



Economy Regeneration & Development Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 8 June 2021
Time:	6.00 p.m.
Venue:	Palace Suite - Floral Pavilion

Members of the public are encouraged to view the meeting via the webcast, (see below) but for anyone who would like to attend in person, please contact the box office at the Floral Pavilion by telephone on 0151 666 0000, in advance of the meeting. All those attending will be asked to wear a face covering (unless exempt) and are encouraged to take a Lateral Flow Test before attending. You should not attend if you have tested positive for Coronavirus or if you have any symptoms of Coronavirus.

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

Contact Officer: Mike Jones, Principal Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 0151 691 8363
e-mail: Michaeljones1@wirral.gov.uk
Website: Wirral.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**
2. **APOLOGIES**
3. **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

4. **MINUTES (Pages 1 - 24)**

To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee held on 4 March 2021, attached.

5. PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

5.1 Public Questions

Notice of question to be given in writing or by email by 12 noon, Thursday 3 June 2021 to the Council's Monitoring Officer (committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 10.

5.2 Statements and Petitions

Notice of representations to be given in writing or by email by 12 noon, Thursday 3 June 2021 to the Council's Monitoring Officer (committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 11.1.

Petitions may be presented to the Committee. The person presenting the petition will be allowed to address the meeting briefly (not exceeding one minute) to outline the aims of the petition. The Chair will refer the matter to another appropriate body of the Council within whose terms of reference it falls without discussion, unless a relevant item appears elsewhere on the Agenda. Please give notice of petitions to committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

5.3 Questions by Members

Questions by Members to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Orders 12.3 to 12.8.

SECTION A - KEY AND OTHER DECISIONS

6. ACTIVE TRAVEL FUNDING (Pages 25 - 40)

7. BIRKENHEAD TEMPORARY MARKET (Pages 41 - 270)

SECTION B - BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

8. 2021/22 BUDGET MONITORING AND 22/23 BUDGET PROCESS (Pages 271 - 286)

9. 2020/21 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT (Pages 287 - 292)

SECTION C - WORK PROGRAMME / OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

10. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO ACTIVE TRAVEL WORKING GROUP (Pages 293 - 298)

- 11. ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (Pages 299 - 306)**
- 12. EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND
PUBLIC**

The following items contain exempt information.

RECOMMENDATION: That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

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ECONOMY REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, 4 March 2021

Present:

Councillor A Leech (Chair)

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

22 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting including the member of the public who had submitted a question.

23 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

24 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jo Bird declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item 11 (Minute 38) (Business Support Services: Commissioning Intentions Paper) as she was a Community-Led Housing accredited advisor who sometimes had paid work for Breaking Ground who would be in a position to bid for this this element of the proposed BSS contract.

Councillor Jean Stapleton declared a personal interest in item 11 (Minute 38) (Business Support Services: Commissioning Intentions Paper) as she represented the Council on Birkenhead improvement District Steering Group.

Councillor Tony Jones declared a personal interest in items 8 and 9 (Minutes 35 and 36 concerning the Maritime Knowledge Hub) as he was a Council appointee on Mersey Maritime.

Councillor Andrew Gardner declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item 12 (Minute 39) (Wirral Ways to Work) as Involve Northwest were a professional client of his.

25 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee held on 26 January 2021 be approved and adopted as a correct record.

26 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

One question had been received.

Question from Gillian Homeri:

Can the committee explain why a large sum of money is being given to the People's Pool for a feasibility study rather than expecting any company capable of creating such a project to be in a position to fund such a study themselves.

Answer: I would like to thank you for your question regarding the award of feasibility funding for the People's Pool project. The decision to grant up to £80,000 to contribute towards feasibility work for the People's Pool project was made at Council on the 2nd March 2020. However, in the light of a material change in circumstances for the council, namely the financial pressures due to Covid and the commissioning of the New Brighton Masterplan, the Committee will tonight be considering a report on the project. This report sets out details of the first phase of the feasibility study and outlines the next stages of work to be progressed which would require Members to agree to the allocation of the remaining £67,500 of grant funding. I am sure members will consider your contribution, as part of the debate that will take place on this proposal.

Supplementary question:

Gillian Homeri: There are the remains of a tidal pool in New Brighton which volunteers said they could renovate. In my view it is acceptable. I cannot understand how the People Pool will be carbon neutral as people will be travelling as well as using hot tubs, and it will be heated in the winter.

Answer from Councillor Leech:

I am sure this will be taken into consideration. It is very much in the early stages. It will need planning permission. To progress with the feasibility study they are asking for the remainder of funding to be allocated to them so all the matters you addressed can be adhered to.

27 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS**

No statements or petitions had been received.

28 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

No questions from Members had been received.

The Chair proposed to amend the order of business so that all items which had confidential information in appendices were grouped toward the end of the meeting.

This was agreed by assent.

29 **FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND**

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place set out that in December 2020, the Council received notification of the outcome of two submissions it had made to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Future High Street Fund. Birkenhead had received its full requested allocation of £24.6m and New Ferry was offered an in-principle award of £3.2m from its requested value of £4.6m, subject to an updated proposal to reflect the lower funding offer. The report set out the next steps for both areas, including more detailed information regarding a temporary solution for Birkenhead Market, as well as the process to reprofile and resubmit the New Ferry proposal.

Sally Shah, Chief Regeneration Officer, presented the report and answered Members questions, which mainly concerned the moving of Birkenhead Market and wanting the development of New Ferry to move forward as quickly as possible.

RESOLVED - That Policy and Resources Committee be requested to approve the following recommendations:

- (1) Note the content of the report and the announcement from Government regarding the Future High Street Fund award in relation to Birkenhead and the in-principle award in relation to New Ferry.**
- (2) Note that a re-profiled application was submitted to Government on 3 February 2021 in respect of the New Ferry Future High Street Fund in-principle award.**
- (3) Authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place to consider and approve final sign off of the Future High Street Fund grant funding agreements for Birkenhead and New Ferry, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance.**
- (4) Authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place to commence delivery of the Birkenhead and New Ferry Future High Street Fund programmes in line with the grant funding agreement and change control process.**
- (5) Authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place to progress with scoping out a design, costed model and fit out of the current preferred option for the temporary market, namely Unit 2 St**

- Werburghs Square and St Werburghs Square itself, that will be used as a temporary holding position while the current Birkenhead Market site be made available for re-- development.**
- (6) Note that a further report will be brought forward to Members for approval of the finalised proposal for the temporary market.**

30 REVISED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place sought approval of a revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The existing SCI had been adopted in March 2014 and set out the Council's minimum consultation and engagement requirements during the preparation of the Local Plan, Supplementary Planning Documents, Neighbourhood Plans and the determination of planning applications. It had been necessary to update the SCI to be legally compliant, take account of Government regulations, guidance on temporary changes to consultation arrangements arising from the Covid 19 emergency, guidance on arrangements for Neighbourhood Plans and to reflect new opportunities for best practice engagement offered by web-based applications.

RESOLVED – That:

- (1) The Statement of Community Involvement attached at Appendix 1 to the report be adopted; and**
- (2) Authority be delegated to the Director of Regeneration and Place to make minor, non-material formatting and typographical changes to the Statement of Community Involvement prior to publication.**

31 NEW FERRY – IMPLEMENTING THE REGENERATION PLAN

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place set out that in March 2017 an explosion in New Ferry devastated the heart of the New Ferry retail centre, destroying businesses and homes, having a significant impact on the local community. Since that time, the Council had been fully supporting the recovery of the area, seeking additional funding to acquire the interests of key properties and parcels of land which would enable the regeneration and redevelopment of the town centre to proceed under the New Ferry Regeneration Plan.

The plan sought to protect local businesses and bring a mix of new residential and retail units into the town to create a sustainable future for New Ferry. However, negotiations for the acquisition of a number of property interests were not progressing. The use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers was therefore recommended as the Council was unlikely to be able acquire these interests by agreement. The report also detailed a preferred development option. This had been endorsed by a Leader Decision in December 2019,

then followed by an outline planning application for the preferred development option approved by Council in September 2020. The scheme would be taken forward for delivery and a preferred developer partner would be appointed to deliver the scheme in 2021. It was anticipated that the overall scheme would be delivered by 2024.

Members were keen that the redevelopment be accelerated where possible and asked questions about potential delays. Members offered their thanks to the team who had worked on the proposals.

RESOLVED –

That Policy and Resources Committee be requested to approve the following:

- (1) The making of a Compulsory Purchase Order(s) (“the Order”) under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Section 226(1)(a), and section 13 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 for the acquisition of land and new rights in respect of the area identified in the plan and table of Appendix 1 of the report to enable the regeneration of New Ferry to be undertaken and that the process for the Order shall be subject to following the procedures laid down by the Acquisition of Land Act 1981.**
- (2) The draft skeleton Statement of Reasons (Appendix 2 to the report) which (in addition to the information in this report) sets out the justification for making the Order.**
- (3) The Director of Regeneration and Place in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance be granted delegated authority to:**
 - (a) finalise the Statement of Reasons.**
 - (b) draft the Order Map and Schedule before the making of the Order (if required).**
 - (c) negotiate, agree terms and enter into agreements with interested parties including agreements for the withdrawal of blight notices and/or the withdrawal of objections to the Order and/or undertakings not to enforce the Order on specified terms, including (but not limited to) where appropriate seeking the exclusion of land or rights from the Order, making provision for the payment of compensation and/or relocation.**
- (4) The Director of Law and Governance be granted delegated authority to:**
 - (a) take all steps to secure the making, confirmation and implementation of the Order including the publication and service of all notices and the promotion of the Council’s case at any public inquiry.**
 - (b) in the event the Order is confirmed by the Secretary of State, to advertise and give notice of confirmation and thereafter to take all steps to implement the Order.**

- (c) take all steps in relation to any legal proceedings relating to the Order including defending or settling claims referred to the Upper Tribunal and/or applications to the courts and any appeals.
- (5) That where required to assist in the delivery of the New Ferry Preferred development option land may be appropriated for planning purposes pursuant to Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972 to enable Section 203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 to be utilised to override any third-party rights of land or part thereof.
- (6) The Economy, Development and Regeneration Committee be authorised to make all necessary further decisions that are not otherwise delegated to officers, in relation to the Compulsory Purchase Order and consequential on the Compulsory Purchase Order including the selection process for and approval of a development partner the structure of that partnership arrangement whether through a land transaction or otherwise and any related land transactions and settlement of compensation and the engagement of appropriate advisors to advise on compensation for any business interests.

32 **2020/21 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER THREE**

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place provided a summary of the projected year-end revenue and capital position for Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee as at the end of Quarter 3 (December 2020) of the 2020/21 financial year. The Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic presented financial risk due to uncertainty and fluidity in the external environment.

The overall financial position for the Council remained challenging, and a number of actions had been in progress to mitigate the overall forecast position presented at quarter 3, including limiting spending to essential areas of service delivery only, with Corporate Directors supported to mitigate the risk of overspending.

RESOLVED – That:

- (1) The adverse year-end forecast position presented at Quarter 3 of £0.714m be noted; and
- (2) The impact of funding and expenditure as a direct consequence of Covid-19 be noted, including the additional funding sources which have been identified but, as yet, not received.

33 **ACTIVE TRAVEL CROSS PARTY MEMBER WORKING GROUP**

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place sought approval for the establishment of a Member Working Group focussed on active travel. The Working Group would be within the category of an Advisory Group and would support the Council to secure a positive outcome in delivering increased levels of sustainable travel as set out in the emerging Local Plan and the target in the Cool2 Strategy to 'a complete transition to fossil fuel free local travel by around 2030'. Recommendations and findings from the Working Group would be presented to the Economy Regeneration and Development Committee.

The Chair proposed that the recommendations be adopted subject to an amendment to enlarge the membership to 8. Having regard to the current membership of the Council this would allow all parties on the Council to be represented with 3 Labour group members, 2 Conservative group members and the remaining groups having 1 representative. The Chair also proposed that the Chair of the Working Group be selected from its number. This was seconded by Councillor Jo Bird.

Members were advised that the proposed terms of reference enabled relevant officers and representatives of the Combined Authority and other local or national organisations to attend meetings of the Working Group as required.

RESOLVED – That:

- (1) The Active Travel Working Group be established with the Terms of Reference as attached to this report at Appendix 1 subject to the following amendments to the Membership:**
 - (i) The Working Group will comprise of eight members. In addition, Members of other Committees may be invited to attend as and when appropriate at the discretion of the Chair of the Working Group.**
 - (ii) A Chair will be selected by the Group from amongst its number.**
 - (iii) The Working Group shall appoint a Chair.**
- (2) The Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Active Travel 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.**

34 **WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

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, to align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key

decisions which are within the remit of the Committee. The work programme was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

RESOLVED – That the content of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year, as set out within the report, be agreed.

Members resolved en bloc that the appendices that are marked exempt/confidential items to the remaining agenda items contained exempt information relating to the financial and business affairs of the Council and other persons of a commercially sensitive nature, as defined by paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and that they would be treated as confidential information items during their public consideration by members.

35 **MARITIME KNOWLEDGE HUB**

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place explained that the Maritime Knowledge Hub was a catalytic project to support wider development within Wirral Waters. It was to create a world class centre of excellence for maritime business growth and sector development. It would also bring together the region's key maritime assets in business, research, education and training to address challenges around innovation and skills within a refurbished and new build high profile centre.

Participating in the development of the Maritime Knowledge Hub through a Forward Funding Agreement and taking of a 250-year lease would create a world class centre of excellence for maritime business growth and sector development. It would bring together the region's key maritime assets in business, research, education and training to address challenges around innovation and skills within a refurbished and new build high profile centre. The project would be an investment vehicle for the Council with the potential to deliver a financial return to offset the capital investment.

