect of the budget was scheduled to take place at the conclusion of the formal committee meeting.

Following presentation of his report, Members questioned the Director of Adult Care and Health on a number of matters as highlighted in his report. The Director responded accordingly.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION

With the aim of ensuring that an 'invest to save' approach to budget setting be taken, an additional recommendation was proposed.

Moved by Councillor Tom Usher
Seconded by Councillor Samantha Fox

'That Committee wishes to highlight the importance of social care and health services at this particular time. Committee express its support for a budget process that takes into account the statutory nature of these services and the difficulty in making budget reductions without more costly demand pressures occurring subsequently. For these reasons, this Committee will make budget proposals based on "invest to save" principles and delivering our services differently rather than budget reductions, and we ask Policy and Resources Committee to support the decisions of this Committee; and

This Committee is acutely aware of the extreme budgetary pressures on all services and as such proposes that the budget consultation is more widely advertised to capture a greater understanding from all stakeholders' opinions and concerns.'

Councillor Moira McLaughlin expressed concerns with regard to the proposed recommendation, suggesting a possible alternative in so far as:

'That Committee recognises the extraordinary difficulties in the producing a budget and also fully understands the demands of statutory services. Through the workshops members will take every opportunity to explore areas and will produce a report which sets out the views of the committee at the appropriate time.'

AMENDMENT TO ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION

Councillor Phil Gilchrist suggested a possible solution to address Members concerns by removal of words from Councillor Usher's initial proposal until the budget workshops had taken place. Councillor Moira McLaughlin agreed that this would be an appropriate and acceptable solution and agreed to withdraw her suggested alternative wording.

Moved by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Moira McLaughlin

REMOVE THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

‘For these reasons, this Committee will make budget proposals based on “invest to save” principles and delivering our services differently rather than budget reductions, and we ask Policy & Resources Committee to support the decisions of this Committee.’

VOTING

At this point, and Councillor Usher registered his disappointment and rejected the proposed amendment. As a result series of votes were undertaken.

Amendment to additional recommendation moved by Councillor Gilchrist

- 6 votes for
- 5 votes against

The amendment was therefore carried.

Substantive motion (i.e. additional recommendation as amended)

- 10 votes for
- 1 vote against

The substantive motion was therefore carried. Namely:

‘That Committee wishes to highlight the importance of social care and health services at this particular time. Committee express its support for a budget process that takes into account the statutory nature of these services and the difficulty in making budget reductions without more costly demand pressures occurring subsequently; and

This Committee is acutely aware of the extreme budgetary pressures on all services and as such proposes that the budget consultation is more widely advertised to capture a greater understanding from all stakeholders’ opinions and concerns.’

RESOLVED – That

- 1) the Council’s current financial position and process for the 2021/22 budget in this transition year be noted;**
- 2) committee wishes to highlight the importance of social care and health services at this particular time. Committee express its support for a budget process that takes into account the statutory nature of these services and the difficulty in making budget**

reductions without more costly demand pressures occurring subsequently; and

- 3) this Committee is acutely aware of the extreme budgetary pressures on all services and as such proposes that the budget consultation is more widely advertised to capture a greater understanding from all stakeholders' opinions and concerns.**

7 BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Jason Oxley, Assistant Director Care and Health, and Commissioning for People introduce the report of the Director of Adult Care and Health that informed that through the development of Wirral Council's new Governance arrangements and the approval of the Wirral Plan 2025 (currently being refreshed to reflect strategic priorities, as a result of Covid-19) the Authority had committed to developing a budget and performance monitoring framework, which honoured the Council's dedication to a more accountable, transparent way of conducting business, policy formation and decision making. The Adult Social Care and Health Performance Report Q2 2020/21 was attached as an appendix to the report.

It was proposed that the Performance Framework be modelled on the Covid Dashboard set up at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic. This would enable clear and accessible data to be presented in a timely and meaningful way.

Members noted that there were a very wide range of data sets that could be included in the Dashboard, and it was proposed that the specific selection would be co-created with members to ensure it was of most relevance and benefit to members.

Aligned with this, the Wirral Plan 2025 was currently being refreshed to reflect the Covid-19 situation and emerging Recovery Plans. This Plan would set out what the Council could commit to delivering over the next 5 years. Wirral's public services: the Wirral Partnership had a shared duty to improve the quality of life for residents and the report set out the ambition for the Borough including its economy, residents and services.

The Director's report further set out the ambition for:

- A prosperous, inclusive economy where local people could get good jobs and achieve their aspirations.
- A sustainable borough that was not only environmentally friendly but one which played its part in urgently responding to the environment and climate crisis
- Brighter futures for young people and families – regardless of their background or where they live
- Safe, vibrant communities where people want to live and raise their families.
- Services which help people live happy, healthy, independent, and active lives, with public services there to support them when they need it.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director Care and Health, and Commissioning for People for his report.

Moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Tom Usher, it was:

Resolved – That

- 1) to ensure that Governance in Wirral allows for open, transparent, and responsive decision making, robust performance and budget monitoring be incorporated to ensure that the individual policy and service committees have sufficient oversight of these areas; and**
- 2) discussions take place with the Committee Chair and Group Spokesperson in early November, as part of pre-briefing meetings, with the aim to take forward the outcomes of the P&R Committee workshop on Performance and Budget reports, so that they can be further shaped for the purposes of the Adult, Social Care and Health Committee.**

8 ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT

Members gave consideration to the report of the Director of Law and Governance that set out the proposed Adult Social Care and Health Committee Work Programme 2020/21 as detailed in the appendix to the report.

The report informed that the Adult Social Care and Health Committee, in co-operation with the other Policy and Service Committees, was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which are within the remit of the Committee.

It was envisaged that the work programme will be formed from a combination of key decisions, standing items and requested officer reports. The report provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. The work programme for the Adult Social Care and Health Committee was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Chair informed that in the current unprecedented times, it would be advisable to retain flexibility. A Member that suggested consideration be given to incorporating work to investigate protected characteristics and under represented groups, another noted that improvement into the standards in Care Homes remain a focus.

It was noted that all suggestions would be prioritised by the Chair and Party Spokespersons.

Moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Moira McLaughlin, it was:

RESOLVED - That the proposed Adult Social Care and Health Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year be noted.

9 **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER CHAMPION FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE**

Members gave consideration to the report of the Director of Law and Governance that informed of the procedures and background to the appointment of a Member Champion in relation to matters concerning Domestic Abuse.

At Annual Council on 28 September 2020, Elected Members had approved the new constitution and endorsed the appointment of Member Champions in order that it could benefit from the experience, knowledge and interests of Committee Members in particular thematic areas.

It had been agreed that Council and Committees may approach individual Members to take on a specific role to highlight and enhance an area of that Committee or the Council's terms of reference:

- (i) The Council or Committee holding the corresponding functions within its terms of reference may appoint a Member Champion from one of their number. This may be the Chair or any other member of the Committee.
- (ii) Where the subject of a Member Champion covers functions across the terms of reference of more than one Committee, the Committees may jointly appoint the Member Champion from either of their Committees' number.

The report further set out the role of a Member Champion who would become a focus for the Council and Committee, partners, stakeholders and communities.

It was moved by Councillor Tom Usher, and seconded by Councillor Samantha Frost, that Councillor Yvonne Nolan be appointed as Member Champion in relation to matters concerning domestic abuse.

No other nominations were received. It was therefore:

RESOLVED – That Councillor Yvonne Nolan be appointed Member Champion in relation to matters concerning Domestic Abuse.

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 20 October 2020

Present: Councillor W Clements (Chair)

Councillors K Cannon S Spoor
C Carubia P Stuart
M McLaughlin T Usher
Cherry Povall A Wright
J Robinson

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed Members of the Children, Young People and Education Committee, Officers and viewing members of the public to the online, virtual meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

A roll call of Councillors was undertaken by the Head of Legal Services. All Members of the Committee recorded as present.

3 MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

The following declarations were made:

Councillor Sarah Spoor	Personal interest by virtue of her parent representative on PCPW, a parent support group and her employment in a Liverpool City Region school.
Councillor Alison Wright	Personal interest by virtue of her membership of St Bridget's Educational Trust
Councillor Chris Carubia	Personal interest by virtue of his position as Chair of Governors of a Primary School.
Legal Advice	The Head of Legal Services informed the Committee that given that the majority of Elected Members would hold positions as School Governors at Wirral Schools, it was personal choice should they wish to individually declare. The Chair further advised the Committee that give such appointments were recorded on the Council Website, under Members Registers of Interest, Councillors need not formally declare at this or subsequent meetings, unless they wished.

4 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Head of Legal Services informed the Children, Young People and Education Committee that no Public questions, or requests to make a statement had been received.

5 EARLY HELP MODEL

Elizabeth Hartley, Assistant Director Early Help and Prevention, introduced the report of the Director of Children, Family and Education that provided the Children, Young People and Education Committee with an overview of the developing early help model. It provided details of insight work undertaken in the first year of the Community Matters initiative, described the emerging model and its key components, relationship to the wider children's services system and outlined the year two work plan and pilot activity. Appendix 1 to the report contained the Year 1 Discovery Work Plan, Appendix 2 - Why Community Matters report, Appendix 3 - Next Steps summary and Appendix 4 - Elements of the Early Help Model.

The report informed that the early help model sought to contribute to the following priorities of Wirral Council's Plan 2025:

- Working for brighter futures for children, young people and their families by breaking the cycle of poor outcomes and raising the aspirations of every child in Wirral.
- Working for safe and pleasant communities where residents feel safe, and where they want to live and raise their families.

The Assistant Director Early Help and Prevention highlighted the most important piece of learning from Year 1 had been that stakeholders perceive early help as 'a service', something that was 'accessed' and 'delivered to' children and families, rather than something that we can all do. Stakeholders perceived early help as sitting in the third ring, *Support Services Network*. It was the intention of the new model to push early help into the inner rings of *Child and Family Network* and *Community Network*, through a model based on influencing behaviour change.

Members questioned the Assistant Director Early Help and Prevention on a number of matters highlighted in her report. The Assistant Director responded accordingly.

Moved by Councillor Tom Usher and formally seconded by the Chair, it was:

RESOLVED – That

- 1) **the progress made since January 2019, through the Community Matters initiative, to develop an innovative new early help model be noted; and**

2) the approach and ongoing developmental work and pilot activity be supported.

6 DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY

Elizabeth Hartley, Assistant Director Early Help and Prevention, introduced the report of the Director of Children, Family and Education that provided Members with an introduction to the 5-year partnership strategy, *Domestic abuse - No excuse*. Appendix 1 to the report contained Domestic abuse – No excuse Strategy 2020-25 and Appendix 2 contained the Domestic abuse – No excuse Delivery Plan 2020-25.

The report provided an overview of the co-production process, strategic priorities, delivery plan, and phased approach to reducing domestic abuse whilst improving support for people affected. The report and strategy were aligned to the priorities of Wirral Council's Plan 2025:

- Working for brighter futures for our children, young people and their families by breaking the cycle of poor outcomes and raising the aspirations of every child in Wirral.
- Working for safe and pleasant communities where our residents feel safe, and where they want to live and raise their families.

Members were informed that in Wirral during the period 01 February 2019 to 21 January 2020, there had been 8,410 individuals known to have been affected by domestic abuse. This included 2,786 who were victims, 2,844 perpetrators and 2,780 children who had been referred to Children's Services due to being impacted by domestic abuse. These individuals required access to a co-ordinated, accessible and effective support offer, which the partnership domestic abuse strategy would enable.

The report highlighted that domestic abuse was an important issue for all public services, with far-reaching implications and high cost to both the public purse and life chances. A strategic approach to reduce the prevalence and impact of domestic abuse in Wirral required a strong partnership strategy and delivery plan.

Members were further informed that the previous partnership strategy, Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse, had been one of a suite of pledge strategies relating to the Wirral Plan 2020, which had now reached its conclusion.

Members noted that there was a requirement to build on the work of the previous strategy with a new approach aligned to the Wirral Plan 2025.

Members questioned the Assistant Director Early Help and Prevention on a number of matters highlighted in her report. The Assistant Director responded accordingly.

The Children, Young People and Education Committee expressed their full support of the strategy and thanked the officer for all the work that had been undertaken, requesting that further updates be provided to this Committee at the appropriate time.

Moved by Councillor Tom Usher, seconded by Councillor Kate Cannon, it was:

RESOLVED – That

- 1) the partnership strategy '*Domestic abuse - No excuse*' be supported;
- 2) the partnership delivery plan be noted and endorsed; and
- 3) the partnership strategy be brought back to this committee at appropriate stages of review and implementation.

7 **2021/22 BUDGET PROCESS**

Paul Boyce, Director of Children, Families and Education introduced his report that provided the Children, Young People and Education Committee with details of the process for budget setting as a transition year for 2021/22 and described the financial position for 2021/22, which as at Quarter 1 was deficit of £45m, and the actions being put in place to mitigate the gap.

These actions included a 5 STAGE phased approach and included the timeline for the 2021/22 budget setting process when budget proposals were presented to the Policy and Resources Committee for the recommendation to Full Council to set the 2021/22 budget.

Members were apprised that as this was a transition year, proposals had been identified and would continue to be presented to the Committee by Officers. The Committee was however encouraged to identify its own proposals for Officers to work up, if within the timescale, to be included for the 2021/22 Budget. For future years this would become the usual process and throughout the year the Committee would be identifying proposals for Officers to work up for the following years budget. Members noted that a workshop session in respect of the budget was scheduled to take place at the conclusion of the formal committee meeting.

Following presentation of his report, Members questioned the Director of Children, Families and Education on a number of matters as highlighted in his report. The Director responded accordingly.

Moved by the Chair, seconded in a number of places, it was:

RESOLVED – That the Council's current financial position and process for the 2021/22 budget in this transition year be noted.

8 **BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

Paul Boyce, Director of Children, Families and Education introduced the report of the Assistant Director: Corporate Office that Members gave consideration to a report that informed that through the development of Wirral Council's new Governance arrangements and the approval of the Wirral Plan 2025 (currently being refreshed to reflect strategic priorities, as a result of Covid-19) the Authority had committed to developing a budget and

performance monitoring framework, which honoured the Council's dedication to a more accountable, transparent way of conducting business, policy formation and decision making. The Adult Social Care and Health Performance Report Q2 2020/21 was attached as an appendix to the report.

It was proposed that the Performance Framework be modelled on the Covid Dashboard set up at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic. This would enable clear and accessible data to be presented in a timely and meaningful way. There was a very wide range of data sets that could be included in the Dashboard, and it was proposed that the specific selection would be co-created with members to ensure it was of most relevance and benefit to members.

This was aligned with this is the Wirral Plan 2025. The Plan was currently being refreshed to reflect the Covid-19 situation and emerging Recovery Plans. This Plan would set out what the Council could commit to delivering over the next 5 years. Wirral's public services: the Wirral Partnership had a shared duty to improve the quality of life for residents and the report set out the ambition for the Borough including its economy, residents and services. The report set out the ambition for:

- A prosperous, inclusive economy where local people could get good jobs and achieve their aspirations.
- A sustainable borough that was not only environmentally friendly but one which played its part in urgently responding to the environment and climate crisis
- Brighter futures for young people and families – regardless of their background or where they live
- Safe, vibrant communities where people want to live and raise their families
- Services which help people live happy, healthy, independent, and active lives, with public services there to support them when they need it.

Moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Moira McLaughlin, it was:

RESOLVED – That

- 1) to ensure that Governance in Wirral allows for open, transparent, and responsive decision making the decision that robust performance and budget monitoring be incorporated to ensure that the individual policy and service committees have sufficient oversight of these areas be agreed.**
- 2) discussions take place with the Committee Chair and Group Spokesperson in early November as part of pre-briefing meetings with the aim to take forward the outcomes of the P&R Committee workshop on Performance and Budget reports, so that they can be further shaped for the purposes of the Children, Young People and Education Committee.**

9 **CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Members gave consideration to the report of the Director of Law and Governance that set out the proposed Children, Young People and Education Committee Work Programme 2020/21 as detailed in the appendix to the report.

The report informed that the Children, Young People and Education Committee, in co-operation with the other Policy and Service Committees, was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which are within the remit of the Committee.

It was envisaged that the work programme will be formed from a combination of key decisions, standing items and requested officer reports. The report provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. The work programme for the Children, Young People and Education Committee was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Chair informed that in the current unprecedented times, it would be advisable to retain flexibility. A Member that suggested consideration be given to incorporating work to cover the Council's response to Covid-19 and impact on families, a poverty strategy, food and clothing, loan sharks and issues arising from performance reviews.

It was noted that all suggestions would be prioritised by the Chair and Party Spokespersons.

Moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Tom Usher, it was:

RESOLVED - That the proposed Children, Young People and Education Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year be noted

ECONOMY REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 27 October 2020

Present: Councillor A Leech (Chair)

Councillors	A Hodson	T Jones
	J Bird	D Mitchell
	D Burgess-Joyce	J Stapleton
	A Gardner	G Wood
	S Hayes	

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee.

2 APOLOGIES

No apologies had been received.

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and / or any other relevant interest and to state the nature of the interest.

Councillor Tony Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of his membership of the Wirral Growth Company Board.

4 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Chair reported that no questions or statements from members of the public had been submitted.

5 2021/22 BUDGET PROCESS

The Director of Regeneration and Place introduced a report on the budget setting process in this transition year to a committee system of governance for 2021/22 and described the financial position for 2021/22 which, as at Quarter 1, showed a deficit of £45m, and the actions being put in place to mitigate the gap.

These actions included a phased approach of five stages and also the timeline for the 2021/22 budget setting process of when budget proposals

were presented to the Policy and Services Committees for recommendation to Full Council to set the 2021/22 budget.

As this was a transition year, proposals had been identified and would be presented to the Committee by officers due to the tight timescale to approve the budget in a series of budget workshops. However, the Committee was encouraged to identify their own proposals for officers to work up, if within the timescale, to be included for the 2021/22 Budget. For future years this would become the usual process and throughout the year the Committee would be identifying proposals for officers to work up for the following year's budget.

Resolved – That the Council's current financial position and process for the 2021/22 budget in this transition year, be noted.

6 BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING

A report by the Director of Regeneration and Place advised that that through the development of Wirral Council's new Governance arrangements and the approval of the Wirral Plan 2025 (currently being refreshed to reflect strategic priorities, as a result of Covid-19) the Authority had committed to developing a budget and performance monitoring framework, which honoured the Council's dedication to a more accountable, transparent way of conducting business, policy formation and decision making.

The report proposed that the Performance Framework was modelled on the Covid Dashboard set up at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic. The Committee were advised how this would enable clear and accessible data to be presented in a timely and meaningful way.

The report informed that there were a very wide range of data sets that could be included in the Dashboard, and it was proposed that the specific selection would be co-created with members to ensure it was of most relevance and benefit to members.

On a motion by Councillor Andrew Hodson, seconded by Councillor Steve Hayes, it was -

Resolved – That the proposals outlined in the report for shaping future Performance monitoring reports be noted, and that further discussions take place with the Committee Chair and Group Spokespersons in early November so that they can shape monitoring reports for the purposes of this Committee.

7 **ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT**

A report by the Director of Law and Governance, advised how the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee, in co-operation with the other Policy and Service Committees was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. The work programme should align with corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions that were in the remit of this Committee.

It was envisaged that the work programme would be formed from a combination of key decisions, standing items and requested officer reports. The report provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. The work programme for the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee was attached as an appendix to the report.

In response to Members' comments, the Director of Regeneration and Place assured the Committee that a number of the suggested themes of environment, social benefits, local procurement creating local jobs and future energy schemes did run through the Council's regeneration proposals and he would ensure that there was a particular focus on these issues.

Resolved – That the comments of Members and the proposed Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year, be noted.

8 **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

In response to a Member's comment, the Director of Law and Governance stated that the Council would always do its utmost to ensure no report coming before a committee was totally exempt, by means of an open report with exempt appendices. However, there were some rare occasions when the Council's business affairs and the business affairs of other persons should not be put in to the public domain at all because that in itself would alert people to negotiations which the Council was having and could damage the Council's business position and that was the position with the next agenda item.

On a motion by Councillor Steve Hayes, seconded by Councillor Gillian Wood, it was -

Resolved - That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act.

9 **HIND STREET: COLLABORATION AGREEMENT**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Regeneration and Place on proposals for the regeneration of Hind Street, Birkenhead.

After a debate and the Director having responded to questions from Members, it was moved by Councillor Tony Jones, seconded by Councillor Andrew Hodson and then -

Resolved (unanimously) – That,

- (1) the project objectives for Hind Street, Birkenhead, be agreed;**
- (2) the complexities of the project are noted and support is given for working with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and other partners;**
- (3) the agreement between the Council, and those bodies as detailed in the report and appendix, be approved, and the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to complete a Collaboration Agreement;**
- (4) it be noted that, subject to agreement in principle being reached with the other stakeholders, a further report will be brought to a future meeting of this Committee.**

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Thursday, 22 October 2020

Present:

Councillor EA Grey (Chair)

Councillors	C Cooke	S Foulkes
	B Berry	C Muspratt
	H Cameron	T Norbury
	A Corkhill	I Williams
	T Cox	A Wright

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee.

2 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Foulkes declared a personal interest in item 9 (Allotment Provision Scrutiny Review) as he was a Non-Executive Director of Magenta who owned land referred to, although operational decisions were not taken at Board level.

Councillor Christina Muspratt declared a personal interest in item 9 (Allotment Provision Scrutiny Review) as she rented one.

4 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

There were no questions from the public or from Members.

5 CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

A report by the Director of Neighbourhood Services updated on the Climate Emergency Action Plan, which had been in development since the declaration of a climate emergency by the Council in July 2019.

Nicki Butterworth, Director of Neighbourhood Services, introduced the report and the Plan which had included over 400 actions covering a wide range of headings and was alongside a senior internal action group with all Directors to drive actions from the Action Plan. Members noted achievements such as funding for tree planting programme and the new ways of working as a Council which had been accelerated by the Covid pandemic.

Members questions aspects of the plan and how Members could be involved.

Councillor Steve Foulkes proposed an amendment to the recommendation that the Working Group be increased to 7 Members to reflect the host committee to make 3:2:1:1 to allow all parties from the host committee to have a place.

This was seconded by Councillor Christina Muspratt.

Members voted on the amendment and it was approved without dissent.

Members then voted on the substantive proposal as amended.

Resolved: That

- (1) the actions that have been taken since the Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency in July 2019 be noted and endorsed;**
- (2) the emerging Environment and Climate Emergency Action Plan attached as Appendix 1 to this report be endorsed;**
- (3) an Environment and Climate Emergency Policy Members' Working Group be established to act as a Task and Finish Group and develop an Environment and Climate Emergency Policy with a membership of 7 with a proportion of 3:2:1:1.**
- (4) the Environment and Climate Emergency Policy Members' Working Group be instructed to report back to this Committee at a future meeting with recommendations for the Environment and Climate Emergency Policy;**
- (5) the Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership and substitute membership of the Environment and Climate Emergency Policy Members' Working Group and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.**

6 PARKING POLICY - PRIORITISING SAFETY AROUND SCHOOLS

A report by the Director of Neighbourhood Services proposed minor revisions to the Council's Parking Enforcement Policy that had been adopted in March 2012. Any revisions were to be published on the Council's website, which was a legal requirement. The report was in response to a Motion passed unanimously at Council in October 2019.

The Chair introduced the report. Members then raised and debated parking issues, with Simon Fox, Assistant Director for Highways and Infrastructure, answering questions and stressing that enforcement of parking around schools was taking place during the pandemic.

Resolved:

That the revised parking enforcement policy included at Appendix A to the report be approved.

7 **2021/22 BUDGET PROCESS**

A report by the Director of Neighbourhood Services proposed a process for budget setting and described the existing situation and the approach to tackle issues.

The report was introduced by Nikki Butterworth, Director of Neighbourhood Services, and Senior Finance Business Partner Sarah Cox who provided detail. Members noted an amendment with corrected figures from the report which had been published as a supplement and queried the levies which the Council was committed to.

Resolved:

That the Council's current financial position and process for the 2021/22 budget in this transition year be noted.

8 **BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

A report by the Director of Resources proposed to shape performance monitoring for the Committee's work in the future.

Nicki Butterworth, Director of Neighbourhood Services, introduced the report and suggested that a dashboard of information could be developed for Members.

Members considered the report and suggested that infographics be used to display data.

Resolved:

That the proposals outlined in the report for shaping future Performance monitoring reports be noted, and that further discussions take place with the Committee Chair and Group Spokesperson in early November so that they can shape monitoring reports for the purposes of this Committee.

9 **ALLOTMENT PROVISION SCRUTINY REVIEW**

A report by the Director of Neighbourhood Services set out the findings and recommendations arising from a scrutiny review of allotment provision across Wirral. This review had been commissioned as part of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee's work programme in 2019/20.

Councillor Christina Muspratt, who was a member of the Scrutiny Panel, introduced the report and spoke of the benefits of allotments. Members debated the issue and options available to increase the number and revenue of allotments.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained within the Allotment Provision Scrutiny Review report of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee be approved and the Committee have updates at future meetings.

10 **ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

A report by the Director of Law and Governance which detailed the planned work programme for the Committee.

The Chair introduced the report which was then considered by Members and suggestions were made for additional issues which could come to Committee.

Resolved:

That the proposed Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year be noted, with the addition of:

- **road safety**
- **grass verges**
- **parking charges**
- **Hoylake beach**

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 28 October 2020

Present: Councillor J McManus (Chair)

Councillors J Bird J Johnson
A Brame I Lewis
G Davies J Robinson
P Hayes S Whittingham

Absent: Councillor M Sullivan

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everybody to the first meeting of the Housing Committee.

2 APOLOGIES

No apologies had been received.

3 MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and to state the nature of the interest.

No interests were declared.

4 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

Three questions were received from members of the public:

Victoria Harris asked:

“Would it be reasonable to support a clause in the planning application that matters of Leasehold with the current residents should be resolved before the proposed estate is built?”

Answer given by Chair: Thank you for your question. I’m afraid that this is not a relevant matter that the local authority as planning authority can legally take into account when determining planning applications.

Jessica Harris asked:

“The Competition and Markets Authority are investigating miss-selling allegations against Persimmon Homes for the way they have sold properties on not only our estate, Mersey View, but scores up and down the country.

The government has said it is committed to bring forward leasehold legislation as soon as time allows, what would the council's thoughts on this matter be and how would they see fit to support and advocate for their residents?"

Answer given by Chair: Thank you for your question. The Council notes that there is an ongoing investigation by the Competition and Markets Authority and we understand the Government will be looking at legislation to address the issues going forward. There is existing legislation - the Leasehold Reform Act 1967 which allows tenants to buy out their freehold subject to certain terms and payment. However, the Act does have some limitations and may not be helpful to all long leaseholders. As and when proposals for new legislation are brought forward by the Government the Council will consider its response to those proposals and any other proposals which may be made by the Competition and Markets Authority. I would like to recommend that I write to the Minister to put forward the necessary steps asking for at least a timetable to be set out for action. This really does need to be resolved as soon as possible. I am aware of the disparity and problems which a lot of current leaseholders face and lack of regulation regarding unacceptable charges and fees which are associated with this practice, and it needs to stop.

Tim Baker asked:

"The Local Authority in Cardiff supported the local residents affected by leasehold and were preparing to take Persimmon to court, would Wirral Council support such action were it to lead to this?"

Answer given by Chair: Thank you for your question. The action in Cardiff was taken by the local authority's Trading Standards Service. In 2014, Wirral Council took a decision to stop operating a consumer advice service as part of Trading Standards and as such, since that date Wirral Trading Standards only investigate criminal matters. Advice in relation to consumer issues is now provided by the National Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline. Wirral Trading Standards are aware that there is an ongoing investigation by the Competition and Markets Authority and have advised that residents may wish to contact that agency directly regarding their individual cases.

5 **2021/22 BUDGET PROCESS**

Alan Evans, Director of Regeneration and Place introduced his report which provided the Housing Committee with details of the process for budget setting for 2021/22 and described the financial position for 2021/22, which as at Quarter 1 was deficit of £45m, and the actions being put in place to mitigate the gap.

These actions included a 5 stage phased approach and included the timeline for the 2021/22 budget setting process when budget proposals were presented to the Policy and Resources Committee for the recommendation to Full Council to set the 2021/22 budget.

Members were apprised that as this was a transition year, proposals had been identified and would continue to be presented to the Committee by Officers. The Committee was however encouraged to identify its own proposals for Officers to work up, if within the timescale, to be included for the 2021/22 Budget. For future years this would become the usual process and throughout the year the Committee would be identifying proposals for Officers to work up for the following years budget. Members noted that a workshop session in respect of the budget was scheduled to take place at the conclusion of the formal committee meeting.

Resolved – That the Councils’ current financial position and process for the 2021/22 budget in this transition year be noted.

6 BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Alan Evans, Director of Regeneration and Place introduced the report of the Director of Resources that informed that through the development of Wirral Council’s new Governance arrangements and the approval of the Wirral Plan 2025 (currently being refreshed to reflect strategic priorities, as a result of Covid-19) the Authority had committed to developing a budget and performance monitoring framework, which honoured the Council’s dedication to a more accountable, transparent way of conducting business, policy formation and decision making.

It was proposed that the Performance Framework be modelled on the Covid Dashboard set up at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic. This would enable clear and accessible data to be presented in a timely and meaningful way.

Members noted that there were a very wide range of data sets that could be included in the Dashboard, and it was proposed that the specific selection would be co-created with members to ensure it was of most relevance and benefit to members.

Aligned with this, the Wirral Plan 2025 was currently being refreshed to reflect the Covid-19 situation and emerging Recovery Plans. This Plan would set out what the Council could commit to delivering over the next 5 years. Wirral’s public services: the Wirral Partnership had a shared duty to improve the quality of life for residents and the report set out the ambition for the Borough including its economy, residents and services.

The Director’s report further set out the ambition for:

- A prosperous, inclusive economy where local people could get good jobs and achieve their aspirations.
- A sustainable borough that was not only environmentally friendly but one which played its part in urgently responding to the environment and climate crisis

- Brighter futures for young people and families – regardless of their background or where they live
- Safe, vibrant communities where people want to live and raise their families.
- Services which help people live happy, healthy, independent, and active lives, with public services there to support them when they need it.

Resolved – That

- 1) **Members note the proposals outlined in the report for shaping future Performance monitoring reports, and**
- 2) **that further discussions take place with the Committee Chair and Group Spokespersons in early November so that they can shape monitoring reports for the purposes of this Committee.**

7 WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

Members gave consideration to the report of the Director of Law and Governance that set out the proposed Housing Committee Work Programme 2020/21 as detailed in the appendix to the report.

