



Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee

Date:	Monday, 15 November 2021
Time:	6.00 p.m.
Venue:	Floral Pavilion

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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 - 8)**

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2021.

5. PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

5.1 Public Questions

Notice of question to be given in writing or by email by 12 noon, Wednesday 10 November 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, Wednesday 10 November 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. ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS AND AWARD OF CONTRACTS - HIGHWAY SERVICES (Pages 9 - 24)**
- 7. WEST KIRBY FLOOD ALLEVIATION - AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION PHASE (Pages 25 - 30)**

SECTION B - BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

- 8. PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021 (Pages 31 - 128)**
- 9. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE BUDGET REPORT (Pages 129 - 142)**
- 10. ECET QUARTER 2 MONITORING (Pages 143 - 158)**

SECTION C - WORK PROGRAMME / OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

- 11. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (Pages 159 - 168)**

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 20 October 2021

Present: Councillor EA Grey (Chair)

Councillors H Collinson M Collins
S Foulkes S Mountney
C O'Hagan L Rowlands
I Williams C Cooke
B Berry A Brame

29 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed attendees and viewers to the meeting and reminded everyone that the meeting was webcast and retained on the Council's website for two years.

The Chair led the Committee Members in standing for a minute's silence in memory of Councillor Andy Corkhill, Alderman Gerry Ellis and MP David Amess who had all passed away recently.

The Chair spoke about Councillor Andy Corkhill and his genuine commitment to environmental and active travel matters.

30 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

31 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and any other relevant interest and to state the nature of the interest. There were no declarations of interests.

32 MINUTES

The Chair noted that there had been a commitment in an answer at the last meeting to publish the names of Members who had undertaken carbon literacy training. This will be added and the minutes republished.

Resolved (by assent) –

That, subject to the addition of the names of Members who had undertaken Carbon Literacy training, the minutes of the meeting of the

Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee held on 7 September 2021 be approved and adopted as a correct record.

33 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Question 1 – Julien Priest

The Save Hoylake Beach Group, recently rebranded as Hoylake Beach Community, are campaigning on the basis that simple raking without the use of weedkiller will give them the 'golden sands' they expect.

In a previous one of these meetings a Hoylake and Meols Ward Councillor expressed their view that neglecting the beach for a number of years until such time as the new Beach Management Plan has been approved by Natural England will result in the beach vegetation situation being irreversible.

At that same meeting a Council Officer responded to said Councillor with the view that removal of the vegetation from the beach would require bulldozing.

The public facebook group 'Hoylake Beach - The Evidence' references studies on the control of Spartina that show mechanical removal leads to a 42.8% increase in plant density in subsequent growing seasons because this grass propagates via underground rhizomes [roots] and any activity which fragments and redistributes those rhizomes, such as raking, will increase the rate at which the grass can spread when compared to doing nothing.

The public facebook group 'Hoylake Beach - The Evidence' also references scientific papers that explain how one effective treatment for controlling the vegetation is complete removal of the substrate [sand] containing these rhizomes [roots] which extend 30-40 cm underground.

To eradicate vegetation from the beach scientific evidence points to a requirement for bulldozing the foreshore and wholesale removal of huge amounts of sand to a significant depth, not simply raking the surface of the beach.

My question:

- Are the current studies fully assessing what would be required to remove and eradicate vegetation from Hoylake beach?

And an assurance:

- Will the full impact of what is required, both environmental and financial, be explained in the public consultation so that those who expect to see "golden sands" with no vegetation fully understand exactly what they are asking for?

Answer: [Cllr Elizabeth Grey] The ecological and Geomorphological study is looking at the evolution of the foreshore based on historic changes and an improved understanding of the ecological communities. Predictions of future change based on climate change and management options will also be considered, however the study is not considering eradication of vegetation from Hoylake beach. We can and should include financial implications of each option in the public consultation, as well as explaining environmental implications. Thank you for your question.

Supplementary Question 1 – Julien Priest

The recently tabled motion calling for the Director of Neighbourhoods to engage with Natural England regards the continued spread of spartina grasses appears to be merely aiming to score political points and spread misinformation, fear and divisiveness in the community.

Item 47 resolution (iii) of the 16 March 2021 meeting of this committee agreed to consult with a Coastal Advisory Group of experts who were to offer impartial APOLITICAL advice on current and future windblown sand and beach management.

Can the committee give an assurance that this dialogue with an expert apolitical advisory group is under way and if not, why not, and if not yet taking place, when will this important dialogue begin?

Answer: [Cllr Elizabeth Grey] Officers were required by the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee to consult with the Coastal Advisory Group on the specification for movement of sand from the sea wall at Hoylake ahead of undertaking a HRA and applying for assent. The Coastal Advisory Group were emailed on the 4th August 2021. One response was received by the deadline of 23rd August. I can only assume that the group of specialists were expecting to meet with officers, and I admit that this is what I expected as Chair of the Committee, rather than just an email. If email is not the most appropriate or expected form of consultation, then I am sure we can arrange a meeting even if its virtual, to follow through with the requirements of this Committee when we voted to request officers to consult with the Coastal Advisory Group. I would expect that this meeting takes place before the end of the calendar year and discusses best practice for the management of wind-blown sand.

Question 2 – Keith Randles

(Partially read out by Chair in Mr. Randles Absence)

With community safety being within this committee's re-mit, please will someone visit the RNL station in Hoylake and review the metal railing area that borders a public footpath which is being buried by sand?

There is now large volume of sand built up on the left-hand side of the station, which is now being heralded as the development of a sand dune. In reality, sand is being blown into this corner of the beach and the railing and the footpath are now completely hidden, only the tips of the railing now show.

This represents a very real health and safety issue, as in a major trip hazard and this was also a disabled access point too.

I have reported this twice before to Wirral Borough council with some matter of urgency, via 2 emails.

1st email was sent on the 14th April 2021 to Neil Thomas and Elizabeth Grey, with these same attached photographs.

“Not sure if you are aware but there is a footpath on the perimeter of the RNL station which is blocked totally with a huge sand drift/dune that is blocking wheelchair and general public access to this area and needs immediate attention”

On the 15th of April had a reply from Elizabeth Grey regarding the above, "Thanks for your email and photos. I will share these with officers"
2nd email sent 25th June via Andrew Gardner, which was forwarded to Martin Jones.

"Dear Councillor Gardner, just an enquiry, who is responsible for this public footpath on the Old Hoylake baths site, which is now part of the RNLI station now, if you could find out for that would be very much appreciated. It's only a matter of time before someone has a serious accident due its height, as it is a trip hazard.

I did make Councillor Grey aware of this blocked footpath in April & to date did not receive any further updates from her regarding it.

As it is not part of the SSSI I feel it can & should be cleared for not only general public's safety but also disable access too, which I referred to Councillor Grey at the time of our email exchange.

The last photo is of Anglesey council workers clearing such a build-up of sand at Trearddur bay, they seem to recognize the dangers of these hazards"

To-date Martin Jones has not responded to my enquiry regarding this matter.

My question is:

Now that I have brought this potentially dangerous situation to this committee's attention (a blocked drain...), can you assure me that this matter will be given some serious consideration and have it investigated, and hopefully have it addressed soon before someone gets hurt?

Answer: [Cllr Elizabeth Grey] Thank you for your question regarding the wind-blown sand on the footpath at the perimeter of the RNLI station at Hoylake. The Council will undertake a risk assessment, and depending upon the outcome of the risk assessment any appropriate actions will be undertaken.

Question 3 – June Turner [00:11:58 –00:13:58]

(Partially read out by Chair in Dr. Turner's absence)

Between 1690 and 1739, the silting up and eventual sanding over of an offshore channel created a direct sand transport route between a sandbank in the Mersey and Formby. In a single stormy night, so much sand came ashore that the church had to be moved inland and the streets and agricultural lands were entirely covered.

Between 1918 and 1938, the north channel of the Ribble silted up and sanded over, providing a direct sand transport link between the town and an offshore sandbank and the beach level rose by around 7m. Despite building a sand shield, the cost of keeping the promenade open and access to Blackpool was eventually more than the town could afford. The problem was solved by actively planting Marram grass in loose sand, seeding the dune which now lie between the promenade and beach.

The parallels with Hoylake are inescapable. The Hoyle Lake channel has silted up, and in the last few years, finally sanded over. Hoylake is now exposed to the East Hoylake bank. A single storm is now capable of closing the promenade

In 2000 Jemmett and Smith prepared a report for the council, which concluded that the existing approach to managing wind blown sand (in 2000) was unsustainable, that costs would continue to spiral upwards and that the changes were the result of the natural evolution of Liverpool Bay. It also highlighted an issue of poor understanding and lack of acceptance of coastal habitat change by the local community, specifically referring to the misconception that Hoylake would “end up as another Parkgate”. The report proposed the deliberate encouragement of a band of embryo dunes to interrupt the wind-blown sand pathway from the East Hoyle Bank to the promenade and test public acceptance to the trial.

A similar trial has been carried out in Swansea, where a single storm in 2016 required a £20,000 clean-up operation. Using sand cleared from against the sea wall, chestnut paling fences and, local school children as manpower, Swansea Council in conjunction with Natural Resources Wales created test dunes. In 2018 Storm Ali against required another massive clean-up operation, but crucially, the part of the promenade behind the new dunes was unaffected.

My question

- How much is the council spending on average to deal with windblown sand now, and how much more do you anticipate needing to spend in the future?

And an assurance

- Given that the Jemmett report in 2020 has proven to be accurate in predicting the situation that we are in now, with respect to beach levels and habitat changes, will all parties represented at council undertake not to kick the can down the road again?

Answer: [Cllr Elizabeth Grey] Responsibility for dealing with the removal of wind-blown sand from all areas of Wirral coast falls to various service areas within the Council.

- Parks and Countryside manage the removal of wind-blown sand from areas which do not form part of the adopted highway. Since April 2019, approximately £8,000 per year has been spent on managing wind-blown sand and in future years this is predicted to rise to £10,000 per annum.
- Waste and Recycling remove accumulations of wind-blown sand from the adopted highway, [but] it's not possible to identify exact spend as planned removal activities are built into the existing contract with Biffa. However, since April 2019 approximately £2,800 per annum has been spent on reactive works in addition to the planned works undertaken through the contracts. A figure of £30,000 per annum is estimated for future activities.
- Highways remove sand from highways drainage systems on planned and reactive basis. The approximate spend per annum is £6,000, so in total this is £46,000 per year removing wind-blown sand.

The Council is undertaking public engagement and consultation on the development of beach management options for Hoylake. The Council is also undertaking an ecology and geomorphology study, which will consider likely future evolution of the beach under a range of management options. The preferred management option will be informed by these studies, but also by the framework set out by the discretionary advice received from Natural England and those set out by the habitat regulations.

34 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS**

No statements or petitions had been received.

35 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

There were no questions by Members.

36 **STREET LIGHTING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME, PROGRESS REPORT**

The Assistant Director: Highways and Infrastructure presented the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which provided an update for Members on progress of the Council's current programme to improve and upgrade its street lighting stock, as well as on potential future proposals for street lighting. The contract for upgrading street lighting was to end in December 2021.

Members asked questions about the progress of the work and established that:

- By the end of the contract all streetlights, other than where they would be covered by alternative projects such as redevelopment, would have been replaced.
- Replacement of concrete columns would be enabled with a report to the Capital Assets Group.
- Reports of LED lighting affecting insects would be monitored.
- Electric vehicle charging via lampposts would be trialled for 12 months then evaluated. Grant funding had been obtained to cover much of the costs of installation of charging units.
- LED lights provided a 60% energy saving compared to sodium lighting.

Resolved:

That the contents of this report be noted and the team be congratulated for the successful delivery and output of the project.

37 **LOVE WIRRAL STRATEGY**

The Assistant Director for Parks and Environment presented the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which provided recommendations for the Council's Love Wirral Strategy (attached as Appendix 1 to the report), which

set out the Council's approach to further develop on the successes of the Loving our Environment strategy, engaging with Wirral's communities and visitors to protect, respect and enjoy Wirral's parks, beaches, towns and local areas. The Love Wirral Strategy focussed on set stages to tackle areas where littering, dog fouling, trade waste and graffiti and fly posting were prevalent to bring about positive behaviour change. Stages included identifying locations, auditing infrastructure, communication campaign, engagement with the community and enforcement, as a last resort.

Members noted how blessed Wirral was with volunteer groups who collected litter and looked after locations across the borough. They also noted how there was only a minority of people who caused the problems that required actions to alleviate.

Councillor Allan Brame suggested an amendment to record the Committee's thanks to the volunteer groups for the work they undertook.

This was seconded by Councillor Liz Grey.

Resolved – That

- (1) the Love Wirral Strategy be approved.**
- (2) regular progress updates on the delivery of the strategy be received.**
- (3) the Committee expresses its appreciate and thanks to the voluntary groups including the Wirral Wombles and New Brighteners who work hard to remove litter and maintain the cleanliness attractiveness of the Wirral.**

38 THE WIRRAL PLAN 2021-2026 DRAFT DELIVERY PLANS

The Director of Neighbourhood Services presented the report of the Chief Executive which presented The Wirral Plan 2021-26 Draft Delivery Plans. The Plans were approved at Council on 6 September 2021, together with the recommendation that engagement and discussion with relevant Committees would take place to further shape the underpinning delivery plans and work programmes required to implement the Wirral Plan.

Members asked questions about details of the report and were reassured that the numbers of trees planted was net of disease and failure.

**Resolved –
That the draft Delivery Plan be noted.**

39 **ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Assistant Director for Highways and Infrastructure introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which provided a performance update on areas which the Committee was responsible for. The aim was to bring quarterly reports subsequently.

Members questioned some of the terms used for clarification and praised progress shown.

**Resolved –
That the content of the performance report be noted.**

40 **WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Members considered the proposed work programme for the remainder of the municipal year.

**Resolved:
That the proposed Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year be noted.**



ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Monday, 15 November 2021

REPORT TITLE:	ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS AND AWARD OF CONTRACTS - HIGHWAY SERVICES
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT SUMMARY

This report recommends acceptance of seven tenders and the award of term contracts for various highway services. The contracts will run from December 2021 until November 2025, with one of the contracts running to March 2026. there are no extension provisions within the contracts.

The effective management and maintenance of the Council's highway network contributes to all five themes of the Wirral Plan 2021-26, in particular: Safe and Pleasant Communities and Sustainable Environment.

The services carried out within these contracts will take place across all wards in the borough.

This report has been classed as a Key Decision and included on the council's Forward Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Accept the tenders for the Wirral Highway A1.1, A1.2, A1.3, A1.4, A1.5 and A2 Term Service Contracts, December 2021 to November 2025, submitted to Wirral Council on 8 October 2021;
- (2) Accept the tender for the Wirral Highway A3 Term Service Contract, December 2021 to March 2026, submitted to Wirral Council on 8 October 2021;
- (3) Approve the award of all seven contracts, subject to contract and subject to expiry of the relevant standstill period without challenges, to the following suppliers:

Contract Ref	Service Description	Successful supplier
A1.1	Surface Treatments (Surface Dressing)	Kiely Bros Ltd
A1.2	Surface Treatments (Microasphalt)	Kiely Bros Ltd
A1.3	Surface Treatments (Slurry Sealing Processes)	JPCS Ltd
A1.4	Surface Treatments (Carriageway Microasphalt Hand Applied Patching)	Colas Ltd
A1.5	Surface Treatments (Carriageway and Footway Retread Processes)	Colas Ltd
A2	Carriageway Structural Resurfacing (HRA/DBM/Plane and Inlay)	Hanson Contracting
A3	Civil and Highway Engineering Works (Traffic schemes, footway reconstruction and public rights of way)	Cambrianway Limited

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The tenders submitted by the successful suppliers represent the most economically advantageous tenders received, are fully compliant, are within allocated annual allocated budgetary provision and are within the estimated value of the contract price for the service. These contracts are essential to the delivery of statutory and non-statutory planned highway maintenance and highway improvement functions. The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee approved the procurement of these contracts at its meeting on 16 March 2021.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Various highway service delivery models were considered by the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee at its meeting on 16 March 2021 and an in-house plus top up model, with delivery supported by discrete term service supply contracts was approved. Consequently, no other procurement options were considered.
- 2.2 Officers have reviewed and updated the various previous contract documentation and, working closely with the council's Procurement team, a decision was made with the Director of Neighbourhood Services to introduce an additional contract for recycling existing bituminous surfaces. A decision was also taken to procure separate contracts for slurry sealing and carriageway surface treatment patching and to rationalise the civil engineering contract (A3) into a single contract. These additional contracts will allow greater flexibility to maintain an aging network, in the most cost-effective, flexible, and sustainable way.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Tenders for the Wirral Highway A Term Services Contract December 2021- November 2025 and December 2021 - March 2026 were invited on 6 September 2021 in open competition in accordance with the council's procurement rules. The tenders return date was 8 October 2021.
- 3.2 Following soft market testing in consultation with the council's Procurement team, it was agreed with the Director of Neighbourhood Services that seven new term contracts would be procured and that the length of each contract would be four years, running from 1 December 2021 to 30 November 2025, with the exception of contract A3, which would run to March 2026. This is because the works in the other contracts are mostly undertaken in the summer months and require a long lead in time to plan, whereas civil engineering improvement works included in contract A3 are carried out all year round so extending this term provided an end date reflecting the financial year end. The length of the contracts reflects the indicative budget allocations through the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Sustainable Transport Settlement 2022/23 to 2026/27, and will allow for a re-tendering to take place, with a known budget, which will enable to the council to secure best value in the market.