RESOLVED – That Policy and Resources Committee be requested to approve the following recommendations:

- (1) The Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance and the Director of Resources, be authorised to finalise the Heads of Terms substantially in accordance with the draft Heads of Terms attached as Appendix 3 to the report.**
- (2) The Full Business Case for Maritime Knowledge Hub be approved.**
- (3) The Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Place and the Director of Resources, be authorised to finalise agreements for the Council to enter into a conditional Forward Funding Agreement, Agreement for Lease**

and Lease, based on the finalised heads of terms, with Peel Land and Property (Intermediate) Ltd.

- (4) The Director of Regeneration and Place in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance and the Director of Resources be authorised to accept the terms of the Grant Funding Agreement, subject to successful award, from Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and Ministry of Communities, Housing and Local Government in respect of the pre-test and trial Maritime Accelerator Project and to commence necessary procurement exercises to enable the delivery of the Accelerator.

36 **WIRRAL WATERS ENTERPRISE ZONE INVESTMENT FUND - MARITIME KNOWLEDGE HUB**

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place sought approval to provide a grant to the Council to enable the delivery of new high quality Maritime Knowledge Hub floorspace in Wirral. The Maritime Knowledge Hub would create a world class centre of excellence for maritime business growth and sector development. It would bring together the region's key maritime assets in business, research, education and training to address challenges around innovation and skills and build a high-profile centre. The funding package had been set up within the Enterprise Zone to reinvest business rates and could operate up to 2037.

RESOLVED –

That Policy and Resources Committee be requested to approve funding from the Wirral Waters Investment Fund to the Council to support the development of new high quality mixed use floorspace at the Maritime Knowledge Hub.

37 **WIRRAL WATERS ENTERPRISE ZONE INVESTMENT FUND - EGERTON VILLAGE**

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place sought approval to provide a grant to Peel Land and Property Investments (Intermediate) Limited to enable the delivery of new high quality mixed use floorspace at Egerton Village within Wirral Waters. Egerton Village would be a new, low carbon 14,671 sq ft gateway community, amenity and arts facility located in the Four Bridges area of Wirral Waters, and would provide a focal point for arrival and orientation around Wirral Waters. The development had been designed to create a new semi-public, semi-covered 'square' at its heart that would be used for events and other activities.

RESOLVED –

That Policy and Resources Committee be requested to approve the following recommendations:

- (1) A grant from the Wirral Waters Investment Fund to Peel Land and Property Investments (Intermediate) Limited be approved to support the development of new high quality mixed use floorspace at Egerton Village.**
- (2) The Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Place, be authorised to draw up and sign a conditional legal agreement between the Council and Peel Land and Property (Intermediate) Limited to reflect the grant arrangements.**

38 BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES: COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS PAPER

Councillor Jo Bird, having expressed a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in this item, left the meeting for the debate and vote.

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place summarised progress of Wirral Council's Business Support Service commission which was to run to May 2021, and asked the Committee to endorse the extension of the current contract to September 2021 to align procurement timescales with the complementary Third Sector Infrastructure service and sought authority to undertake market procurement for a re- prioritised Business Support Service in 2021.

RESOLVED –

That Policy and Resources Committee be requested to approve the following recommendations:

- (1) An extension of the Business Support Services contract to 30 September 2021 be endorsed.**
- (2) The Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons of the Economy and Regeneration and Development Committee, be authorised to:**
 - a. Approve the final Business Support Services specification for delivery of a new service from October 2021 to October 2024, with an option to extend by one year to October 2025 based on satisfactory performance.**
 - b. Commence procurement and select the most economically advantageous supplier(s) to deliver the commissioned services.**
 - c. Conclude the final contract award.**

39 WIRRAL WAYS TO WORK

Councillor Andrew Gardner, having declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, left the meeting for the debate and vote.

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place sought authority for the Council to enter into an extension of a supplier agreement with Involve Northwest whilst the Council awaited formal award of European Social Fund. Following a competitive tender exercise, Involve Northwest had been selected as preferred supplier to deliver the Worklessness Support Service, which was part of the Wirral Ways to Work Programme. The contract was due to expire on 30th June 2021 but an application had been made for funding from the Liverpool City Region which would enable the Council to extend this contract for 16 months until October 2022. An option to extend for 3 months at risk was also sought whilst this application was processed.

RESOLVED –

That Policy and Resources Committee be requested to approve the following recommendations:

- (1) The Director of Law and Governance in consultation with the Director for Regeneration and Place be authorised to enter a contract extension and sign the supplier contract with Involve Northwest to continue delivery of the Wirral Ways to Work Worklessness Support Service.**
- (2) An option be authorised for the Director of Regeneration and Place in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter a 3-month contract extension from July to September 2021 to cover off the risk of awaiting a grant funding agreement from Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and then proceed to a full extension once confirmation of EU funds is received, should this option need to be utilised.**

40 THE PEOPLE'S POOL

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place provided an update on a proposal brought forward by an external organisation named Our Lido Ltd (OLL) to build a lido complex on a Council site within Wirral, fully funded by external grant funding applied for by OLL. The proposal ('The People's Pool') was to provide a hub for the community with a mixed business model to support this to include a food and drink offer, retail, spaces for community use, a proactive employment and training policy, and potentially partnerships with local independent businesses and social enterprises. The aspirations for the pool itself were that it would provide a 50-metre-long pool, open all year round and heated using environmentally sustainable energy.

A decision had previously been taken by the Council to approve up to £80,000 grant funding to contribute towards feasibility work for the People's Pool project through the Council's Capital Budget (Council, 2 March 2020, Minute 122 refers). A decision had also previously been taken by the Leader of the Council to support the People's Pool project and to approve the investigation to identify a Council site within Wirral to potentially be transferred under the

community asset transfer process or occupied in some other way to be decided at a future date (Leader Decision, 24 March 2020 refers). Since its previous decisions, the Council had faced significant financial pressures largely connected to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which required it to review its commitments. The New Brighton Masterplan had also been commissioned to develop a long-term framework to inform future decisions in New Brighton. It was considered that this represented a material change of circumstances.

Members asked questions about the proposal and were concerned at the use of Council funds at a time when budgets were under pressure, and the lack of risk for OLL. Officers had investigated OLL who were a Community Interest Company and they had applied elsewhere for funding. A proposal in line with the recommendations within the report was voted on and lost with 4 votes for and 6 against.

Members continued discussion on the issue and were in favour of the Lido in principle but could not justify the spending of funds at the current time.

Councillor Andrew Hodson proposed that the Committee resolve to be in favour of the Lido in principle but could not justify the spending of funds at the current time and Councillor David Burgess-Joyce seconded this proposal.

**RESOLVED (6 in favour, none against and 4 abstentions) –
That the People’s Pool project be supported, in principle, but the
Committee could not support the funding request from Our Lido Ltd
from the Council’s Capital Budget of £67,500 at the current time.**

ECONOMY REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, 4 March 2021

Present:

Councillor A Leech (Chair)

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

22 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting including the member of the public who had submitted a question.

23 APOLOGIES

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Councillor Jo Bird declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item 11 (Minute 38) (Business Support Services: Commissioning Intentions Paper) as she was a Community-Led Housing accredited advisor who sometimes had paid work for Breaking Ground who would be in a position to bid for this this element of the proposed BSS contract.

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25 **MINUTES**

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One question had been received.

Question from Gillian Homeri:

Can the committee explain why a large sum of money is being given to the People's Pool for a feasibility study rather than expecting any company capable of creating such a project to be in a position to fund such a study themselves.

Answer: I would like to thank you for your question regarding the award of feasibility funding for the People's Pool project. The decision to grant up to £80,000 to contribute towards feasibility work for the People's Pool project was made at Council on the 2nd March 2020. However, in the light of a material change in circumstances for the council, namely the financial pressures due to Covid and the commissioning of the New Brighton Masterplan, the Committee will tonight be considering a report on the project. This report sets out details of the first phase of the feasibility study and outlines the next stages of work to be progressed which would require Members to agree to the allocation of the remaining £67,500 of grant funding. I am sure members will consider your contribution, as part of the debate that will take place on this proposal.

Supplementary question:

Gillian Homeri: There are the remains of a tidal pool in New Brighton which volunteers said they could renovate. In my view it is acceptable. I cannot understand how the People Pool will be carbon neutral as people will be travelling as well as using hot tubs, and it will be heated in the winter.

Answer from Councillor Leech:

I am sure this will be taken into consideration. It is very much in the early stages. It will need planning permission. To progress with the feasibility study they are asking for the remainder of funding to be allocated to them so all the matters you addressed can be adhered to.

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Sally Shah, Chief Regeneration Officer, presented the report and answered Members questions, which mainly concerned the moving of Birkenhead Market and wanting the development of New Ferry to move forward as quickly as possible.

RESOLVED - That Policy and Resources Committee be requested to approve the following recommendations:

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RESOLVED – That:

- (1) The Statement of Community Involvement attached at Appendix 1 to the report be adopted; and**
- (2) Authority be delegated to the Director of Regeneration and Place to make minor, non-material formatting and typographical changes to the Statement of Community Involvement prior to publication.**

31 NEW FERRY – IMPLEMENTING THE REGENERATION PLAN

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place set out that in March 2017 an explosion in New Ferry devastated the heart of the New Ferry retail centre, destroying businesses and homes, having a significant impact on the local community. Since that time, the Council had been fully supporting the recovery of the area, seeking additional funding to acquire the interests of key properties and parcels of land which would enable the regeneration and redevelopment of the town centre to proceed under the New Ferry Regeneration Plan.

The plan sought to protect local businesses and bring a mix of new residential and retail units into the town to create a sustainable future for New Ferry. However, negotiations for the acquisition of a number of property interests were not progressing. The use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers was therefore recommended as the Council was unlikely to be able acquire these interests by agreement. The report also detailed a preferred development option. This had been endorsed by a Leader Decision in December 2019,

then followed by an outline planning application for the preferred development option approved by Council in September 2020. The scheme would be taken forward for delivery and a preferred developer partner would be appointed to deliver the scheme in 2021. It was anticipated that the overall scheme would be delivered by 2024.

Members were keen that the redevelopment be accelerated where possible and asked questions about potential delays. Members offered their thanks to the team who had worked on the proposals.

RESOLVED –

That Policy and Resources Committee be requested to approve the following:

- (1) The making of a Compulsory Purchase Order(s) (“the Order”) under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Section 226(1)(a), and section 13 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 for the acquisition of land and new rights in respect of the area identified in the plan and table of Appendix 1 of the report to enable the regeneration of New Ferry to be undertaken and that the process for the Order shall be subject to following the procedures laid down by the Acquisition of Land Act 1981.**
- (2) The draft skeleton Statement of Reasons (Appendix 2 to the report) which (in addition to the information in this report) sets out the justification for making the Order.**
- (3) The Director of Regeneration and Place in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance be granted delegated authority to:**
 - (a) finalise the Statement of Reasons.**
 - (b) draft the Order Map and Schedule before the making of the Order (if required).**
 - (c) negotiate, agree terms and enter into agreements with interested parties including agreements for the withdrawal of blight notices and/or the withdrawal of objections to the Order and/or undertakings not to enforce the Order on specified terms, including (but not limited to) where appropriate seeking the exclusion of land or rights from the Order, making provision for the payment of compensation and/or relocation.**
- (4) The Director of Law and Governance be granted delegated authority to:**
 - (a) take all steps to secure the making, confirmation and implementation of the Order including the publication and service of all notices and the promotion of the Council’s case at any public inquiry.**
 - (b) in the event the Order is confirmed by the Secretary of State, to advertise and give notice of confirmation and thereafter to take all steps to implement the Order.**

- (c) take all steps in relation to any legal proceedings relating to the Order including defending or settling claims referred to the Upper Tribunal and/or applications to the courts and any appeals.
- (5) That where required to assist in the delivery of the New Ferry Preferred development option land may be appropriated for planning purposes pursuant to Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972 to enable Section 203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 to be utilised to override any third-party rights of land or part thereof.
- (6) The Economy, Development and Regeneration Committee be authorised to make all necessary further decisions that are not otherwise delegated to officers, in relation to the Compulsory Purchase Order and consequential on the Compulsory Purchase Order including the selection process for and approval of a development partner the structure of that partnership arrangement whether through a land transaction or otherwise and any related land transactions and settlement of compensation and the engagement of appropriate advisors to advise on compensation for any business interests.

32 **2020/21 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER THREE**

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place provided a summary of the projected year-end revenue and capital position for Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee as at the end of Quarter 3 (December 2020) of the 2020/21 financial year. The Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic presented financial risk due to uncertainty and fluidity in the external environment.

The overall financial position for the Council remained challenging, and a number of actions had been in progress to mitigate the overall forecast position presented at quarter 3, including limiting spending to essential areas of service delivery only, with Corporate Directors supported to mitigate the risk of overspending.

RESOLVED – That:

- (1) The adverse year-end forecast position presented at Quarter 3 of £0.714m be noted; and
- (2) The impact of funding and expenditure as a direct consequence of Covid-19 be noted, including the additional funding sources which have been identified but, as yet, not received.

33 **ACTIVE TRAVEL CROSS PARTY MEMBER WORKING GROUP**

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place sought approval for the establishment of a Member Working Group focussed on active travel. The Working Group would be within the category of an Advisory Group and would support the Council to secure a positive outcome in delivering increased levels of sustainable travel as set out in the emerging Local Plan and the target in the Cool2 Strategy to 'a complete transition to fossil fuel free local travel by around 2030'. Recommendations and findings from the Working Group would be presented to the Economy Regeneration and Development Committee.

The Chair proposed that the recommendations be adopted subject to an amendment to enlarge the membership to 8. Having regard to the current membership of the Council this would allow all parties on the Council to be represented with 3 Labour group members, 2 Conservative group members and the remaining groups having 1 representative. The Chair also proposed that the Chair of the Working Group be selected from its number. This was seconded by Councillor Jo Bird.