The report informed that the Housing Committee, in cooperation with the other Policy and Service Committees, was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which were within the remit of the Committee.

It was envisaged that the work programme would be formed from a combination of key decisions, standing items and requested officer reports. The report provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

Members suggested consideration be given to the possibility of Council House building, opening of a Housing Revenue Account, Homelessness, travellers and their right to housing and negotiated stopping, empty properties and social landlords, being added to the Committee’s work programme.

The Head of Operational Housing Services advised that the committee might also wish to give consideration to the Property Pool Plus consultation and the Financial Assistance Policy used for Housing Services and grants, being added to the Committee’s work programme.

The Chair and Director of Regeneration and Place confirmed that the above proposals would be added to the upcoming work programme.

Resolved - That the proposed Housing Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year be noted.

TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Monday, 26 October 2020

Present:

Councillor T Anderson (Chair)

Councillors	P Stuart	B Kenny
	H Cameron	C Povall
	A Corkhill	J Walsh
	J Johnson	KJ Williams
	C Jones	

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed Members of the Tourism, Culture and Leisure Committee, Officers and viewing members of the public to the online, virtual meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

A roll call of Councillors was undertaken by Colin Hughes, Senior Solicitor. All Members of the Committee recorded as present.

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No declarations of interest were received.

4 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

Colin Hughes, Senior Solicitor informed the Tourism, Culture and Leisure Committee that no petitions, public questions, or requests to make a statement had been received.

Councillor Andy Corkhill tabled an urgent question on behalf of residents and athletics groups in his Ward concerning access to the outdoor running track at the Oval, Bebbington.

The Chair responded, and provided an update on the status of this particular site and other facilities on the Wirral (currently used for Covid-19 testing), and

that two of the Wirral facilities were scheduled to reopen on 24 October 2020. The Chair further informed Members of the committee that officers were working on the re-instatement of access to and use of the Oval, and other facilities by the public, at the earliest opportunity. A written summary of the proposed opening dates will be circulated to Members.

5 MANAGEMENT OF CAMPERVANS SCRUTINY REVIEW

Councillor Lesley Rennie introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services that set out the findings and recommendations arising from the overview & scrutiny review, chaired by Councillor Rennie, into the management of campervans in Wallasey and New Brighton. The review was commissioned as part of the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee's work programme in 2018/19 in response to a number of resident concerns around overnight parking of campervans in Wallasey and New Brighton.

Councillor Rennie informed that how, in 2018, the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee requested that the 'Effective Management of Campervans at Coastal Locations in Wirral' be added to the Committee work programme. She further informed that since 2014, a range of complaints had been received by residents of New Brighton and Wallasey Wards in regard to overnight parking of campervans and similar vehicles in the area, primarily along the Kings Parade and Coastal Drive areas of New Brighton. In November 2018, a Task & Finish Panel was established to undertake a detailed review of these issues.

The Tourism, Culture and Leisure Committee were apprised that the initial review scope also set out to assess the commercial opportunities available and potential for a dedicated campervan site to be established on Wirral, the objectives of the Panel were adjusted over the course of the review as it had become clear that that was a much bigger piece of work and should involve a wider group of stakeholders; as a result, the Panel looked only to review immediate resident concerns and to evaluate the effectiveness of the initial Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) on Kings Parade and subsequent ETRO on Pilot's Way, New Brighton that had been put into place.

Initial evaluation of the effectiveness of the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order along Kings Parade and Coastal Drive showed that the prohibition of overnight parking in this area was proven to be a successful resolution to previously reported concerns. The Panel therefore recommended that the order be made permanent following cessation of the initial 18 month temporary order in May 2020. This order was subsequently made permanent following a decision of the Cabinet Member for Community Services effective from 11 June 2020.

The report also informed that an informal meeting was held with local New Brighton and Wallasey Ward Members on 14 July 2020, chaired by the

Cabinet Member for Community Services. The outcome of this meeting was that no consensus could be reached on provision of a suitable short-medium term site for campervans/motorhomes in these wards due to the recent increase in demand in coastal locations as a result of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. The meeting agreed that a Borough-wide 'Task and Finish' study into commercial opportunities for sites with facilities, reporting into the new committee structure, would be the best way forward. This work had been picked up by the Council's Commercial Team.

The Tourism, Culture and Leisure Committee noted that following introduction of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) a relocation of problem parking to Sandcliffe Road, Wallasey and Sea Road, Wallasey had occurred. Members were requested to consider inclusion of an additional resolution to those contained in the report, to extend of the area covered by the existing TRO to include the two above named roads.

RESOLVED - That

- 1) the recommendations contained within the Campervans Scrutiny Review report of the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted;**
- 2) establishment of a cross-Committee working group, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, be agreed in order to explore alternative off-highway provision with dedicated facilities for motor caravans on Wirral; and**
- 3) the existing (permanent) Traffic Regulation Order be extended to include Sea Road, Wallasey and Sandcliffe Road, Wallasey.**

6 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER CHAMPION FOR HERITAGE

The Chair introduced a report of the Director of Law and Governance that informed how, at Annual Council on 28 September 2020, Elected Members had approved the new constitution and endorsed the appointment of Member Champions in order that the council could benefit from the experience, knowledge and interests of Members, in particular thematic areas.

The report informed that it was agreed that Council and Committees may approach individual Members to take on a specific role to highlight and enhance an area of that Committee or the Council's terms of reference, namely:

- The Council or Committee holding the corresponding functions within its terms of reference may appoint a Member Champion from one of their number. This may be the Chair or any other member of the Committee; or

- Where the subject of a Member Champion covers functions across the terms of reference of more than one Committee, the Committees may jointly appoint the Member Champion from either of their Committees' number.

It was:

Moved by Councillor Tom Anderson.

Seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart.

'That Councillor Jerry Williams be appointed as Heritage Member Champion for the current Municipal Year 2020/21'

No other nominations were received.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Jerry Williams be appointed Member Champion in relation to matters concerning the Borough's heritage – Municipal Year 2020/21.

Following his appointment, Councillor Williams provided Members with a short update on key areas of current heritage-based operations on the Wirral, namely:

- Heritage Strategy
- Blue Plaques
- Funding Opportunities
- Battle of Brunneburh
- Street Naming
- Local Listings

7 **2021/22 BUDGET PROCESS**

Nicola Butterworth, Director of Neighbourhoods introduced her report that provided the Committee with a summary of the process for budget setting as a transition year for 2021/22 and described the financial position for 2021/22 as at Quarter 1 (deficit of £45m) and the actions being put in place to mitigate the gap.

The report informed that the actions included a phased approach of 5 stages and included a timeline for the 2021/22 budget setting process of when budget proposals were to be presented to the Policy and Services Committees for the recommendation to Full Council in the setting of the 2021/22 budget.

Members noted that as this was a transition year, proposals had been identified and were to be presented to the Committee by Officers due to the

tight timescale to approve the budget. However, the Committee was encouraged to identify its own proposals for Officers to work up, and if within the timescale, to be included for the 2021/22 Budget.

The Director of Neighbourhoods apprised the Tourism, Culture and Leisure Committee of 3 key considerations, namely:

The deficit breakdown.

- 17m of unachievable original savings from the 2020/21 budget as a result of delays in progression caused by Covid. These are:
 - £5.0m new Council model and structure
 - £4.55m Contract reviews and renegotiations
 - £3.75m Adult Social Care reviews and efficiencies
 - £1.27m Children's Looked After Children reductions
 - £2.5m New investments and refinancing
 - £0.64m Zero Based Budgeting pilot
- £6m residual income losses after an assumption for compensation from the government scheme for sales, fees and charges losses
- £2m of unachievable capital receipt sales as a result of delays in progression caused by Covid
- -£3m of forecast savings as a result of vacancies

Mitigation.

To mitigate this, the Council had requested permission from MHCLG to apply to HM Treasury on the Council's behalf for a capitalisation directive. This meant that the Council could charge any unmet 2020/21 and potentially 2021/22 deficits specifically incurred as a result of Covid to the capital programme; and

Options Programme.

Since June, the Strategic Leadership team had been identifying options to mitigate the overall deficit and were working through a programme of immediate actions that could be actioned immediately, and longer term actions to ensure the budget was sustainable for the future. The 'twin track' approach ensured that any immediate quick wins would not be implemented at the detriment of any longer terms proposals that would generate future income or result in future cost avoidance.

Following presentation of her report, Members questioned the Director of Neighbourhoods on a number of matters as highlighted in her report. The Director responded accordingly.

RESOLVED - That the Council's current financial position and process for the 2021/22 budget in this transition year be noted.

8 BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Nicola Butterworth, Director of Neighbourhoods introduced her report informing that through the development of Wirral Council's new Governance arrangements and the approval of the Wirral Plan 2025 (currently being refreshed to reflect strategic priorities, as a result of Covid-19) the Authority had committed to developing a budget and performance monitoring framework, which honoured the Council's dedication to a more accountable, transparent way of conducting business, policy formation and decision making.

Members were apprised of the proposal that the Performance Framework was modelled on the Covid Dashboard set up at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic, enabling clear and accessible data to be presented in a timely and meaningful way. Aligned with this is the Wirral Plan 2025. The Plan was currently being refreshed to reflect the Covid-19 situation and emerging Recovery Plans. This Plan would set out what the Council wanted to achieve, working together with partners, communities, and businesses to improve the quality of life for Wirral residents.

Following receipt of the report, and brief discussion on the matter, a further recommendation was:

Moved by Councillor Tom Anderson

Seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall

'that the formal budget proposals be presented to this committee prior to submission to Policy and Resources Committee.'

RESOLVED – That

- 1) the proposals outlined in the report for shaping future Performance monitoring reports be noted;**
- 2) further discussions take place with the Committee Chair and Group Spokesperson in early November to enable the construction of monitoring reports for the purposes of Committee reporting; and**
- 3) the formal budget proposals be presented to this committee prior to submission to Policy and Resources Committee.**

9 **TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Chair introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance that set out the proposed Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee Work Programme 2020/21 as detailed in the appendix to the report.

The report informed that the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee, in co-operation with the other Policy and Service Committees, was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which are within the remit of the Committee.

It was envisaged that the work programme was to be formed from a combination of key decisions, standing items and requested officer reports. The report provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. The work programme for the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

RESOLVED - That the proposed Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year be noted.

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PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Monday, 9 November 2020

Present: Councillor C Spriggs (Chair)

Councillors L Rennie C Muspratt
T Cottier S Spoor
J Johnson J Walsh
I Lewis S Whittingham
D Mitchell

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed those in attendance, stated the terms of reference and read out statement about the webcasting of the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence had been received.

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Christina Muspratt declared a personal interest in the Community Safety Strategy (minute 6) as her son was a serving police officer.

Councillor Christina Muspratt also declared an interest in the Strategic Developments in the NHS (minute 5) as she had one daughter worked as a GP and another daughter worked in the NHS.

Councillor Sarah Spoor declared a personal interest in the Strategic Developments in the NHS (minute 5) as she had a daughter who was a student nurse in NHS.

Councillor Ian Lewis declared a personal interest in the update from the Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust (minute 8) as a voting member of Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust.

Councillor Leslie Rennie declared a personal interest in the Community Safety Strategy (minute 6) as she was an elected Member on the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority.

Councillor Joe Walsh declared a personal interest in the Strategic Developments in the NHS (minute 5) as he had two daughters who worked in the NHS.

4 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

There were no questions, statements or petitions from the public or Members.

5 STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NHS

A report of the Chief Officer, NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group and Wirral Health and Care Commissioning was considered, which provided a high-level summary of strategic developments in the NHS pertaining to the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership and the development of the organisation to become an Integrated Care System. It also detailed the plans to restructure commissioning and Clinical Commissioning Groups and the local influence in the health system.

Simon Banks, Chief Officer, NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group and Wirral Health and Care Commissioning, presented the report and answered Members questions. Members noted that if the proposal was implemented it would create the third largest Integrated Care Systems in England by the planned amalgamation of nine Clinical Commissioning Groups into one within a timescale of 18 months.

Members were particularly interested in how local input would be retained in such a large system, although they noted that there was accountability via Councillors to the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership. Formal consultation on the changes was yet to happen and members were keen to see reports on progress.

Councillor Tony Cottier made a proposal which was seconded by Councillor Christina Muspratt and debated. It was then put to the vote and agreed.

Resolved:

That the Partnerships Committee considers that local people, patient groups and other invested parties be consulted before any large scale Clinical Commissioning Group mergers are considered for Wirral. Furthermore, this Committee calls for a meeting with our counterparts from all other authorities involved in these proposals.

6 COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

A report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services was submitted which outlined the development process for the statutory Community Safety Strategy which was to cover the period 2021-2025.

Mark Camborne, Assistant Director for Neighbourhood Safety and Transport introduced the report. He indicated that there was a road map for the production of the Community Safety Strategy involving a consultation process with stakeholders and the community which would culminate in a final version of the strategy being presented to the Tourism Communities Culture and Leisure Committee in 2021. It was to have input from other stakeholders

including the public, aligned with the Wirral Plan 2025 and had eight thematic areas.

Members debated the report and the scope of it to ensure that areas of focus such as New Ferry and homelessness were taken into account in the development of the strategy.

Police Superintendent Martin Earl referred to a Dashboard Tracker which showed a summary of crime in the borough.

Councillor Stuart Whittingham moved a proposal.

This was seconded by Councillor Joe Walsh and debated.

Councillor Leslie Rennie proposed an amendment to delete certain wording from the proposal so that it would read as follows:

“That the Committee note the contents of the report; and the Committee endorse the co-production approach to developing the strategy.”

This was seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell and debated.

On being put to the vote the amendment by Councillor Leslie Rennie was lost by 4 votes for and 6 against.

The proposal from Councillor Stuart Whittingham was then voted on and was carried with 6 votes for and 4 against.

Resolved: The Committee resolved that:

- (1) the contents of the report be noted;**
- (2) the co-production approach to developing the strategy be welcomed and endorsed;**
- (3) that further thematic specific reports as appropriate be brought to the Committee as part of the co-production process; and**
- (4) as part of the co-production process a detailed report on road safety be included on the Committee’s Work Program. This report should benchmark Wirral’s performance against our statistical neighbours.**

At the conclusion of this item, the Committee agreed to have a short adjournment.

7 CHESHIRE AND WIRRAL PARTNERSHIP DRAFT QUALITY ACCOUNT

Jo Watts, Associate Director Specialist Mental Health, All Age Disabilities, and Anushta Sivananthan, Medical Director, presented the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership (CWP) Quality Account 2019-20. They highlighted the

improvements from the previous year and the national recognition received. The CWP had a focus on continuous improvement and produced annual books of best practice and had produced an additional one for the work during the Covid pandemic.

Members asked questions in relation to a number of issues, including work undertaken to support veterans and the increased prevalence of self-harm.

Resolved:

That the CWP Quality Account 2019-20 be noted.

8 UPDATE FROM THE CLATTERBRIDGE CANCER CENTRE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

Liz Bishop, Chief Executive of Clatterbridge Cancer Centre introduced her report and slide pack detailing issues around the Centre. A new cancer hospital had opened in Liverpool in June 2020 and Clatterbridge was in the process of being refurbished.