- 3.3 A Selection Questionnaire (SQ) was issued on the council's tendering portal for each contract, so prospective suppliers could consider the scope and express an interest to tender, where they met the right quality and financial criteria. Undertaking this process allowed for the largest number of suppliers to be able to tender for the services. The SQ questionnaires were issued on the 16 July with a return date of 16 August 2021; the A3 contract return being extended to 20 August 2021.
- 3.4 A panel of 3 senior officers from Highway and Infrastructure evaluated the questionnaire returns, overseen by the council's Procurement team. Following the evaluations, a selected number of suppliers were invited to tender and invitation to tender (ITT) documents were made available to them to complete through the council's tendering portal on 6 September 2021 with a return date of 30 September 2021.
- 3.5 During the tender process a high number of technical questions were raised, all of which were posted on the council's tendering portal, so all invited tenders could see the questions and answers supplied. Due to the number of contracts and questions, requests were made and an extension of the return date to 8 October 2021 was granted.
- 3.6 A total of twenty-six tenders across the seven contracts were received by the due date. Tenders were evaluated on a 50/40/10 price/quality/social value ratio.
- 3.7 All tenderers included a priced submission against various activity items in a schedule of rates. The rates submitted were applied to a 'basket of works' pricing model, based on actual historical quantities of activities against each work item over a full year, to generate an indicative total price sum for comparative evaluation.
- 3.8 Three separate officer teams were established to evaluate the tenders. A quantity surveyor entered tendered prices into the pricing model which was verified by Resources directorate. Another technical team evaluated the quality submission based on answers to five method statement questions, and the social value scoring was undertaken by the council's Procurement team. All of the scores were independently brought together and presented in the scoring matrix and the process was moderated by the council's Procurement team. Some of the tenders were not fully compliant due to tenderers using the wrong price list and, as a result, their pricing element could not be evaluated in comparison with the other compliant tenders.
- 3.9 The new contracts: A1.3, A1.4 and A1.5 are proposed to be awarded to new suppliers. The remaining four contracts are proposed to be awarded to suppliers who are the current incumbent supplier for similar works.
- 3.10 The anonymised results of the evaluation process are detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All services supplied under these contracts will be financed from the relevant service area highways capital programme budgets, funded through the Liverpool City Region

Sustainable Transport Settlement and other grant and capital allocations. The council is not contractually committed to issue any particular value of work either annually or cumulatively through any of these service contracts. Task order instruction will be managed within each service using a structured programmed approach, with advice from the relevant technical specialist officers, having regard for the pertaining budgetary provision at time of any task order raised.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 These contracts have been let out Under UK Public Sector Procurement Regulations, Open Procedure, under which the contract award for each respective contract will only proceed to execution after a 10-day standstill following notification of the successful and unsuccessful bidders and no challenge having been received in this period. Notifications were issued on 26 October 2021 and the standstill period expires at midnight on 5 November 2021. Should any valid challenges be received the standstill expiry date may need to be extended. At the time of publishing this report no challenges have been received. If necessary, the standstill and Committee decision call-in periods can run concurrently, and no contracts will be executed until after both periods have expired.
- 5.2 There are no Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE) implications as a result of the proposals set out in paragraph 3.9.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 ICT: All works will be issued and managed through the council's Symology Insight asset management system, with the contractors interfacing with the system to reduce paper and improve operational efficiencies. This system requires corporate support.
- 6.2 Staffing: Officers from the Council's Highways and Infrastructure team in Neighbourhoods directorate will provide the necessary staffing resource to manage and administer the contracts with support from corporate colleagues across other directorates where applicable. A Project Board will be established, led by the Assistant Director for Highways and Infrastructure, as Senior Responsible Owner (SRO), having accountability for delivery, to supplement regular operational contract progress meetings.
- 6.3 Assets: There are no additional asset implications resulting from the award of these contracts.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 As part of the procurement process all necessary quality management, health and safety and environmental accreditations, together with economic and financial viability, employment legislation, Modern Slavery Act compliance, and checks, have been undertaken for the recommended service suppliers, reducing the council's risk exposure in these areas.

- 7.2 There remains a risk to the contract award and services commencement date should a procurement challenge be lodged during the 10-day standstill period. This risk is more significant if realised on the A3 contract as this contract requires a continuity of services from late 2021. The other contracts will not involve actual works operations commencement until the early spring of 2022.
- 7.3 The council has a duty to maintain the highway under the Highways Act 1980. Therefore, it is essential these contracts are in place for the Council to comply with that duty and there is a statutory and reputational risk to the council if the contracts are not awarded and services commenced in a suitable timescale.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 These contracts are for service supply only and will be managed by council officers in accordance with council policies and procedures. Where individual projects are delivered through these contracts, those projects will include consultation and engagement proportionate and appropriate to the project concerned.
- 8.2 The contracts include a comprehensive performance management framework, which contains requirements to engage with customers to monitor customer satisfaction. Key performance management indicators (KPI's) will be monitored at regular intervals for compliance and will be reported through the Project Board to this Committee on a quarterly basis, as part of the Neighbourhoods directorate, Highway and Infrastructure service, performance dashboards.
- 8.3 As part of the tender evaluation process, each of the successful tenderers have committed to provide substantial social value benefits into the community during the contract's lifetime. These commitments will be closely monitored by the contract management team and will be reported on as part of the overall contract performance and quarterly performance report to 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 This report is concerned with contract award and associated procurement and legal processes, so there are no direct equality implications arising from this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The recommended contractors are required to provide their services in accordance with council policies, which includes assisting the council to achieve its net zero carbon targets.

- 10.2 Within the performance management indicators service providers are required to keep all waste to a minimum and recycle any arisings from their works wherever practicable.
- 10.3 Service providers are also encouraged and incentivised to offer the council innovative working methods and materials to assist in reducing carbon emissions and contributing to a sustainable environment.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The council is committed to a progressive procurement system and generation of community wealth benefits through this process. The social value benefits committed within the various contracts includes the direct employment of local Wirral residents on some of the services. This element of the social value offered across all of the contracts has a projected total equivalent financial value of £5,010,268 throughout the life of the contracts.

REPORT AUTHOR: Simon Fox
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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Evaluation details and results

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Commercial tender submission information.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE - HIGHWAYS SERVICE DELIVERY 2021 TO 2026	16 March 2021

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APPENDIX 1 – EVALUATION DETAILS AND RESULTS

Contract Title: Highways Services - A1.1 SURFACE DRESSING PROCESSES						
Contract Quality Ratio:		40	Quality Threshold:			
Social Value Ratio:		10				
Contract Price Ratio:		50	Highest Quality Score: 4.00		Lowest Tender Price (£): 391,929.89	
			KIELY BROS LTD		BIDDER 2	
Criteria	Weight %	Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score	
Quality Scores						
MS 1 – Operational, quality, methodology	20.00	4	0.80	2	0.40	
MS 2 – Health Safety and Environment	20.00	4	0.80	2	0.40	
MS 3 – Service Management	25.00	4	1.00	2	0.50	
MS 4 – Supply Chain Management	15.00	4	0.60	2.5	0.38	
MS 5 – Public engagement	20.00	4	0.80	2	0.40	
Totals	100.00		4.00		2.08	
Is overall quality threshold reached?			yes		yes	
Quality points (as a % of highest score)			100.00		51.88	
Social Value Scores						
Social value (Score from SVP normalised as score out of 100)	10	80	8.00	10.15	1.02	
Price Scores						
Total Tender Price (£)		£391,929.89		£0		
Price points (lowest/actual*100)		100.00				
Summary Scores						
Quality weighting x quality score	100.00	0.40	40.00	51.88	0.40	20.75
Social value weighting x social value score	80.00	0.10	8.00	10.15	0.10	1.02
Price weighting x price score	100.00	0.50	50.00	0.00	0.50	0.00
Overall Score			98.00			21.77
Order of Tenders (Descending)			1			

*BIDDER 2 NOT EVALUATED

APPENDIX 1 – EVALUATION DETAILS AND RESULTS

Contract Title: Highways Services - A1.2 MICRO ASPHALT PROCESSES									
Contract Quality Ratio:		40	Quality Threshold:						
Social Value Ratio:		10							
Contract Price Ratio:		50	Highest Quality Score: 4.00		Lowest Tender Price (£): 374,488.34				
Criteria	Weight %	BIDDER 2		KIELY BROS LTD		BIDDER 3			
		Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score
Quality Scores									
MS 1 – Operational, quality, methodology	20.00	4	0.80	4	0.80	2	0.40		
MS 2 – Health Safety and Environment	20.00	3.5	0.70	4	0.80	2	0.40		
MS 3 – Service Management	25.00	4	1.00	4	1.00	2	0.50		
MS 4 – Supply Chain Management	15.00	4	0.60	4	0.60	2.5	0.38		
MS 5 – Public engagement	20.00	4	0.80	4	0.80	2	0.40		
Totals	100.00		3.90		4.00		2.08		
Is overall quality threshold reached?				yes		yes		yes	
Quality points (as a % of highest score)				97.50		100.00		51.88	
Social Value Scores									
Social value (Score from SVP normalised as score out of 100)	10	95	9.50	32.58	3.26	10.01	1.00		
Price Scores									
Total Tender Price (£)		£422,902.27		£374,488.34		£0			
Price points (lowest/actual*100)		88.55		100.00		0.00			
Quality weighting x quality score		97.50	0.40	39.00	100.00	0.40	40.00	51.88	0.40
Social value weighting x social value score		95.00	0.10	9.50	32.58	0.10	3.26	10.01	0.10
Price weighting x price score		88.55	0.50	44.28	100.00	0.50	50.00	0.00	0.50
Overall Score				92.78			93.26		21.75
Order of Tenders (Descending)		2		1					

*BIDDER 3 NOT EVALUATED

APPENDIX 1 – EVALUATION DETAILS AND RESULTS

Contract Title: Highways Services - A1.3 SLURRY SEALING PROCESSES												
Contract Quality Ratio: 40			Quality Threshold:									
Social Value Ratio: 10												
Contract Price Ratio: 50			Highest Quality Score: 4.43		Lowest Tender Price (£): 270,139.63							
			BIDDER 2		JPCS LTD		BIDDER 3		BIDDER 4			
Criteria	Weight %	Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score	
Quality Scores												
MS 1 – Operational, quality, methodology	20.00	4	0.80	4.5	0.90	4	0.80	2	0.40			
MS 2 – Health Safety and Environment	20.00	3.5	0.70	4.5	0.90	4	0.80	2	0.40			
MS 3 – Service Management	25.00	4	1.00	4.5	1.13	4	1.00	2	0.50			
MS 4 – Supply Chain Management	15.00	4	0.60	4	0.60	4	0.60	2.5	0.38			
MS 5 – Public engagement	20.00	4	0.80	4.5	0.90		0.00	2	0.40			
Totals	100.00		3.90		4.43		3.20		2.08			
Is overall quality threshold reached?			yes		yes		yes		yes			
Quality points (as a % of highest score)			88.14		100.00		72.32		46.89			
Social Value Scores												
Social value (Score from SVP normalised as score out of 100)	10	95	9.50	44.53	4.45	40.92	4.09	10.03	1.00			
Price Scores												
Total Tender Price (£)		£303,595.14		£270,139.63		£292,183.26		£0				
Price points (lowest/actual*100)		88.98		100.00		92.46						
Weighted Scores												
Quality weighting x quality score	88.14	0.40	35.25	100.00	0.40	40.00	72.32	0.40	28.93	46.89	0.40	18.76
Social value weighting x social value score	95.00	0.10	9.50	44.53	0.10	4.45	40.92	0.10	4.09	10.03	0.10	1.00
Price weighting x price score	88.98	0.50	44.49	100.00	0.50	50.00	92.46	0.50	46.23	0.00	0.50	0.00
Overall Score			89.24			94.45			79.25			19.76
Order of Tenders (Descending)			2			1			3			

*BIDDER 4 NOT EVALUATED

APPENDIX 1 – EVALUATION DETAILS AND RESULTS

Contract Title: Highways Services - A1.4 CARRIAGEWAY MICRO ASPHALT HAND APPLIED PATCHING														
Contract Quality Ratio: 40			Quality Threshold:											
Social Value Ratio: 10														
Contract Price Ratio: 50			Highest Quality Score: 4.43		Lowest Tender Price (£): 346,079.38									
			COLAS LTD		BIDDER 2		BIDDER 3		BIDDER 4					
Criteria		Weight %	Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score		
Quality Scores														
MS 1 – Operational, quality, methodology		20.00	4	0.80	4.5	0.90	4	0.80	2	0.40				
MS 2 – Health Safety and Environment		20.00	3.5	0.70	4.5	0.90	4	0.80	2	0.40				
MS 3 – Service Management		25.00	4	1.00	4.5	1.13	4	1.00	2	0.50				
MS 4 – Supply Chain Management		15.00	4	0.60	4	0.60	4	0.60	2.5	0.38				
MS 5 – Public engagement		20.00	4	0.80	4.5	0.90	4	0.80	2	0.40				
Totals		100.00		3.90		4.43		4.00		2.08				
Is overall quality threshold reached?				yes		yes		yes		yes				
Quality points (as a % of highest score)				88.14		100.00		90.40		46.89				
Social Value Scores														
Social value (Score from SVP normalised as score out of 100)		10	95	9.50	54.35	5.44	48.32	4.83	10.06	1.01				
Price Scores														
Total Tender Price (£)			£346,079.38		£0		£348,101.13		£0					
Price points (lowest/actual*100)			100.00				99.42							
Weighted Scores														
Quality weighting x quality score			88.14	0.40	35.25	100.00	0.40	40.00	90.40	0.40	36.16	46.89	0.40	18.76
Social value weighting x social value score			95.00	0.10	9.50	54.35	0.10	5.44	48.32	0.10	4.83	10.06	0.10	1.01
Price weighting x price score			100.00	0.50	50.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	99.42	0.50	49.71	0.00	0.50	0.00
Overall Score					94.75			45.44			90.70			19.76
Order of Tenders (Descending)			1				2							

*BIDDER 2 AND BIDDER 4 NOT EVALUATED

APPENDIX 1 – EVALUATION DETAILS AND RESULTS

Contract Title: Highways Services - A1.5 CARRIAGEWAY AND FOOTWAY RETREAD PROCESS						
Contract Quality Ratio:	40	Quality Threshold:				
Social Value Ratio:	10					
Contract Price Ratio:	50	Highest Quality Score:	4.00	Lowest Tender Price (£):	286,183.06	
		Colas Ltd		BIDDER 2		
Criteria	Weight %	Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score	
Quality Scores						
MS 1 – Operational, quality, methodology	20.00	4	0.80	4	0.80	
MS 2 – Health Safety and Environment	20.00	3.5	0.70	4	0.80	
MS 3 – Service Management	25.00	4	1.00	4	1.00	
MS 4 – Supply Chain Management	15.00	4	0.60	4	0.60	
MS 5 – Public engagement	20.00	4	0.80	4	0.80	
Totals	100.00		3.90		4.00	
Is overall quality threshold reached?			yes		yes	
Quality points (as a % of highest score)			97.50		100.00	
Social Value Scores						
Social value (Score from SVP normalised as score out of 100)	10	95	9.50	37.79	3.78	
Price Scores						
Total Tender Price (£)		£286,183.06		£478,188.20		
Price points (lowest/actual*100)		100.00		59.85		
Quality weighting x quality score		97.50	0.40	39.00	100.00	0.40
Social value weighting x social value score		95.00	0.10	9.50	37.79	0.10
Price weighting x price score		100.00	0.50	50.00	59.85	0.50
Overall Score			98.50			73.70
Order of Tenders (Descending)		1		2		