Members were advised that the proposed terms of reference enabled relevant officers and representatives of the Combined Authority and other local or national organisations to attend meetings of the Working Group as required.

RESOLVED – That:

- (1) The Active Travel Working Group be established with the Terms of Reference as attached to this report at Appendix 1 subject to the following amendments to the Membership:**
 - (i) The Working Group will comprise of eight members. In addition, Members of other Committees may be invited to attend as and when appropriate at the discretion of the Chair of the Working Group.**
 - (ii) A Chair will be selected by the Group from amongst its number.**
 - (iii) The Working Group shall appoint a Chair.**
- (2) The Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Active Travel 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.**

34 **WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

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, to align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key

decisions which are within the remit of the Committee. The work programme was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

RESOLVED – That the content of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year, as set out within the report, be agreed.

Members resolved en bloc that the appendices that are marked exempt/confidential items to the remaining agenda items contained exempt information relating to the financial and business affairs of the Council and other persons of a commercially sensitive nature, as defined by paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and that they would be treated as confidential information items during their public consideration by members.

35 **MARITIME KNOWLEDGE HUB**

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place explained that the Maritime Knowledge Hub was a catalytic project to support wider development within Wirral Waters. It was to create a world class centre of excellence for maritime business growth and sector development. It would also bring together the region's key maritime assets in business, research, education and training to address challenges around innovation and skills within a refurbished and new build high profile centre.

Participating in the development of the Maritime Knowledge Hub through a Forward Funding Agreement and taking of a 250-year lease would create a world class centre of excellence for maritime business growth and sector development. It would bring together the region's key maritime assets in business, research, education and training to address challenges around innovation and skills within a refurbished and new build high profile centre. The project would be an investment vehicle for the Council with the potential to deliver a financial return to offset the capital investment.

RESOLVED – That Policy and Resources Committee be requested to approve the following recommendations:

- (1) The Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance and the Director of Resources, be authorised to finalise the Heads of Terms substantially in accordance with the draft Heads of Terms attached as Appendix 3 to the report.**
- (2) The Full Business Case for Maritime Knowledge Hub be approved.**
- (3) The Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Place and the Director of Resources, be authorised to finalise agreements for the Council to enter into a conditional Forward Funding Agreement, Agreement for Lease**

and Lease, based on the finalised heads of terms, with Peel Land and Property (Intermediate) Ltd.

- (4) The Director of Regeneration and Place in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance and the Director of Resources be authorised to accept the terms of the Grant Funding Agreement, subject to successful award, from Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and Ministry of Communities, Housing and Local Government in respect of the pre-test and trial Maritime Accelerator Project and to commence necessary procurement exercises to enable the delivery of the Accelerator.

36 **WIRRAL WATERS ENTERPRISE ZONE INVESTMENT FUND - MARITIME KNOWLEDGE HUB**

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place sought approval to provide a grant to the Council to enable the delivery of new high quality Maritime Knowledge Hub floorspace in Wirral. The Maritime Knowledge Hub would create a world class centre of excellence for maritime business growth and sector development. It would bring together the region's key maritime assets in business, research, education and training to address challenges around innovation and skills and build a high-profile centre. The funding package had been set up within the Enterprise Zone to reinvest business rates and could operate up to 2037.

RESOLVED –

That Policy and Resources Committee be requested to approve funding from the Wirral Waters Investment Fund to the Council to support the development of new high quality mixed use floorspace at the Maritime Knowledge Hub.

37 **WIRRAL WATERS ENTERPRISE ZONE INVESTMENT FUND - EGERTON VILLAGE**

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place sought approval to provide a grant to Peel Land and Property Investments (Intermediate) Limited to enable the delivery of new high quality mixed use floorspace at Egerton Village within Wirral Waters. Egerton Village would be a new, low carbon 14,671 sq ft gateway community, amenity and arts facility located in the Four Bridges area of Wirral Waters, and would provide a focal point for arrival and orientation around Wirral Waters. The development had been designed to create a new semi-public, semi-covered 'square' at its heart that would be used for events and other activities.

RESOLVED –

That Policy and Resources Committee be requested to approve the following recommendations:

- (1) A grant from the Wirral Waters Investment Fund to Peel Land and Property Investments (Intermediate) Limited be approved to support the development of new high quality mixed use floorspace at Egerton Village.**
- (2) The Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Place, be authorised to draw up and sign a conditional legal agreement between the Council and Peel Land and Property (Intermediate) Limited to reflect the grant arrangements.**

38 BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES: COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS PAPER

Councillor Jo Bird, having expressed a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in this item, left the meeting for the debate and vote.

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place summarised progress of Wirral Council's Business Support Service commission which was to run to May 2021, and asked the Committee to endorse the extension of the current contract to September 2021 to align procurement timescales with the complementary Third Sector Infrastructure service and sought authority to undertake market procurement for a re- prioritised Business Support Service in 2021.

RESOLVED –

That Policy and Resources Committee be requested to approve the following recommendations:

- (1) An extension of the Business Support Services contract to 30 September 2021 be endorsed.**
- (2) The Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons of the Economy and Regeneration and Development Committee, be authorised to:**
 - a. Approve the final Business Support Services specification for delivery of a new service from October 2021 to October 2024, with an option to extend by one year to October 2025 based on satisfactory performance.**
 - b. Commence procurement and select the most economically advantageous supplier(s) to deliver the commissioned services.**
 - c. Conclude the final contract award.**

39 WIRRAL WAYS TO WORK

Councillor Andrew Gardner, having declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, left the meeting for the debate and vote.

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place sought authority for the Council to enter into an extension of a supplier agreement with Involve Northwest whilst the Council awaited formal award of European Social Fund. Following a competitive tender exercise, Involve Northwest had been selected as preferred supplier to deliver the Worklessness Support Service, which was part of the Wirral Ways to Work Programme. The contract was due to expire on 30th June 2021 but an application had been made for funding from the Liverpool City Region which would enable the Council to extend this contract for 16 months until October 2022. An option to extend for 3 months at risk was also sought whilst this application was processed.

RESOLVED –

That Policy and Resources Committee be requested to approve the following recommendations:

- (1) The Director of Law and Governance in consultation with the Director for Regeneration and Place be authorised to enter a contract extension and sign the supplier contract with Involve Northwest to continue delivery of the Wirral Ways to Work Worklessness Support Service.**
- (2) An option be authorised for the Director of Regeneration and Place in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter a 3-month contract extension from July to September 2021 to cover off the risk of awaiting a grant funding agreement from Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and then proceed to a full extension once confirmation of EU funds is received, should this option need to be utilised.**

40 THE PEOPLE'S POOL

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place provided an update on a proposal brought forward by an external organisation named Our Lido Ltd (OLL) to build a lido complex on a Council site within Wirral, fully funded by external grant funding applied for by OLL. The proposal ('The People's Pool') was to provide a hub for the community with a mixed business model to support this to include a food and drink offer, retail, spaces for community use, a proactive employment and training policy, and potentially partnerships with local independent businesses and social enterprises. The aspirations for the pool itself were that it would provide a 50-metre-long pool, open all year round and heated using environmentally sustainable energy.

A decision had previously been taken by the Council to approve up to £80,000 grant funding to contribute towards feasibility work for the People's Pool project through the Council's Capital Budget (Council, 2 March 2020, Minute 122 refers). A decision had also previously been taken by the Leader of the Council to support the People's Pool project and to approve the investigation to identify a Council site within Wirral to potentially be transferred under the

community asset transfer process or occupied in some other way to be decided at a future date (Leader Decision, 24 March 2020 refers). Since its previous decisions, the Council had faced significant financial pressures largely connected to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which required it to review its commitments. The New Brighton Masterplan had also been commissioned to develop a long-term framework to inform future decisions in New Brighton. It was considered that this represented a material change of circumstances.

Members asked questions about the proposal and were concerned at the use of Council funds at a time when budgets were under pressure, and the lack of risk for OLL. Officers had investigated OLL who were a Community Interest Company and they had applied elsewhere for funding. A proposal in line with the recommendations within the report was voted on and lost with 4 votes for and 6 against.

Members continued discussion on the issue and were in favour of the Lido in principle but could not justify the spending of funds at the current time.

Councillor Andrew Hodson proposed that the Committee resolve to be in favour of the Lido in principle but could not justify the spending of funds at the current time and Councillor David Burgess-Joyce seconded this proposal.

**RESOLVED (6 in favour, none against and 4 abstentions) –
That the People’s Pool project be supported, in principle, but the
Committee could not support the funding request from Our Lido Ltd
from the Council’s Capital Budget of £67,500 at the current time.**



ECONOMY REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

8 JUNE 2021

REPORT TITLE:	ACTIVE TRAVEL FUNDING – TRANCHE 1, TRANCHE 2 AND LOCAL AUTHORITY CAPABILITY FUNDING
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND PLACE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks approval for the Active Travel Fund Tranche 1 and 2 and Capability Fund Programmes for 2021/22 and to allocate the funds to priorities and projects as outlined in the report.

The Wirral Plan 2025 sets out the Council's vision to secure the best possible future for our residents, defined by the community prosperity we create and supported by our excellent people and services. This proposal directly supports the following key themes within that plan:

- A cleaner, greener borough which celebrates, protects and improves; our environment and urgently tackles the environmental emergency
- A prosperous inclusive economy where local people can get good jobs and achieve their aspirations; and
- Safe, vibrant communities where people want to live and raise their families

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

This matter is a Key Decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Economy, Regeneration & Development Committee are requested to make a recommendation to Policy and Resources Committee to:

- (1) Authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place to accept the grant funding of £1,153,380 allocated to Wirral Council by Liverpool City Region Combined Authority for the Active Travel Fund Tranche 1 and 2 Programmes and accept the Local Authority Active Travel Capability Fund Programme indicative allocation of £286,000.

- (2) Approve the proposed Active Travel Fund Tranche 1 and 2 Programmes and the Active Travel Capability Fund Programme (“the Programmes”) as set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of this report.
- (3) Authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and the Chair and Spokespersons of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee to amend the Programmes if required having due regard to any issues that may arise during design or consultation stages of projects.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To ensure that the Council achieves development and delivery of active travel schemes within the Borough as part of a Liverpool City Region (LCR) wide programme of schemes and interventions.
- 1.2 To ensure that the Council supports schemes which will deliver increased levels of sustainable travel as set out in the emerging Local Plan and to support actions required to address the Climate Emergency and the target in the Cool2 Strategy to 'a complete transition to fossil fuel free local travel by around 2030'.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Council could not accept the funding. This is not considered to be an appropriate option given that supporting active travel is in line with our commitment to addressing the climate emergency, improving the health of our residents and encouraging alternative modes of transport to the private car.
- 2.2 The funding could be used for other purposes. This is not considered an appropriate option as it would not meet the terms of the grant award which has been specifically provided to deliver infrastructure or develop projects that will enable active travel. Schemes and projects have been developed in line with guidance provided by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) and in line with the criteria of the individual funding stream. Feedback from the Liveable Streets Commonplace consultation undertaken during Summer 2020 was also taken into account to support scheme identification.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Tranche 1 Emergency Active Travel Fund

- 3.1 On the 9 May 2020 the Secretary of State for Transport announced a £250 million Emergency Active Travel Fund. For Tranche 1 of the funding. In line with Department for Transport guidance, the LCRCA identified the need to develop a programme of measures to reduce the dependency on car-based journeys and through segregation provide increased confidence to people wishing to cycle. As part of Tranche 1 the LCRCA received £1.97 million and from this Wirral Council received £308,380 to implement light segregation measures to improve existing on road cycle facilities on New Chester Road (between Bebington Road, New Ferry and St Paul's Road, Rock Ferry) and to create a new on carriageway cycle lane on Fender Lane (from Hoylake Rd, Moreton to Hoylake Rd, Bidston) and £15,000 to install cycle parking. (see Appendix 1).
- 3.2 The Department for Transport intended that Tranche 1 was delivered at a rapid pace to address the COVID emergency. Wirral, along with many other authorities, has faced challenges in obtaining appropriate segregation equipment from suppliers who have been inundated with authorities across the country placing orders at the same time. Supply chain issues have resulted in schemes not being delivered as quickly

as originally anticipated. Government and the LCRCA have been understanding of these challenges and have extended the timescales for delivery of the Tranche 1 schemes.

- 3.3. Following consultation held last year, the majority of the scheme on New Chester Road is now completed with the remainder expected to be completed shortly. Ward members have been consulted regarding the Fender Lane scheme and following this member engagement, a consultation has taken place with affected residents. The results of this are currently being reviewed in line with our statutory consultation procedures.