Members queried the current situation and confirmed that transport could be arranged where patients could not access the hospital. Members were invited to visit the hospital once the work had concluded.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9 PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

A report of the Director of Law and Governance was submitted which included a suggested future work programme for the Committee to consider.

The Chair introduced the report and invited suggestions for issues to include in the work programme that fell within the remit of the Committee.

The Committee discussed a wide range of possible options including the possibility of inviting partners and external agencies to attend and report to future Committee Meetings. These included officers from Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, the Northwest Ambulance Service, Social Housing providers, Network Rail, the Voluntary/Third Sector, RNLI, Better Care Fund, Utility providers, the Highways Authority and Trade Union representatives. Additionally, the Committee discussed a number of specific topics including a review of previous Motions to Council and outcomes, food security and the development of new partnerships. It was noted that the Committee had already resolved to include a detailed report on road safety as part of the Committee's Work Program.

The Chair suggested that given the breadth of ideas and options, it would be beneficial to hold a workshop to give the suggestions more consideration and it would also enable further clarification to be provided in respect to the

Committee's Terms of Reference,. She identified three key issues which she suggested could be added to the work programme pending the workshop being Road Safety, the Better Care Fund and engaging with Third Sector partners.

Resolved:

- 1) That the following be added to the future Committee Work programme**
 - (i) Road safety**
 - (ii) Better Care Fund**
 - (iii) Engaging with Third Sector partners**
- 2) That the Director of Law and Governance be requested to make the arrangements for a workshop be held to consider the role and remit of the Committee and to enable Members to give further consideration to issues that they would wish to include in the future work programme.**

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AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, 16 November 2020

Present:

Councillor K Hodson (Chair)

Councillors	S Whittingham	AER Jones
	J Bird	T Cox
	K Cannon	I Lewis
	K Greaney	S Kelly
	D Burgess-Joyce	

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed Members of the Audit and Risk Management Committee, Officers and viewing members of the public to the online, virtual meeting.

2 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No declarations of interest were received.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2020, and the special meeting held on 21 September 2020, be approved as a correct record.

4 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Chair informed the Audit and Risk Management Committee that no petitions, public questions, or requests to make a statement had been received.

5 INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE

Mark Niblock, Chief Internal Auditor, introduced his report that summarised the work of the Internal Audit Service for the period 1 April to 31 October 2020, the report identified the significant impact of the Covid19 pandemic on

scheduled audit work and included an analysis of planned work for the remainder of 2020/21. The items of note were:

- The Impact of Covid19 on the Internal Audit Plan 2020/21
- Internal Audit Activity for the year to date
- Planned Internal Audit work for the remainder of the year; and
- Items of note arising from audit work undertaken.

Details of audit work undertaken in these areas and actions arising were provided to the committee.

The Chief Internal Auditor provided a brief update on internal audit activity over the reporting period, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, and summarised progress being made by officers to address identified issues.

In response to questions from Members of the Audit and Risk Management Committee the Chief Internal Auditor informed that the Council continued to face significant challenges the forthcoming year and he and his team were discussing with colleagues, external bodies and partners ways to address these. He added that there was increased emphasis on the work involving the Wirral Growth Company – Governance and Financial aspects as a result of aspects of issues such as the loss of value commercial property arising from Covid19

Members further questioned the Chief Internal Auditor on his report, and the Director responded accordingly. Subjects included:

- Work undertaken in respect of the Birkenhead Commercial District to assess financial risk for the project; and
- Concerns expressed by Members re Woodchurch Road Primary School budget overspend. Identified as a combination of a number of issues that included school reporting arrangements to Governors, and lack of challenge and evaluation of information. Limited service support purchased by the school.

The Director of Resources also took the opportunity to respond to Member questions on key financial issues faced by the Council as a result of Covid-19. These included work already undertaken to ensure the sustainability of the Council's finances. These included:

- Regular reporting to the Policy and Resources Committee (7 October, 10 November)
- Significant difficulties to deliver savings and create income. Some funding from Central Government (but not 100%). £20m gap as at Q2 for this year.
- Council borrowing, and a 5 year recovery plan, to ensure a financially secure footing in the future.

- £70m of funding passported to local business; and
- Staff redirected to work on Covid, and impact on the renegotiation of contracts and/or delivering savings.

RESOLVED – That

- 1) the report be noted; and**
- 2) the revised Internal Audit Plan for 2020/21 be endorsed.**

6 CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITORS ANNUAL REPORT AND OPINION 2019/20

Mark Niblock, Chief Internal Auditor, introduced his report that summarised the Internal Audit Service plans and completed audits to review all relevant areas of risk. The report informed that the audit reports, including recommendations produced following audits are presented to managers. Members noted that a summary report was produced annually by the Chief Internal Auditor and an overall opinion provided as to the effectiveness of the Council’s control environment.

The report presented the Chief Internal Auditors Annual Report for 2019/20 that informed that the Accounts and Audit Regulations required that a local authority “shall maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit”. The Audit and Risk Management Committee noted that in order to meet the statutory requirements the Internal Audit Section had conducted audits to review the operation of the internal control systems. The work had been conducted in accordance with Public Sector Internal Auditing Standards set by the Audit Practices Board, CIPFA and the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors.

The Chief Internal Auditors Annual Report specified the Internal Audit assurance opinion on key areas of the Council’s activity for 2019/20.

Members further noted that the audits conducted during the year were principally planned to review the financial control systems in compliance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations. However significant attention had also been paid to address key risks in the following areas:

- Performance Management,
- Counter Fraud and Corruption
- Corporate Governance,
- Risk Management,
- ICT Systems,
- Service Delivery.

Members questioned the Chief Internal Auditor on his report, and the Director responded accordingly.

The Chair expressed the support of the Audit and Risk Management Committee for the work undertaken by the Internal Audit Service.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7 CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources introduced her report that provided an update on work in progress to review the Council's Corporate Risk Register and highlighted areas of risk management work in the coming year. The report informed how, to enable the Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC) to understand the Authority's most significant risks, Members receive a summary of associated mitigating controls and the risk management framework in order to fulfil its role of providing independent assurance of the Council's Risk Management Framework.

The Director of Resources' report informed that updates on the Council's risk management arrangements had been regularly reported to Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC) following the changes to the Risk Management Policy approved by the Committee in September 2017 and the significant refresh of the Corporate Risk Register in 2018/19.

The Director informed that, in March 2020, it was reported to the Committee that the Corporate Risk Register would undergo a detailed review and alignment to the Wirral Plan 2025 ahead of a discussion at a Member Risk workshop and reporting to the next ARMC. In light of events since March it was recognised that many of the controls may no longer be effective or have changed over the past 6-8 months. Similarly actions previously identified may have been superseded or no longer be relevant therefore a more in-depth review is required.

The Director of Resources' report further informed that due to COVID-19 the Wirral Plan 2025 was being refreshed to reflect the current situation and emerging Recovery Plans. This had led to the associated alignment of the Corporate Risk Register to the Wirral Plan being affected and delayed slightly. A Member Risk workshop had also taken place over the summer and the comments and suggestions from this session had been presented to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

The Audit and Risk Management Committee was apprised that the Senior Leadership Team had recently been debating the content of the Corporate Risk Register (CRR), reviewing the existing risks and new ones which had materialised over the past 9 months. The key question considered by officers had been what issues had affected the Council in achieving its priorities and objectives over the coming years? To help develop this further, Members were further apprised that SLT had been asked to consider the following four questions:

- Were these risks that SLT are most worried about and want to monitor and gain assurance that they are being well managed?
- Did the risk descriptions accurately reflect what is going on?
- Were the risks listed the right risks for inclusion at this level or can any risks be demoted and monitored at Directorate level?
- Was anything missing?

Members noted that a refreshed version of the CRR was to be presented to the next meeting of the ARMC.

Members questioned the Director of Resources on her report, and the Director responded accordingly.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8 PROCUREMENT UPDATE

Keith Patterson, Head of Commercial Procurement introduced his report that informed the Audit and Risk Management Committee of the range and number of contracts awarded which have been subject to Contracts Procedure Rules (CPR's) Rule 12 - Waiving the Rules and Rule 13 – Extension/Variation.

The report appendix detailed the contracts subject to the Extension/Variation or Waiver rules for the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020, which under Contracts Procedure Rule 17 required that all contracts which met the following three criteria are reported to Audit and Risk Management Committee on a six monthly basis. The details were presented as a full 12-month period in the report as this had been the first committee meeting since pandemic controls were applied. The three criteria referenced were:

- a) Contract is awarded, the total value of which exceeds £500k
- b) Variation or extension to a contract approved by The Director of Resources
- c) Waiver of the Contract Procedure Rules in relation to a contract which exceeds £50k in value

The Head of Commercial Procurement referenced a summary of all approved documents, as follows:

- Exceptions 60
- Extensions 4
- Variations 33
- Awards 9
- Total 106

The Mr Patterson's report also included a summary of a number of key areas, namely:

No PO No Pay policy progress.

Transaction Type	Total Volume	Total Value	Total Volume	Total Value
Period	2019		2020	
Purchase Order	7,069	£34.9m	6,211	£45.1m
Retrospective Purchase Order	3,485	£20.7m	3,054	£18.1m
Non Purchase Order (free standing invoices)	9,271	£28.9m	4,840	£27.4m

Electronic Transactions - accounted for more than 50% of all transaction volumes and increases in both value and volumes.

Departmental Analysis of 'Free Standing' Invoices 2019/20 i.e. which services had been operating with transactions which had not been subject to a purchase order and in % terms to each service.

Retrospective Purchase Orders - transactions that occurred when a purchase order had been raised after the invoice had been received - three departments representing 79% of the overall total.

Members questioned the Head of Commercial Procurement on his report, and Mr Patterson responded accordingly.

RESOLVED – That the Procurement Update Report be noted.

9 **REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000(RIPA)**

Philip McCourt, Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) introduced his report that informed the Audit and Risk Management Committee of the use by Council officers of the covert surveillance powers of the Council since January 2020.

The report set out how the Investigating Powers Commissioner (IPCO) was responsible for overseeing the operation of RIPA. IPCO inspected the Council on 17 December 2018. The outcome of that inspection was reported to the Committee on 11 March 2019. The Audit and Risk Management Committee at that time approved amendments to the Council's Policy and Guidance Document made in response to the Report. Further amendments were approved by the Committee at its meeting on 27 January 2020 to take account of the new Home Office Codes of Practice and guidance offered by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner on the legal framework surrounding visits by officers to social media sites during the course of their duties.

The report further informed that on 17 February 2020 officers obtained approval from a Magistrate to an authorisation granted by Mark Camborne (Lead Commissioner: Community Services and Resilience) to enable test purchases to be made by juveniles (under the supervision of Trading Standards Officers) from retailers who were suspected of selling e cigarettes to young persons under the age of 18. Under-age sales had been observed and appropriate enforcement action will be taken against the retailers concerned.

On 20 October 2020 officers obtained approval from a Magistrate to an authorisation granted by Mike Cockburn (Head of Service for Environment and Climate Emergency) to enable covert surveillance to be carried out at a site where there has been unlawful depositing of waste.

Members questioned the Director of Law and Governance on his report, and the Director responded accordingly.

RESOLVED - That the use made by the Council of covert surveillance since January 2020 be noted.

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PENSIONS COMMITTEE

Monday, 2 November 2020

Present:

Councillor	P Cleary (Chair)	
Councillors	C Povall C Carubia G Davies S Foulkes	A Gardner T Jones B Kenny L Rowlands
Councillor	M Bond, St Helens Council	

Apologies

Councillor	P Lappin, Sefton Council
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1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed Members of the Pensions Committee and viewing members of the public to the online, virtual meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

A roll call of Councillors was undertaken on behalf of the Head of Legal Services. Apologies had been received from Councillor Paulette Lappin, Sefton MBC.

3 COUNCILLORS JOHN FULHAM AND STUART WHITTINGHAM

The Chair referenced departing members of the Pensions Committee – Councillors John Fulham, St Helens MBC and Stuart Whittingham, Wirral BC – and thanked them for their contributions to the Committee.

4 COUNCILLOR GEOFFREY WATT

The Chair paid tribute to Councillor Geoffrey Watt, a Member of the Pensions Committee and a former Chair of the Committee who had sadly passed away in September. The Chair commented that Councillor Watt had been greatly respected by Members of the Committee and beyond and Members held a minute's silence to pay their respect.

5 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

The following declarations were made:

Councillor Davies	George	Pecuniary interest by virtue of his wife being a member of Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Gardner	Andrew	Pecuniary interest by virtue of being a member of Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Jones	Tony	Pecuniary interest by virtue of himself and his wife being a member of Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Povall	Cherry	Pecuniary interest by virtue of her daughter being a member of Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Rowlands	Les	Pecuniary interest by virtue of his wife being a member of Merseyside Pension Fund.

6 MINUTES

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February, 2020 be agreed.

7 AUDIT PLAN AND ADDENDUM

Representatives from Grant Thornton UK attended the meeting and presented the External Audit Plan for Merseyside Local Government Pension Scheme Year ended 31 March 2020. The appendix to the report contained the External Plan Update Year ended 31 March 2020.

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall, it was:

Resolved – That;

1. Grant Thornton be thanked for the presentation on the Audit Plan.

2. the Audit Plan be noted.

8 AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT

Members gave consideration to the Audit Findings Report for the year ending 31 March 2020 prepared by Grant Thornton UK LLP. Grant Patterson, Key Audit Partner and Stuart Basnett, Audit Manager attended the meeting and reported upon the key issues contained in the report.

The report noted that the outbreak of the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic had had a significant impact on public services. For Merseyside Pension Fund however the impact on the normal operations of the Fund had not been overly significant.

It was reported that the audit was now substantially complete and subject to outstanding queries being resolved it was anticipated that an unqualified audit opinion would be provided in respect of the financial statements as shown in Appendix C: Audit opinion of the report.

The report confirmed that there were no significant facts or matters that impacted on the independence as auditors that were required or wished to be drawn to the Committee's attention.

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall, it was:

Resolved – That;

1. Grant Thornton be thanked for the presentation on the Audit Findings Report.

2. the Audit Findings Report be noted.

9 MERSEYSIDE PENSION FUND ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2019/20

The Director of Pensions introduced a report that provided Members with the Fund's Annual Report & Accounts for 2019/20. The draft Annual Report & Accounts for 2019/20 document was attached as an appendix to the report.

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall, it was:

Resolved – That the Annual Report of Merseyside Pension Fund be approved for publication.

10 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019/20 – MERSEYSIDE PENSION FUND AND LETTER OF REPRESENTATION

Members gave consideration to a report of the Director of Pensions that presented Members with the audited statement of accounts of Merseyside Pension Fund for 2019/20 and responded to the Audit Findings Report from Grant Thornton. A Letter of Representation on behalf of the Committee, which gave assurances to the Auditor on various aspects relating to the Pension Fund, was attached as an appendix to the report.

Due to COVID-19, the Fund's Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 included an additional level of uncertainty. The global pandemic had impacted upon financial markets and there was a further risk of uncertainty for the valuations of unquoted investments where there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuations.

Subject to outstanding work, Grant Thornton had indicated there will be an unqualified opinion, with the inclusion of an Emphasis of Matter paragraph highlighting asset valuation material uncertainties. This did not affect their opinion that the statements presented fairly the financial position of Merseyside Pension Fund as at 31 March 2020 at £8.6bn. At the time of writing the report, the Fund had agreed to all material adjustments and a verbal update was provided.