APPENDIX 1 – EVALUATION DETAILS AND RESULTS

Contract Title: Highways Services - A2 CARRIAGEWAY STRUCTURAL RESURFACING																			
Contract Quality Ratio:		40	Quality Threshold:																
Social Value Ratio:		10																	
Contract Price Ratio:		50	Highest Quality Score: 4.23 Lowest Tender Price (£): 3,577,765.93																
Criteria	Weight %	BIDDER 2		BIDDER 3		BIDDER 4		HANSON QUARRY		BIDDER 5		BIDDER 6							
		Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score						
Quality Scores																			
MS 1 – Operational, quality, methodology	20.00	4	0.80	4	0.80	3.5	0.70	4	0.80	3	0.60	4	0.80						
MS 2 – Health Safety and Environment	20.00	3	0.60	3.5	0.70	3	0.60	4.5	0.90	3	0.60	3.5	0.70						
MS 3 – Service Management	25.00	4	1.00	4	1.00	3.5	0.88	4.5	1.13	2	0.50	4.5	1.13						
MS 4 – Supply Chain Management	15.00	4.5	0.68	4	0.60	3	0.45	4	0.60	2	0.30	4	0.60						
MS 5 – Public engagement	20.00	4	0.80	4	0.80	3.5	0.70	4	0.80	2	0.40	4.5	0.90						
Totals	100.00		3.88		3.90		3.33		4.23		2.40		4.13						
Is overall quality threshold reached?			yes		yes		yes		yes		yes		yes						
Quality points (as a % of highest score)			91.72		92.31		78.70		100.00		56.80		97.63						
Social Value Scores																			
Social value	10	43.98	4.40	95	9.50	55.5	5.55	45.27	4.53	36.85	3.69	42.42	4.24						
Price Scores																			
Total Tender Price (£)		£4,247,102.98		£4,071,081.77		£3,949,274.10		£3,577,765.93		£8,696,719.76		£0							
Price points (lowest/actual*100)		84.24		87.88		90.59		100.00		41.14									
Quality weighting x quality score		91.72	0.40	36.69	92.31	0.40	36.92	78.70	0.40	31.48	100.00	0.40	40.00	56.80	0.40	22.72	97.63	0.40	39.05
Social value weighting x social value score		43.98	0.10	4.40	95.00	0.10	9.50	55.50	0.10	5.55	45.27	0.10	4.53	36.85	0.10	3.69	42.42	0.10	4.24
Price weighting x price score		84.24	0.50	42.12	87.88	0.50	43.94	90.59	0.50	45.30	100.00	0.50	50.00	41.14	0.50	20.57	0.00	0.50	0.00
Overall Score			83.20			90.36			82.33		94.53		46.98						43.30
Order of Tenders (Descending)		3		2		4		1		5									

*BIDDER 6 NOT EVALUATED

APPENDIX 1 – EVALUATION DETAILS AND RESULTS

Contract Title: Highways Services - A3 CIVIL AND HIGHWAY ENGINEERING																
Contract Quality Ratio:		40		Quality Threshold:												
Social Value Ratio:		10														
Contract Price Ratio:		50		Highest Quality Score: 4.43		Lowest Tender Price (£): 2,265,961.80										
Criteria	Weight %	BIDDER 2		BIDDER 3		CAMBRIANWAY LTD		BIDDER 4		BIDDER 5						
		Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score	Score	Weighted score					
Quality Scores																
MS 1 – Operational, quality, methodology	20.00	4	0.80	2.5	0.50	4.5	0.90	4	0.80	3.5	0.70					
MS 2 – Health Safety and Environment	20.00	3	0.60	3	0.60	4.5	0.90	3.5	0.70	3	0.60					
MS 3 – Service Management	25.00	3	0.75	3	0.75	4.5	1.13	4	1.00	3.5	0.88					
MS 4 – Supply Chain Management	15.00	3	0.45	3	0.45	4	0.60	4	0.60	3	0.45					
MS 5 – Public engagement	20.00	3	0.60	2	0.40	4.5	0.90	4	0.80	3.5	0.70					
Totals	100.00		3.20		2.70		4.43		3.90		3.33					
Is overall quality threshold reached?			yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes					
Quality points (as a % of highest score)			72.32	61.02	100.00	88.14	75.14									
Social Value Scores																
Social value	10	37.36	3.74	75.61	7.56	90	9.00	79.07	7.91	48.57	4.86					
Price Scores																
Total Tender Price (£)		£2,639,007.10		£2,265,961.80		£2,800,904.87		£3,687,975.84		£0						
Price points (lowest/actual*100)		85.86		100.00		80.90		61.44								
Quality weighting x quality score		72.32	0.40	28.93	61.02	0.40	24.41	100.00	0.40	40.00	88.14	0.40	35.25	75.14	0.40	30.06
Social value weighting x social value score		37.36	0.10	3.74	75.61	0.10	7.56	90.00	0.10	9.00	79.07	0.10	7.91	48.57	0.10	4.86
Price weighting x price score		85.86	0.50	42.93	100.00	0.50	50.00	80.90	0.50	40.45	61.44	0.50	30.72	0.00	0.50	0.00
Overall Score			75.59			81.97			89.45			73.88				34.91
Order of Tenders (Descending)		3		2		1		4								

*BIDDER 5 NOT EVALUATED

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ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Monday, 15 November 2021

REPORT TITLE:	WEST KIRBY FLOOD ALLEVIATION - AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION PHASE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT SUMMARY

The West Kirby Flood Alleviation Scheme received Planning Approval on 2 November 2021. Planning and grant funding conditions require the main construction activity to be undertaken between April and October 2022. So that the challenging procurement timelines necessary to deliver the scheme within these conditions can be met, this report seeks approval to delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to award the advanced and construction phase works contracts.

Reducing flood risk at West Kirby aligns with both the Sustainable Environment and Safe and Pleasant Communities themes of the Wirral Plan 2021-26.

The West Kirby Flood Alleviation Scheme is situated within both Hoylake & Meols and West Kirby & Thurstaston wards.

This matter is a Key Decision

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Approve the proposed procurement process and strategy for the construction of the West Kirby Flood Alleviation Scheme set out at paragraph 3.7 of this report; and
- 2) Delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to award the advanced Engineering Construction Contract and also the main construction phase Engineering Construction Contract.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Planning conditions for the West Kirby Flood Alleviation scheme require the main construction activity to be undertaken between April and September in any year in order to minimise disturbance to the natural environment of the Dee Estuary. Some other activities can be undertaken outside this period to facilitate the programme which allows for March to October working. Environment Agency grant funding conditions require construction phase spending commitments commencing by March 2022. The current scheme delivery programme requires the successful contractor to mobilise in February 2022.
- 1.2 By delegating the authority to award an advanced Engineering and Construction Contract, for pre-ordered supplies, and the main Engineering and Construction Contract, for the construction activities, to the Director of Neighbourhood Services, sufficient time can be included in the programme to allow the successful contractor to mobilise in February 2022.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The next available Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee is on 17 January 2022 and the contract award decision could be deferred until then. However, the effective date for any decision made at that Committee would not allow sufficient time to mobilise a contractor in February 2022, and the planning and funding conditions would not be met.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 On 2 November 2021 the Council's Strategic Applications Sub Committee, under application reference DPP4/20/01627, granted planning consent for proposed development consisting of the construction of a new linear secondary defence wall, set back along the edge of the South Parade promenade in West Kirby which will offer a high standard of protection to local residential and commercial properties.
- 3.2 The Environment Agency has procured a Collaborative Delivery Framework for the delivery of its own and of Risk Management Authorities' flood and coastal risk management schemes. Wirral Council was named as a Risk Management Authority during the Office of the Journal of the European Union advertising and procurement of the Collaborative Delivery Framework.
- 3.3 The Collaborative Delivery Framework comprises two elements; Early Supplier Engagement and the Engineering and Construction Contract. The purpose of utilising Early Supplier Engagement is for the supplier to work with the Council and their designers to identify engineering and construction efficiencies which can reduce costs on the main Engineering and Construction Contract
- 3.4 The work on the Early Supplier Engagement has now completed and has resulted in reduced construction estimates due to efficiencies identified in pre-cast concrete unit design and placement, as well as foundation construction.

- 3.5 Planning approval on 2 November 2021 now allows the scheme to progress to the construction phase. Use of the Environment Agency's Collaborative Delivery Framework provides the most efficient and cost-effective method of delivery of the construction works.
- 3.6 In order to achieve the programme constrained by the planning condition of construction works only between April and October it is essential that certain items, including: steel piles; site cabins and pre-cast unit moulds are ordered now, due to their lead-in time, so that they are available at the start of the construction period. These items can be procured through the use of an Advanced Engineering and Construction Contract through the Environment Agency's Collaborative Delivery Framework.
- 3.7 The remaining elements of the construction phase will be scoped within the main Engineering and Construction Contract. It is also proposed that the Environment Agency's Collaborative Delivery Framework is used as a means to procure this contract. The Council will use the Environment Agency's Carbon Cost Estimating Unit to produce a Target Cost for the delivery of the Works based on the detailed design produced by the Council's design consultants for the scheme, AECOM. There will be input from the Framework Contractor to ensure best value during this process based on their continual contract management of market testing of suppliers. The main contract will be based on this Target Cost, agreed prior to contract execution, so that the Council as client retains control and budget assurance.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Funding for the West Kirby Flood Alleviation scheme comes from three sources:

- Environment Agency's Flood Defence Grant Aid £2,164,000
- Environment Agency's Other Government Department Grant £ 984,000
- Wirral Council Capital £2,410,000

4.2 The total scheme budget of £5,558,000 has been reported in the Council's capital programme and spend will be monitored against this.

4.3 Detailed estimates of scheme costs prior to the award of the Early Supplier Engagement, including a risk allowance, identify an estimated construction cost of £5,420,000. Efficiencies have been identified during the Early Supplier Engagement process and will be incorporated into the scheme estimate when the Target Cost is derived as part of the pricing and acceptance process during procurement. Any additional budget between the Target Cost and the scheme budget of £5,558,000 can be used to offset revenue staff costs.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 A User Agreement with the Environment Agency for use of the Collaborative Delivery Framework has already been signed and is in place. The Council's corporate

Procurement team in Resources directorate has advised on the proposed procurement route and use of the Collaborative Delivery Framework for procurement of the advanced and main construction contracts.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no direct resource implications associated with delegating authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to award the West Kirby Flood Alleviation contracts.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 Use of the Environment Agency's Collaborative Delivery Framework is proposed as an efficient and cost-effective method of procuring the construction phase of the works. The risks associated with alternative procurement processes are linked to the delay in programme and inability to meet the planning conditions imposed to protect the natural environment.

7.2 If the programme is delayed then the West Kirby Flood Alleviation scheme would be put at risk because:

- Funding provided by the Environment Agency is time limited and may be allocated to other regional or national projects if the scheme is not delivered in 2022/23;
- Scheme costs will rise and existing budgets will be insufficient to deliver the scheme; and
- Failure to deliver the scheme would mean that flood risk at West Kirby would not be reduced.

7.3 The same consequences also apply if delegated authority is not given to the Director of Neighbourhood Services as the construction phase of the scheme could not be delivered in 2022/23.

7.4 The scheme delivery and construction contract will be monitored using the Council's robust governance procedures via a Project Board chaired by an Assistant Director within Neighbourhoods directorate as Senior Responsible Owner.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Wirral Council has engaged with the Environment Agency over the use of the Collaborative Delivery Framework.

8.2 There have been 2 consultations on the West Kirby Flood Alleviation Proposals. Public opinion was specifically gauged at the public consultation at the inception of the flood alleviation scheme in October 2015. A second consultation took place in March 2019 in order to obtain design preferences for the scheme as a result of the favourable consultation in 2015. Over 500 consultation responses were received which have taken forward the design choices around wall colour and profile and also promenade colour. The design has taken on board the opinions raised in the 2019

consultation to make the flood wall more interesting and less obtrusive. In addition, the public realm elements of the scheme aim to refresh a tired promenade that was last reconstructed in the 1980s. The scheme will also bring back into re-use the derelict area at the Old Baths Site which was demolished in the 1970s.

- 8.3 The Planning Application under application reference DPP4/20/01627 for the flood wall was subject to the prescribed consultation and notification process.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The public sector equality duty applies to all council decisions including planning decisions. The duty requires due regard to the need to:
- (a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
 - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 9.2 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share one. The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, marriage and civil partnership and sexual orientation
- 9.3 The Sea Wall has been design has taken into the account of the needs of people with disabilities. There will be 13 pedestrian access points provided that are 2m wide, which will be sufficient space for all including vulnerable users to enter onto the promenade. The pavement behind the flood wall directly adjacent to the road will have a minimum space of 1.2m and, due to its curved design, at its maximum it will be approximately 1.7m. This will allow vulnerable users to pass behind the wall and allow other users/vulnerable users to pass each other. The main promenade itself is very wide and open with a minimum width of 3.3m. The uneven flagged surface will be replaced with a new smoother surface (resin tarmac). This will have minimum joints and will provide a better surface with less vibration and jolting for prams, wheelchairs etc. This will be installed along the entire promenade and the east side footpath. In addition to the surface improvements along the promenade, the road surface will also be improved will have crossing points which will be clearly indicated and have tactile pavement for vulnerable users. The disabled access parking bays along the promenade road will remain and there will be no reduction in these parking bays along the promenade. At the Old Baths Site, the area will be opened up all the way to the edge of the marine lake. There will be improved disabled access via a ramp access to the edge of the marine lake allowing good visibility for vulnerable users and those who are using prams/wheelchairs.
- 9.4 Equalities implications will be embedded into the procurement process up to and including the selection of the contractor.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Use of the Environment Agency’s CDF requires the ECC to be delivered in accordance with the EA’s Minimum Technical Requirements (MTR). The MTR are imposed to minimise the carbon budget of flood and coastal risk management schemes.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The scheme to reduce flood risk at West Kirby brings in over £3m in external grant aid. Once constructed the scheme, through its public realm attributes, will increase tourism and the visitor economy to the area.

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CDF Risk Management Authority User Agreement and associated guidance
Planning consent and conditions.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Strategic Applications Sub Committee	02 November 2021



ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

15 November 2021

REPORT TITLE	PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021
REPORT OF	DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

REPORT SUMMARY

The Public Health Annual Report (PHAR) is the independent annual report of the Director of Public Health and is a statutory requirement. The 2020/2021 Report describes enduring health inequalities in Wirral, the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on these differences in health outcomes and recommended actions that we need to take to improve everyone's health.

The Public Health Annual Report is an important vehicle to identify key issues, flag up problems, report progress and inform local inter agency action. The purpose of the PHAR is to draw attention to issues of importance which have an impact on population health. Since the Council took back responsibility for Public Health in 2013, we have published six reports on:

- Social isolation
- Healthy schools and children
- Domestic violence
- The roles of the Council and NHS in promoting health and wellbeing
- Problem gambling
- The role of culture in health and wellbeing

These reports have led to action in the reduction of people smoking in the borough to levels below the national average; increased support for people who were feeling socially isolated plus significant activity across a range of partners to highlight and reduce the damage caused to our communities from alcohol abuse and gambling.

The 2020/2021 Report seeks to direct action that we need to take to reduce the impact of health inequalities on our residents and improve health for everyone in our borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee is requested to endorse the recommendations detailed within the Public Health Annual Report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The production of an annual report is a statutory requirement of the Director of Public Health. The Council has a duty to publish the report.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The publication of the Public Health Annual Report is a legal requirement, no other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The global COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges and new experiences for everyone. However, whilst the pandemic has affected us all, the burden has not been shared equally. The long-standing problems associated with health inequality have endured; vividly exposing the impact of these unacceptable differences on people and communities. The pandemic has also made these health differences worse, and the heaviest impacts have fallen on the lives of people already experiencing health, economic and social inequalities.
- 3.2 Whilst we have made great progress to support people to live healthier lives in Wirral, health inequalities are stubbornly persistent. Prior to COVID-19, Wirral already had some of the poorest health outcomes in the country, with high numbers of socially and economically vulnerable people and extensive, prevailing health inequalities. Within Wirral the difference in life expectancy between those living in the most and least deprived areas is 10.7 years for men and 11.2 years for women. The impacts on individuals, communities, services, and the economy are enormous, and the repercussions of the pandemic will aggravate these further.
- 3.3 Continuing to tackle health inequalities, and reduce its impact on our community, will be a key task long into the future and one which will benefit every resident. Although some things that influence our health cannot be changed, such as our age and genes, there are many important factors that, collectively, we can change. Issues such as poverty, unemployment, poor housing, and unhealthy environments are major contributors to this health gap. The pandemic has shown us what we can achieve when we all work together and the speed at which we can make change happen.
- 3.4 The report identifies five key recommendations which intend to direct the action we need to take together to improve health for everyone in our borough and support the delivery of the Wirral Plan. The recommendations are as follows:

- Prioritise economic regeneration and a strong local economy
- Safeguard a healthy standard of living for all
- Increase support for children, young people, and families
- Strengthen action to address differences in health outcomes and prevention
- Residents and partners continue to work together

3.5 A detailed, technical supplementary briefing has been developed and is appended to the Annual Report. This provides information that is summarised within the main report.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. However, in order to implement the recommendations resources will be required.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Public Health Annual Report is a statutory duty on Directors of Public Health. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 This report has been financed from within existing resource and the main inputs have been staff time of officers in Public Health.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The impacts of the pandemic on the health and wellbeing of the local population are still emerging and therefore not fully understood. The recommendations presented therefore take account of some of this uncertainty. Ongoing surveillance, intelligence and insight will be required to ensure partners are responding to the needs of the local population.