Tranche 2 Active Travel Fund

- 3.4 The Tranche 2 schemes have been developed by officers in line with guidance provided by the LCRCA which required schemes to focus on either linking to key employment sites, improving existing on road cycle lanes with light segregation or linking residential areas to key transport hubs or high streets.
- 3.5 In November 2020 the LCRCA were notified they had been awarded £7,716,000. Wirral has been awarded £830,000 of this (£680,606 capital and £149,394 revenue).
- 3.6. The proposed programme, set out in Appendix 2 of this report, includes light segregation of cycle lanes on Duke Street (Bidston and St James ward); Arrowe Park Road (Pensby and Thingwall Ward); Harrison Drive, (Wallasey Ward); Leasowe Road (Leasowe and Moreton East Ward/Wallasey Ward).and a pilot road closure on The Crescent, West Kirby (Hoylake and Meols Ward) The LCR wide bid also included funding for 3 School Streets projects at Liscard Primary (Liscard), Greenleas Primary (Wallasey) and Christ Church Primary (Moreton).
- 3.7 Although it was intended that Tranche 1 Emergency Active Travel Fund was delivered at a rapid pace to address the COVID emergency, Tranche 2 has less of an emphasis on social distancing and providing relief to public transport capacity. Tranche 2 has more of an emphasis on increasing cycling and walking in the longer term in line with Government objectives set out in 'Gear Change', the Department of Transport (DfT) strategy and policy document for active travel released in July 2020. The 'Gear Change' strategy sets out the DfT's vision for cycling and walking setting out plans to 'revolutionise active travel'. The objective of Tranche 2 funding is to cement the benefits and legacy of change over the past 12 months during periods of lockdown, and to reflect this 'Emergency' has been removed from the grant title, which is now 'Active Travel Fund'.
- 3.8 The DfT have stated that they would like schemes to be delivered as soon as 'reasonably practicable' and as far as possible, schemes will be expected to be delivered by 31 March 2022.
- 3.9 The relevant ward members are in the process of being engaged regarding the proposed tranche 2 schemes within their area. Members views regarding the suitability of the schemes and proposals will be used to further develop and refine or amend the proposed programme. Following consultation with ward members regarding the draft programme design work can be commenced prior to public

consultation on the detail of the individual schemes. Further discussions will also commence on the school streets schemes, the locations of these have previously been the subject of consultation with ward members.

Active Travel Capability Fund

- 3.10 On 3 March 2021 the DfT notified all Combined and Local transport authorities of their indicative revenue funding allocations for 2021/22 under a new one year Local Authority Capability Fund. The 2021/22 Capability Fund is designed to support behaviour change activities and the development of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans.
- 3.11 The Local Authority Capability Fund replaces the Access Fund, previously offered to a subset of authorities. It supports the commitment made in Gear Change to increase the capabilities of local authorities to plan good active travel infrastructure, including building more expertise and undertaking more evidence-based planning.
- 3.12 The total amount of revenue funding that will be provided in 2021/22 is £30 million across England. The amount of funding for each authority has been calculated according to a formula which takes account of value for money and the Government's key objectives to level up the economy and to support jobs and skills to help the economy recover from Covid-19. This takes into account population, the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and propensity for walking and cycling.
- 3.13 Wirral Council have indicatively been awarded £286,000 from the Local Authority Capability Fund and as part of a LCRCA submission to the DfT have submitted a provisional programme as per Appendix 3.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All schemes detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 are funded from the LCRCA grant allocation for Active Travel Fund Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 respectively. This is as per table 1 below:

Table 1: Wirral Active Travel Fund Allocations (£)

	Capital	Revenue	Total
Tranche 1	308,380	0	308,380
Tranche 1 Cycle Parking	15,000	0	15,000
Tranche 2	680,606	149,394	830,000
Total	1,003,986	149,394	1,153,380

- 4.2. Projects detailed in Appendix 3 are proposed to be funded from an indicative Active Travel Capability Fund revenue allocation of £286,000. Confirmation of this allocation is awaited from the LCRCA.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council has statutory duties as defined by the Highways Act 1980, Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984, Road Traffic Act 1988, Local Government Act 1972 and the Traffic Management Act 2004.
- 5.2 If successful in securing funding the Council will be required to enter into a grant funding agreement with the LCRCA. Advice will be required from Legal Services prior to entering into such an agreement.
- 5.3 Following scheme delivery the Section 151 Officer will be required to sign a declaration confirming that the funding was defrayed in accordance with the grant conditions.
- 5.4 In accordance with the Council's Constitution any amendment to the Capital Programme requested by a Committee or officer in excess of £100,000 is reserved to Policy & Resources Committee.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 All capital schemes are funded from Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 allocations and will be added to the Council's Capital Programme. Existing staff resources will be used for the detailed investigation, design and supervision of these schemes, supplemented by external support where required. Future revenue maintenance costs will be met from the Highway Maintenance Revenue Budget.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Failure to undertake the identified programme of works would result in a failure to support the delivery of the priorities of the LCRCA and have reputational impact on Wirral and the LCR. Consequently, this could result in the loss or clawback of funding or impact on future funding decisions and awards.
- 7.2 The list of schemes identified has been prepared with initial estimates, however it should be noted that final schemes will be subject to discussions with ward members and consultations. The costing of detailed designs and further detailed investigations will be required prior to any final scheme being designed. Some of these schemes may also be subject to the requirement of a Traffic Regulation Order(s), and delivery may be dependent on resolving objections to proposals during consultation.
- 7.3 Failure to adhere to the Gear Change strategy and associated technical guidance LTN1/20 may result in the Council failing to meet the standards set by the new Active Travel England body. The soon to be established Active Travel England body will assess Wirral's performance with respect to sustainable travel outcomes, particularly cycling and walking, which will be taken into account when considering funding allocations. The new Active Travel England funding body will enforce the standards with the aim of raising performance.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Wirral Council has a statutory consultation processes that is required for the undertaking of work on the adopted highway which will require public consultation, objections to which would be considered under the Scheme of Delegation in the Council's Constitution or by the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee once a level of objections has been reached exceeding the current scheme of Delegation number.
- 8.2 Consultations will be undertaken in accordance with the following guiding principles:
- It should be at a time when proposals are at a formative stage;
 - Must include sufficient reasons for particular proposals to allow those consulted to give intelligent consideration and an intelligent response;
 - Those consulted should be made aware of the factors that are of decisive relevance to the decision;
 - Adequate time should be given for consideration and response;
 - The product of the consultation should be conscientiously taken into account by the decision makers in finalising their statutory proposals/ when the ultimate decision is taken.
- 8.3 The Wirral Active Travel Forum is a formally constituted group which meets quarterly with interested public and private organisations and individuals, to support active travel as a simple, low cost and effective way for people to access life opportunities whilst increasing levels of physical activity in their day to day life. Membership of this group is open to all and the forum will continue to be engaged as these programmes develop.
- 8.4 Members will recall at their meeting on the 4th March 2021 it was agreed to establish an Active Travel Working Group to support the work of this committee. The newly formed Active Travel Members Working Group will also be engaged as these programmes develop.
- 8.5 The LCRCA are also required to evidence to the DfT that appropriate consultation has taken place with a wider focus on engagement with the public to gather opinion on cycle lanes in general across with wider sections of the population. The LCRCA proposes to engage with residents across the City Region to gauge opinion on issues such as investment into walking and cycling, reducing congestion, and reallocation of road space. The method of consultation is yet to be confirmed, the LCRCA has previously used the Commonplace web portal for similar consultations.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.
- 9.2. Whilst there are no equality implications arising from this report, the associated

actions arising from the delivery may need to assess any equality issues and mitigate any negative impact that may emerge.

- 9.3 The Council has an obligation under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality duty (Sect 149 2011) to show due regard to the duty and show due regard to mitigate any negative impacts that may affect people with protected characteristics under the Act. The Director of Regeneration and Place recognises that this decision may have an impact on those who would wish to access certain locations by motor vehicle and other modes of transport. Where applicable details of any restrictions and alternative routes would be published and an equality impact assessment would be undertaken.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Increasing cycling and walking will help combat climate change. By encouraging and enabling people to travel more on foot and by cycle instead of private car harmful emissions will be reduced. Promoting active travel can result in reduced emissions of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), particulate matter (PM) and CO₂ helping to tackle climate change and improve air quality.
- 10.2 Gear Change identifies that mode shift to active transport is one of the most cost effective ways of reducing transport emissions and that meeting the targets to double cycling and increasing walking would lead to savings of £567million annually from air quality alone and prevent 8.300 premature deaths each year in England and provide opportunity to improve green spaces and biodiversity.

REPORT AUTHOR: Julie Barnes

(Strategic Transport Infrastructure - Lead Commissioner - Transport and Tech)
telephone: 0151 606 2365
email: juliebarnes@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Tranche 1 Emergency Active Travel Programme
Appendix 2 Tranche 2 Active Travel Programme
Appendix 3 Active Travel Capability Fund Programme

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Gear Change Plan for Cycling and Walking – Department for Transport July 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycling-and-walking-plan-for-england>

Cycling Infrastructure Design Local Transport Note 1/20
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycle-infrastructure-design-ltn-120>

Department for Transport Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy 2017
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918442/cycling-walking-investment-strategy.pdf

Sustrans Bike Life Report Liverpool City Region

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/bike-life/bike-life-liverpool-city-region/>

Wirral Liveable Streets Consultation Summer 2020

<https://wirraliveablestreets.commonplace.is/comments/5ee10851c9dc0f515e52f007>

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE 'GEAR CHANGE' DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT PLAN FOR CYCLING AND WALKING	Tuesday, 16 March 2021
ECONOMY REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN ACTIVE TRAVEL MEMBER WORKING GROUP	Thursday, 4 March 2021

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APPENDIX 1

EMERGENCY ACTIVE TRAVEL FUND TRANCHE 1

Scheme name	Description	Capital Budget (£)
New Chester Road B5136 New Chester Road (between Bebington Road, New Ferry and St Paul's Road, Rock Ferry)	Provision of light segregation units ('Orca's - approx.560 no.) and associated road markings along existing cycle lane on the B5136 New Chester Road (between Bebington Road, New Ferry and St Paul's Road, Rock Ferry)	104,305
Fender Lane A553 Fender Lane (from Hoylake Rd (Moreton) 20m east of Stavordale Rd to Hoylake Rd (Bidston) - 'Tesco Roundabout'.	Reduction of dual carriageway to single carriageway to provide cycle lane in each direction. Fender Lane has a 40 mph speed limit and the segregation units required for this project will subsequently be substantial in nature and quality. Additional (substantial - hatched) road markings will supplement the light segregation units.	204,075
	Sub Total	308,380
Cycle Parking	Provision of cycle parking	15,000
	Total	323,380

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APPENDIX 2

ACTIVE TRAVEL FUND TRANCHE 2

Scheme name	Description	Capital Budget (£)	Revenue Budget (£)
Duke Street (From Park Road North to Duke Street Bridge)	Installation of orca / other light segregation units and associated marking as <i>improvement to existing cycle lane</i>	110,000	
Arrowe Park Road (From Woodchurch Road to Landican Road)	Installation of orca / other light segregation units and associated marking as <i>improvement to existing cycle lane</i>	70,000	
Harrison Drive - Bayswater Road	Installation of orca / other light segregation units and associated marking as improvement to existing cycle lane	70,000	
Leasowe Road (Pasture Road to Cross Lane)	Lane reduction to create of 2-way mandatory cycle lane and associated road markings, light segregation units, minor kerb works.	340,000	
The Crescent West Kirby	Pilot scheme - closure of The Crescent to traffic at certain time periods with planters or alternative modal filter measures	60,000	
Liscard Primary	School Streets Pilot	10,202	20,000
Greenleas Primary	School Streets Pilot	10,202	20,000
Christ Church Primary	School Streets Pilot	10,202	20,000
Contingency			89,394
	Total	680,606	149,394

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APPENDIX 3

PROPOSED LOCAL AUTHORITY CAPABILITY FUND PROGRAMME 2021/22

Project name	Description	Revenue Budget (£)
Adult cycle training	Contribution towards LCR adult cycle training offer	10,000
LCWIP New Brighton to Birkenhead – Surveys	Parking Beat Surveys	27,000
LCWIP New Brighton to Birkenhead – Consultation	Consultation resource	84,000
Active Travel Project Manager	Project Management Support	97,000
Modeshift Stars Subscription	Subscription to the Modeshift STARS online Travel Plan Toolkit	3,000
Sustainable Travel / Road Safety Staff Resource	Post to undertake travel plan support for schools/businesses and support the Modeshift stars work	25,000
Specific behaviour change and active travel marketing linked to BRF 2040 Framework and Metro Active LCR Active Travel Campaign	Wider comms support for walking and cycling schemes within the borough and supporting the BRF / LCWIP	40,000
Total		286,000

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ECONOMY REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

8 JUNE 2021

REPORT TITLE:	BIRKENHEAD TEMPORARY MARKET
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND PLACE

REPORT SUMMARY

On 17 March 2021 Policy and Resources Committee resolved (amongst other matters) to authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place to progress with scoping out a design and costed model for the fit out of the current preferred option for the temporary market, namely Unit 2 St Werburghs Square and St Werburghs Square, which would be used as a temporary holding position while the current Birkenhead Market site was made available for redevelopment.

This report sets out the next steps for the development to be taken forward through the use of Future High Street Funds in order to commence activity to develop and deliver the Temporary Market programme.

Similarly, this report seeks to put in place a development agreement between the Council and the Wirral Growth Company (WGC) to develop the new market, included within the original procurement of the WGC partnership and incorporated with the WGC masterplan. The Future High Streets Fund will also be used to bring forward early designs and cost plans before a final design is brought back to this committee for approval.

The regeneration of Birkenhead Town Centre is a long-standing priority for this Council and is reflected in the Wirral Council Plan 2025 through the requirement to deliver inclusive economic growth, working for a prosperous, inclusive economy where local people can get good jobs and achieve their aspirations.

Appendices 1, 3, 4 & 5 of this report are exempt from publication under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as they contain commercially sensitive information.

These are key decision owing to the significance in terms of the effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the Borough, as well as being in excess of £500,000 in monetary value.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Economy, Regeneration & Development Committee are requested to make a recommendation to Policy and Resources Committee to approve the following:

1. Agree the full business case for the preferred option of creating a hybrid indoor/outdoor market with the capital costs being met by the secured 'Future High Street Funding' (FHSF) with day to day on-costs being met through existing market budgets with a view of creating potential cost savings.

2. Authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place to progress a detailed planning application for the temporary market.
3. Authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place to enter into a lease of 2\1A St Werburgh's Square retail unit together with external space on the basis of the heads of terms attached at exempt Appendix 3.
4. Authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place to deliver the preferred option for the temporary market and to initiate the procurement process for the appointment of a Development partner and contractor to commence the full design and fit out of the temporary market solution.
5. Authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place to award the Wirral Growth Company a development agreement to undertake the design and cost modelling for the new permanent market across the partial footprint of the existing market and negotiate terms in accordance with the outline terms and Specification attached at appendix 5.
6. Note that a further report will be brought to Members for approval of the finalised design, funding and financial modelling for the new permanent market.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The Future High Street Fund will support the Council by enabling access to significant funding to support the regeneration of Birkenhead.
- 1.2 Birkenhead Market's infrastructure incurs high maintenance liabilities and the building as it currently stands is expensive to operate, inappropriate for its current use and is not energy efficient. Ongoing repairs and maintenance costs are estimated to grow significantly over the next few years in its current state of repair. The current market structure will therefore be demolished to facilitate redevelopment including a new modern, energy efficient permanent home for the market in accordance with a resolution of Cabinet of 24 March 2020. The heads of terms for a development agreement to bring forward a design and costed model together with proposed Specification is set out in Appendix 5.
- 1.3 The general look, feel and operation of the market has become tired externally and internally and requires a major transformation to make it more appealing and fit for modern market trading conditions. Its Unique Selling Point has been lost over the years and there is a need for change to prevent further decline and to inject new trading opportunities and entrepreneurs into Birkenhead Town Centre.
- 1.4 The creation of a temporary holding position for the market will enable the current Birkenhead Market site to be demolished and the site made available to bring forward the next phase of development by the Wirral Growth Company in accordance with the Town Centre Masterplan. It will also provide continuity of trade for some of the current traders and keep the market operating during the new market build.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Various options have been considered for the temporary market.

Analysis of these options has taken place and is set out in full in the Options appraisal, within the Full Business Case Exempt Appendix 1.

The options are summarised below:

Option 1:
Description: Do Nothing - Given the vision and the regeneration opportunity, together with the current high maintenance liabilities, future escalating costs and health and safety risks, this is not considered to be a viable option.
Option 2:
Description: Box Park Model - the use of shipping containers, fully equipped to cater for the trader base including adjustment to the public realm on Europa Boulevard. The financial costs of c£4.5m is not considered to be a financially viable option. It was also considered to be too remote from the existing Town Centre operation.
Capital Costs: c£4.5m
On Costs: Unknown utilities costs

Option 3:
Description: Hybrid indoor/outdoor Model - the use of a two-storey retail unit and basement together with outside stalls and canopies to cater for the trader base. This adheres to the current Covid protocols, allows for continuity of trade and costs for the redevelopment will be met through FHSF.
Capital Cost: c£2.0m (Supported via Future High Street Fund)
On Costs: Please refer to exempt financial information enclosed within the Full Business Case

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The regeneration of Birkenhead has been a long-term priority for the Council, articulated as early as 2010 in the Birkenhead Integrated Regeneration Study (BIRS). In the time since the production of that study, the need for regeneration in Birkenhead has not reduced, but the context for town centres has changed significantly. We are facing unprecedented commercial high street challenges resulting in well reported high street decline with wider impact on the sustainability of communities and the built environment.
- 3.2 To support the emerging Local Plan the Birkenhead 2040 Framework has been developed which provides the framework within which the market redevelopment will be brought forward.

3.3 Wirral Plan Refresh

The Wirral Plan 2021 - 2026 is currently being refreshed to factor in significant updates (e.g., impact of Covid) since it's sign-off at Full Council in January 2019. The refreshed plan will focus on the following five themes:

- Safe & Pleasant Communities
- Brighter Futures
- Active and Healthy Lives
- Sustainable Environment
- Inclusive Economy

This project, and the wider regeneration Programme, delivers against all the above themes. Most specifically, it will contribute significantly towards the ambitions for a thriving and inclusive economy, creating jobs and opportunities for all.

Several strategies have been developed, which underpin this project. These are: Stronger Economy Plan and Birkenhead Regeneration Framework.

More details on the refreshed Wirral Plan will be available in July 2021, following further engagement and consultation.

- 3.4 The business need for this project is:
- (i) Birkenhead Market is part of an aged infrastructure that incurs high maintenance liabilities and is expensive to operate throughout the year. The Council needs to maximise the net income for investment and regeneration purposes whilst minimising the cost of its core footprint.

- (ii) The Market building has suffered from a lack of investment for several years and together with service deficiencies (e.g., asbestos, heating, electrics, drainage) the oncosts are growing significantly.
- (iii) There is a requirement for the temporary holding position to ensure continuity of trade and to ensure the Council does not lose valuable anchor tenants that will enable footfall into the regenerated town.

In summary the current building is fundamentally too large for modern-day market standards. The design and layout mean that the main Market is cold in the winter and warm in the summer and not energy efficient under its current configuration, aesthetically the front view of the market and outside space can appear unwelcoming and unappealing to members of the public, so this acts as a physical barrier for establishing increased footfall.

3.5 **Next Steps:**

Following approval of the Full Business Case and the recommendations presented, the next stages of the project will be:

- Further consultation and engagement with staff and traders
- Clarification of trader requirements and creating accommodation specifications that meet the needs of today's temporary markets.
- Independent trader selection process and obtain commitment.
- Submit Planning application\Change of use.
- Address any licencing requirements.
- Finalise the design of the accommodation space within the building.
- Transition planning for Trader relocations
- Serve notices on service providers for all utilities.

Asset consolidation

3.6 **Temporary Market**

- 3.6.1 A catalyst for driving growth throughout the borough includes delivering a strong and thriving Birkenhead Town Centre and the market has been identified through consultation as a key element of this centre. The Wirral Growth Company has conducted various outreach public consultation events and at each event residents have confirmed the importance of Birkenhead Market to the town and its residents.
- 3.6.2 In December 2018, full Council approved the acquisition of the long leasehold interest in Birkenhead Market to facilitate its assimilation into the Council's freehold title.
- 3.6.3 Consideration for the provision of a new Market is included within the scope of the Birkenhead Commercial District development. This provides the opportunity to bring forward a redeveloped Market and create a 'go-to' destination.
- 3.6.4 In order for a new market building and other redevelopment to take place on the current site of Birkenhead Market, the building needs to be vacated, demolished and then the new market building built. This will take some time and so a requirement for a temporary alternative site is needed to ensure continuity of trade and to ensure we maintain Birkenhead as a market town.
- 3.6.5 The temporary solution is intended to be a hybrid model based on an indoor and outdoor market offer. This will include the retail unit at 2/1a St Werburghs Square along with developing an outside market to be situated on St Werburghs Square

Itself. The aim is to allow for continuity and a smooth transition while the new market development takes place.

- 3.6.6 The preferred option at St Werburghs will require part of the Future High Streets Fund grant to be allocated for the delivery of the temporary market. Furthermore, it will also require the agreement of a short-term lease between the Council and the Landlord, MARS Pension Fund (Shopping Centre Owners) before a planning application is submitted to allow the required approvals for alteration.
- 3.6.7 The temporary market site will not be able to accommodate all of the current traders, nor will the nature of the premises be suitable for all of the current traders' businesses. It is proposed to engage with local landlords and the Chamber of Commerce to assist traders who wish to relocate elsewhere. We are also mindful that some of these traders may wish to return to Birkenhead Market when it is in its new permanent home and we hope to keep those contacts and relationships alive.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Financial provision within the existing funding arrangements for the redevelopment of the market has been made within the FHSF Business Approval Plan which was approved by Committee in March 2021. In addition, the newly identified site will in effect take over from the existing running costs of the current market thus potentially creating savings to support the oncosts of this site. It is anticipated that the costs of the redevelopment will be provided for through these planned funding allocations.
- 4.2 Further specific financial details of the scheme are set out in the Full Business Case attached to this report as Exempt Appendix 1.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Director of Law and Governance will provide advice to the Director of Regeneration and Place regarding the compliance of the Future High Street Fund projects within the UK's new international obligations on Subsidy Control following the end of the Brexit transition period on 1 January 2021.
- 5.2 The Council's right to hold a market in Birkenhead is contained in the Birkenhead Improvement Act 1833 and the Birkenhead Corporation Act 1881. These rights are often referred to as "Charter Rights" as the original grant of the right to hold a market in Birkenhead was made by Royal Charter in the thirteenth century. By having the right to hold a market in Birkenhead, common law implies that this exclusivity extends to 6 2/3 miles from the site of the Birkenhead Market.
- 5.3 The Council will be held liable for a period of 4yrs under a lease agreement with Mars Pension Trustees Limited, securing the immediate future of the market retaining full operation while the new market development takes place. Liabilities include rent payments and service charge as set out in the heads of terms in exempt appendix 3.
- 5.4 The proposed use as a market facility by the Council will require planning consent for a change of use. Upon approval of the recommendations within this report an application will be submitted by the Council shortly.
- 5.5 Terms of the development agreement with the Wirral Growth Company will need to be negotiated.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The Temporary Market programme will be managed respectively by existing staff from within the Regeneration and Place team along with expert resources from external consultancies.
- 6.2 Internal officers will coordinate and manage all project related activities including legal title investigations and conveyancing, financial modelling, monitoring and reporting, supplemented by the use of external consultancy resource where necessary. Steps will be taken to appoint a development manager and contractor in due course to deliver the final scheme.
- 6.3 External legal support will assist with the negotiations of the development agreement.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The governance of the programme will enable the escalation and management of risks and issues. Risks and Issues will be managed using risk and issue logs and the process will be supported by the Council's Corporate Risk Management structure and Project Management Office. All risks will be managed through the project governance route and discussed and controlled through project board for mitigation.

Risk	Mitigating Action	Impact
Construction/refurbishment is delayed resulting in savings not being realised according to plan.	This will be managed through the programme management arrangements that have been put in place to support project delivery.	Medium
There is a risk that the vacant Market is not developed promptly leading to additional costs, e.g., business rates, security, etc	Developments and relocations will be phased. A Relocation Plan will be designed in accordance with this ensuring that buildings are made available at the appropriate stages during transition.	Medium
Unexpected events or unknown constraints adversely impact costs and potential viability of any site or phase.	This will be managed through: Programme governance arrangements, e.g., Reporting and control mechanisms, ongoing risk and issue management, etc. Sensitivity analysis on the financial calculations. Ensuring that surveys are accurate. Contingency costing is undertaken as part of cost planning	Medium

Risk of lots of voids	Good Marketing campaigns Reasonable Rent charges Selection of good tenants	Medium
Planning Permission	Consideration required around 'change of use' & including 'Heritage statement'	Medium

- 7.2 A programme Risk Register will be maintained over the development lifecycle. This will be updated throughout the process lifecycle in order to assist the Council in identifying, controlling and managing risk. This will report within the Council's Corporate Risk Management structure.
- 7.3 The final date for FHSF spend has not been extended and remains as March 2024. To mitigate any risk of not delivering and spending within this timescale Committee is asked within this report to authorise the Director of Regeneration to progress the recommendations including sign-off and commencement of delivery.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Full engagement with traders has commenced and will continue throughout the lifecycle of the project. The Development proposals will also go through a series of engagement and consultation stages as part of the statutory approval and planning process as appropriate and traders will be fully engaged throughout.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.
- 9.2 An EIA has been produced in support of the temporary market solution, there is no material change from the previous submission.
<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The legal requirements for the procurements of Energy Performance Certificates and the implementation of the recommendations of the certificate will lead to improvements in sustainability and reductions in CO2.

REPORT AUTHOR: Simon Rice

telephone: 0151 6918435
email: simonrice@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Birkenhead Temporary Market Full Business Case. (This appendix is exempt from publication under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as it contains commercially sensitive information.)

Appendix 2 - Redline Boundary - (Site plan edged with a red line to distinguish itself from the rest of the site)

Appendix 3 - HOTs & Lease (This appendix is exempt from publication under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as it contains commercially sensitive information.)

Note: The main principles of this lease are agreed, details regarding the repairing obligations will be finalised during the drafting of the lease

Appendix 4 - Stage 1 design document (This appendix is exempt from publication under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as it contains commercially sensitive information.)

Appendix 5 - New Birkenhead Market Employers Requirements (This appendix is exempt from publication under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as it contains commercially sensitive information.)

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Growth Company Partnership Business Plan (This appendix is exempt from publication under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as it contains commercially sensitive information.)

Birkenhead Market acquisition Full Business Case Council 2019 (This appendix is exempt from publication under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as it contains commercially sensitive information.)

Birkenhead Market Full Business Case ((This appendix is exempt from publication under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as it contains commercially sensitive information.)

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council decision	December 2018
Cabinet decision and Leader Decision (Birkenhead Market Full Business Case)	March 2020
ERD/P+R decision – Future High Street Fund	March 2021

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Economy Regeneration and Development Committee

Tuesday 8 June 2021

REPORT TITLE:	2021/22 BUDGET MONITORING AND 22/23 BUDGET PROCESS
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

REPORT SUMMARY

On 17 March 2021, the Committee approved the process for monitoring the 2021/22 budget and for commencing the budget setting process for 2022/23. This report highlights these processes and includes further supporting information to ensure they can be followed.

The Committee is aware that the Ministry for Housing, Local Government and Communities have provided a conditional offer of exceptional financial support (capitalisation directive) for 2021/22 of up to £10.7m. One of the conditions of that offer is that the Council will need to provide evidence from the assurance review of the authority's financial position and its ability to meet any or all of the identified budget gap without any additional borrowing.

Therefore, it is vitally important that the Council has robust processes in place to manage and monitor the in-year financial position, to ensure it is reporting a forecast balanced position to the end of the year and that the process for 22/23 budget setting is underway early so that an agreed budget can be agreed by Full Council in March.

2021/22 Budget Monitoring

The report updates on the position for the 2021/22 budget and the role of the Committees in monitoring the budget during the year. This enables Committees to take ownership of their specific budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets. Supporting information is provided to the Committee in order for this to happen as part of the appendices. The Committee is accountable for ensuring that the committee budget remains within the relevant envelope and will take collective responsibility via the Policy and Resources Committee to ensure that the whole Council budget remains in balance at all times, by agreeing mitigating actions to bring the budget back in line, should a deficit be forecast.