The report informed that the Audit Opinion would be issued following final completion of the audit, consideration of the Audit Findings Report and approval of the amended Statement of Accounts at both the Pensions Committee and the Audit and Risk

Management Committee. Subject to this, the accounts would form the basis of the Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall, it was:

Resolved – That

1 having considered the amendments to the accounts, the Audit Findings Report and the Letter of Representation, the audited Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 be approved.

2 the recommendations be referred to the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

11 **PENSION BOARD REVIEW 2019-20 AND WORK PLAN 2020-21**

John Raisin, the Independent Chair of the Local Pensions Board, introduced the report that provided an overview of the Board's activities during 2019-20 and work plan for 2020-21. The appendices to the report contained the Pension Board Annual Review and the Pension Board Terms of Reference.

The Independent Chair highlighted that the Board's terms of reference had been revised to permit virtual meetings and define terms of attendance and noted the two crucial issues of Good Governance – LGPS and the McCloud case.

The report included reference to Board Meetings, Training and Development and Reporting Breaches of the Law to the Pensions Regulator. Mr Raisin also commented that, as in previous years, the Board had received extremely positive support, advice and guidance from the officers of Merseyside Pension Fund. On behalf of the Board he thanked the Officers for their positive approach and their reports, guidance and advice.

The Independent Chair also placed on record his tribute to Paul Wiggins, Member of the Pensions Board who had sadly passed away in June of this year and expressed his gratitude for his positive contribution to the work of the Board.

The Chair of the Pensions Committee thanked the Independent Chair of the Local Pensions Board for a positive and comprehensive report and it was;

moved by the Chair, formally seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall and;

Resolved – That;

1 the report of the Independent Chair of the Pension Board be noted.

2 the amendments to the Board's Terms of Reference be approved.

12 **INVESTMENT STRATEGY PROPOSALS**

Members gave consideration to a report of the Director of Pensions that provided outline proposals for changes to MPF's investment strategy and sought approval for officers to work with the Fund's independent advisors to develop and implement the proposals.

A letter received from Medact Liverpool and a response from the Chair was attached as an appendix to the report. The letter and response were pertinent to the strategy proposals.

Appendix 2 to the report contained exempt information. This was by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of Local Government Act 1972 i.e. information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall, it was:

Resolved – That;

- 1 the outline investment strategy proposals detailed in the appendix be approved.**
- 2 officers be authorised to work with the Fund's independent advisors to develop and implement the proposals with regular progress reports to the IMWP and the Pensions Committee.**
- 3 the engagement of specialist investment advice and the additional staffing resources required to support the development and implementation of the investment strategy proposals be approved.**
- 4 the letter from and response to Medact Liverpool be noted.**

13 LGPS UPDATE

The Head of Pensions Administration, Yvonne Murphy, introduced a report that covered the long-awaited HM Treasury (HMT) response to the consultation on 'Restricting Exit Payments in the Public Sector' and the publication of draft regulations, issued on 22 July 2020.

In addition, the report covered the related Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) consultation – 'Reforming Local Government Exit Pay', issued on 7 September 2020. This consultation had requested feedback and comments on the proposed reforms to Local Government regulations, in order to meet overarching government policy to limit exit payments to a maximum of £95k for public sector employees.

The report also provided an update on a further interim response on proposals set out in the consultation dated 8 May 2019, 'Changes to Local Valuation Cycle and The Management of Employer Risk'.

Finally, the report raised awareness of the Written Ministerial statement on survivor benefits payable from public service pensions in response to an Employment Tribunal relating to the Teachers' Pension Scheme. The case had concerned the

lower survivor benefits paid to a widower of a female scheme member compared to those paid to a same sex survivor.

The Head of Pensions Administration raised awareness that SAB (LGPS Scheme Advisory Board) had sought legal advice in relation to the conflicting regulatory position governing the payment of pension benefits on redundancy grounds and officers had considered the legal commentary along with SAB's opinion when determining the course of action which would present the least financial risk to the administering authority. It was noted that the Fund was in an invidious position as all available payment options may be subject to challenge by either the member or the Government. The draft response to the MHCLG consultation was being shared with the Chair of the Local Pension Board and the Pensions Committee. The Head of Pensions Administration responded to questions from Members and set out the implications for pensions administration.

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall, it was:

Resolved – That the report and the resource implications in administering imminent changes to the regulations be noted.

14 **PROPOSED MCCLOUD JUDGMENT REMEDY AND LGPS CONSULTATION**

The Head of Pensions Administration introduced a report that set out the proposed McCloud judgement remedy. On 16 July, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) had released the much-anticipated consultation on the McCloud remedy for the LGPS in England and Wales, a 12-week consultation that covered extensive detail on how the remedy would be applied.

The Fund response to the consultation had been shared with the Chairs of Pension Committee and the Local Pension Board, for comment and approval prior to submission on 8 October 2020 and was attached as an appendix to the report.

The submitted response was attached as an appendix to the report and focussed on the operational aspects and communicative challenges in implementing the proposed remedy.

The report informed that separately, the Government had announced that the Treasury would restart the 'Employer Cost Cap' assessment for all public sector schemes and critically that the McCloud remedy was to be included in the assessment of the impact on member benefits.

A contribution rate assessment for the McCloud remedy had been calculated at the 2019 valuation for Fund employers and the calculations were generally done in line with the proposed underpin in the consultation. Some employers made a provision in their contribution rates and this allowance would not expect to be revisit until the next valuation. For other employers, the Funding Strategy Statement allowed the Fund to revisit this where appropriate once the remedy was finalised.

Members were informed that once the outcome of the consultation was finalised, the implementation of the final remedy would be required under legislation and informed by statutory guidance.

The Chair of the Pensions Committee thanked the Head of Pensions Administration for the presentation and the Independent Chair of the Local Pensions Board, John Raisin, for his contributions to the consultation response.

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall, it was:

Resolved – That the Pension Committee instruct officers to develop a project plan and any associated workstreams to comply with the scale of retrospective benefit calculations in compliance with The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2020.

15 **RETAIL PRICES INDEX REFORM**

The Director of Pensions introduced a report that informed members of the government's consultation on reform of the Retail Prices Index (RPI index) and the Fund's response. The Fund's response to Consultation on the Reform of Retail Price Index was attached as an appendix to the report.

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall, it was:

Resolved – That the report and the Fund's response to the consultation be noted.

16 **INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE**

The Director of Pensions introduced his report that set out the investment performance of Merseyside Pension Fund for the fiscal year ended March 2020.

The Director of Pensions responded to questions from Members.

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall, it was:

Resolved – That the report be noted.

17 **LOCAL PENSION BOARD MINUTES**

The Director of Pensions introduced a report that provided members with the minutes of the previous meeting of the Local Pension Board.

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall, it was:

Resolved – That the minutes of the Local Pension Board be noted.

18 **NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENT**

Members gave consideration to a report of the Director of Pensions that informed of the National Knowledge Assessment. The National Knowledge Assessment's key goal was to provide LGPS funds with an insight to the pensions specific knowledge and understanding of those holding decision making and oversight responsibility within their organisations. The Director of Pensions commented that it was a statutory requirement for members of the Local Pensions Board and best practice for

Pension Committee members to undertake training. The Chair of the Committee thanked those members who had participated and noted that the outcomes would help to inform future training.

The appendix to the report contained exempt information. This was by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, i.e. information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person, including the authority holding that information.

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall, it was:

Resolved – That the report be noted and the Committee members work with officers to identify and undertake training and development opportunities appropriate to their needs.

19 **NORTHERN LGPS UPDATE**

The Director of Pensions gave consideration to a report that provided Members with an update on pooling arrangements in respect of MPF and the Northern LGPS. Minutes of the previous two Joint Committee meetings were appended for noting.

Appendix 1 to this report contained exempt information. This was by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of Local Government Act 1972 i.e. information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall, it was:

Resolved – That the minutes of the Joint Committee meetings be noted.

20 **MINUTES OF WORKING PARTY MEETINGS**

The Director of Pensions introduced a report that provided Members with the minutes of meetings of Working Parties held since the last meeting.

Appendix 1 to the report contained exempt information. This was by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of Local Government Act 1972 i.e. information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall, it was:

Resolved – That the minutes attached as an appendix to the report be approved.

21 **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall, it was:

Resolved – That in accordance with section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business, on the grounds that it involved the likely

disclosure of exempt information as defined by relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The public interest test had been applied and favoured exclusion.

22 INVESTMENT STRATEGY REVIEW EXEMPT APPENDIX

The appendix to the report on Investment Strategy Review was exempt by virtue of paragraph 3.

23 NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENT EXEMPT APPENDIX

The appendix to the report on National Knowledge Assessment was exempt by virtue of paragraph 3.

24 NORTHERN LGPS UPDATE EXEMPT APPENDIX

The appendix to the report on Northern LGPS Update was exempt by virtue of paragraph 3.

25 WORKING PARTY MINUTES EXEMPT APPENDIX

The appendix to the report on Working Party Minutes was exempt by virtue of paragraph 3.

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PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 15 October 2020

Present:

Councillor	S Kelly (Chair)	
Councillors	S Foulkes	P Stuart
	K Hodson	M Jordan
	G Davies	A Wright
	S Frost	A Gardner
	B Kenny	

1 MINUTES

The Director of Law and Governance submitted the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2020 for approval.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2020 be approved.

2 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the committee were asked whether they had any personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any application on the agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

3 ORDER OF BUSINESS

With the consent of the Members of the Committee, the Chair agreed to vary the order of business.

4 APP/20/00741: 25 WARWICK DRIVE, EGREMONT. TO CREATE A SMALL MEWS STYLE 3-BED HOUSE WITHIN THE GROUNDS OF THE EXISTING PROPERTY AT 25 WARWICK DRIVE, WALLASEY.

The Director of Regeneration and Place submitted the above application for consideration.

The Lead Petitioner addressed the Committee.

The applicant's agent addressed the Committee.

A Ward Councillor addressed the Committee.

It was moved by the Councillor P Stuart and seconded by Councillor G Davies that the application be refused.

The motion was put and carried (10:0).

Resolved (10:0) – That the application be refused for the following reason:

1. It is considered that the development proposed would introduce a form of development that would appear at odds with the local character of the area appearing incongruous when set against the prevailing pattern of frontage development, with private, interlocking rear gardens. Therefore, it is considered that the development does not comply with Policy HS4 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan or the principles of the National Planning Policy Framework.

- 5 **APP/19/01342: 5 JOHNSONS ESTATE, TARRAN WAY SOUTH, MORETON, CH46 4TP. ADDITION OF 4 NEW SMALL BUILDINGS: 1. TO HOUSE A DUST EXTRACTOR ON THE EXTERNAL OF THE FACTORY BUILDING, 2. A PORTA-CABIN TO ACT AS THE SITE WORKERS CANTEEN, 3. A PORTA-CABIN TO ACT AS THE SITE WORKERS CHANGING AND DRYING ROOM & 4. A SMALL WOODEN SHED TO HOUSE A TABLE SAW THAT IN TURN HAS ITS OWN DUST EXTRACTION. CHANGE OF OPERATING HOURS TO RUN 24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK.**

The Director of Regeneration and Place submitted the above application for consideration.

The Lead Petitioner addressed the Committee.

A Ward Councillor addressed the Committee.

It was moved by the Councillor K Hodson and seconded by Councillor P Stuart that the application be approved subject to the following condition being added:

“6. The machine saw timber shed shall not be in use before 0700 hours and after 1800 hours Monday to Friday and before 0800 hours and 1800 hours on weekends and Bank Holidays. Reason: In the interests of amenity.”

The motion was put and carried (10:0).

Resolved (10:0) – That the application be approved with the following conditions:

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 3 years from the date of this permission.

2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 19 December 2019 and listed as follows: Site Plan, 19148-100, 19148-101, 19148-102, 19148-103

3. Deliveries shall be taken at or despatched from the site only between hours of 0800 and 1800 Monday to Friday 0900 and 1700 Saturdays and not at any time on Sundays or on Bank or Public Holidays.

4. There shall be no use of vehicles requiring the operation of audible reverse alarms within the site before 0800 and after 1900 hours Monday to Friday, before 0900 and after 1800 Saturdays and before 1000 and after 1600 Sundays and Public Holidays

5. All doors, roller shutters and windows shall be in the closed position up to 0700 hours and after 1800 hours Monday to Friday and up to 0800 and 1800 hours weekends and bank holidays other than when opened to allow staff to enter and leave the building.

6. The machine saw timber shed shall not be in use before 0700 hours and after 1800 hours Monday to Friday and before 0800 hours and 1800 hours on weekends and Bank Holidays.

6 APP/20/00437: ALDI PRENTON, 374 WOODCHURCH ROAD, PRENTON, CH42 8PG. DEMOLITION OF EXISTING COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND ERECTION OF A FOOD STORE (USE CLASS A1), CAR PARK, ACCESS AND LANDSCAPING.

The Director of Regeneration and Place submitted the above application for consideration.

The Applicant addressed the Committee.

Two Ward Councillors addressed the Committee

A Ward Councillor from Oxtan Ward addressed the Committee.

It was moved by the Councillor B Kenny and seconded by Councillor P Stuart that the application be approved subject to the following conditions.

The motion was put and carried (8:2).

Resolved (8:2) – That the application be approved with the following conditions:

- 1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 3 years from the date of this permission.**
- 2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the Local Planning Authority (unless otherwise stated) on 19 March 2020:**

**1944NES-110 Location Plan
1944NES-114 Demolition Plan
1944NES-116 Proposed GA Plan
1944NES-117 Proposed Elevations
1944NES-118 Proposed Roof Plan
1944NES-119 Proposed Roller Shutter Details
1944NES-120B Proposed Boundary Treatment**

Received 16 September 2020:

**200915-GA-02 Woodchurch Road Access and Egress (prepared by Cameron Rose)
Aldi, Prenton Management Plan (prepared by JLL)**

Received 13 September 2020:

1944NES-115F Proposed Site Plan

- 3. Before any above ground construction commences, samples of the facing/roofing/window materials to be used in the external construction of this development shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved materials shall then be used in the construction of the development.**
- 4. Prior to occupation of the food store a full scheme of works and timetable for the construction of the following shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority:**
 - i. The formation of the new vehicular accesses to the development from Duck Pond Lane and Woodchurch Road and the provision of a turning facility to the existing alleyway parallel to Woodchurch Road.**
 - ii. The provision of dropped kerbs and tactile paving at all new access points**
 - iii. The provision of a minimum 2m wide footway along the development boundary to Duck Pond Lane**
 - iv. Any necessary amendments to the existing traffic regulation orders on Woodchurch Road and Duck Pond Lane to facilitate the highway works.**
 - v. Any new or repositioned street lighting columns or highway drainage**

works necessary to facilitate the above highway works.

5. No development shall commence until the ‘Confirmed/ Final’ Sustainable Drainage Strategy¹ and method of implementation satisfying the Terms of Condition below and in accordance with the submitted surface water drainage assessment (29 September 2020/ Aldi Prenton/ Drainage Assessment / Final Report V1.3/ Weetwood) is submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority. The surface water discharge rate for the development is limited to 15 l/s.

6. The development hereby permitted by this planning permission, including all components of the sustainable drainage system, shall be carried out in accordance with the approved final Sustainable Drainage Strategy, including any phasing embodied within, and maintained in perpetuity in accordance with an agreed Operation and Maintenance Plan, approved by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority.