7.2 Wirral partners remain in both emergency and recovery response therefore resources are pressured, and services stretched. The recommendations are however intended to support and inform the local system to plan for the future and enable the borough to recover effectively for everyone.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board was consulted on the emerging recommendations of this year's Public Health Annual Report in July 2021 and the September meeting of the Board endorsed the final recommendations. Internal and external stakeholders have been integral to the development of the PHAR and insight generated throughout the pandemic from local people has been used to inform the report.

8.2 The Public Health Annual Report is intended to emphasise the collective contribution, and responsibility for health and wellbeing. The PHAR therefore has an important and continuing role to play as a spur to action in the wider system and as part of our ongoing public communications and engagement strategy.

8.3 The finalised PHAR will be shared at various Council and partner committees. It will also be disseminated electronically to community stakeholders and published on the Council and Wirral Intelligence Service websites.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is located: -
[Equality Impact Assessments | www.wirral.gov.uk](#)

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on emissions of carbon dioxide.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The Public Health Annual Report describes the symbiotic relationship between the economy and health. The Community Wealth Building Strategy therefore makes an important contribution to improving the economic, social and health outcomes of the borough and reducing disparities in health. The recommendations included within the Public Health Annual Report will also contribute to the aspirations outlined in the Community Wealth Building Strategy.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Public Health Annual Report 2020/2021:

APPENDIX 2: Public Health Annual Report 2020/2021 Technical Briefing

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Intelligence Service (2021) Health Inequalities
<https://www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/jsna/health-inequalities/>

Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On (2020)
<https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/the-marmot-review-10-years-on>

Build Back Fairer: The COVID-19 Marmot Review (2020)

<https://www.health.org.uk/publications/build-back-fairer-the-covid-19-marmot-review>

HM Government (2021) Build Back Better: our plan for growth

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/build-back-better-our-plan-for-growth>

Public Health England (2020) COVID-19: review of disparities in risks and outcomes

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-review-of-disparities-in-risks-and-outcomes>

SUBJECT HISTORY

Council Meeting	Date
Adult Social Care and Public Health	13 October 2021
Health and Wellbeing Board	29 th September 2021
Health and Wellbeing Board	20 th July 2021
Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	19 th November 2019
Health and Wellbeing Board	13 th November 2019
Council	14 th October 2019
Cabinet	30 th September 2019
Health and Wellbeing Board	18 th July 2018
Cabinet	16 th July 2018

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Embracing optimism Living with COVID-19

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Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for Wirral
2020-2021



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Foreword

This is my first Public Health Annual Report since all our lives have been changed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact has been devastating but our community has been extraordinary.

In January 2020 Wirral became one of the first places in the world responding to COVID-19 when we hosted British residents from Wuhan. Since then, we have all worked hard together to Keep Wirral Well.

I have seen the commitment of people working relentlessly in the NHS and care sector, the endurance of people to stay at home doing things we have never done before, the kindness and compassion of our communities and the hard work and creativity of schools, businesses, community and voluntary sector groups and all our public sector partners to protect us.

I extend my sincere gratitude to everyone for the part they have played and my condolences to the families of those who have succumbed to the virus. Although COVID-19 has been the biggest health challenge to affect us all for generations, many of the enduring health problems we faced before the pandemic have worsened as a result. And, whilst the pandemic has touched us all some people have

felt the impact of the virus and the measures to control it worse than others.

As COVID-19 becomes something we have to live with we must remain dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of Wirral residents. To do this we will need to build on the shared commitment and effort demonstrated by residents and partners during the pandemic. This report looks at the health of the Wirral population, how the pandemic has impacted our community's health and wellbeing and sets out the things that we all must do, addressing some of the old challenges and tackling new ones, to Keep Wirral Well.



Julie Webster

Julie Webster
Director of Public Health



Executive Summary

When everyone is healthy, everyone benefits. We have made great progress to support people to live healthier lives in Wirral. However, some communities continue to experience better health than others.

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The pandemic has made these differences worse, and the heaviest impacts have fallen on the lives of people already experiencing health, economic and social inequalities.

These differences are the most significant health challenge in Wirral. They impact on the quality of people's lives; the way residents use services and how individuals and the economy prosper.

Differences in health occur because of the social, economic, and environmental conditions in which people live. Protective factors include having good quality employment, a safe and warm home, and the best start in life. Urgent action to tackle

longstanding health inequalities in Wirral is now required. The pandemic has however shown us what we can achieve when we all work together and the speed at which we can make change happen.

Crucially we are presented with the opportunity to reduce the gap in health between our communities and the rest of England or face the possibility that failure to act together and at pace increases poor health in Wirral. Tackling health inequalities is good for everyone and is everyone's business. This is a once in a generation opportunity to do things differently.



We all want Wirral to be a place where every community is healthy and doing well and this report sets out the following five recommendations to achieve this.

1

Prioritise economic regeneration and a strong local economy

2

Safeguard a healthy standard of living for all

3

Increase support for children, young people and families

4

Strengthen action to address differences in health outcomes and prevention

5

Residents and partners continue to work together

Introduction

COVID-19 has created unprecedented challenges and new experiences for everyone. However, whilst the pandemic has affected us all, the burden has not been shared equally.

High levels of deprivation, driven in part by major and longstanding challenges with local economies and employment, are important reasons for poor health outcomes.

COVID-19, has had its greatest effects on those with chronic health conditions and has reinforced variations in health. It is important we do not lose sight of these enduring health challenges as we continue to respond to the pandemic which is still evolving.

Whilst we have made great progress to support people to live healthier lives in Wirral, health inequalities are stubbornly persistent. For many years some Wirral residents have had some of the poorest health outcomes in the country. Within the borough we see differences in life expectancy of 10.7 years for men and 11.2 years for women. Action to tackle health inequalities and reduce its impact on our community, will be a key task long

into the future and one which will benefit every resident. Although some things that influence our health cannot be changed, such as our age and genes, there are many important factors that, collectively, we can improve. Issues such as poverty, unemployment, poor housing, and unhealthy environments are major contributors to this health gap. The pandemic has shown us what we can achieve when we all work together and how quickly we can make change happen.

This report looks at health inequalities in Wirral, the initial impact of COVID-19 locally and what we need to do collectively to improve health for everyone in our borough.



Health inequalities are ultimately about differences in the status of people's health. They occur due to factors often outside of people's direct control and as a result people can experience systematic, unfair, and avoidable differences in their health, the care they receive and the opportunities they have to lead healthy lives. Everyone is affected by health inequalities at some point in life, however, there are some individuals and communities who are impacted more so than others by these differences including but are not limited to:

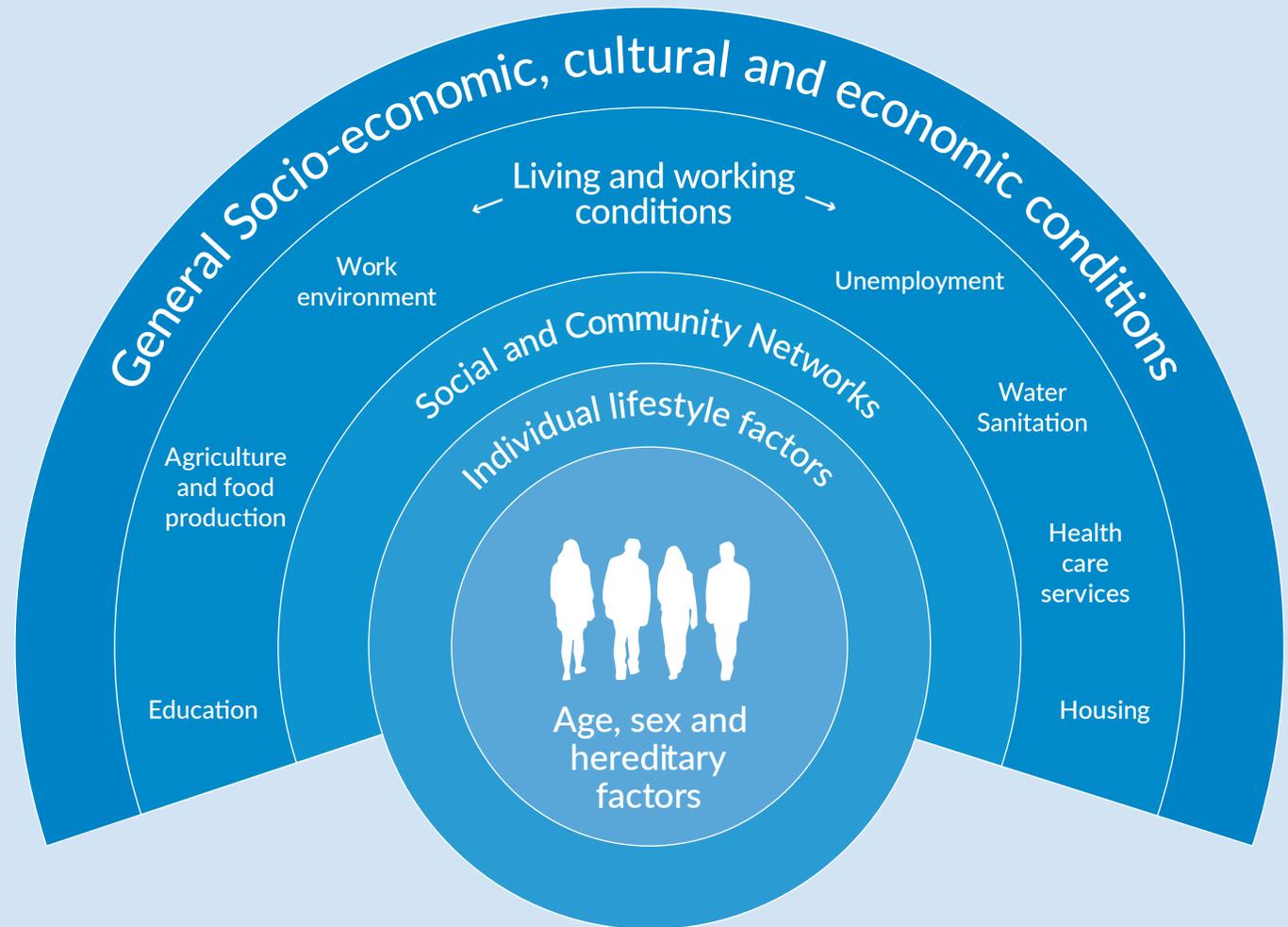
- Those who are more financially disadvantaged
- Gender (depending on the issue)
- Ethnic communities
- Sexual orientation and identity (including transgender, non-binary, and intersex people)
- Older people
- Those with disabilities (including invisible and learning disabilities)

Ultimately however everyone is impacted by health inequalities and when everyone is healthier, everyone benefits.

Research has shown that health inequalities occur because of the different conditions into which we are born, grow, live, work and age. Our health and wellbeing is influenced by not only genetics and behaviours, but importantly, the wider determinants of health such as housing, employment, and the environment.

In fact, the wider determinants have a greater influence on health than health care, behaviours, or genetics. This diagram shows how these factors interact and can often be experienced together. Particular groups can be affected across a number of factors, and these can be mutually reinforcing.

The Dahlgren and Whitehead Health Determinants Model (1991)



From Wuhan to Wirral

The World Health Organisation was informed of an outbreak of an unknown disease in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China on 31st December 2019 which was later identified as COVID-19 on 7th January 2020.

In the earliest phase of the pandemic Wirral successfully hosted groups of British nationals from Wuhan to quarantine for 14 days at Arrowe Park Hospital.

This response demonstrated the agility of Wirral Partners to respond to a quickly emerging situation and provided learning which supported our response in subsequent months. The first case of COVID-19 in Wirral was detected on 6th March 2020, with the first recorded COVID-19 death on 20th March 2020.

During this time pressure also started to increase on the North West Ambulance Service as did calls to 111 reflecting growing community

transmission. As COVID-19 cases began to spread across the globe, it became clear that significant action was required to manage the virus. On 23rd March, following a further rise in cases, the UK Government announced the first national lockdown which ended in July.

The second national lockdown took place between 5th November and 2nd December 2020, following a period of regional, tiered restrictions in September across the Liverpool City Region. The third national lockdown started on 4th January 2021; ongoing easing of restrictions commenced in March 2021, Step 4 of the national roadmap was introduced on the 19th July 2021.

First UK Response

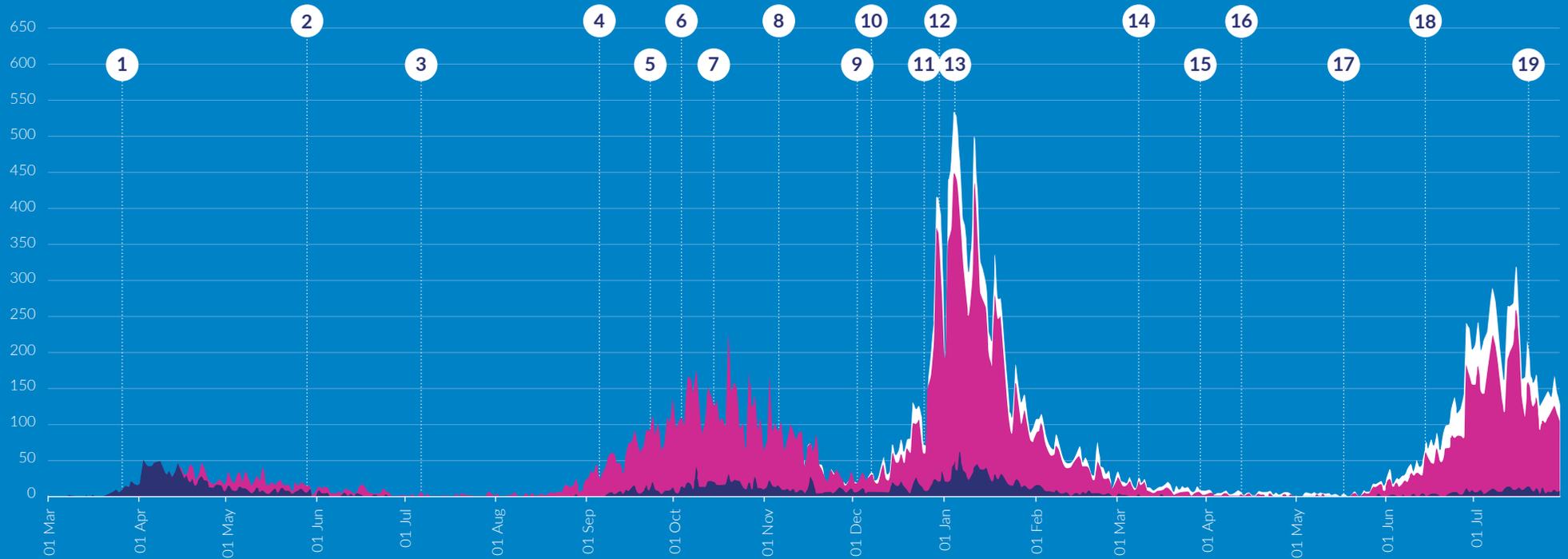
Wirral led the first national response to the pandemic, successfully hosting repatriated UK nationals from Wuhan in January 2020. This required rapid, local collaboration to ensure a safe and effective response at a time when the UK had not been managing COVID-19 as an emergency.

The guests were monitored and supported around the clock for 14 days. This involved the speedy development and implementation of new procedures and systems as well as a humanitarian response to support them, their families and friends. Ensuring that local residents felt safe and protected was a further part of our approach.

Being the flagship UK responder prepared Wirral for what followed; providing important lessons about working with the NHS and creating dedicated teams across the Council to deal with, and quickly adapt to, different ways of working. As a result, Wirral has been tackling COVID-19 longer than any other local authority in the country.

In September 2020 the Local Government Association (LGA) reviewed the work of Wirral's response to the pandemic and concluded that it had been 'incredible' - highlighting key themes such as the importance of effective communication, pace of response to an ever-evolving crisis, the value of partnership working and the need to be proactive and forward thinking in terms of delivering services digitally.

Number of COVID-19 positive cases in Wirral and local, national and international response.