To enable committees to manage and monitor budgets effectively in year, a suite of detailed information will be provided on a quarterly basis:

- Full revenue budget monitoring report for the preceding quarter
- Full list of budget savings proposals and the progress for their achievement

- Full list of reserves allocated to the Committee for future on-off commitments
- Full capital budget monitoring report for the preceding quarter
- Other specific information relevant to the individual committee

In addition, committees who have requested it, will be provided with an exception report on a monthly basis, outside of the quarterly monitoring process. This will be a summary report and will highlight any known significant changes from the previous quarterly forecast that require the committees attention.

2022/23 Budget Process

Members will note that one of the key documents required to enable the Council to receive approval for exceptional financial support was a balanced five-year medium term financial plan (MTFP). A summary of this was provided in the budget report to the Committee on 17 March 2021. This document was prepared by Officers and now requires committee oversight and approval. The Committees will consider whether the proposals included in the MTFP for the 2022/23 budget, and beyond, are to be taken forward or whether they are to be replaced by alternative proposals that the committee recommend.

Officers have prepared a suite of documents included within the appendices to support the Committee in its role of contributing to the budget setting process.

Each committee, supported by the officers, is accountable for identifying, developing and agreeing savings proposals during the summer to ensure a draft balanced budget can be considered by the Policy and Resources Committee in October 2021, to enable budget consultation to start in a timely manner in November 2021.

To enable the officer budget proposals to be scrutinised by the Committee, it is recommended that a budget working group be established to consider the content of the MTFP and make recommendations into the committee on the viability of the proposals, the robustness of the pressures/growth items and to recommend any additional proposals that the Committee require officers to prepare.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough and is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Economy, Regeneration and Development committee:

1. Note the content of the report and the current forecast position of savings for 2021/22 and the ongoing work being undertaken to mitigate any under-achievement.
2. Agree to include the current proposals within this report from the Medium Term Financial Plan from 2022/23 – 2025/26 and the Director of Regeneration and Place to develop them into full business cases, where appropriate, for inclusion in the 2022/23 budget proposals to Policy and Resources Committee at its October meeting for approval.
3. Convenes a series of budget workshops to identify any alternative savings/income/reductions in pressures to ensure that a full suite of costed and

deliverable proposals can be recommended to the Policy and Resources Committee at its October meeting for approval.

4. Commence the Zero Based Budgeting project within the budget workshops to contribute to the overall savings target of £170k in 2021/22

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The 2021/22 Budget was agreed at Full Council on 1 March 2021. This budget was made up of savings proposals, pressures/growth items and funding that were based on either actual known figures or best estimates available at the time. At any point during the year, these estimated figures could change and need to be monitored closely to ensure, if adverse, mitigating actions can be taken immediately to ensure a balanced forecast budget can be reported to the end of the year.
- 1.2 The 2022/23 budget is required to be agreed by full Council no later than 11 March each year. Members should be engaged as early as possible in this process to have time to consider and recommend proposals to be able to present a balanced budget to full Council and to allow sufficient time for a meaningful public consultation exercise.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Committee could choose to not engage in the budget monitoring process for 2021/22 which could result in an overspend position for 2021/22 being reported.
- 2.2 The Committee could choose to not engage in the budget setting process for 2022/23 which could result in the inability to recommend a balanced budget to full Council in March 2022.
- 2.3 Both of these options would result in an unbalanced budget which is unlawful. Under these circumstances, the Section 151 Officer would be required to issue a section 114 notice and report this to all Members of Full Council. The outcome of which would result in intervention by Government.
- 2.4 The Committee can decide to establish their own process for monitoring the 2021/22 in-year budget and setting the 2022/23 budget. This would need to be agreed at the 29 June Policy and Resources Committee which reduces the time available to implement mitigating actions, where an adverse 2021/22 forecast maybe found.
- 2.5 This also reduces the time available for the identification and agreement of proposals to be included in the 2022/23 budget. Either of these delays could put the ability to present a balanced 21/22 and 22/23 budget at risk and increase the risk.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 At its Committee in March, the Policy and Resources Committee agreed the process for managing and monitoring the 2021/22 budget. This process is as follows:

2021/22 Budget Monitoring

- 3.2 Committee's will be accountable for ensuring that the budget remains within the relevant envelope for each committee and will take collective responsibility via the Policy and Resources Committee to ensure that the whole Council budget remains in

balance at all times or provides mitigating actions to bring the budget back in line, should a year end deficit be forecast.

- 3.3 To enable committees to manage and monitor budgets effectively in year, a suite of detailed information will be provided on a quarterly basis:
- Full revenue budget monitoring report for the preceding quarter (available at the end of Quarter 1)
 - Full list of budget savings proposals and the progress for their achievement (Appendix 1)
 - Full list of reserves allocated to the Committee for future one-off commitments (Appendix 2)
 - Full capital budget monitoring report for the preceding quarter (available at the end of Quarter 1)
 - Other specific information relevant to the individual committee
- 3.4 Committees had previously requested a budget book that detailed the individual budgets for each committee. The full budgets are extremely detailed and could contain hundreds of separate lines and would be more conducive to a workshop where these can be scrutinised and discussed in detail. It is recommended that a budget working group is established by the Committee, convened immediately, that would meet throughout the summer to:
- Oversee the monitoring of the 2021/22 in-year budget
 - Review the detailed budgets for the committee
 - Undertake the Zero Based Budgeting exercise (paragraph 3.15)
 - Identify proposals/scrutinise pressures to be included for the 2022/23 budget (paragraph 3.19)
- 3.5 Committees have the autonomy to vire (transfer) budgets from one function to another within their overall committee budget envelope. Virements will be also agreed by the Section 151 Officer as there are certain conditions where budgets are not allowed to be vired for the purposes of gaining a specific benefit e.g. where budgets from supplies budget headings are vired to employees budget headings to take advantage of an uplift for pay inflation.
- 3.6 Each committee will be responsible for remaining within its overall budget envelope and not overspending. Where an adverse variance is forecast, each committee will be required to take remedial action to bring the budget back in line and ensure that overspends are mitigated.
- 3.7 Where a committee has taken all possible steps for remedial action and is unable to mitigate an overspend, this must be reported to the P&R Committee who will take an organisational view of how this adverse variance will be managed. There must be immediate action agreed to ensure a forecast balanced budget can be reported, and this will be monitored by the P&R Committee.
- 3.8 Whilst each committee is required to remain within its annual budget envelope, there maybe reasons for committees to report a favourable variance in-year. Committees wishing to use any forecast underspend must have approval from the P&R

Committee to do this. The council cannot be in a situation where one committee is forecasting an overspend that it is unable to mitigate, and another committee is forecasting an underspend and utilises this for its own purposes.

- 3.9 The P&R Committee has overall responsibility for taking any necessary steps required to ensure a whole Council budget can report a balanced budget throughout the year.

2021/22 Interim Budget Forecast

- 3.10 As at June 2021, all the savings are on target to be achieved, however not all by the original means.
- 3.11 The Birkenhead Market restructure is being phased over a number of years as a result of the work ongoing with the decanting to the temporary market and the plan for the construction of the new market. The saving will be achieved in year with £80k achieved via an initial restructure and £160k by charging costs to the capital programme.
- 3.12 The Wirral Growth Company (WGC) Joint Venture income is unlikely to be achieved via the original. Discussions are currently ongoing with WGC around the assets and developments that were originally agreed to be undertaken by the company. In some cases, it maybe more beneficial now for the Council to retain those assets and dispose of them thus generating the income from the capital receipt to be used to replace this saving.

Zero Based Budgeting

- 3.13 As part of the 2021/22 budget, a savings proposal of £170k to carry out a zero based budgeting exercise was agreed. Zero basing is a method of budgeting in which all expenditure must be justified before it is agreed. The process starts from a 'zero base' i.e. a zero budget and every function within the area is analysed for its needs and costs. Budgets are then built around what is needed for the following period, regardless of whether each budget is higher or lower than the previous one.
- 3.14 The process can be time-consuming and is usually undertaken in advance of the following years budget setting. The proposal for £170k saving recognises that this is a part year saving and should provide an indication of further savings that could be achieved in 2022/23.
- 3.15 In order for this saving to be achieved in-year, it is recommended that Members of the budget workshops, supported by Officers, start the zero basing in July. Officers will shortly be undertaking a 'spring-clean' of budgets to ensure that the current activity is correctly reflected in the budgets in order for the zero-basing to be undertaken effectively.

2022/23 Budget Setting

- 3.16 The process for setting the 2022/23 will commence immediately. Officers, to satisfy the requirement of MHCLG for exceptional financial support, have compiled a five-

year medium term financial plan (MTFP). Committees will consider whether the proposals included in the MTFP for the 2022/23 budget, and beyond, are to be taken forward or whether they are to be replaced by alternative proposals that the committees recommend.

- 3.17 The budget gap for the Council for 2022/23 currently stand at £19.5m. At the Policy and Resources Committee on 17 March, a full list of proposals were included in the budget report that balanced this gap. Since then, as Officers have been reviewing these proposals, some of these values are currently at risk and there now remains a forecast unmitigated budget gap, of around £5m.
- 3.18 In readiness for the first committees of the new municipal year, Officers have prepared a suite of documents for the committees. These are:
- List of future years savings and pressures included within the MTFP (Appendix 3)
 - Summary business cases for each of the savings' proposals in the MTFP for 2022/23 and whether any specific consultation is required for each one (To be included as part of the budget workshops)
 - Summary business cases for each of the perceived pressures/growth items in the MTFP with supporting evidence as to how they have been estimated (To be included as part of the budget workshops)
 - Oversight of all savings proposals and growth/pressures over the medium term for Members to ensure no duplication or contradiction across Committees (To be included as part of the budget workshops)
- 3.19 Included within the MTFP for 2022/23 is the following proposal:
- 3.19.1 The savings from the Wirral Growth Company Join Venture income span over the period of the Partnership Business Plan and have been pre-agreed by the WGC Board. However, in light of the current discussion ongoing with WGC about assets due to transfer into the company for development, it maybe that these future years savings will be reviewed and made via income from the Council selling the assets themselves.
- 3.20 Each committee, via the budget working groups, will be accountable for identifying, developing and agreeing savings proposals during the summer to meet the 2022/23 budget gap and ensure a draft balanced budget can be considered by the P&R Committee in October 2021, to enable budget consultation to start in a timely manner in November 2021.
- 3.21 It is recommended that the budget workshops not only identify additional savings proposals to meet the gap but to scrutinise and challenge the pressures and growth items included in the MTFP for 2022/23 to see if these can be reduced.

Exceptional Financial Support

- 3.22 Members will be aware that in March, MHCLG provided a conditional offer of Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) to the Council of up to £10.7m to support the indirect pressures forecast as an ongoing impact of Covid-19 in the 2022/23 budget.

One of the conditions of that offer was that an external assurance review would be commissioned by MHCLG.

- 3.23 In preparedness for this review, the Council has been working with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to carry out an interim assessment of MTFP and a high level review of the cost of the services the Council provides. Further information regarding EFS can be found at Appendix 5.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report describes the process for 2021/22 budget monitoring and 2022/23 budget setting. Included within it are the current financial forecasts for both years. Therefore, all the financial implications are included within the body of the report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The role of the Policy and Resources Committee, in consultation with the respective Policy and Service Committees, has been charged by Council to formulate a draft Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and budget to recommend to the Council.
- 5.2 The Council must set the budget in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and approval of a balanced budget each year is a statutory responsibility of the Council. Sections 25 to 29 of the Local Government Act 2003 impose duties on the Council in relation to how it sets and monitors its budget. These provisions require the Council to make prudent allowance for the risk and uncertainties in its budget and regularly monitor its finances during the year. The legislation leaves discretion to the Council about the allowances to be made and action to be taken.
- 5.3 Section 30(6) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 provides that the Council has to set its budget before 11th March in the financial year preceding the one in respect of which the budget is set.
- 5.4 The provisions of section 25, Local Government Act 2003 require that, when the Council is making the calculation of its budget requirement, it must have regard to the report of the chief finance (s.151) officer as to the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- 5.5 Consultation must take place in accordance with the Council's duties under section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The detailed summary of responses provided are attached in the appendix to this report. It must be borne in mind that this is consultation on the budget proposals, not on the decision to take whatever decision is implied by the adoption of that budget. The consultation process, including the Council's consideration of the responses, is required to comply with the following overarching obligations (unless detailed statutory rules supplant these):
- (a) Consultation must be at a time when proposals are at a formative stage.
 - (b) The proposer must give sufficient reasons for its proposals to allow consultees to understand them and respond to them properly.
 - (c) Consulters must give sufficient time for responses to be made and considered.