The approved drainage scheme shall be fully constructed prior to occupation in accordance with the approved details, and timetable embodied within the approved final Sustainable Drainage Strategy, or within any other period as may subsequently be agreed, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority. ‘As built’ drainage design/layout drawings and a final Operation and Maintenance Plan, confirming asset details and maintenance arrangements, shall be submitted to the Lead Local Flood Authority, prior to occupation.

7. No above ground construction works shall take place until details of secure covered cycle parking and/or storage facilities have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. These facilities shall be provided in accordance with the approved details and made available for use prior to the first use of the development hereby permitted and shall be retained for use at all times thereafter.

8. All boundary treatment to be erected, including the positions, design and materials, shall be carried out in accordance with the details shown on the approved plan. The boundary treatment as approved shall be completed before the building hereby approved is first brought into use.

9. The hard and soft landscaping scheme hereby approved shall be carried out prior to the occupation of any part of the development or in accordance with a timetable to be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. Any trees or plants that within a period of five years after planting, are removed, die or become, in the opinion of the Local Planning Authority, seriously damaged or defective shall be replaced with others of a species, size and number as originally approved in the first available planting season unless the Local Planning Authority gives its written consent to any variation.

10. Prior to the commencement of development a Construction Management Plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The provisions of the Construction Management Plan shall be implemented in full during the period of construction and shall not be varied unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

11. No development shall take place until a Site Waste Management Plan, confirming how demolition and construction waste will be recovered and re-used on the site or at other sites, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved Plan shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

12. The supermarket shall be closed for trade between 22.00 and 08.00 hours Monday to Saturday and between 18.00 and 10.00 hours on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

13. Servicing and deliveries shall not take place between the hours of 22.00 hours and 06.00 hours Monday to Saturday and 18.00 hours and 10.00 hours on Sundays and Bank Holidays. No vehicle shall arrive before the start time or leave after the finish time.

14. Foul and surface water drainage shall be drained on separate systems.

15. No above ground construction until details of the level and intensity of lighting within the development, including inside the store hereby approved, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

16. No removal of any trees, shrubs or hedges or any ground clearance or building work shall be carried out on site between 1 March and 31 August inclusive in any year unless otherwise approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. If it is necessary to undertake works during the bird breeding season then all trees, shrubs and hedges shall first be checked by an appropriately qualified/experienced ecologist, as agreed with the Local Planning Authority, to ensure no breeding birds are present. In the event of breeding birds being present, full details of mitigation and protection measures shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before any such works commence.

17. Prior to occupation of the foodstore the following is to be submitted to and agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority;

A servicing management plan– controlling the west arrival, and east departure of service vehicles on Woodchurch Road.

i). The formation of the new vehicular accesses to the development from Duck

Pond Lane and Woodchurch Road and the provision of a turning facility to the existing alleyway parallel to Woodchurch Road.

- ii). The provision of dropped kerbs and tactile paving at all new access points
- iii). The provision of a minimum 2m wide footway along the development boundary to Duck Pond Lane
- iv). Any necessary amendments to the existing traffic regulation orders on Woodchurch Road and Duck Pond Lane to facilitate the highway works.
- v). Any new or repositioned street lighting columns or highway drainage works necessary to facilitate the above highway works.

18. Following completion of the off-site highway works and prior to the first opening of the amended store access off Woodchurch Road a Stage 3 Road Safety Audit shall be provided for assessment by the Local Highway Authority.

7 **APP/20/00552: THORS HILL, 8 WETSTONE LANE, WEST KIRBY, CH48 7HQ. ERECTION OF A 5-BED DWELLING WITH ASSOCIATED HARD AND SOFT LANDSCAPED EXTERNAL WORKS. (AMENDED PLANS AND RED EDGE)**

The Director of Regeneration and Place submitted the above application for consideration.

The Agent addressed the Committee.

A Ward Councillor addressed the Committee.

It was moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor K Hodson that the application be approved.

The motion was put and carried (10:0).

Resolved (10:0) – That the application be approved with the following conditions:

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 3 years from the date of this permission.
2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 24th April 2020 and listed as follows:

18-242-P2-01B, received 3rd July 2020;
18-242-P2-110B, received 3rd July 2020;
18-242-P2-112B, received 3rd July 2020;
18-242-P2-101C, received 17th July 2020;
18-242-P2-111C, received 18th September 2020;

18-242-P2-100E, received 24th September 2020; and
18-242-P2-102C, received 24th September 2020.

As well as:

Ecology Survey and Assessment (We Know Services, May 2020);
Arboricultural Method Statement We Know Services April 2020) Revision B
and plan (19/00053/MS/B);
Arboricultural Implications Assessment Revision B (We Know Services April
2020).

3. No above ground works shall take place prior to details of all materials to be used in the external construction (facing, roof, openings etc) of this development have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with approved details.

4. Notwithstanding the details indicated on the plans hereby approved, details and elevations of the sandstone walls flanking the newly formed driveway to either side shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority and constructed prior to the occupation of the premises. Such details to show:-

(a) To match existing sandstone boundary walls fronting Wetstone Lane in terms of material and in height

5. Prior to first occupation of the hereby approved property, the existing foliage to the existing boundary wall flanking the newly formed vehicular access to either side and to the grassed area immediately to the front of this boundary wall, shall be removed and maintained as such thereafter .

6. No tree, shrub or hedgerow felling, or any vegetation management and/or cutting operations should take place during the period 1st March to 31st August inclusive. If it is necessary to undertake works during the bird breeding season then trees and vegetation are to be checked first by an appropriately experienced ecologist to ensure no breeding birds are present. If present, details of how they will be protected are required to be submitted for approval.

7. Prior to first occupation of the hereby approved development, details of bird boxes to include number, type and location on an appropriately scaled plan as well as timing of installation shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Authority. Thereafter, their implementation shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

8. No external lighting shall be installed until details of the proposed lighting scheme to include a type, location and illuminance level has been submitted to and approved by the Local Authority , thereafter development should be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Please refer to the Bat Conservation Trust website

<https://www.bats.org.uk/news/2018/09/new-guidance-on-bats-and-lighting>

9. If works don't commence within 1 year of the production of the Ecology Survey and Assessment (We Know Services, May 2020,) no tree felling, scrub clearance, hedgerow removal, vegetation management, ground clearance and/or building works shall take place until a pre-commencement check for terrestrial mammals has been carried out by a qualified ecologist and if discovered, any relevant species have been removed to a place of safety. Thereafter, during the construction phase:

- i) any holes or trenches left open overnight should either be covered at the end of each working day and/or include a means of escape (sloped banks or ramps);**
- ii) any exposed open pipe systems should be capped at the end of each working day to prevent mammals gaining access;**
- iii) construction work is limited to daylight hours and should only take place between 8am and 6pm;**
- iv) appropriate storage of materials to ensure that mammals cannot access them; and**
- v) that the property/site boundary walls and fences continue to allow for the free movement of mammals both during and after construction.**

10. No development shall take place until a Site Waste Management Plan (or similar waste audit), confirming measures to achieve efficient use of resources and including designing out waste and minimisation of off-site disposal, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved Plan shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

11. Prior to any above ground works taking place a full specification of all proposed tree planting shall be provided and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The specification shall include the quantity, size, species, and positions or density of all trees to be planted, how they will be protected and the proposed time of planting. The tree species to be used shall accord with the recommendations as set out in Section 5.12 of the Ecology Survey and Assessment (We Know Services, May 2020).

All trees shall be planted in accordance with the details and times stated in

the specification and in accordance with British Standard [BS4043 - Transplanting Root-balled Trees][BS4428 - Code of Practice for General Landscape Operations (excluding hard surfaces)].

12. Prior to first occupation of the hereby approved dwelling, a schedule of maintenance of the trees until successfully established shall be submitted and agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. The measures set out in the schedule shall be implemented in full thereafter

The schedule shall include provision for replacement planting should establishment fail.

If within a period of five years from the date of planting the tree (or any tree planted in replacement for it) is removed, uprooted, destroyed or dies or becomes, in the opinion of the local planning authority, seriously damaged or defective, another tree of the same size and species as that originally planted shall be planted at the same place within the first planting season following the removal, uprooting, destruction or death of the original tree unless the local planning authority gives its written consent to any variation.

13. Tree Protection Barriers:

Prior to the commencement of site clearance, demolition, storage of plant (non-tree related), materials, machinery, including site huts and WCs, Tree Protection Barriers shall be installed immediately following tree works and Barriers shall conform to the specification within the method statement. The Tree Protection Barriers and Ground Protection shall not be removed, breached or altered without prior written authorisation from the local planning authority or client arboriculturist, but shall remain in a functional condition throughout the entire development, until all development related machinery and materials have been removed from site. If such protection measures are damaged beyond effective functioning, then works that may compromise the protection of trees shall cease until the protection can be repaired or replaced with a specification that shall provide a similar degree of protection.

The tree protection measures shall not be dismantled until all construction related machinery and materials have been removed from site and not without written authorisation from the local planning authority or client arboriculturist. Once authorisation has been given the protection measures can be removed by hand and transported off site. During which time, no machinery or vehicles shall enter the area previously protected. No excavations, storage of materials, soil stripping, the raising or lowering of levels or the laying of hard surfacing without prior approval of the arboricultural consultant and / or the local planning authority. Any issues regarding tree protection should be agreed and implemented prior to commencement of development.

Prohibited Activities:

The following activities must not be carried out under any circumstances:

- a, No fires to be lit within 20 metres of existing trees and shrubs to be retained.
- b, Storage of removed topsoil should be located outside of the Root Protection Areas of retained trees and away from those parts of the site allocated for soft landscaping.
- c, No equipment, signage, fencing, tree protection barriers, materials, components, vehicles or structures shall be attached to or supported by a retained tree.
- d, No builders debris or other materials to be stored within the Root Protection Areas.
- e, No mixing of cement, associate additives, chemicals, fuels, tar and other oil based liquids and powders shall occur within 10 metres of any tree Root Protection Area. A dedicated washout area shall be a used and located not within 10 metres of any Root Protection
- f, No alterations or variations to the approved works or tree protection schemes shall be carried out without the prior written approval of the LPA.
- g, no excavations, trenches, stripping, cultivation with a rotavator or changes in surface level to occur within the Root Protection Area, unless authorised.

Arboricultural Site supervision:

The Arboricultural Method Statement Revision B (Ref.19/00053) and plan (19/00053/MS/B), produced by 'We Know Services' and submitted in support of the application shall be adhered to in full.

14. The dwelling hereby permitted shall not be occupied until a detailed scheme for landscaping has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall comprise of a plan and specification and demonstrate:

- i. The materials to be used for hard and soft surfacing;
- ii. A planting scheme which accords with the recommendations set out within Section 5 of the Ecology Survey and Assessment (We Know Services, May 2020);
- iii. Compensatory tree planting to replace those specimens removed as part of the development to include the location, number, species and size of trees to be planted;
- iv. Any earthworks required;
- v. The location and design of fences, gates, walls, railings or other means of enclosure; and
- vi. The timing of implementation of the scheme.

Thereafter landscaping scheme shall be carried out as approved.

15. Notwithstanding the details of the acoustic fencing as shown on submitted plans 18-242-P2-100/E and 18-242-P2-102/C, details and specifications of the acoustic fencing shall be submitted to the Local Authority for approval. The acoustic fence shall be implemented in accordance with those approved details and specifications prior to first occupation of the dwelling hereby approved and thereafter retained in place.

16. The proposed trees to be sited along the northern and western boundaries and as showing on submitted drawing no.18-242-P2-100/E, shall at the time of planting have minimum girths corresponding to those detailed within Section 4.12 of the submitted the Arboricultural Implications Assessment Revision B (We Know Services April 2020). In the event that the identified tree species cannot be sourced at the recommended size, then a suitable replacement should be sourced and which accords with the recommendations as set out in Section 5.12 of the Ecology Survey and Assessment (We Know Services, May 2020).

17. The north facing first floor habitable opening within the approved new dwelling shall not be glazed otherwise than with obscured glass which obscuration level is no less than Level 3 of Pilkington Glass scale (or equivalent) and fixed shut and thereafter be permanently retained as such.

18. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (or any Order revising, revoking or re-enacting that Order with or without modification) no garages, outbuildings or enclosure shall be constructed within the applications site without the prior written approval of the Local Planning Authority.

19. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (or any Order revising, revoking or re-enacting that Order with or without modification) there shall be no enlargement or extension of the dwelling hereby permitted, including any additions or alterations to the roof, without the prior written approval of the Local Planning Authority.

20. No development shall commence until a surface water drainage scheme has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The drainage scheme must include:

(i) An investigation of the hierarchy of drainage options in the National Planning Practice Guidance (or any subsequent amendment thereof). This investigation shall include evidence of an assessment of ground conditions

and the potential for infiltration of surface water;

(ii) A restricted rate of discharge of surface water agreed with the local planning authority (if it is agreed that infiltration is discounted by the investigations); and

(iii) A timetable for its implementation.

The approved scheme shall also be in accordance with the Non-Statutory Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems (March 2015) or any subsequent replacement national standards. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out only in accordance with the approved drainage scheme.

21. Foul and surface water shall be drained on separate systems.

8 APPOINTMENT OF STRATEGIC APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report to enable the Planning Committee to establish a Strategic Applications Sub Committee, the Terms of Reference of which were approved by Council on 28 September 2020.

It was reported that the Constitution as approved by Council required the establishment of the Strategic Applications Sub-Committee. The membership of the Sub-Committee may comprise between 6 and 9 members. The proposals within the report enabled the Committee to decide upon the size of the Sub-Committee and to agree the allocation of seats to different political groups. It was also reported that the Planning Committee had power to reserve to itself functions that the Constitution prescribed as matters for the Strategic Applications Sub-Committee.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor S Foulkes it was agreed that the Sub-Committee be comprised of 6 Members with the political proportionality of 3 Labour Members and 2 substitutes; 2 Conservative Members and 1 substitute; and 1 Liberal Democrat Member and 1 substitute.

The motion was put and carried.

Resolved (10:0) –

(1) That the Terms of Reference of the Strategic Applications Sub-Committee, as referred to in paragraph 3.1 of the report, be noted and those matters delegated to it be reserved to Planning Committee except as set out in paragraph 6 of this resolution.

(2) That the Strategic Applications Sub Committee be delegated the consideration of the protocols and procedures to be adopted with regard to pre application discussion arrangements.

(3) That the size of the Strategic Applications Sub-Committee, having regard to the options referred to at paragraph 5.5 of the report be set at 6 members of the Planning Committee in the political ratio of 3 Labour Seats (with 2 substitutes), 2 Conservative seats (with one substitute) and 1 Liberal Democrat seat (with 1 substitute).

(4) That the Chair of Planning Committee to be appointed as Chair of the Strategic Applications Sub Committee.

(5) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership and substitute membership of the Strategic Applications Sub-Committee and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members

(6) That the following matters shall be determined at the Strategic Applications Sub Committee:

(i) Large-scale major developments (defined by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) as those of 200 houses or more or 10,000 square metres of non-residential floor space) which, by their nature, (e.g. scale, location etc.) have wider strategic implications and raise issues of more than local importance.

(ii) significant applications by Wirral Borough Council to develop any land owned by the Council, or for development of any land by the Council or by the Council jointly with any other person (Regulation 3 applications)

(iii) Applications where it was proposed to make a decision that is a significant departure from the policies of the development plan, with the exception of domestic extensions.