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- 1 Lockdown measures imposed
 - 2 'Conditional' reopening
 - 3 Wider reopening
 - 4 Schools reopened (1)
 - 5 Local restrictions (first stage)
 - 6 Local restrictions (second stage)
 - 7 Tier 3 restrictions imposed
 - 8 Lockdown measures imposed (2)
 - 9 Tier 2 restrictions imposed
 - 10 Asymptomatic Testing Launched (Wirral)
 - 11 Lockdown measures relaxed (Xmas)
 - 12 Tier 3 restrictions imposed
 - 13 National lockdown (3)
 - 14 Roadmap 1a (inc schools reopening)
 - 15 Roadmap 1b
 - 16 Roadmap 2
 - 17 Roadmap 3
 - 18 Full lockdown removal delayed to 19th July
 - 19 Restrictions lifted
- Swab testing in labs and NHS hospitals for those with clinical need
● Whole population PCR testing
● Lateral Flow Testing

Health in Wirral

The information presented in this report describes the health of Wirral residents drawn from validated data sources.

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The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will not currently be reflected in local indicators as it continues to emerge and will be reported upon as the data becomes available.

Due to the volume and depth of information available a technical intelligence commentary, with source data and references, is provided as a detailed supplement to this report.

Health inequalities can be measured in many different ways. As a key measure of a population's health status, life expectancy is one of the foremost measures of health inequality. Life expectancy at birth in England has shown dramatic increases throughout the twentieth century as health and living conditions improved. However, in England prior to the pandemic, life expectancy was stalling and health inequalities widening. In 2017-19, life

expectancy at birth in Wirral was 78.5 years for males and 82.3 years for females (both increases on 2016-18) compared to 79.8 and 83.4 respectively in England. Nationally, studies have estimated that, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, life expectancy at birth in 2020 had fallen by 0.9 and 1.2 years for females and males respectively relative to 2019 levels in England and Wales.

Increases in life expectancy have not been uniform across all people; marked rises have occurred amongst more affluent communities, while progress has been significantly slower for people living in less affluent areas. In 2019 35% of the population of Wirral were living in deprivation, a similar proportion to previous years. The proportion of children (aged 0-15) living in income deprived families in Wirral was 22%, however in a Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in the east of the



borough (E01007122 or Bidston St James East), 62% of children are classified as living in an income deprived family, compared to 0.0% of children in another LSOA in the west of the borough (E01007284 or Thurstaston). Differences in life expectancy between those living in the most and least deprived wards in Wirral equate to 10.7 years for men and 11.2 years for women.

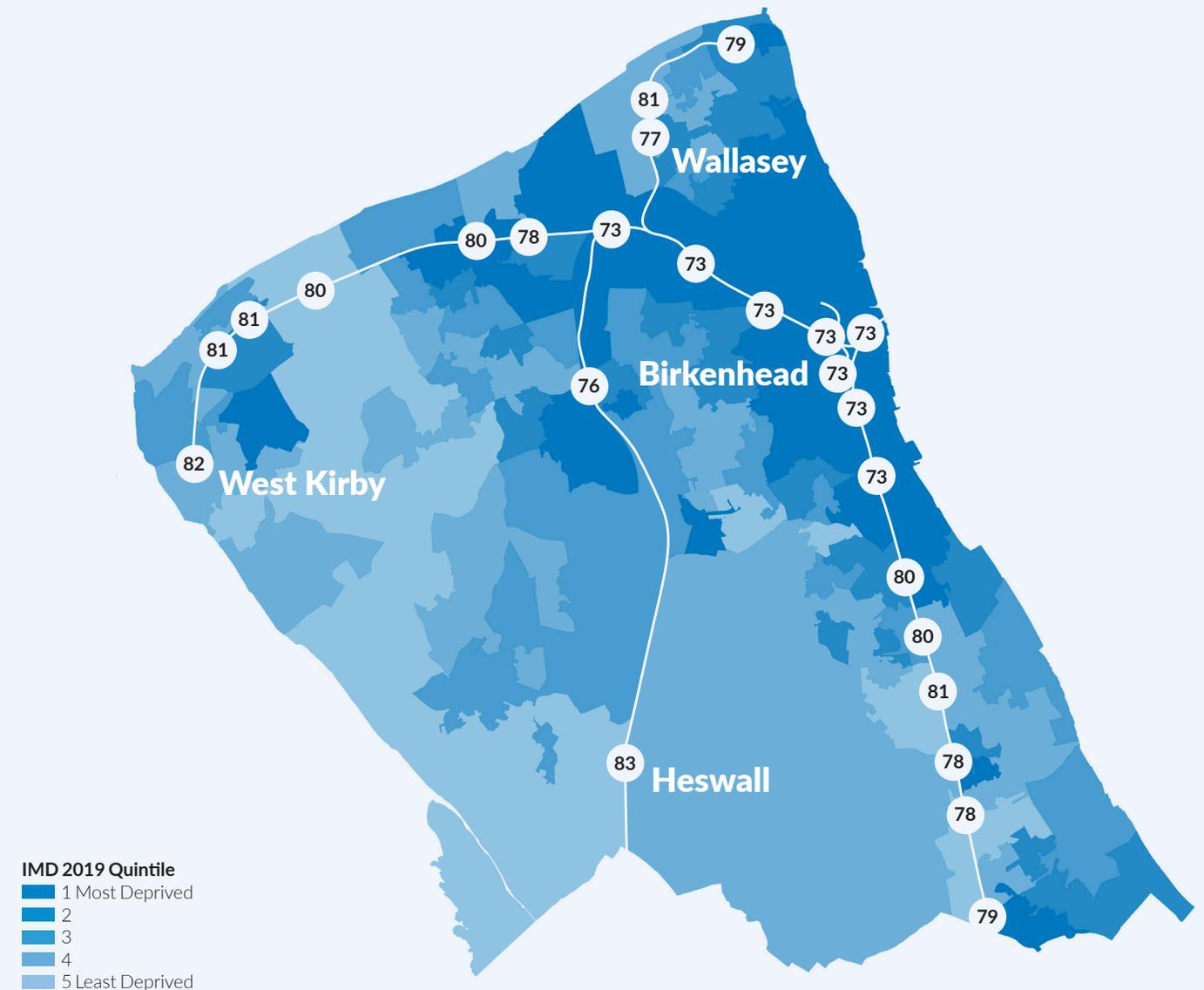
Birkenhead & Tranmere was the ward with the lowest life expectancy at birth for males (72.8), whilst Greasby, Frankby & Irby had the highest (83.5). For females, Rock Ferry had the lowest life expectancy (76.5) whilst Wallasey had the highest (87.7).

The gap between life expectancy at birth at ward level in Wirral has widened for females (from 9.8 years to 11.2 years) but shortened for males (from 11.8 years to 10.7 years) compared to the previous period of 2016-18. The gap between life expectancy at birth between males and females in Wirral has remained the same (3.8 years) when compared to 2016-18.

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Male Life Expectancy at Birth by Wirral Railway Station 2017-2019 (3 Years Pooled) Underlaid with IMD 2019 Deprivation Quintile
 Station life expectancy is based on the Wirral ward life expectancy that the station is located in.

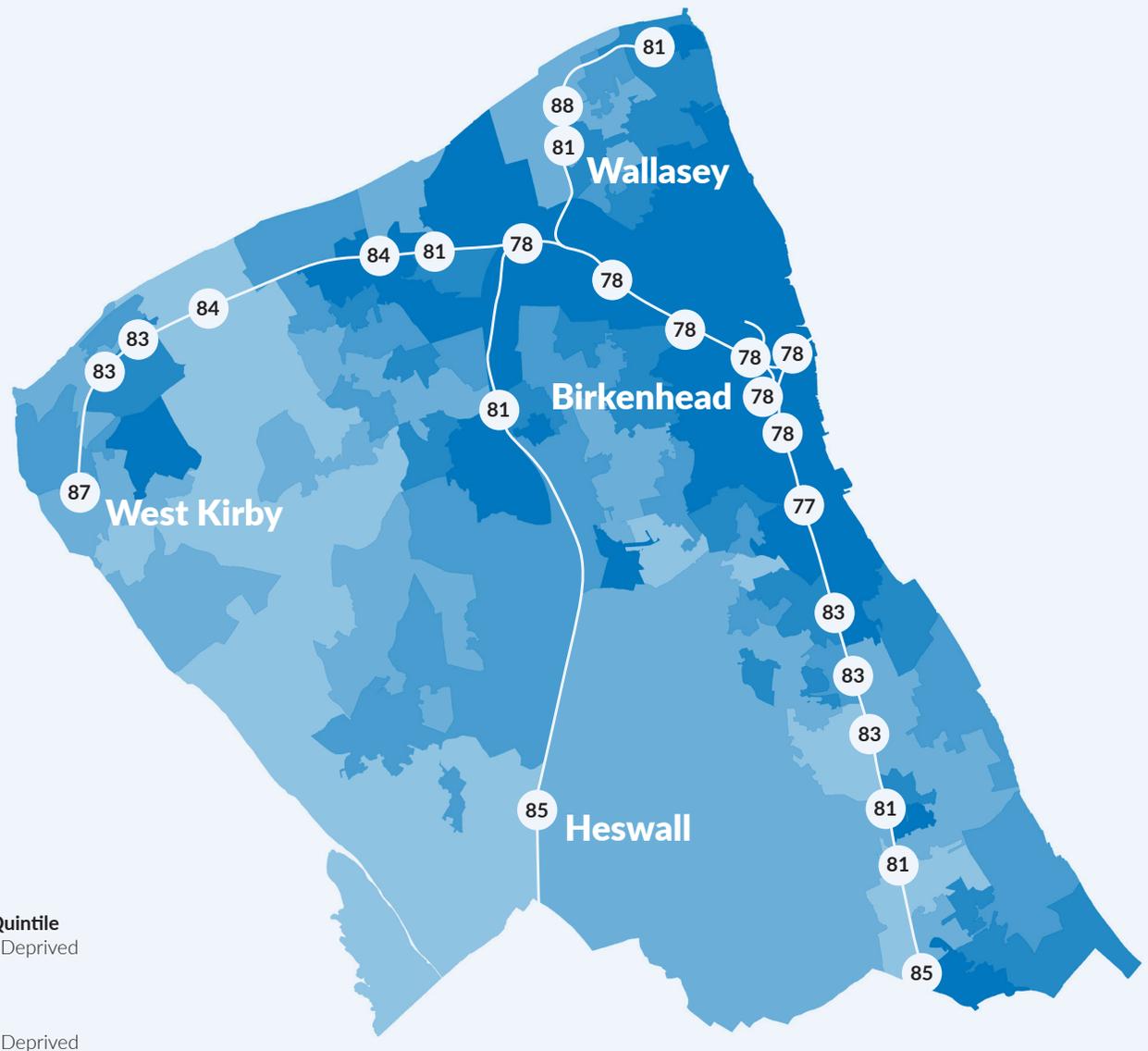


Healthy life expectancy at birth is the average number of years a person would expect to live in good health based on contemporary death rates and prevalence of self-reported good health. Increases in healthy life expectancy have not matched the gains in life expectancy, meaning that although people are living longer, their later years are spent in poorer health, creating greater demands on health and social care services. In 2017-19, healthy life expectancy in Wirral was 60.9 years for men compared to 63.2 years for men in England, which is significantly worse than England.

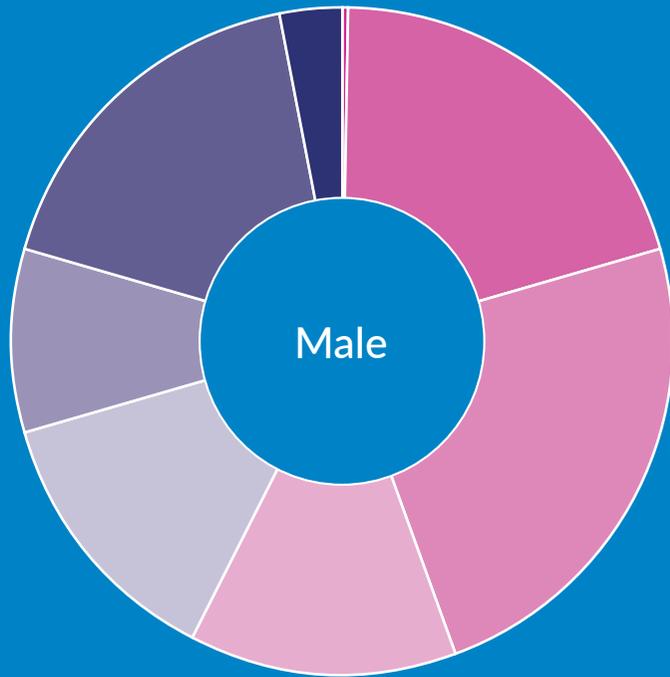
People in Wirral spend just three-quarters of their life in good health (78.6% for men, 77.6% for women) and these 'Healthy Life Expectancy' figures show wide variation, with those in more deprived areas spending even less of their lives in good health, compared to those living in more affluent areas. Targeting the causes of death which contribute most to the life expectancy gap between Wirral and England will have the biggest impact on reducing inequalities. The largest contributors to the gap were the same for both males and females in Wirral; namely respiratory disease (for example Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) followed by cancer.

In males, respiratory disease contributed to 23.8% of the gap, followed by cancer at 20.2%. In females, respiratory disease contributed 28.8% of the gap followed by cancer at 27.9%. Poor mental health also affects communities in Wirral differently with referrals to mental health services three times higher in areas of deprivation than more affluent areas. Prevalence of depression is much higher in Wirral than England; at 18% of adults compared to 11% nationally according to GP records. In areas of higher deprivation as many as 1 in 3 residents are recorded as having depression.

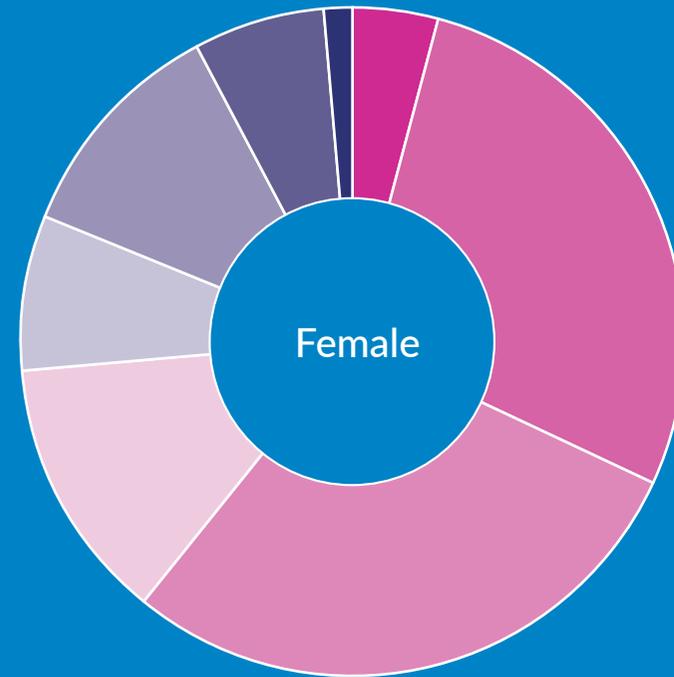
Female Life Expectancy at Birth by Wirral Railway Station 2017-2019 (3 Years Pooled) Underlaid with IMD 2019 Deprivation Quintile
 Station life expectancy is based on the Wirral ward life expectancy that the station is located in.



Proportional (%) breakdown of the life expectancy gap between Wirral and England, by broad cause of death (2015-17):



- Circulatory: 0.2%
- Cancer: 20.2%
- Respiratory: 23.8%
- Digestive: 13.2%
- External causes: 12.9%
- Mental and behavioural: 9.1%
- Other: 17.4%
- Deaths under 28 days: 3.2%



- Circulatory: 4%
- Cancer: 27.9%
- Respiratory: 28.8%
- Digestive: 12.7%
- External causes: 7.7%
- Mental and behavioural: 11%
- Other: 6.3%
- Deaths under 28 days: 1.6%

Source: Segment Tool, Public Health England, 2019

The causes of health inequalities in Wirral

As this report describes, there are many reasons why people do not have the same experience of health as others. The places we live and work, the people we know and how we live all affect our health and wellbeing.

Most experts agree that these 'broader determinants of health' are more important than health care in ensuring a healthy population. The diagram on this page shows how some of these factors affect the health of Wirral residents throughout life.

Whilst this shows measures in which we are doing better than England it also highlights important areas for improvement including giving children the best start in life, the availability of money and resources and living and keeping well.

Wirral life course statistics 2021 - A comparison to England



The conditions in which we live and work

Good work

Being in good employment protects health, while unemployment, particularly long-term, contributes significantly to poor health.

Good employment opportunities are therefore a fundamental part of our collective effort to improve health outcomes. As well as being vital to individual health, an economically active population also enables more economically prosperous communities that are sustainable for the future. Unemployment and health related worklessness have presented longstanding challenges within the borough.

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In response, Wirral has sought to address health related worklessness and has reduced it at a rate that double the national average. However high levels remain that exceed regional and national averages.