- (d) Responses must be conscientiously taken into account in finalising the decision. This is the same whether or not a public body was required to consult or chooses to do so. This is because all of those rules are aspects of an overriding requirement for 'fairness'. The process must be substantively fair and have the appearance of fairness. The setting of the budget and council tax by Members involves their consideration of choices.
- 5.6 When considering options, Members must bear in mind their fiduciary duty to the council taxpayers of Wirral. Members must have adequate evidence on which to base their decisions on the level of quality at which services should be provided.
- 5.7 Where a service is provided pursuant to a statutory duty, it would not be lawful to fail to discharge it properly or abandon it, and where there is discretion as to how it is to be discharged, that discretion should be exercised reasonably.
- 5.8 The report sets out the relevant considerations for Members to consider during their deliberations and Members are reminded of the need to ignore irrelevant considerations. Members have a duty to seek to ensure that the Council acts lawfully. Members must not come to a decision which no reasonable authority could come to; balancing the nature, quality and level of services which they consider should be provided, against the costs of providing such services.
- 5.9 There is a particular requirement to take into consideration the Council's fiduciary duty and the public sector equality duty in coming to its decision.
- 5.10 The public sector equality duty is that a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to: (1) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010; (2) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and (3) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- 5.11 Any decision made in the exercise of any function is potentially open to challenge if the duty has been disregarded. The duty applies both to Full Council when setting the budget and to the Policy and Services Committees when considering decisions.
- 5.12 Once a budget is in place, Council has delegated responsibility to the Policy and Services Committees to implement it. The Committees may not act contrary to the Budget without consent of Council other than in accordance with the Procedure Rules set out at Part 4(3) of the Constitution.
- 5.13 It is essential, as a matter of prudence that the financial position continues to be closely monitored. In particular, Members must satisfy themselves that sufficient mechanisms are in place to ensure both that savings are delivered and that new expenditure is contained within the available resources. Accordingly, any proposals put forward must identify the realistic measures and mechanisms to produce those savings.

- 5.14 Members are also individually reminded that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to this meeting. Members who are two months or more in arrears with their Council Tax must declare this to the meeting and must not vote on budget recommendations, as to do otherwise can be a criminal offence.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 At this time, there are no additional resource implications as these have already been identified for the proposals agreed and submitted. However, where the budget is unbalanced and further proposals are required, then there will be resource implications, and these will be addressed within the relevant business cases presented to the Committee.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Council's ability to maintain a balanced budget for 2021/22 is dependent on a static financial position. This is an impossible scenario due to estimated figures being provided in the calculation for the 2021/22 budget, albeit the best estimates that were available at the time, plus any amount of internal and external factors that could impact on the budget position in year. Examples of which are new legislation, increased demand, loss of income, increased funding, decreased funding, inability to recruit to posts, ongoing impact of the pandemic etc
- 7.2 A robust monitoring and management process for the 2021/22 budget must be agreed and in place as soon as possible. If at any time during the year an adverse position is forecast, remedial action must be agreed and implemented immediately to ensure the budget can be brought back to balanced position.
- 7.3 The risk of this not being able to be achieved could mean that the Council does not have enough funding to offset its expenditure commitments for the year and therefore not be able report a balanced budget at the end of the year. This could result in the Section 151 Officer issuing a Section 114 notice.
- 7.4 The budget agreed by full Council on 1 March 2021 for 2021/22 was underpinned by an offer of a maximum of £10.7m exceptional financial support provided by MHCLG. This offer was conditional and is described in paragraph 3.21. If the Council does not accept recommendations made from the external assurance review, this may put the offer of the exceptional financial support at risk. If the Council is not able to report a balanced budget without some or all of the exceptional financial support, this may also result in the Section 151 Officer issuing a Section 114 notice in year.
- 7.5 A key risk to the Council's financial plans is that funding and demand assumptions in particular can change as more information becomes available. As such, the MTFP is regularly reviewed and updated as part of routine financial management.
- 7.6 Under the system of retained Business Rates, Authorities benefit from a share of any increased revenues but are liable for at least a share of any falls in income (subject to safety net triggers) and any non-collection. This includes reductions arising from appeals relating to past years which partially fall on the Authority. These risks are mitigated through a combination of the operation of the Collection Fund, General Fund Balances and a Business Rates Equalisation Reserve.

- 7.7 The MTFP currently presents a balanced budget over a five-year period. If the committees are not minded to accept the proposals included by officers in the MTFP, especially for the 2022/23 budget, alternative proposals need to be identified and agreed as soon as possible. A delay in agreeing these may put the timetable for setting the 2022/23 at risk and may result in a balanced budget not being identified in time for the deadline of 11 March 2022.
- 7.8 The five-year MTFP is based on current estimated information available. A four-year comprehensive spending review (CSR) is anticipated from Government from 2022/23. Assumptions have been made in the current MTFP for income and funding from business rates and council tax and social care grants as the main sources of funding. If there is an adverse change to these assumptions as a result of the CSR, additional savings proposals or reduced expenditure would need to be identified as soon as possible to ensure a balanced five-year MTFP can be achieved. Committees will be kept updated with any announcements regarding the CSR through the year.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in arriving at the governance process for the 2021/22 budget monitoring process and the 2022/23 budget setting process. SLT have compiled the MTFP.
- 8.2 Since the budget was agreed at Full Council on 1 March, some proposals may have been the subject of further consultation with Members, Customer and Residents. The details of these are included within the individual business cases or are the subject of separate reports to the Committee

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.
- 9.2 At this time, there are no further equality implications as these have already been identified for the proposals agreed and submitted. However, where the budget is unbalanced and further proposals are required, then there may be equality implications associated with these, and these will be addressed within the relevant business cases presented to the Committee.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 At this time, there are no additional environmental and climate implications as these have already been identified for the proposals agreed and submitted. However, where the budget is unbalanced and further proposals are required, then there may be environment and climate implications associated with these that will be addressed within the relevant business cases presented to the Committee.

REPORT AUTHOR: Shaer Halewood
(Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources (S151 Officer))
telephone: Tel: 0151 691 8688
email: shaerhalewood@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Achievement of 2021/22 approved savings
Appendix 2 Committee Reserves
Appendix 3 Future years savings proposals and Growth/Pressures
Appendix 4 Exceptional Financial Support

BACKGROUND PAPERS

MHCLG Exceptional Financial Support Offer Letter

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Policy and Resources Committee	17 March 2021
Full Council	1 March 2021
Policy and Resources Committee	7 October 2020

APPENDIX 1

Progress on the achievement of approved 2021/22 Budget Savings

Saving Title	Agreed Value	Forecast Value	RAG Rating	Comments
Birkenhead Market Restructure	£0.64m	£0.64m	Amber	On target to be achieved but not all via a restructure – some will be achieved via capitalising costs
Pre Planning fee increase and PPAs	£0.02m	£0.02m	Green	On target to the achieved
Budget allocation for DDA	£0.2m	£0.2m	Green	On target to be achieved
Wirral Growth Company Joint Venture Income	£1.38m	£1.38m	Amber	On target to be achieved but not via the original means – will be achieved via income from capital receipts
TOTAL	£2.240M	£2.240M		

List of Reserves as at 1 April 2021

	£	
Wirral Ways to Work	-273,004	
Regeneration and Inward Investment	-562,526	
Urban Development Corporation Bid	-420,000	
Building Control Fee Earning	-261,074	
Major Infrastructure Project Development	-183,268	
DCLG Empty Shops Grant	-41,385	
ERDF 4.2 Match Funding	-18,571	
Discover Wirral Marketing Campaigns	-13,401	
DDA - Disabled Access	-82,558	
A/M GMT – Community Asset Transfer Fund	-75,967	
Licence Survey Work	-55,692	
Emergency Maintenance and Work in Default	-71,180	
		-2,058,626

APPENDIX 3

Future years budget proposals and Pressures/Growth Items

Savings Proposals	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m
Wirral Growth Company Joint Venture Income	1.75	2.46	1.58	2.48
Total	1.75	2.46	1.58	2.48

Note: There are no pressures relating to the ER&D Committee

APPENDIX 4

Exceptional Financial Support

In March, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) made an offer of £10.7m to the Council for exceptional financial support, sometimes called a capitalisation direction of capitalisation directive. This means that MHCLG approved the Council, in principle, to borrow £10.7m of funds to help ensure a balanced budget could be agreed by Full Council on 1 March. Borrowing to fund revenue (day to day) expenditure is not normally allowed under law, but on this occasion, a special case was put to HM Treasury and approved.

The Council had not been able to identify sufficient savings to balance the budget, due to additional financial pressures present as a result the outcome of Covid-19. Such pressures include Adults and Children's Social Care increases, SEN transport increases and Homelessness increases. Ordinarily, a Council would use its reserves and balances to help balance its budget in times of crisis and would not have to apply for exceptional financial support, however the Council does not have the level of reserves and balances to be able to do this.

The borrowing has to be paid back over a 20 year timeframe and costs the Council an additional 1% in interest over and above what it would it normally expect to pay, so it is prudent for the Council to identify any further proposals to reduce the level of exceptional financial support that it requires, so that the interest payments can also reduce.

The offer of exceptional finance support from MHCLG came with conditions which included an external assurance review that would review the authority's financial position and its ability to meet any or all of the identified budget gap without any additional borrowing. Therefore, as part of the external assurance review, MHCLG will be looking for areas that the Council can reduce its expenditure so that it may not have to provide all or any of the exceptional financial support offered.

This means that a further £10.7m proposals could be recommended to be implemented in year. If the Council fails to comply with MHCLG recommendations, the exceptional financial support may not be provided and a balanced budget could not be forecast to the end of the year.

In this circumstance, the Section 151 Officer would have to issue a Section 114 notice which states that the Councils' expenditure exceeds its funding and this would be reported to Full Council. The outcome of this would result in Government intervention and Commissioners appointed to manage the financial affairs of the Council. During the period of issuing a Section 114 notice, only statutory and contracted expenditure is allowed to take place, all other expenditure must stop.



ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 8 June 2021

REPORT TITLE:	2020/21 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND PLACE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the year-end revenue outturn and capital position for Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee as at the end of March 2021 for the 2020/21 financial year.

The Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic continues to present financial risk due to uncertainty and fluidity in the external environment.

The overall financial position for the Council remains challenging, and a number of actions were instigated during the year to mitigate the overall position including limiting spending to essential areas of service delivery only, with Corporate Directors supported to mitigate the risk of overspending. This is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee:

1. Note the adverse year-end outturn of £0.514m.
2. Note the impact of funding and expenditure as a direct consequence of Covid-19.
3. Note the Capital Programme Report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Regular monitoring and reporting of the Revenue Budgets and savings achievements enables decisions to be taken in a timely manner, which may produce revenue benefits and will improve financial control of Wirral Council.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Other reporting frequencies could be considered, but quarterly reporting is standard practice.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1.1 This report provides a summary of the year-end revenue outturn position as at the end of March 2021 for 2020/21 financial year.
- 3.1.2 This report includes a summary of the Capital Programme.

3.2 2020/21 COMMITTEE REVENUE BUDGET

- 3.2.1 The budget for the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee is included within the Regeneration & Place Directorate. The budget outturn position for Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee was an adverse budget variance of £0.514m at year-end. Most income losses in this committee are, in part, mitigated by the Sales, Fees and Compensation scheme, which is recorded as a separate and distinct funding stream.
- 3.2.2 The Covid-19 pandemic has affected this Committee in a number of ways. Regeneration activity slowed at the outset of the pandemic as staff were diverted to the emergency response, but as the year progressed, the projects were able to recommence.

TABLE 1 2020/21 – Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee Revenue Budget & Outturn

	Full Year		Variance		Adv/Fav
	Budget	Outturn	(+ Fav, - Adv)		
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Regeneration	25,161	25,446	-280	-1%	Adverse
Planning	1,185	1,391	-206	-17%	Adverse
Special Projects	266	294	-28	-10%	Adverse
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	26,612	27,131	-514	-2%	Adverse

3.2.3 **Regeneration:** £0.280m adverse position has been due to the in-year delay to the strategic restructure for the Regeneration and Place team (£0.225m). In the original plan for this service, it had been agreed to fund growth to ensure a sustainable service could be delivered. In light of the difficulties for the organisation caused by Covid-19, this plan has been rephased to 2021/22, releasing funds to support the wider organisational budget gap. However urgent activity did need to be conducted, and this was delivered by locum staff, the expense of this shows within this service.

3.2.4 **Planning:** The adverse forecast variance of £0.206m is due to income losses as a result of reduced planning fee income due to Covid-19 and additional pressure from the increased contract / exceedance costs of Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service who provide statutory advice on ecology, archaeology and waste. The income losses, will be, in part, mitigated by the Sales, Fees and Charges Compensation Scheme.

3.2.5 **Special Projects and Regeneration:** There is a small adverse variance of £0.028m.

3.3 2020/21 COMMITTEE CAPITAL BUDGET

TABLE 2 2020/21 – Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee Capital Budget & Outturn

2020-21 PROGRAMME	2020/21 Cabinet Programme	2020/21 Revised Programme	2020/21 Actual £'000	2020/21 Variance £'000
Economy, Regeneration and Development	60,362	41,420	19,971	21,449

- 3.3.1 Table 1 provides an update on the 2020/21 capital Programme. A number of significant variations have arisen since the programme was agreed in March 2020. These include the re-profiling of expenditure into and out of the 2020/21 financial year, inclusion of additional grant funded schemes, variations to spend forecasts and the inclusion of potential new capital schemes that are seeking funding via this report. Overall this Committee is reporting actual 2020/21 outturn of £19.971m against a revised programme budget of £41.420m. This represents a favourable variance of £21,449m. This is due to delays in projects commencing because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This expenditure has been re profiled into the 2021/22.
- 3.3.2 Given the budgetary pressures that the Council faces, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 outbreak, a review of the programme continues to try and identify schemes that may no longer be financially viable, essential or deliverable. This review has resulted in scheme reductions totalling £5.81 million and the reprofiling of budget into future years of £61.56 million. It is anticipated that further reductions and/or deferrals of budget will be made as the review continues. Such deferrals will reduce the borrowing costs incurred during 2020/21 (the effects of which are included within the Quarter 3 revenue monitoring) and also delays the resultant Minimum Revenue Provision charges into future years.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This is the Outturn budget monitoring report that provides information on the outturn for the Council for Financial Year 2020/21. The Council has robust methods for reporting and forecasting budgets in place and alongside formal Quarterly reporting to Policy & Resources Committee, the financial position is routinely reported at Directorate Management Team meetings and corporately at the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). In the event of any early warning highlighting pressures and potential overspends, the SLT take collective responsibility to identify solutions to resolve these to ensure a balanced budget can be reported at the end of the year.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The provisions of section 25, Local Government Act 2003 require that, when the Council is making the calculation of its budget requirement, it must have regard to the report of the chief finance (s.151) officer as to the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves. This is in addition to the personal duty on the Chief Finance (Section 151) Officer to make a report, if it appears to them that the expenditure of the authority incurred (including expenditure it proposes to incur) in a financial year is likely to exceed the resources (including sums borrowed) available to it to meet that expenditure.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The possible failure to deliver the Revenue Budget is being mitigated by:
1. Senior Leadership / Directorate Teams regularly reviewing the financial position.
 2. Availability of General Fund Balances.
 3. Review of existing services and service provision.
 4. Capitalisation directive

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

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

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity. This report has no impact for equality implications at this stage, however any associated actions may require an assessment.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 This report is essentially a monitoring report on financial performance.