(iv) Decisions that would need to be referred to the Secretary of State with the exception of applications for Planning Permission and/or Listed Building Consent to Grade I listed buildings, where there are no objections on conservation grounds.

(v) informal pre-application discussions with developers in relation to any matter which potentially may come before the Sub-Committee for later decision.

9 **PROTOCOLS RELATING TO DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Director of Regeneration and Place submitted a report seeking approval for Protocols relating to the determination of Planning Applications.

It was reported that the first Protocol related to the criteria to be applied as to when the Director of Regeneration and Place shall arrange for an application to be taken out of officer delegation and be considered by the Planning Committee or Strategic Applications Sub-Committee for determination due to it being inappropriate to exercise delegated powers having regard to the public representations received and/or consultee responses.

The second Protocol related to the right for persons who are not members of the Planning Committee to speak at meetings of the Planning Committee or the Strategic Applications Sub-Committee. Approval was also sought for a third protocol being Guidance on the right to speak at Planning Committee and Strategic Applications Sub-Committee.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor S Foulkes it was –

Resolved (10:0) –

(1) That the “Criteria to be applied by the Director for removing an application from officer delegation and referring the matter to Planning Committee or the Strategic Applications Sub-Committee” be as set out in Appendix 1 attached to these minutes.

(2) That the “Protocol on the Right to Speak at Wirral Council Planning Committee and Strategic Applications Sub-Committee” be as set out in Appendix 2 attached to these minutes.

(3) That the “Guidance on the right to speak at Planning Committee and Strategic Applications Sub-Committee” be as set out in Appendix 3 attached to these minutes.

(4) That during the Covid 19 Pandemic the scheme of delegation be temporarily amended to give delegation to the Director, in consultation with party spokespersons, the following categories of application:

- I. Any personal/private application made by any Member of the Council, or any member of staff employed in the Council’s Planning Service.**
- II. Any application where an Elected Member is involved in any capacity as an agent or consultant where at least one objection has been received.**

- III. Applications where it was proposed to make a decision that is contrary to the development plan with the exception of domestic extensions.**
- IV. Decisions that would need to be referred to the Secretary of State with the exception of applications for Planning Permission and/or Listed Building Consent to Grade I listed buildings, where there are no objections on conservation grounds.**
- V. Decisions where a claim for compensation from the Council may arise or which otherwise may involve a financial payment.**
- VI. Recommendations to not take appropriate enforcement action relating to Priorities 1, 2 and 3 of the adopted Planning Enforcement Policy on the grounds of non-expediency.**

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 12 November 2020

Present:

Councillor	S Kelly (Chair)		
Councillors	S Foulkes	P Stuart	
	K Hodson	M Jordan	
	G Davies	A Wright	
	S Frost	A Gardner	
	B Kenny		

10 MINUTES

The Director of Law and Governance submitted the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2020 for approval.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2020 be approved.

11 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee were asked whether they had any personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any application on the agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

Councillor S Foulkes declared a prejudicial interest in item 3 – APP/20/00980: The Stirrup, Arrove Park Road, Woodchurch – by virtue of being a non-executive Director of Magenta Living (minute 13 refers).

12 ORDER OF BUSINESS

With the consent of the Members of the Committee, the Chair agreed to vary the order of business.

13 APP/20/00980: THE STIRRUP, ARROWE PARK ROAD, WOODCHURCH, CH49 5PB - CONSTRUCTION OF NEW APARTMENT BUILDING FOR RETIREMENT LIVING/EXTRA CARE, COMPRISING OF 46 NO. FLATS WITH ASSOCIATED FACILITIES

Councillor S Foulkes declared a prejudicial interest in this matter and left the meeting during its consideration (minute 11 refers).

The Director of Regeneration and Place submitted the above application for consideration.

An objector addressed the Committee.

The applicant and the architect addressed the Committee.

It was moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor K Hodson that the application be refused.

The motion was put and carried (5:4).

Resolved (5:4) – That the application be refused for the following reason:

1. The proposed development would result in a scale and form of development that fails to relate sufficiently to the existing built form adjacent to and surrounding the site that does not provide a consistent and coherent setting for the space or street that it defines. The long horizontal frontage and height of the development, particularly its position at the street edge of the site adjacent to Arrowe Park Road would result in creating overbearing development that gives rise to a detrimental impact on the character of the area. It is considered that the proposal offers limited architectural quality resulting in a large utilitarian block that lacks any significant depth or articulation with particular regard to the lack of any active frontage along Arrowe Park Road that fails to respect the rhythm, scale and proportions of existing residential property fronting Arrowe Park Road. The proposed development is therefore considered to be contrary to Policy HS4 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan and the principles of the National Planning Policy Framework.

- 14 **APP/20/01182: THE WARWICK, 29 WESTBOURNE ROAD, BIRKENHEAD, CH43 4TF - CHANGE OF USE OF PUBLIC HOUSE (USE CLASS A4) TO 11-BEDROOM LARGE HOUSE IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMO) (USE CLASS SUI GENERIS) WITH EXTERNAL ALTERATIONS.**

The Director of Regeneration and Place submitted the above application for consideration.

The Lead Petitioner addressed the Committee

The Applicant addressed the Committee.

A Ward Councillor addressed the Committee

It was moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor B Kenny that the application be approved subject to the following conditions.

The motion was put and carried (9:1).

Resolved (9:1) – That the application be approved with the following conditions:

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 3 years from the date of this permission.

2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the Local Planning Authority on 28 August 2020 and 03 November 2020 and listed as follows:

(20)A001 Revision F (Proposed Plans) dated 29/10/20 and received 03 November 2020

(20)A002 Revision A (Proposed Elevations) dated 16/07/20 and received 28 August 2020

3. The house in multiple occupation hereby permitted shall not be occupied by more than eleven people.

4. Notwithstanding the approved plans, prior to the development hereby permitted being first brought into use, details of secure covered & lockable cycle parking and/or storage facilities shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. These facilities shall be provided in accordance with the approved details and made available for use prior to the first use of the development hereby permitted and shall be retained for use at all times thereafter.

5. Notwithstanding the approved plans, prior to first occupation of the use hereby approved arrangements for the storage and disposal of refuse including recycling facilities, and vehicle access thereto, shall be made within the curtilage of the site, in accordance with details to be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved details shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

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LICENSING ACT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 14 October 2020

Present: Councillor A Hodson (Chair)

Councillors M Collins D Mitchell
C Cooke L Rowlands
G Davies J Stapleton
K Greaney I Williams
AER Jones KJ Williams
C Jones S Williams

Apologies Councillors T Norbury

1 MINUTES' SILENCE

The Chair asked that the Committee observe a minutes' silence in tribute to the memory of former Councillor Bill Davies who had served on Licensing Committees for a number of years and who had sadly passed away on 2 October, 2020.

2 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non pecuniary interests, in connection with any application on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

3 MINUTES

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Act 2003 Committee held on 22 May 2019, the special meeting held on 25 July 2019 and the meeting held on 13 November 2019 be approved.

4 MINUTES OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 SUB-COMMITTEE

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Act 2003 Sub-Committees held on 25 April 2019, 8 May 2019, 22 May 2019, 14 June 2019, 22 August 2019, 29 November 2019, 12 June 2020, 15 July 2020, 17 July 2020, 22 July 2020 and 14 August 2020 be approved.

5 APPOINTMENT OF LICENSING PANEL

The Committee was requested to appoint the Licensing Panel with the term of membership to be continued until amended or otherwise changed by this Committee and until such time as a new Licensing Panel is appointed.

The Chair explained that each Licensing Panel is to be comprised of three Members drawn from the pool of fifteen Committee Members with the Chair being appointed on the day of each meeting.

The Legal Advisor to the Committee outlined the terms of reference as stated in paragraph 12.3 of the Constitution and agreed at Council on 28 September 2020 which state:

“12.3 Licensing Panels (Licensing Act)

Sub-Committees of three (3) members of the Licensing Act Committee with responsibility for the Council’s functions to deal with applications, determinations and reviews of licences, permissions and any related matter in respect of the Licensing Act 2003 or the Gambling Act 2005. Up to two (2) further members of the Licensing Act Committee may attend with the Licensing Panel as observers.”

Resolved –

- (1) That the Licensing Panel be appointed with the term of membership to be continued until amended or otherwise changed by this Committee and until such time as a new Licensing Panel is appointed.**
- (2) That each Licensing Panel meeting with the terms of reference outlined above be comprised of three members to be drawn from the following pool of fifteen Committee Members:**

Councillors George Davies, Karl Greaney, Adrian Jones, Chris Jones, Tony Norbury, Jean Stapleton, Irene Williams, Jerry Williams, Andrew Hodson, Mike Collins, Les Rowlands, Steve Williams, Dave Mitchell and Chris Cooke (1 vacancy).

6 UPDATE FROM THE LICENSING MANAGER

At the request of the Chair, the Licensing Manager provided an update on the work that had been carried out to support local businesses during the pandemic.

It was reported that meetings had taken place with licensees to provide them with a briefing in terms of the new regulations and the implications of those and also to provide advice and support, in particular financial support for those businesses who had had to close.

The Licensing Manager was pleased to report that further to the inspection of over 90% of premises during the last two to three weeks a high level of compliance had been demonstrated, however if it had been found that premises had not complied with the regulations warning letters had been issued and in one case a Fixed Penalty Notice.

The Licensing Manager advised that work was ongoing in conjunction with Environmental Health and other agencies in order to keep people safe and to keep Wirral well.

The Chair gave thanks to all those involved for their hard work and support.

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REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 14 October 2020

Present: Councillor A Hodson (Chair)

Councillors M Collins D Mitchell
C Cooke L Rowlands
G Davies J Stapleton
K Greaney I Williams
AER Jones KJ Williams
C Jones S Williams

Apologies Councillor T Norbury

1 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests, in connection with any item on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

2 MINUTES

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee held on 18 March 2020 be approved.

3 MINUTES OF THE LICENSING PANEL

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Panel held on 15 November 2019, 13 December 2019, 20 December 2019, 20 December 2019 (reconvened meeting from 13 December 2019), 24 January 2020, 31 January 2020, 14 February 2020, 13 March 2020, 12 June 2020 and 24 July 2020 be approved.

4 APPOINTMENT OF THE REGULATORY PANEL 2020/21

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report to enable the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee to establish a Regulatory Panel, the Terms of Reference of which were approved by Council on 28 September 2020.

The Legal Advisor to the Committee advised that the Constitution as approved by Council requires the establishment of the Regulatory Panel with a membership of between 3 and 5 members with the allocation of seats according to the size of the political groups.

Standing Order 4.2 required that for each Committee or Sub-Committee including the Regulatory Panel, the Council may appoint up to a maximum of half (50%) the number of substitutes in respect of each political group as that group holds ordinary seats on that committee or subcommittee. In terms of all the permutations provided within the report, each of the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups would be entitled to one substitute member.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor L Rowlands it was -

Resolved –

(1) That Regulatory Panel be appointed with the following Terms of Reference until amended or otherwise changed by this Committee and until such time as a new Panel is appointed:

The Regulatory Panels will consist of five (5) members of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee, politically balanced, with responsibility for the Council's functions to deal with applications, determinations and reviews of licences or registrations, and any related matter, in respect of any licensed activity that is the responsibility of the Authority (other than under the Licensing Act 2003 or the Gambling Act 2005).

(2) That the size of the Regulatory Panel, having regard to the options referred to in paragraph 5.5 of the report be comprised of 5 Members with the political ratio of 2 Conservative (1 substitute), 2 Labour (1 substitute) and 1 Liberal Democrat (1 substitute).

(3) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership and substitute membership of the Regulatory Panel.

(4) That further to nominations submitted the following Members be appointed accordingly to the Regulatory Panel:

2 Conservative

1 Substitute

**Councillor A Hodson
Councillor S Williams**

Councillor M Collins

2 Labour

**Councillor A Jones
Councillor G Davies**

Councillor J Stapleton

1 Liberal Democrat

Councillor D Mitchell

Councillor A Corkhill

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REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 18 November 2020

Present: Councillor A Hodson (Chair)

Councillors AER Jones T Norbury
M Collins L Rowlands
C Cooke J Stapleton
G Davies I Williams
K Greaney KJ Williams
C Jones S Williams
D Mitchell

5 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests, in connection with any item on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

6 MINUTES

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee held on 14 October 2020 be approved.

7 MINUTES OF THE LICENSING PANEL

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Panel held on 24 September 2020 be approved.

8 CONFERMENT OF THE TITLE OF HONORARY ALDERMAN

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report requesting that Members of the Committee give consideration to whether to recommend to the Council that the title of Honorary Alderman be posthumously conferred on former Councillor Bill Davies.

Members of the Committee were advised that this matter had originally been scheduled for a meeting of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee on 14 October 2020 but due to the serious nature of his illness and former

Councillor Bill Davies having sadly passed away on 2 October 2020 the matter had been deferred.

The Legal Advisor to the Committee reported that former Councillor Bill Davies had been a Member of the Council from May 1986 and had represented Rock Ferry Ward as a Labour Party Member until March 2019 after which he had continued to serve Rock Ferry as an Independent Member until tendering his resignation as an Elected Member of the Council on Friday 4 September 2020. Former Councillor Bill Davies had sadly passed away on 2 October 2020 during the lead up to a meeting of this Committee where a recommendation to confer the title of Honorary Alderman had been scheduled for consideration.

Members were informed that Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the title of Honorary Alderman may be conferred by the Council on persons who have, in its opinion, rendered eminent service to the Council as past Members of this Council (or a predecessor Council) but who are no longer Councillors. The title is to be conferred by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting on it at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose. It was proposed that the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council would be convened at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 9 December 2020 to consider this matter.

It was reported that previously, the Council determined that former Members who have served twenty years on the Council or a predecessor Council had been eligible for nomination to this Award and that successful nominees had been awarded a suitable badge at a special ceremony. Until consideration of this matter, no prior considerations of the title of Honorary Alderman had been awarded posthumously.

Members were advised that former Councillor Bill Davies had been the only person eligible to be appointed as an Honorary Alderman at the time of preparing the original report scheduled to be considered by this Committee in October 2020 and in light of the fact that the process to confer the status of Honorary Alderman had already commenced prior to his passing it was considered that in these exceptional circumstances the conferment of the status of Honorary Alderman posthumously should continue out of respect for former Councillor Bill Davies.

Members were further informed that the intention would be to present former Councillor Bill Davies' family with a badge of office, the total cost of which would be approximately £600 and there would also be the small cost of inscribing his name on the Roll of Honour board which could be met from existing budgets.

The Chair advised that he had made representations to the Director of Law and Governance that the process to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on

former Councillor Bill Davies should be continued as he believed that former Councillor Bill Davies should receive this Award. Councillor Hodson expressed his great respect for former Councillor Bill Davies on behalf of himself and fellow Councillors.

Councillor George Davies confirmed that he fully supported that this matter had been pursued. He declared that he had been friends with the former Councillor since he himself became a Councillor in 1988 and that former Councillor Bill Davies had been an excellent Councillor for Rock Ferry. He believed that the Award was thoroughly deserved.

Councillor Dave Mitchell reiterated that former Councillor Bill Davies had been very well respected by Members for his hard work within his Ward and also believed that this Award was well deserved.

Councillor Jerry Williams referred to former Councillor Bill Davies as a wonderful person who had been totally dedicated to his work and fully supported the Award be conferred on him.