At the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, 20.6% of the working age population were unemployed (39,700 people), the same proportion as in England overall. By December 2020, this figure had increased to 26.1% (over 50,000 people) but in England overall, this figure had decreased to 20.5%. Rates of unemployment also vary significantly within Wirral reflecting patterns of deprivation. Sarah's story illustrates the complexity and impact of health and employment.

Evidence shows that good quality work is beneficial to an individual's health and wellbeing.

Money and Resources

Economic hardship is strongly associated with poor health. Preliminary data estimates that Wirral currently has 17.4% of children living in 'relative low-income' (child poverty). This rate is slightly up from 17.2% in 2019 and equates to an estimated 10,490 children affected by poverty in the borough. This overall figure masks huge differences across wards, with just four wards (Seacombe, Birkenhead & Tranmere, Bidston & St. James, Rock Ferry) accounting for 41% of the total number of children living in low income families across the borough.

Our surroundings

The environment in which we live has a major impact on our health. In 2019 35% of the population of Wirral were living in deprivation. Deprivation is measured in deciles that are based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 which is the official measure of relative deprivation.

Sarah's Story



Sarah had previously worked as a theatre nurse in hospitals around England. She had to leave work due to stress and anxiety. Sarah disclosed that during the following months her mental health and wellbeing deteriorated significantly.

Sarah applied for Universal Credit. During the six weeks before she received her first universal credit payment, Sarah started drinking, became socially isolated and built up rent arrears. She is currently paying back payments on her rent, leading her to require the use of the Foodbank on several occasions and social supermarkets.

During her first meeting with the Connect Us team, a local service that encourages independence and provides support, Sarah became upset and angry at the situation; she started to shout and then broke down saying she "never used to be like this". She told us that she has lost motivation in life and no longer looks after her personal care as she used to.

Sarah does not have a smart phone or access to the internet meaning she is unable to access her journal to keep in touch with her Job Coach. This is aggravating her anxiety about the situation which leads her to drink more. The stress of this has caused her to consider suicide. Sarah is working with the Connect Us team to enable her to get where she wants to be.

This map illustrates areas of deprivation in Wirral as defined by the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Whilst all Wirral residents have good access to green and blue spaces, variation in usage is prevalent.

Air pollutants (specifically NO2 and PM2.5) have a negative impact on health and are consequently monitored across Wirral. Deaths attributable to particulate air pollution in Wirral (3.9%) is estimated to be lower than both the North West (4.1%) and England (5.1%).

Wirral residents consider low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour to be the most important aspect of a good neighbourhood. Wirral's crime rate is the lowest in Merseyside. However, levels, and types of crime vary across Wirral. Birkenhead and Wallasey have higher rates of anti-social behaviour and crime (per 1,000 population). By contrast neighbourhoods in West Wirral and South Wirral, have some of the lowest anti-social behaviour and crime (per 1,000 population) in England.

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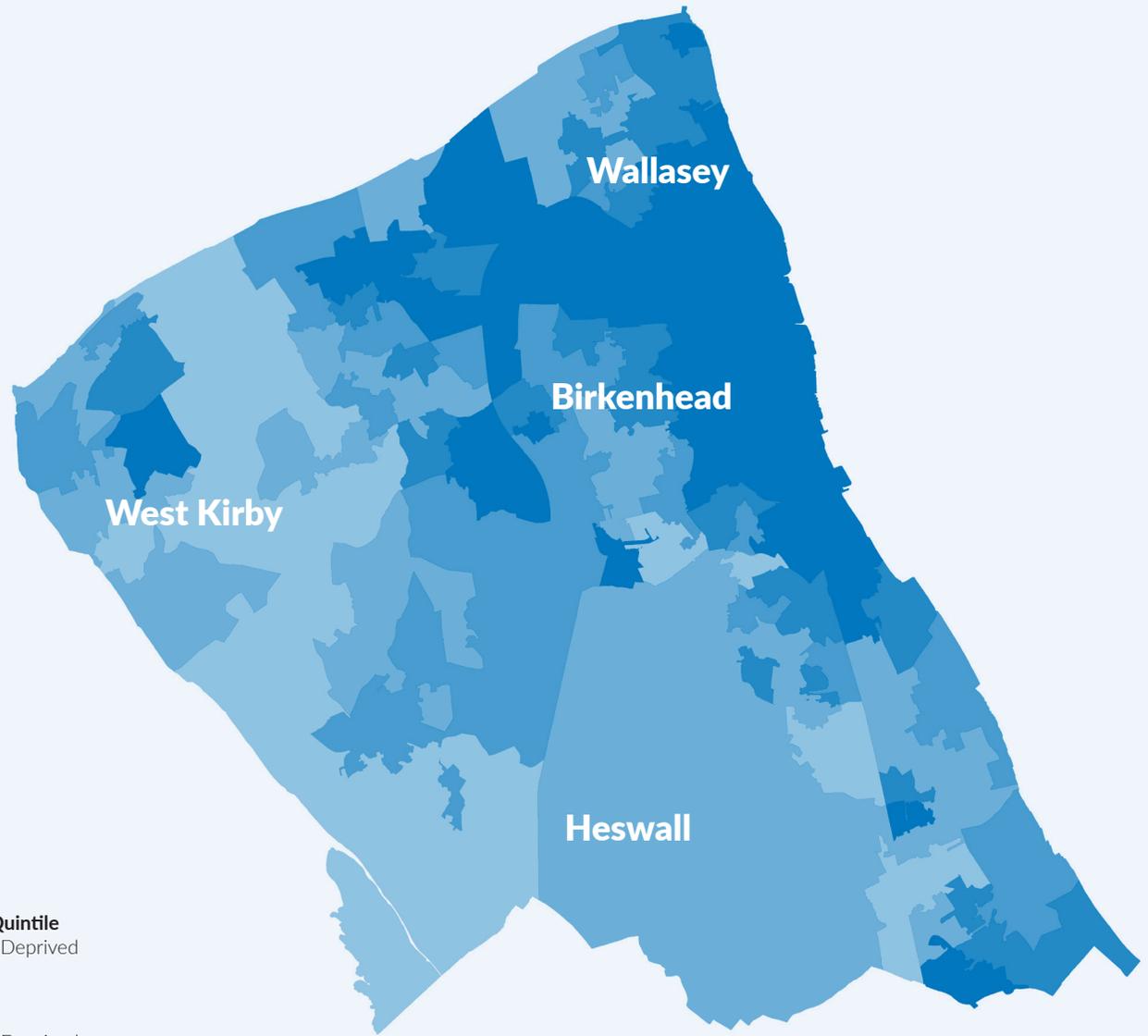
Higher crime and anti-social behaviour in north and east Wirral ...

Lower crime and anti-social behaviour in west and south Wirral



Levels of Deprivation within Wirral

Poorer health outcomes mirror this pattern.



Health and Housing

Where we live, the conditions we live in and whether we can afford to appropriately heat our home all impact on our health and wellbeing. House prices are lower in Wirral than average, reflecting a lower cost of living. Privately renting a home is the only housing option available to some people and in some areas, properties in the private rented sector are more likely (than both privately owned and socially owned housing) to suffer from poor conditions and inadequate management.

In order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents, councils have the duty to ensure that remedial action is taken on private properties where there are serious hazards that affect the health, safety and wellbeing of the occupiers. There were a total of 774 interventions in the two years of 2017 and 2018, 1 in 5 of these were concentrated in just two Wirral wards – Birkenhead & Tranmere and Seacombe.

55.6%

of households in Birkenhead and Tranmere had no access to a vehicle according to the 2011 census



Poor conditions can worsen the physical and mental ill health of those who live there. Damp and cold can make respiratory conditions worse and living in disrepair can be extremely stressful.

Education and Skills

Increased levels of educational attainment are strongly and significantly related to improved health outcomes. Wirral has relatively high skill levels, when compared to the other benchmark areas, with 39% of the working age having Level 3 or 4 qualifications.

Rates of unemployment also vary significantly reflecting patterns of deprivation.

Wirral also has a significantly low proportion of its population with No Qualification (around 23%) or Level 1 qualifications, which is below the regional average but slightly above the England and Wales average of 22%. Wirral also has a relatively low rate of young people Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). In Wirral 63% of working-age residents do not hold a degree level qualification (over 120,000 people), which is higher than the national average.

Transport

Access to a car means someone can be more socially mobile as well as access services more easily. According to the 2011 Census, 28% of Wirral households had no access to a vehicle; this differed from 55.6% of households in Birkenhead & Tranmere to 10% of households in Heswall. This has implications for the ability to get to work, connect with others and receive healthcare.

Sandra's Story



Sandra was first referred to Connect Us with issues relating to food/fuel poverty and benefit delays. Priority referrals were made to the Foodbank and debt welfare team.

Through discussions with her connector Sandra disclosed that she had a 2 year old living at home with her, one child placed in foster care and adult children living independently. Sandra also shared that she has PTSD and had been in a domestic abuse situation for 20 years that ended 3 years ago. Sandra shared a variety of highly sensitive and complex family issues that had left her struggling to cope.

Sandra was supported to liaise with the child's social worker and put an agreed plan together. She was also referred to the Household Into Work team to support her adult children and, with encouragement, attended her local community centre where, after building relationships, she started to volunteer. Sandra also attended a variety of courses through the links made in community settings including paediatric first aid, introduction to volunteering, food hygiene and resilient parenting. Sandra is no longer volunteering at the centre but continues to access support through the service to maintain her health and wellbeing.

39%

of working age people have **Level 3 or 4** qualifications

10^K

children in Wirral are estimated to be affected by poverty



60.9

healthy life expectancy in **Wirral for men** compared to 63.2 years for men in England

35%

of the population live in deprivation

1^{IN} 3

residents recorded as having depression in areas of higher deprivation

Our social and community networks

Community life, social connections and having a voice in local decisions are all factors that can help buffer against disease and influence our behaviour. Our social environment impacts on our health and wellbeing as much as our physical environment.

There are estimated to be more than 4,000 local community, voluntary and faith sector organisations in Wirral providing a range of activities and services for local people. The 'Community Needs Index' measures multiple types of social connectivity. A higher score indicates that an area has higher levels of community need. The overall score for Wirral in 2019 indicated a higher level of need compared to England (68 in England, compared to 96 in Wirral), but also that there were significant differences within Wirral; for example, scoring by ward varied from 122 in Bidston & St. James to 41 in Clatterbridge.

Connecting with friends, family and our community is not however limited to physical spaces. The Internet and digital spaces are also ways for people to remain connected and can be sources of emotional support to help with maintaining good levels of wellbeing. However, they may not be accessible for everyone if they cannot afford devices to use or the monthly bill to maintain them or lack the skills to use the internet to connect with others. Reflecting patterns of deprivation, access to digital services varies across Wirral. Whilst computer usage in Wirral libraries is 12 times higher in areas of deprivation; eBook and loans are higher in more affluent areas.

Access to health and care services

The location of our homes can impact on how easy it is for us to access health care services and subsequently our health. These services include GP surgeries, hospitals, pharmacies and dentists. In Wirral, accessibility is limited both in some areas of deprivation (Bidston, Beechwood, parts of Seacombe, Poulton and Moreton for example), but also in some affluent areas (such as Caldby, Spital, Dibbinsdale, Irby and Thornton Hough).

4,000

local community, voluntary and faith sector organisations in Wirral providing a range of activities and services for local people



How we live our lives

In Wirral there are more children and adults who are overweight or obese than in England with admissions for drug-related, mental and/or behavioural disorders more than double the national rate. Deprivation is strongly associated with increasing prevalence.

The proportion of adults classified as either overweight or obese varies from 66.6% of adults in the least affluent parts of Wirral compared to 58.8% of adults in the most affluent.

Harmful alcohol consumption patterns match deprivation across the borough. The most deprived wards in Wirral had the highest rate of mortality that was specifically caused by alcohol; Birkenhead & Tranmere had a rate of 36.7 alcohol related deaths per 100,000 people, compared to Pensby & Thingwall ward where the rate was 1.9 alcohol related deaths per 100,000 people.

Whilst Wirral's smoking prevalence (10.7%) is lower than national comparisons, this varies significantly between communities. These differences are also evident during pregnancy with smoking in pregnancy, and at delivery, higher in less affluent communities and breastfeeding is lower.

Harmful alcohol consumption patterns match deprivation across the borough.



Inequalities and COVID-19

The impact of COVID-19 on the health of our population has been significant, not only for those who have sadly died from the virus but also the impact of national lockdowns on residents' mental and physical wellbeing.

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To date (up to 11/9/2021) 38,861 residents have contracted the virus, 2,519 have been hospitalised as a result and sadly 1,002 local people have died.

In August 2020, Public Health England published a report on the impact of COVID-19 – Disparities in the risks and outcomes of COVID-19. They reported that people living in deprived areas had higher death rates from COVID-19 than those living in less deprived areas. A report for Wirral exploring the themes identified in the Public Health England report highlighted the following similar findings:

- Age: COVID-19 deaths were strongly associated with age in Wirral (and nationally).
- Sex: Men were at higher risk of dying from COVID-19 in Wirral (and nationally).
- Deprivation: both positive cases and death rates from COVID-19 were highest in the most deprived areas of Wirral (once Care Home deaths were excluded).
- Ethnicity: the considerable number of deaths where ethnicity was unrecorded in Wirral, combined with the (relative to England) low BAME population, mean the impact of ethnicity is unclear locally.



National disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19



Age

COVID-19 diagnosis rates **increased with age** for both males and females



Sex

Working age males diagnosed with COVID-19 **were twice as likely to die** as females



Ethnicity

Deaths from COVID-19 were highest among people of **Black and Asian ethnic groups**



Deprivation

Mortality from COVID-19 in the most deprived areas **more than double** the least deprived area



Occupation

A significantly higher rate of death from COVID-19 for those working in lower skilled jobs



Co-morbidity

Morbidity increased for those people with existing diseases or for those who are obese

- Occupation: most deaths in Wirral occurred in the retired population, but among those of working age, the largest proportion of deaths from COVID-19 locally were in those working in Health and Social Work, Construction and the Motor Trade, Wholesale and Retail sectors.
- Co-morbidities: the majority of people who died from COVID-19 in Wirral had at least 1 pre-existing condition (or co-morbidity), the average number was 3.

Living through the pandemic

Living through a global pandemic has had a huge impact on the health and wellbeing of all our residents. However, it is not only the virus itself that has affected our communities differently, the impact of the measures to contain COVID-19 has also varied. Measures designed to control the spread of infection, such as lockdown and social distancing, have had their own effects on health and wellbeing through isolation and loneliness, job losses, financial difficulties, school closures, and reduced access to services.

The emerging data and evidence suggest that there are a number of health indicators that have worsened in Wirral as a result of the pandemic, which were in some cases already worse than England.

Lockdown and social distancing, have had their own effects on health and wellbeing.

The information below sets out some of the early and emerging impacts of COVID-19. This is based on research nationally and regionally exploring the impact of the pandemic on health and wellbeing. As validated intelligence systems often have substantial time lag this information has been locally collated. It will need to be regularly reviewed, updated, and validated to better understand the wider impact of the pandemic in order to deliver strategies, services and programmes relevant to Wirral residents.

38,861

residents have contracted the virus up to 11/09/2021, and sadly...

1,002

local people have died



The conditions in which we live and work

Money and Resources

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic Wirral has recorded a 65% increase in Universal Credit claimants. Young workers and low earners have been impacted the most and household incomes have fallen particularly among lowest earners. Prior to the pandemic, Wirral had made significant progress closing many of the gaps with national averages. However, the pandemic exposed other areas of concern, and highlighted new challenges including:

- An unprecedented fall in employment, including self-employment
- Increased health-related inactivity, including mental health
- A need for re-skilling in the post-pandemic world

- The challenges with high levels of precarious work and zero-hour contracts
- The impact on young people of disrupted education

The pandemic brought an unprecedented demand for emergency food and welfare support. The number of adults who are food insecure is estimated to have quadrupled. Foodbanks have experienced a rapid increase in demand but alongside this have seen reduced volunteer numbers.

A new, co-ordinated emergency response to food and welfare support in Wirral was implemented within a week at the start of the pandemic which distributed more than 20,000 emergency food hampers during lockdown. The Council also issued more than 8,000 emergency and crisis financial awards with food, utilities, white goods, essential furniture, and other items throughout the pandemic.

Children eligible for free school meals increased from 10,848 (Jan 2020) to 12,652 (Jan 2021). Data provided by Wirral Met College has also shown that 317 of their 835 students who were supported with meals during the lockdown period, would not previously have met the Free School Meal (FSM) criteria and had been identified through enhanced college support.