REPORT AUTHOR: Karen Page
Senior Finance Business Partner
telephone: 666 3179
email: karenpage@wirral.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee
2020/21 Revenue Budget Outturn Report
2020/21 Capital Budget Monitoring Report

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Committee Meeting	Date
Economic, Regeneration and Development Committee	27 October 2020
Economic, Regeneration and Development Committee	24 November 2020
Economic, Regeneration and Development Committee	26 January 2021



ECONOMY REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 8 JUNE 2021

REPORT TITLE:	APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO ACTIVE TRAVEL WORKING GROUP
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to enable Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee to review the continuing need for advisory groups and to appoint Members to serve on those that are to be retained in 2021/2022.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough and is not a Key Decision.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is requested to approve that the Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Active Travel Member 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.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The Committee is required to appoint the membership of various advisory bodies which fall under its remit at the start of each Municipal Year.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 There is a requirement to appoint Members to the Active Travel Members Working Group, albeit the Committee could resolve to vary the numbers of Members.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The following is a body retained or created in 2020/2021 to assist the Committee in its work, with the membership for 2020/2021. The Terms of Reference are attached as **Appendix 1**.

3.1.1 Active Travel Member Working Group

A working group currently comprising 8 members tasked with securing a positive outcome in delivering increased levels of sustainable travel as set out in the emerging Local Plan. This development of the Local Plan is also within the wider context of the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency and the target in the Cool2 Strategy to 'a complete transition to fossil fuel free local travel by around 2030'.

- 3.1.2 The working group has an advisory role in the development of active travel schemes. The group will advise on the direction of active travel policy and delivery across Wirral. This is with a view to aiding greater understanding across the Council of issues associated with the implementation of active travel initiatives. The group will take account of the wider context of the potential for sustainable transport projects to contribute to:

- health and well-being;
- tackling the climate emergency and improving air quality;
- improving accessibility;
- reducing congestion by encouraging active travel modes especially for shorter journeys;
- achieving value for money;
- helping economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic;
- tackling transport poverty and inequality of access; and
- inclusive economic growth.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The establishment of the Active Travel Working Group is in compliance with the Council's Constitution. This group will not take any decisions but inform the deliberations of this Committee.
- 5.2 The size of the Working Group is currently set at eight members. In addition, Members of other Committees may be invited to attend as and when appropriate at the discretion of the Chair of the Working Group.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report as the Working Group is arranged and serviced using existing staff resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 As the Active Travel Working Group is a non-statutory meeting, no risks have been identified from the recommendations.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 It is for political groups to decide how they wish to allocate their places on working groups.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.
- 9.2 There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

REPORT AUTHOR: Mike Jones, Principal Democratic Services Officer
telephone: (0151) 691 8363
email: michaeljones1@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference for the Active Travel Member Working Group

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Council's Constitution

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Economy Regeneration and Development Committee meeting of 4 March 2021 – Proposal to establish an Active Travel Working Group.	4 March 2021

Appendix 1- Active Travel Member Working Group- Terms of Reference

Background / Context

The Active Travel Working Group (“the Working Group”) been established to consider what the opportunities and barriers may be to deliver ambitious inclusive walking and cycling projects as required to secure a positive outcome in delivering increased levels of sustainable travel as set out in the emerging Local Plan. This is within the wider context of the Council’s declaration of a Climate Emergency and the target in the Cool2 Strategy to ‘a complete transition to fossil fuel free local travel by around 2030’.

In the context of the Local Plan and to guide the future development of Wirral the group will consider the potential for sustainable transport projects to contribute to:

- health and wellbeing;
- tackling the climate emergency and improving air quality;
- improving accessibility e.g. to employment, education, healthcare and leisure opportunities;
- reducing congestion by encouraging active travel modes especially for shorter journeys;
- achieving value for money;
- helping economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic;
- tackling transport poverty and inequality of access; and
- economic growth.

Purpose and remit of the Group

The overarching purpose for the Working Group is to act as an Advisory Group, making recommendations on the direction of active travel policy and delivery across Wirral and to aid greater understanding across the Council of issues associated with the implementation of active travel initiatives. The Working Group will consider the role of active travel in the borough, the future vision of Wirral as a sustainable borough and in delivering public health and climate change objectives.

The remit of the Working Group includes:

- Policies, processes and resources;
- Infrastructure, including reviewing best practice and Government guidance;
- Consultation and community engagement; and
- Behaviour change and vision.

This Working Group will be given the following specific tasks:

- advising on the development and implementation of an Active Travel Infrastructure Plan as part of building an evidence base and developing business cases for future funding applications as appropriate;
- advising on wider activity to support the implementation of ‘Gear Change’ and the uptake of active travel across Wirral;
- providing input into a review of current and pipeline active travel projects and supporting the implementation of any actions arising;
- providing a collective voice to respond to consultations on policies and proposals that will impact upon pedestrians and cyclists in Wirral, and wider Liverpool City Region as appropriate;

- facilitating the exchange of ideas and best practice in order encourage and promote increased levels of active travel; and
- guiding, responding to, and working with, as appropriate, the Wirral Active Travel Forum.

The Working Group has no decision-making powers on behalf of the Council, but recommendations and findings from this group will be presented to the Economy Regeneration and Development Committee.

Membership

1. The Working Group will comprise of eight members. In addition, Members of other Committees may be invited to attend as and when appropriate at the discretion of the Chair of the Working Group.
2. The appointment of Members to the Working Group will be made having regard to the political balance of the Council as a whole.
3. A Chair will be selected by the Group from amongst its number.
4. The Working Group meetings must have at least 3 members to be quorate.
5. The Working Group may appoint a Vice Chair.
6. Relevant officers and representatives of external organisations including the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and Local or National Active Travel Organisations may also be invited to attend as dictated by the agenda.

Meetings

- Meeting will be virtually at a 4-weekly frequency
- Meetings will last no more than two hours
- Meetings are not open to the public but minutes will be shared on the website after approval by the Chair as an accurate record.
- The Membership will be consulted throughout the year, as appropriate, regarding individual scheme designs as part of the standard consultation process for infrastructure schemes.
- Meetings will be structured around themes and issues, with evidence and information being provided by officers, partner organisations and technical/policy advisors to support discussion and planning. Context information and background reading will be provided by the Secretariat in advance as appropriate.
- Meetings will include presentations and demonstrations of local, regional and national initiatives, as well as discussions on local active travel delivery.

Secretariat

Meeting agendas and papers to be sent out to representatives at least one week in advance of the Forum and all administration and support will be provided by Democratic Services.



ECONOMY REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday 8th June 2021

REPORT TITLE:	ECONOMY REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVENANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee, in co-operation with the other Policy and Service Committees, is 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 is envisaged that the work programme will be formed from a combination of key decisions, standing items and requested officer reports. This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. The work programme for the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee are invited to agree or otherwise determine the content of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee work programme which is proposed in this report for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee have the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of the annual work programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 A number of workplan formats were explored, with the current framework open to amendment to match the requirements of the Committee

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The work programme should align with the priorities of the Council and its partners. The programme will be informed by:
- The Council Plan
 - The Council's transformation programme
 - The Council's Forward Plan
 - Service performance information
 - Risk management information
 - Public or service user feedback
 - Referrals from Council

Terms of Reference

The Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee has responsibility for developing and delivering a vision for Wirral as a place. It is responsible for developing and determining or recommending all planning and transport policies, including the Local Plan, and infrastructure planning. It is also responsible for promoting regeneration, economic development and associated activities, including the tourism, culture and visitor economy, and for removing barriers to growth.

The Committee is charged by full Council to undertake responsibility for:

- (a) development and delivery of the Council's strategic objectives for planning, sustainability and transportation;
- (b) developing and recommending those plans and strategies which together comprise the Local Plan;
- (c) developing and adopting or recommending (if reserved to Council) other spatial planning documents, including but not limited to
- (i) supplementary planning documents (SPD) and planning policy advice notes;
 - (ii) Master Plans and development briefs;

(iii) The Infrastructure Delivery Plan; and

(iv) [The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) when applicable];

(d) economic development, including but not limited to infrastructure, enterprise, skills and seeking, securing and managing external funds to achieve that, directly or in partnership with joint ventures and external companies or bodies as well as with the Combined Authority and government bodies;

(e) the Council's functions and partnerships regarding the promotion of economic growth and the establishment and development of business;

(f) the promotion and development of the economic factors in the area, such as seeking to ensure sufficient and appropriate employment sites, investment, adult skills, apprenticeship schemes, productivity, development sites and so forth;

(g) overseeing the progress of major projects (including major building, infrastructure or other projects involving the erection or significant alteration of major permanent structures or landmarks) undertaken by the Council directly or as enabler, funder or joint enterprise partner, including but not limited to the Wirral Growth Company LLP

(h) reviewing major projects and any project boards having regard to capacity to deliver, corporate priorities and resources, and advise the Policy and Resources Committee as appropriate;

(i) providing a view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management in relation to the Committee's functions; and

(j) undertaking the development and implementation of policy in relation to the Committee's functions, incorporating the assessment of outcomes, review of effectiveness and formulation of recommendations to the Council, partners and other bodies, which shall include any decision relating to the above functions.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This report is for information and planning purposes only, therefore there are no direct financial implication arising. However, there may be financial implications arising as a result of work programme items.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. However, there may be legal implications arising as a result of work programme items

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no direct implications to staffing, ICT or Assets.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Committee's ability to undertake its responsibility to provide strategic direction to the operation of the Council, make decisions on policies, co-ordinate spend, and maintain a strategic overview of outcomes, performance, risk management and budgets may be compromised if it does not have the opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Not applicable

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

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

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 This report is for information to Members and there are no direct environment and climate implications. However, there may be implications arising as a result of work programme items.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Anna Perret**
(Senior Democratic Services Officer)
email: annaperret@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Work Programme update

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Council Constitution

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee	26th October 2020

ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

June 2021

Item	Key Decision Yes/No	Lead Officer	P&R referral Yes/No
Birkenhead Temporary Market	Yes	Sally Shah (Simon Rice)	TBC
Active Travel funding	Yes	Julie Barnes	TBC
Appointment to active travel forum	No	Alan Evans	No
Financial Monitoring report and budget update	No	Shaer Halewood/ Karen Page	No
Work Programme Update	No	Anna Perrett	

Key decisions – to be scheduled.

Item	Key Decision	Lead Departmental Officer	Wirral Plan Priority
Application for Financial Assistance	Yes	Alan Evans	‘Inclusive Economy’
Wirral Waters Enterprise Zone Investment Fund	Yes	Alan Evans	‘Inclusive Economy’
Liverpool City Region Economic Initiatives and Funding	Yes	Alan Evans	‘Inclusive Economy’

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) Programme for England (2014-2020)	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Devolution Funding	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Birkenhead Town Centre Masterplan	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Hind Street Regeneration Strategy	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Hind Street Movement Strategy	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Temporary Market, Birkenhead	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Appointment of Preferred Developer to Deliver the New Ferry Regeneration Masterplan and Authority to Commence a Compulsory Purchase Order	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Covid-19 Economic Recovery Plan	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Enterprise Zone	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Spatial Framework for the Borough	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Wirral Growth Company - Final Site Development Plan for Birkenhead	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Wirral Growth Company Final Site Development Plans for Moreton and Bromborough	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Wirral Growth Company - Birkenhead Offices Funding Agreement	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Investment Plan	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Department for Transport Active Travel Allocation	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Sustainable Urban Development Work Package 7	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Mass Transit	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'

Liverpool City Region Cycling Walking Investment Plan - Birkenhead to New Brighton	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Livable Neighbourhoods	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Report on transport schemes including SUD work package 7 – acceptance of funding	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Investment Plan	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Birkenhead Heat Network	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Future High Streets Fund Movement Projects	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Dock Branch Park Masterplan	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Dock Branch Park - Appointment of Technical Team	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Parking strategy	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Local Development Scheme	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Spatial Framework for the Borough	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Tower Road South Development	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Wirral Waters Connectivity (7) - Duke Street (Phase 2)	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Wirral International Business Park Connections - A41 Carlett Park	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
A41 Phase 1 Business Case (PART EXEMPT)	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'
Liverpool City Region Cycling Walking	Yes	David Ball	'Inclusive Economy'

Investment Plan - Birkenhead to New Brighton			
Birkenhead Town Centre Masterplan (EXEMPT)	Yes	David Ball	'Inclusive Economy'
Preferred Developer to Deliver the New Ferry Regeneration (PART EXEMPT)	Yes	Alan Evans	'Inclusive Economy'

STANDING ITEMS AND MONITORING REPORTS

Item	Reporting Frequency	Lead Departmental Officer
Financial Monitoring Report	TBC	Shaer Halewood
Regen Committee Work Programme Update	TBC	Committee Team
Public questions	Each meeting	

WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE COMMITTEE

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress
Working Groups/ Sub Committees				
Task and Finish Reviews				
-	-	--		-
Spotlight Sessions and Workshops				
Eureka!	Workshop	TBC	Bev Staniford	In Progress