Councillor Tony Norbury confirmed that former Councillor Bill Davies had been a fantastic Councillor and also trade union representative and endorsed his respect for former Councillor Bill Davies.

Councillor Jean Stapleton stated that former Councillor Bill Davies was a wonderfully kind man and had been a good friend.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor D Mitchell, it was –

Resolved – That the posthumous conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor Bill Davies be recommended to Council in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 at its meeting on 9 December 2020.

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OFFICER DECISION FORM

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: Nicola Butterworth

KEY DECISION YES

DIRECTORATE: Neighbourhood Services

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

SUBJECT: COVID WINTER GRANT SCHEME (DWP)

1.0 DECISION:

That the Director of Neighbourhood Services agrees the following indicative local allocation of the COVID Winter Grant Scheme.

Item	Proposed spend
a) Food & activities holiday provision for school and nursery age children (grants to multiple community-based food providers)	£385,790
b) Financial Support with Welfare Needs scheme	£80,000
c) Financial support with crisis energy (fuel) costs (grant to Fuelbank Foundation)	£100,000
d) Financial support with energy (fuel) and water bills debt	£200,000
e) Crisis support with emergency call-outs (heating)	£30,000
f) Emergency (temporary) heating (grant to Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service £15,400)	£17,325
g) Winter Warmer Packs (grant to Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service)	£20,000
h) Crisis support with essential white goods (grants to community-based providers – to be determined)	£30,000
i) COVID Winter Fund - Small Grants Programme (grants to multiple community-based food providers – to be determined)	£250,000
j) Emergency support	£30,000
k) Administration costs (5%)	£61,231
Contingency	£20,270.93
Total	£1,224,616.93

2.0 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Department for Work & Pensions is providing to County Councils and Unitary Authorities a COVID Winter Grant Scheme (£170 million) to support those most in need across England with the cost of food, energy (heating, cooking, lighting), water bills (including sewerage) and other essentials.

Wirral's indicative allocation of the Grant Scheme is **£1,224,616.93**; this covers the period 1 December 2020 – 31 March 2021. The expected go-live date is 1 December 2020. The

Grant will help the Council continue its intensive work, in partnership with local agencies, groups and organisations, to support those most vulnerable throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

3.0 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Monitoring Officer, and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed, that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

The recommendations are also made based upon compliance with the Draft Guidance issued for the COVID Winter Grant Scheme by the Department for Work & Pensions. The indicative spend will be reviewed again once final guidance is published by the DWP to ensure continued compliance.

4.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.



Signed:

Officer: Nicola Butterworth

Title: Director of Neighbourhood Services

Date: 24 November 2020

A list of background papers on this issue is held with:

Contact Officer: Caroline Laing

Date: 23 November 2020

Date of Publication: 24 November 2020

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period:

Council – 7 December, 2020

Motions

The following motions have been submitted in accordance with the notice required by Standing Order 13.1 and are listed in accordance with Standing Order 13.2.

1. PUBLIC SECTOR PAY FREEZE

Proposed by Councillor Paul Stuart
Seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson

Across the UK Over 4 million public sector workers have had the threat of a three year pay freeze imposed on them by the Conservative Government who are determined to make those very people they clapped for each week pay for the Government's costly mistakes during the Coronavirus pandemic.

This will have huge implications to a large proportion of Wirral residents who are public sector employees. In 2019, the total number of employee jobs was 101,643. Of this number 23.9% are jobs within the public sector with Health being Wirral's largest industry sector accounting for over 22% of total employee jobs.

Is this how we thank our Nurses, Healthcare workers, teachers, firefighters, civil servants and police officers, who have already had a cut of up to 14% in real terms as a result of the austerity measures brought in by successive Tory governments since 2010?

These same workers risked their lives to save ours during the pandemic, nursed our loved ones, kept our schools open for vulnerable children, cared for the elderly, and kept our streets safe.

The Chancellor seeks to wilfully reignite the damaging debate around public versus private sector workers. The truth is, we need all workers in this country to be treated with dignity, respect and paid a fair wage. There needs to be parity between the two, but not by division, not by a race to the bottom.

This will have a detrimental affect the Wirral economy, with wages of nearly a quarter of the employee population facing a three year pay freeze and the cost of living inevitably rising, people will not have the disposable income they otherwise might to be able to spend locally.

Most families in poverty have at least one member in employment. In-work poverty is increasing. Imposing a three year pay freeze will exacerbate existing levels of poverty across Wirral. We cannot allow our public sector workers to be treated in this way. Government recognition of their vital role during the pandemic must extend further than meaningless gestures. Clapping once a week will not pay the bills.

Council commends the decision to pay the Real Living Wage to care workers; and

Council asks the Leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, and ask him to fulfil his pledge to 'level up' and not implement a three year pay freeze on public sector workers.

2. WIRRAL COUNCIL ASKED TO BACK THE RSPCA'S FIREWORKS CAMPAIGN

Proposed by Councillor Ian Lewis
Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Council is keen to ensure that all Wirral residents' concerns regarding the correct and safe use of fireworks in the Borough are taken seriously.

Council thanks Wirral residents who have shared concerns over the use, and misuse, of fireworks in the Borough, following the national campaign by the RSPCA and others, in 2019 and this year.

While they can bring much enjoyment to some people, fireworks also cause significant problems and fear for others.

They are a source of fear and distress for many animals, including pets, farm livestock and wildlife. Animals affected not only suffer psychological distress but can also cause themselves injuries – sometimes very serious ones – as they attempt to run away or hide from the noise.

Council also notes that fireworks, when misused, are dangerous and can be used to cause a public nuisance.

Council notes the work undertaken by the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, through Operation Banger, to reduce anti-social behaviour and sporadic events, linked to fireworks and bonfires and thanks all Fire Officers for their work on this.

Council therefore resolves to:

- continue to support a number of organised, local displays with residents encouraged to attend, including the River of Light Festival (a large scale organised public display which the Council plans responsibly for) and when safe to do so
- continue with its practice of working with Parks, Communications and other Council Teams and partners to promote safety messages and advertise events well in advance of the planned dates, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people
- continue to actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks
- ask the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee to investigate how the Council can work with our licensed venues to encourage the safe, responsible and neighbourly use of fireworks within their grounds
- request all Group Leaders write to the Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold

to the public for private displays and to consider options that could limit the private sales of fireworks to individuals

- support visits by Trading standards and the Fire Service to local suppliers of fireworks, including 'pop up' fireworks suppliers, to ensure compliance with existing legislation and to encourage fireworks that are appropriate for public display

3. GETTING CANCER SERVICES BACK ON TRACK

Proposed by Councillor Andy Corkhill
Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Council notes that we are seeing unprecedented disruption to cancer services on the Wirral, in the Liverpool City Region and across England.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, thousands of vital cancer treatments, appointments, and care were postponed or cancelled. People in desperate need of help are still unable to access the support they need and the emotional impact of delays is contributing to a crisis in mental health.

Cancer Research has seen hundreds of millions of pounds lost from its budget and a similar amount of charity donations that usually prop up the research system has been unforthcoming as people struggle financially.

We are lucky on the Wirral that we have two world class Cancer Centres on our doorstep, but even here there are residents who have had operations and treatments postponed or suspended. In areas less well served, residents are not even being referred from their GPs to an Oncology Centre. The result of all this inaction means cancers are being caught later, sometimes too late to avoid preventable death.

Council believes that cancer should not be forgotten during the COVID-19 pandemic and requests the Leader of the Council, Group Leaders and Senior Council Officers to write to the Government, demanding urgent action to deliver cancer recovery plans to prevent this happening, to clear the backlog and to get cancer services back on track.

4. SUPPORTING CAR CLUBS IN WIRRAL

Proposed by Councillor Pat Cleary
Seconded by Councillor Chris Cooke

Council notes:

the targets for new housing imposed by government on Wirral, the desire to protect our precious greenbelt and the resulting need to achieve higher density levels in new housing developments;

the unanimous declaration of a Climate Emergency by Council in July last year and the related “clean travel” commitments outlined in the Cool 2 climate strategy with a clear objective to decarbonise local travel

the many changes indicated as part of the Cool 2 strategy which include: “a shift from individual ownership of vehicles to the use of travel services, e.g. car clubs”;

that Car Clubs are an alternative to car ownership. They enable people to share cars, and only pay when they are using them. Although many schemes now operate across the country, there is no established scheme for Wirral;

that many councils actively support local car clubs in a variety of ways – providing financial and/or marketing support, facilitating vehicle access and via specific policies which, for example, mandate provision for car club vehicles in new housing schemes.

Car clubs therefore have a role to play in supporting a number of the council’s objectives for transportation, regeneration, climate change and sustainability.

Council requests that:

The Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee incorporate a study of car clubs into its work programme, to include:

- A survey of the current provision of car clubs in the Liverpool City Region
- An analysis of council support for car clubs elsewhere in the country and the potential application of similar support in Wirral
- Recommendations as to the specific policies and measures required to help facilitate future car club provision in Wirral

5. UNION LEARNING FUND

Proposed by Councillor Brian Kenny

Seconded by Councillor Adrian Jones

Wirral Council notes:

1. On Tuesday 6 October, the TUC received a letter from the Department for Education saying that ministers have decided to end the Union Learning Fund from March 2021.
2. The Union Learning Fund (ULF) was set up in 1998 to support trade unions to widen access to learning and training in workplaces for both union members and non-members. The fund supports workplace projects across England, and is coordinated by the TUC.
3. Each year around 200,000 workers are supported into learning or training with union support through the ULF and the TUC. Thousands of workers, based in Wirral, are currently eligible for this support. These learners undertake all sorts of job-relevant learning and training, including basic literacy and numeracy, ICT skills,

apprenticeships and traineeships, vocational training, continuing professional development and many other informal and formal courses.

4. In 2019–20, the ULF was worth £12m. If upheld this decision will effectively end union-brokered skills training, and will undermine key government skills and retraining priorities at a crucial moment for our economy.

Wirral Council understands that:

1. Union learning reaches people that other DfE programmes do not reach.
2. There is an independent evaluation of the Union Learning Fund every two years. It was most recently evaluated by the University of Exeter in 2018. They spoke to 2,459 learners, and found:
 - Over two-thirds (68 per cent) of learners with no previous qualifications got a qualification.
 - 47 per cent of those with entry level or level 1 qualifications got a qualification at a higher level.
 - Four in five (80 per cent) said they had developed skills that they could transfer to a new job.
 - Two in three (62 per cent) said their new skills made them more effective in their current job.
 - One in five (19 per cent) said they had been promoted or given increased responsibility and one in 10 (11 per cent) got a pay rise.
3. The 2018 independent evaluation found that union learning provided excellent value for money:
 - For every £1 spent on the Union Learning Fund, there is a return of £12.30: £7.60 to the worker, £4.70 to the employer.
 - The Union Learning Fund delivers an estimated net contribution to the economy of more than £1.4bn as a result of a boost to jobs, wages and productivity.
 - The return to the exchequer (through reduced spending on welfare benefits and other factors resulting from the boost to jobs and wages) is £3.57 for each £1 spent on the Union Learning Fund.
 - The £12m government funding levered in an additional £54m from employers, unions and training providers in 2019–20.
4. The government has said it will put reskilling workers at the heart of its economic recovery plans after the pandemic. In September 2020, the government announced a new fully funded entitlement to achieve a first level 3 qualification, delivered through the National Skills Fund. Union learning is ideally placed to support this aspiration, in two ways:
 - directly, through delivering relevant level 3 courses to workplace learners, which is already a core function of the Union Learning Fund and was assessed as highly effective by the 2018 independent evaluation
 - directly, through enabling those with basic skills to learn and develop, putting them in a position to progress to level 3 skills

5. Successive governments of all parties have valued this role – and have supported the Union Learning Fund. As government funding, it is paid as a contract and is subject to stringent monitoring requirements. Union Learning Fund money can only be spent on the direct costs of getting working people into learning and skills training, and the associated costs of delivering this programme.
6. ULF projects adapted quickly to delivering online learning and training for workers during the pandemic and have actually surpassed the number of outcomes expected by government since the beginning of April.

Wirral Council resolves to:

- (1) Express its public support for the continuation of the Union Learning Fund.
- (2) Ask the Leader of the Council to raise this issue with our 4 local MPs and encourage them to call on the government to reverse its decision.

6. IT'S TIME TO PUT NEW ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Council notes that:

- a. in 1999, a Green Paper was announced and the then Government set out to consult on the future of social care funding and a Royal Commission was set up. This published proposals which included a more generous means-test and free personal and nursing care;
- b. in 2009, the Labour Government's Green Paper proposed a National Care Service;
- c. in 2011, the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support, set up by the Coalition Government, proposed a cap on lifetime social care charges and a more generous means-test;
- d. in 2014, the Coalition Government legislated to implement the Commission's recommendations with cross-party support;
- e. in July 2015, the Conservative Government postponed their introduction citing funding pressures and a lack of preparedness by local authorities.

Council recognises that, since 2017, there has been a succession of promises to fund and reform the long term funding of Social Care. These have included:

The promise of a Green Paper made by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer in March 2017,

- a promise to “work to improve social care and bring forward proposals for consultation” in the Queen’s Speech in June 2017;
- a statement, in November 2017, that a Green Paper would be published by the Parliamentary summer recess in 2018 and would “focus on care for older people”;
- the setting out of seven principles to “guide the Government's thinking ahead of the Social Care Green Paper” in March 2018;

- the intention announced, in January 2019, to publish a Social Care Green Paper “by April 2019”.

Finally, the Queen’s Speech of 19 December 2019 included this commitment...

‘My Ministers will seek cross-party consensus on proposals for long term reform of social care. They will ensure that the social care system provides everyone with the dignity and security they deserve and that no one who needs care has to sell their home to pay for it.’

Council believes that Wirral’s residents need Parliament to deliver a way forward that will help them plan for their future care needs with some degree of certainty. Council recognises that all those involved in Wirral’s social care sector have worked, through the past months of the pandemic, to support Wirral’s people in care homes and in the community. It has faced shortages of PPE, distressed families who have lost loved ones and, latterly, the anxiety of those who have not been visited and been unable to visit.

In view of this pressured and chequered history, Council requests that Wirral’s Members of Parliament do all they can to secure a consensus on a way forward that will secure funding and meet the needs of the frail and vulnerable members of our community.

7. TACKLING CHILD POVERTY AND DEPRIVATION ON WIRRAL

Proposed by Councillor Tom Usher
Seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart

Poverty is devastating and deeply destabilising to families and communities, and residents from Wirral suffer from poverty at a higher rate than they did ten years ago, and at a higher rate than the national average. (Wirral children in low-income poverty has seen a 23.3% increase since 2015/16.)

It is particularly damaging during crucial stages of development, and the lasting effects that poverty has on physical and psychological processes are now well documented and long-lasting.

Child poverty is not simply about struggling to make ends meet financially but are linked with a wide range of deprivation issues such as poor-quality housing, poor health and low levels of educational attainment. Children in poverty are also more likely to go missing and have increased risk of exploitation and grooming.

Late interventions can be effective, but those made in the first five years of a child’s life are by far the most effective. The early interventions are also the most cost-effective.

With the social problems in our borough getting worse over the last decade – not better – and with the complex and varied nature of the causes and effects of poverty, Council recognises the significant work that has already been done to establish a poverty profile in the borough. It endorses the workstreams already going on to reduce child

poverty, and asks that Children, Young People and Education Committee considers this motion and requests it begins to lead on compiling a comprehensive child poverty strategy for the borough.