Fuel debt has been of increasing concern to agencies across the borough and through COVID-19 funding from the Department for Work & Pensions, the Council, working with Citizens Advice Wirral and Energy Projects Plus, has been able to significantly reduce or clear more than a total of £150,000 of utility debt from vulnerable households. This has improved many individuals' physical and mental health, breaking the cycle of

20,000

emergency food hampers distributed in Wirral during lockdown following an emergency response to food and welfare support



debt, and enabling access to better energy tariffs, in turn giving access to heating that either had to be severely rationed or not turned on at all even in the coldest of weather.

Citizen Advice nationally report at present ½ million private tenants in the UK are behind on their rent. The average tenant owes more than £700 in arrears and 1 in 4 private tenants have been threatened with eviction or cancellation of contract by their landlord. Easing of evictions has been very supportive during the pandemic however with the policy due to change nationally and evictions beginning to re-commence many underlying debt issues have not been addressed.

It should be recognised that the overall estimate of families struggling financially is likely to be a significant underestimation, as there will be families yet unknown that have been impacted for the first time during the pandemic. The impact of the financial burden on families will be seen for years to come.

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4,707

new housing applications have been received and there will be an increase in demand.

Living conditions

People have spent far more time at home during lockdown which may play a role in exacerbating poor health and wellbeing impacts arising from poor quality or inadequate housing.

Approximately 400 proactive housing standard inspections have had to be restricted in line with Government guidance on a risk based assessment, with priority for inspections given to high risk cases. There has also been a significant increase for homelessness and rehousing services generally that has occurred during the pandemic, directly arising from the Government's Everyone In campaign but also from people spending more time at home.

Since 1st April 2020, 4,707 new applications have been received and there is likely to be an increased demand for housing options advice due to the courts reopening and the use of Section 21 – no fault eviction notices that the Council is aware have or are being issued. As a result of the pandemic, there has also been an increase in people working, accessing services and socialising from home.

These practices are likely to continue to some degree in the short term at least. However, a large number of people in communities have found themselves digitally excluded due to the pandemic with low income households having no or limited access to the internet or hardware devices or lack of skills to be able to access the internet.

This was further compounded for many where English was not their first language, or they had learning difficulties, mental health problems, were deaf, blind or had other cognitive impairments. It is likely also that older residents will find it the most difficult to adapt to the increasing use of digital and



online technology, as firms and service providers may permanently adopt some of the new practices they have employed during the lockdown.

During the pandemic recognising the limitations of having a digital offer available, the Connect Us service delivered over 30,000 leaflets to residents across the borough reinforcing key prevention messages but also offering their service as a way of supporting residents. During the pandemic they have completed more than 13,000 wellbeing calls to individuals as well as completing other tasks such as supporting with prescription pick-ups, carrying out shopping for people and walking dogs.

Education and Skills

There is emerging evidence to suggest that children and young people may be hit hardest by the COVID-19 control measures which risks exacerbating existing inequalities in educational attainment. On average, pupils in Wirral leave primary education with significantly lower attainment than pupils in England. By contrast

pupils in Wirral have a relatively high level of attainment upon leaving secondary school compared to the national average. However, it remains the case that many pupils in secondary education will be negatively affected by the closure of schools during the lockdown.

National estimates suggest that during the first lockdown, the disadvantage gap amongst 7 year olds increased by 40%. Poorer 7 year olds are now estimated to be seven months behind their more affluent peers. Furthermore, pupils in Wirral are more likely to leave secondary education with lower attainment than disadvantaged pupils in England.

In line with the national trend, there has been a significant increase locally in the number of electively home-educated children (EHE). For primary school age children for example, the figure of EHE has risen from 38 prior to the pandemic, to 65 following full school re-opening. Whilst many parental decisions to withdraw their children from school have been driven by COVID-related anxiety, there are also some additions to EHE where parents found home-learning over lockdown to be a positive experience which they wanted to continue.

For children attending Early Years settings, there was evidence of increased need across the 14 months of the pandemic period (most noticeably half-way through). There was a 52% increase (from 192 to 291) in referrals to the Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Officer during the period of the 1st of September 2019 to the 31st August 2020, compared to the previous year.

This upwards trend in need has continued into 2021, with 299 new referrals from 1st September 2020 up to 24th May 2021. By far the most

Jane's Story



Jane was referred to Citizens Advice Wirral after being discharged from hospital, where she had been very unwell with Coronavirus.

Despite her having recovered from the virus, she remained very poorly. As a result, she was unable to work and received Statutory Sick Pay only.

She was worried about her ability to pay for food and fuel, along with looking after herself as she lived alone and was still very weak. The Citizens Advice adviser helped support Jane with a claim for Universal Credit, and liaised weekly with the Emergency Food Hub to arrange regular food parcels to be delivered, along with vouchers for fuel.

The service has also helped Jane with an application for help with her personal care, and appointed a Social Prescriber who checked in weekly on her wellbeing. Jane continued to receive food and fuel support, which is helping her recovery.

She has also been assessed as entitled to a care package that includes two home visits per day, that ensures she is receiving all the personal care that she requires. As she has continued to suffer with ongoing poor health, Citizens Advice Wirral has also assisted her with an application for the benefit Personal Independence Payment and she is awaiting the outcome.

13,000

wellbeing calls completed by Connect Us during the pandemic as well as completing other supportive tasks



65%

increase in
**Universal Credit
claimants**

8K

emergency and crisis
**financial awards
issued by the Council**



13K

wellbeing calls made to
individuals as well as many
other supportive tasks

5%

of 16-17 year olds
in the district
are NEET

52%

increase in referrals
to the Early Years
SEND Officer

common reason for referral is for support with 'Communication and Language'. Lack of access to physical one-to-one support during this time is likely to have resulted in delays to many children reaching key developmental milestones. The number of permanent closures (primarily due to financial instability) amongst local Early Years settings during the pandemic period rose by 52%, despite national/local packages of support.

Those with no, or not many, qualifications will be most vulnerable to increases in unemployment and will be least able to take advantage of new opportunities when the economy starts to recover. Short-term job risk is highly correlated with level of education.

Wirral has a high level of skilled residents however there are still large numbers without any formal qualifications. Wirral has a relatively low rate of young people Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET); and the temporary closure of schools, colleges and training facilities during the pandemic will likely increase the number of young people who are classed as NEET. Around 5% of 16-17 year olds in the district are NEET, compared to 5.5% of 16-17 year olds in England overall.

Enrolments in apprenticeships within Wirral have been falling in recent years and has been exacerbated by the pandemic restrictions in 2020/21 with lockdown leading to a further drop in vocational training participation. Younger apprentices seem to be particularly badly affected, with surveys of providers in the Liverpool City Region suggesting that around 40% of apprentices aged 16-18 had been placed on furlough in May 2020. The longer-term effects of this are yet to be realised.

Transport

The impact on transport has been mixed. Falls in road journeys during the early period of lockdown have generally been short-lived. A positive impact has been seen with more people cycling, but it is unclear whether the changes to cycling infrastructure will have a lasting impact.

In line with national trends, road traffic levels fell very markedly during the first period of lockdown in spring 2020 and fell as low as 20% of pre-COVID-19 levels in April 2020. Public transport usage fell markedly as a result of the stay at home instruction and capacity restrictions, reducing the numbers able to travel from 192 on standard three car service to 50 passengers. Patronage on intercity services fell to single digit percentages compared to pre-COVID-19 levels. Currently levels of traffic on the roads have grown faster than equivalent levels of public transport.



80%

fall in road traffic during
the early period of lockdown
has been short-lived

Our social and community networks

The COVID-19 pandemic has had both positive and negative impacts on social and community networks. There is evidence of increased civic participation in response to the pandemic and a positive impact on social cohesion. Thousands of new volunteer groups have been established in communities across the country.

However, social isolation and loneliness have impacted on wellbeing for many and increased stress due to isolation, employment issues, difficulties of home-schooling and additional financial strain. These factors, combined with the reduced access to services for vulnerable children and their families has meant that the risk of family violence, neglect or abuse, mental health problems and financial struggles have all increased.

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1,000+

volunteers expressed interest to provide support and help in the pandemic



Not all impacts of the pandemic have been negative however. One indirect impact that COVID-19 brought was a shared sense of neighbours and communities looking out for each other, boosting social cohesion across the country and Wirral. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) conducted research nationally and the majority of people who responded believed that society will be much kinder to each other as a result of the pandemic experience.

In Wirral during the height of the second lockdown, there were expressions of interest from more than 1000 volunteers to support and help in the pandemic. Community Action Wirral placed more than 700 of these into organisations locally, who were in addition to the huge number of volunteers already aligned with those organisations. In November 2020, the Volunteer Responders National Scheme reported that they had received expressions of interest from 2427 volunteers in the Wirral area. They had 621 referrals with 4610 tasks undertaken. At the beginning of the third lockdown in January, a further 270 volunteers came forward to become Volunteer Marshalls to support the COVID-19 Vaccination sites.

The COVID-19 Humanitarian Cell, consisting of more than 70 established local community, voluntary and faith sector groups, reported supporting first time service users seeking assistance for employment, new skills, homelessness, mental health and financial concerns due to policy changes introduced during the pandemic.

Micha Comments

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted that we should all feel confident that we are either giving or receiving quality care and treatment.



We have got some way to travel before we see true equity in accessing care and treatment. We should all be supported in our journey to know our choices and options and how to have a voice around the services we access.

The hurdles ahead will require the support of our NHS, local government and third sector partners. With services facing a backlog of care caused by the response to COVID-19 and many communities facing an uncertain economic future.

It shouldn't matter who you are, we must do all we can to stop existing health inequalities from becoming worse.

Micha Woodworth,
Project Manager
Healthwatch Wirral

Access to health and care services

The COVID-19 pandemic has both disrupted and changed the delivery of NHS and social care services.

It is expected that long-term conditions will have worsened for many people over the course of lockdown and there are particular concerns about the impact of delayed cancer diagnoses and the knock-on effects as NHS services are resumed. There is also increasing evidence that people with mild to moderate COVID-19 disease may experience a prolonged illness with frequent relapses.

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In Wirral, waiting lists for hospital treatment have increased by 11% compared to March 2020; totalling 2,500 patients, with more patients now waiting longer for planned treatment.

8.5million

adults and 1.5 million children in England will need support for mental health difficulties in the coming months and years



The number of people waiting for over a year has grown significantly from 15 in March 2020 to 1,280 in March 2021. The length of time to treatment has also increased in the following services: Dermatology, ENT, General Surgery, Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, Oral Surgery, Trauma and Orthopaedics and Urology.

The percentage of patients starting treatment within 62 days following referral from a national cancer screening service was down to 92.6% in March 2020 and fell even more dramatically in March 2021 to 66.7%. This follows breast and bowel screening services being paused locally in March 2020.

Experience from previous pandemics suggests that mental ill health will increase, although the scale is difficult to predict. A range of factors may be drivers of poor mental health, including those directly related to COVID-19 (e.g., more generally or because of the loss of family and friends to COVID-19) and those indirectly related through the effects of the social distancing and lockdown measures (e.g., through social isolation or because of financial insecurity).

A nationwide study from the Centre for Mental Health estimates that 8.5 million adults and 1.5 million children in England will need support for depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorders and other mental health difficulties in the coming months and years. This is the equivalent of 20% of all adults and 15% of all children. The IAPT Service in Wirral has seen an increase of 12% in referrals from the position during the same period in 2019. The position between 2019/20 and 2020/21 shows an increase of 43% when comparing a single month position.



Wirral already faces mental health challenges across its whole population. The rate of hospitalisation amongst those under 18 because of mental health conditions is significantly above the national average and the highest within the Liverpool City Region.

The lack of visibility of most families during lockdown will inevitably have led to 'hidden harm', where potential safeguarding issues have been largely hidden from view. It must also be acknowledged that many families that were not particularly vulnerable prior to the pandemic, will now have become so. Nationally, it is estimated that the number of children harmed by abuse or neglect rose by 27% in the first lockdown.

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For Wirral, referrals into children's social care fell by 25% from April 2020 to the end of March 2021, compared to the same period in the previous year. As schools are consistently one



of the largest sources of referral into children's social care, this period of significantly reduced access to educational settings has had a worrying impact and highlights the ongoing concerns about 'hidden harm' during lockdown. Over the same time period, the number of children in formal child protection increased slightly, owing to numbers of Children in Need (CIN) growing during the pandemic.

How we live our lives

The wider determinants of health both shape the distribution of, and trigger stress pathways associated with the adoption of unhealthy behaviours. Lockdown has impacted on these behaviours in different ways. People who were drinking alcohol the most often before lockdown are also the ones who are drinking alcohol more often and in greater quantities on a typical drinking day. People already drinking alcohol the least often have cut down in the greatest number.

The impacts on smoking appear to be more positive, with smokers showing an increased motivation to quit and to stay smoke free during the pandemic. Findings are less clear in relation to diet. Non-UK studies show decreased physical activity and increased eating and snacking during lockdown. In England, physical activity behaviours among children and adults have been disrupted by lockdown. Although some groups have continued to be physically active, groups that were least active before lockdown are finding it harder.



Tackling health inequalities

This report shows that good health is not experienced evenly across our borough. People born in certain parts of Wirral can unfortunately expect to live shorter lives than those born in other areas.

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Rather than any biological difference, this is due to preventable and avoidable factors based on the wide range of issues that impact on health over someone's lifetime.

Health inequalities are not however inevitable, and the gaps in good health are therefore not fixed. Evidence shows that a comprehensive approach to tackling them can make a difference. Taking action to improve living and working conditions, the support available to people and how they look after themselves will make the biggest impact on reducing inequalities, targeting the causes of death which contribute most to the life expectancy gap in Wirral.

There has been considerable research carried out, over many years, to determine the best interventions to minimise the gap in health between people. The most recent being the 'Fair Society, Healthy Lives' report, published in 2010, by Professor Sir Michael Marmot. This concludes the following areas as key to reducing health inequalities:

- **Give every child the best start in life: This can be done by more investment of spending on early years, with allocation of funding proportionately higher for more deprived areas with the goal of reducing child poverty.**
- **Enable all children, young people, and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives: Reducing differences in**



childhood educational attainment by investing in preventative services to reduce exclusions and support schools to stop off-rolling pupils.

- Create fair employment and good work for all: Investing in good quality active labour markets and increasing the number of post-school apprenticeships as well as support in-work training throughout the life course. Also reducing the high levels of poor-quality work and precarious employment.
- Ensure a healthy standard of living for all: Put health equity and wellbeing at the heart of local economic planning and strategy by adopting inclusive growth and social value approaches locally to value health and wellbeing as well as, or more than, economic efficiency.
- Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities: Invest in the development of economic, social, and cultural resources in the most deprived communities.

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We have made great progress to support people to live healthier lives in Wirral. However, the impact of COVID-19 has reaffirmed the need to prioritise action to tackle health inequalities, accelerate it at pace and augment it at scale.

Whilst the pandemic has been unprecedented it has also led to increased connectivity across organisations, sectors, and residents in the borough, building upon a strong co-operative ethos that has developed over a very long time.

This was also in part because everyone had a shared vision to Keep Wirral Well. The pandemic has demonstrated what we can achieve together and the speed at which change can happen. Maintaining this, with a focus on health inequalities, presents an opportunity to improve everyone's health.



Reflecting on the key challenges and opportunities highlighted in this report, the following recommendations have been made to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities in Wirral.

1

Prioritise economic regeneration and a strong local economy

It is an exciting time for Wirral. The programme of regeneration in the borough is one of the biggest in Europe and will create a world class standard of economic opportunity, digital connectivity and growth for Wirral and our residents.

This economic regeneration has been a cornerstone of Wirral's plan to improve outcomes for local people and tackle health, economic and social inequalities.

However, unemployment, health related worklessness and poverty have been prevailing in some of our communities for generations. The pandemic has also heightened the need to rapidly augment support for people to enter the job market and maintain economic independence to minimise the impact on already vulnerable communities. The economy and health are interdependent; focusing on health outcomes allows the economy to flourish in the longer term, which is supportive of better health.

I therefore recommend that:

- Economic development plans are reviewed to ensure that they respond to the impact of the pandemic on residents and communities.
- Economic Regeneration and Development Committee, working with the Health and Wellbeing Board, should consider the development of an Economic Inequalities Strategy for Wirral.
- Employment support services and skills development programmes are available, accessible and sustainable to ensure income maximisation and support those most susceptible to job loss and job insecurity.
- Partners embed a 'Health in All' policies approach to regeneration planning. We can use this approach to ensure that the wide breadth of health impacts of the pandemic is part of routine decision making and to reduce health inequalities.



2

Safeguard a healthy standard of living for all

The place where we spend most of our time has a huge influence on how healthy we are. Everyone in Wirral should have access to safe, secure and affordable places to live that better prevent ill health.

Ensuring that the homes people live in are safe and warm and that residents have support to prevent homelessness and to assist them if they are homeless is a key priority in the aftermath of the pandemic as well as a key long term action to improve health and reduce health inequalities.

I therefore recommend that:

- Wirral's Housing Strategy is reviewed to reflect the changing needs of residents and to address the challenges that have emerged during the pandemic.
- There is an integrated information and advice offer to enable people to access support when they need it.
- We build on the progress made during the pandemic to support people who are homeless.
- We define and streamline fuel poverty support pathways with partners across Wirral learning from the COVID-19 response.
- Relevant partners use Health Impact Assessment in spatial planning to identify risks to good health and ways to mitigate them.



3

Increase support for children, young people and families

Having the best start in life has lifelong impacts on someone's health and wellbeing which leads to better economic prospects and reduced long-term illnesses.

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Therefore recommend that:

- The impacts of the pandemic on our young people are examined to ensure that children and families have the support they need, to predict future areas requiring action and inform the offer for early years' support from the Council and other partners.
- Work continues to develop the early help and intervention model underpinned by a prevention framework.

- Work with families, early years, schools, further and higher education sectors continues to ensure all children and young people fulfil their potential through a 'cradle to career' approach.
- Ensure that services are maximising opportunities to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on children, young people and families with a focus on physical and mental health.
- Review existing support and services for our most vulnerable children, young people and families to ensure they are resilient, accessible and driving progress.



4

Strengthen action to address differences in health outcomes and prevention

The pandemic has highlighted the importance of being in good physical and mental health to reduce the risk of morbidity and mortality from COVID-19. Restoring services is vital as is ensuring that they are used by those who need them most.

All residents should have equal opportunities to access quality care, treatment and support that improves health and wellbeing and builds resilience.

I therefore recommend that:

- Local health and care partners focus on tackling inequalities in healthcare provision - this is their direct responsibility and must be the prime focus of their action.
- Local NHS partners ensure they can access high-quality data to measure performance on reducing health inequalities across services. This includes being able to breakdown outcome and performance data by deprivation and ethnicity.

- NHS partners use their role as local anchor institutions and the choices they make as an employer and a purchaser to reduce inequalities.
- Preventative programmes and proactive health management for groups at greatest risk of poor health outcomes are accelerated across key service areas as outlined within the NHS Long Term Plan.
- The developing integrated care system and local providers have a named executive board-level lead for tackling health inequalities and access training made available by local and national partners.
- Local NHS partners engage with and play a supportive role in multi-agency action to improve the social, economic and environmental conditions in which people live.
- Health and care partners focus on good infection prevention control to ensure avoidable infections are prevented.



5

Residents and partners continue to work together

The prevalent theme throughout the pandemic has been the importance and effectiveness of the partnerships across Wirral.

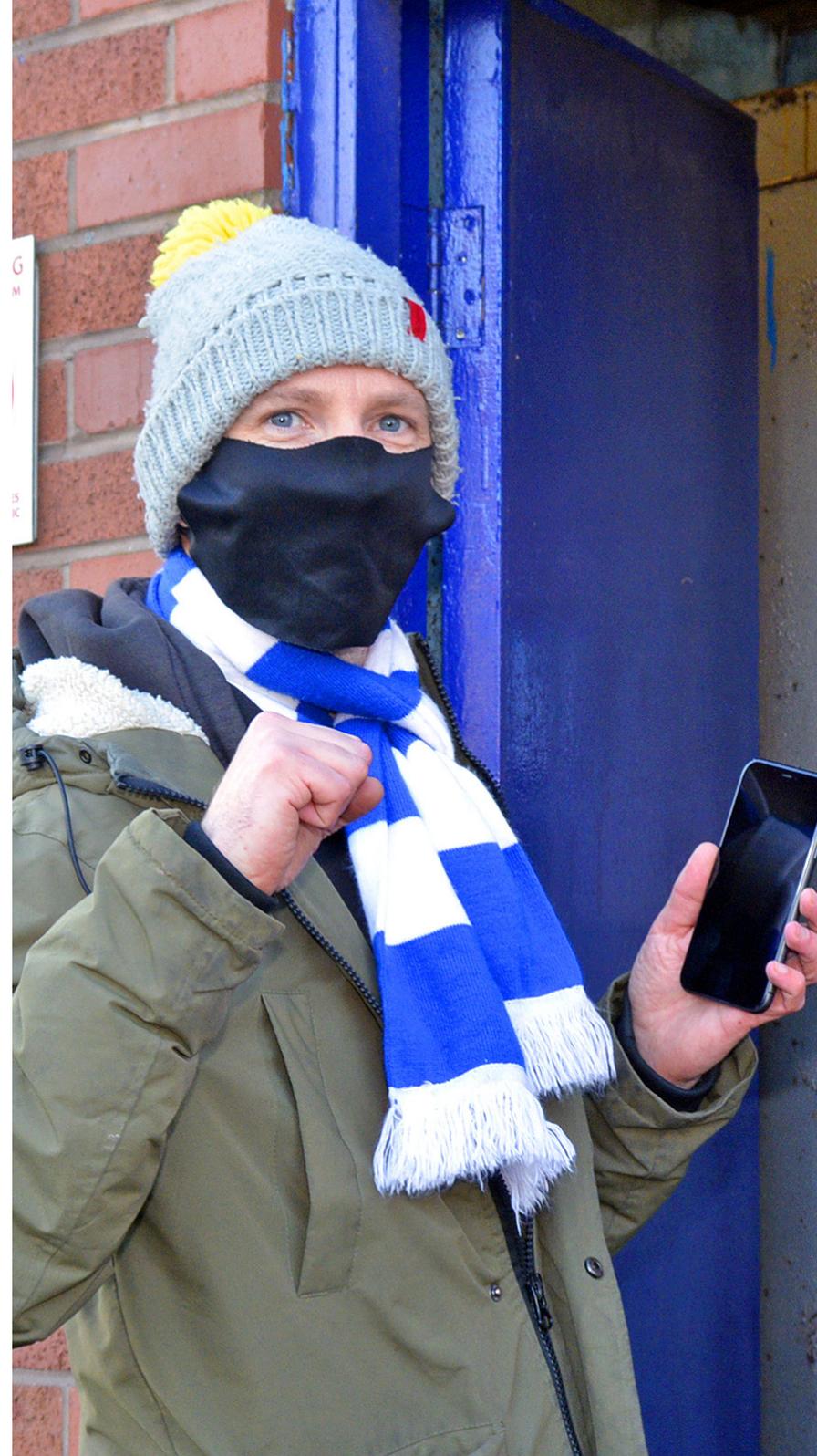
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The landscape has changed for good and the pandemic has presented us with an opportunity to build on our partnership working and work together to Keep Wirral Well by ensuring health inequalities is everyone's business.

The pandemic has reinforced what we already knew in Wirral – that having the voice of the people present in everything we do is so important. While we have always prioritised this, our response to COVID-19 has shown that there is room for improvement in terms of capturing communities' experiences and how to work effectively with local people.

I therefore recommend that:

- All partners should continue to build on the strong partnership work developed through our COVID-19 response by implementing the action emerging from the Health and Wellbeing Board Community and Voluntary Sector work.
- All partners fully engage local people to co-design services and initiatives to enable residents to recover and improve their health and wellbeing. We need to prioritise our more vulnerable residents who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and use tailored communication methods.
- We undertake a resident listening exercise to learn from the experience of the pandemic to understand local people's experiences and aspirations for the future. This work should be a blueprint for developing a sustainable model for the use of insights gathered from local people.



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References and further information are available online at Wirral Intelligence Service www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/jsna/public-health-annual-reports

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**WIRRAL
INTELLIGENCE
SERVICE**

Technical Briefing: Public Health Annual Report 2020/2021

**Wirral Intelligence
Service**

2020/2021

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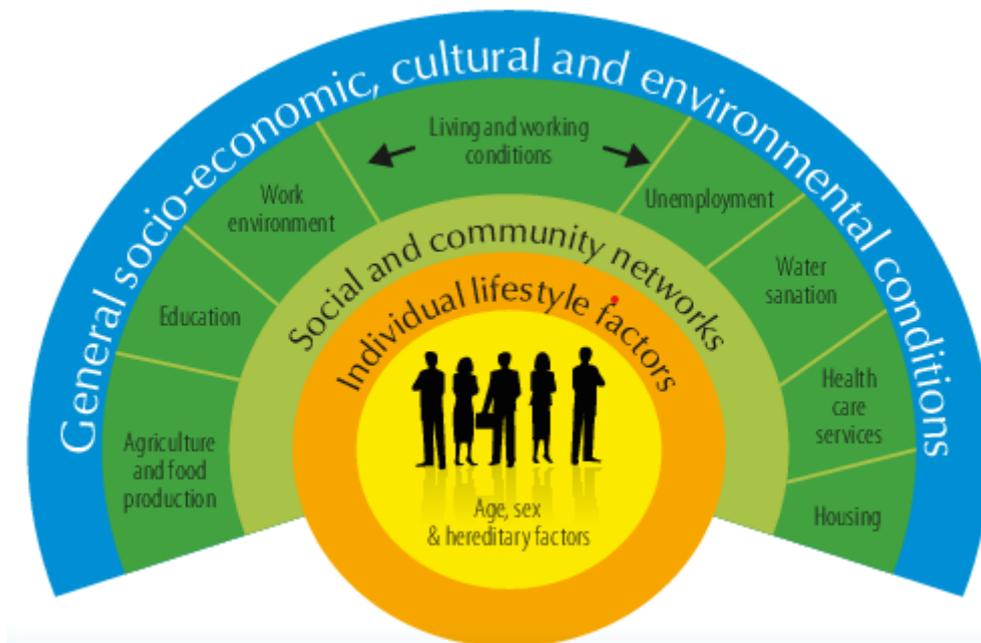
Introduction

This technical document is designed to accompany the Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2021, for those who wish to see the more detailed data, intelligence and analysis which underpins the report.

The Director of Public Health's Annual Report this year concentrates on inequalities; for more information on inequalities, deprivation, how these indicators are calculated and what this means for Wirral, [please see our report on the Wirral Intelligence Service website](#).

The main Director of Public Health's Annual Report (and consequently, this Technical Document), contains information on what are known as the 'wider determinants of health'. This is because as little as 10% of our health outcomes are affected by the healthcare we receive. In fact, the wider determinants have a greater influence on health than health care, behaviours, or genetics. The diagram below (**figure 1**) shows what we mean when we talk about 'wider determinants' and how these factors interact.

Figure 1: The wider determinants of health



Source: The Dahlgren and Whitehead Health Determinants Model (1991)

These determinants are often experienced together and cumulatively over time. Particular groups can be affected by number of these determinants, which can be mutually reinforcing.

Education

Attainment

- The average Attainment 8 score in Wirral in 2019/20 was 51.5, which was one of the highest scores in the North-West overall and was the highest of the Liverpool City Region authorities. In Cheshire & Merseyside, only Warrington was higher at 51.7 and Wirral also scores higher than the average for England overall (50.2).
- This overall high scoring, however, hides large variations based on inequalities. For example, the average score of pupils classed as 'Disadvantaged' (see below for definition), was 39.5 in Wirral, compared to an average score of 56.8 for pupils classed as 'Non-Disadvantaged' (Source, LGINform, 2021).

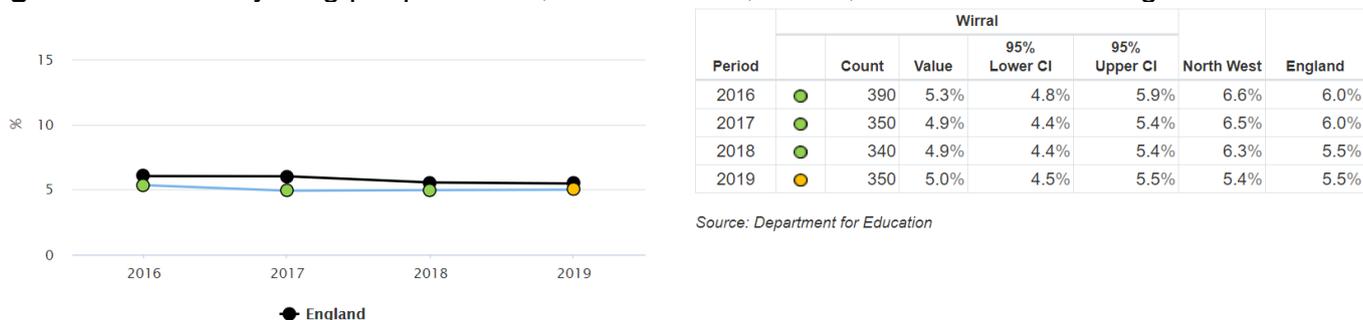
Definitions: Attainment 8 measures the average achievement of pupils in up to 8 qualifications including English and Maths. Points are allocated according to grades pupils achieve in all 8 subjects added together to give the Attainment 8 score, e.g., the maximum score for a pupil is 80, for a pupil who achieves eight A grades at GCSE in qualifying subjects. Disadvantaged pupils include pupils known to be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in any spring, autumn, summer, alternative provision, or pupil referral unit census from year 6 to year 11 or are looked after children for at least one day or are adopted from care.*

NEET (Not in Employment, Education and Training)

Young people who are not in education, employment or training are at greater risk of a range of negative outcomes, including poor health, depression, or early parenthood (Public Health England, 2021). There is recognition that increasing the participation of young people in learning and employment not only makes a lasting difference to individual lives but is central to improving social mobility and economic growth.

To support more young people to study and gain the skills and qualifications that lead to sustainable jobs and reduce the risk of young people becoming NEET, legislation was introduced in 2013 to raise the participation age which required all young people remain in some form of education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17.

Figure 2: Trend in young people NEET, 2016 to 2019, Wirral, North-West and England



Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#) (2021)

See [Wirral Statistical Compendium](#), for the inequality in NEET *within* Wirral (ward data).

Housing

Fuel poverty

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (DoBEIS) produce [annual estimates](#) on the number and proportion of households likely to be living in fuel poverty. Estimates for 2018 show that overall in England, 1 in 10 households (10.3% of households) are estimated to be living in fuel poverty; rising to 12.1% in the North-West overall and 12.2% in Wirral overall.

The overall proportion in Wirral, however, hides huge inequalities, with the proportions ranging from 1 in 4 households in some areas of Birkenhead (Birkenhead West LSOA has rates of 24.9% living in fuel poverty) to just 1 in 17 in other areas of Wirral (e.g. 6.3% in Caldy North LSOA).

Housing disrepair

The private rented sector is the only housing option available to some of the most vulnerable people in society. However, in some areas, properties in the private rented sector are more likely (than both privately owned and socially owned housing) to suffer from poor condition and poor management. In Wirral, 23% of private sector dwellings fail the Decent Homes Standard*, compared to 32% in the private rented sector. Where a household is on welfare benefits and living in the private rented sector, this rises to 36%.

In addition, the proportion of private rented properties in Wirral increased significantly between the 2001 Census and 2011 Census, from 11% to 16% - and most recently, was estimated to be 19% of all properties in 2019/20 English Housing Survey - with wide variation within Wirral, from 28% of all properties in Birkenhead & Tranmere ward, to 6% of all properties in Greasby, Frankby & Irby ward.

In order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of local residents, Local Authorities have the duty to ensure that remedial action is taken on private properties where there are serious hazards that affect the health, safety, and wellbeing of the occupiers. Given that a decision to enforce remedial action has financial implications for both the owner and the occupier (and such decisions may be subject to legal challenge and scrutiny), decisions to intervene are not undertaken lightly and as such, are a good indicator to areas where housing in a state of poor repair are concentrated.

There was a total of 774 interventions in the two years of 2017 and 2018, and 1 in 5 of these were concentrated in just two Wirral wards – Birkenhead & Tranmere and Seacombe wards. These two wards had the highest rate of interventions due to poor condition of all 22 Wirral wards – and both wards are among the most deprived wards in Wirral.

* The Decent Homes Standard is a national standard against which all homes can be measured. There are four criteria that a home is required to meet before being classified as 'decent'. These are: it meets the current statutory minimum standard for housing (currently the Housing Health & Safety Rating System); it is in a reasonable state of repair; it has reasonable modern facilities and service, and it provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort.

Income and Employment

Unemployment

In March 2020, 20.6% of the working age population of Wirral were economically inactive (n=39,700); this was exactly the same proportion as in England overall (also 20.6% of the working age population).

By December 2020, this figure had increased to 26.1% (n=50,300) in Wirral, but in England overall, this figure had actually decreased (marginally) to 20.5% of working-age people being economically inactive – highlighting that the pandemic appears to have had a greater impact on employment locally than is the case nationally (Source: NOMIS, 2021).

Employment by sector/industry

The largest employers by sector/industry in Wirral are 'Health and Social Care' and 'Motor Trade, Wholesale and Retail' (Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, NOMIS and PCMD (2021)). Both of these sectors are at higher risk of contracting COVID-19 according to Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Public Health England (PHE).

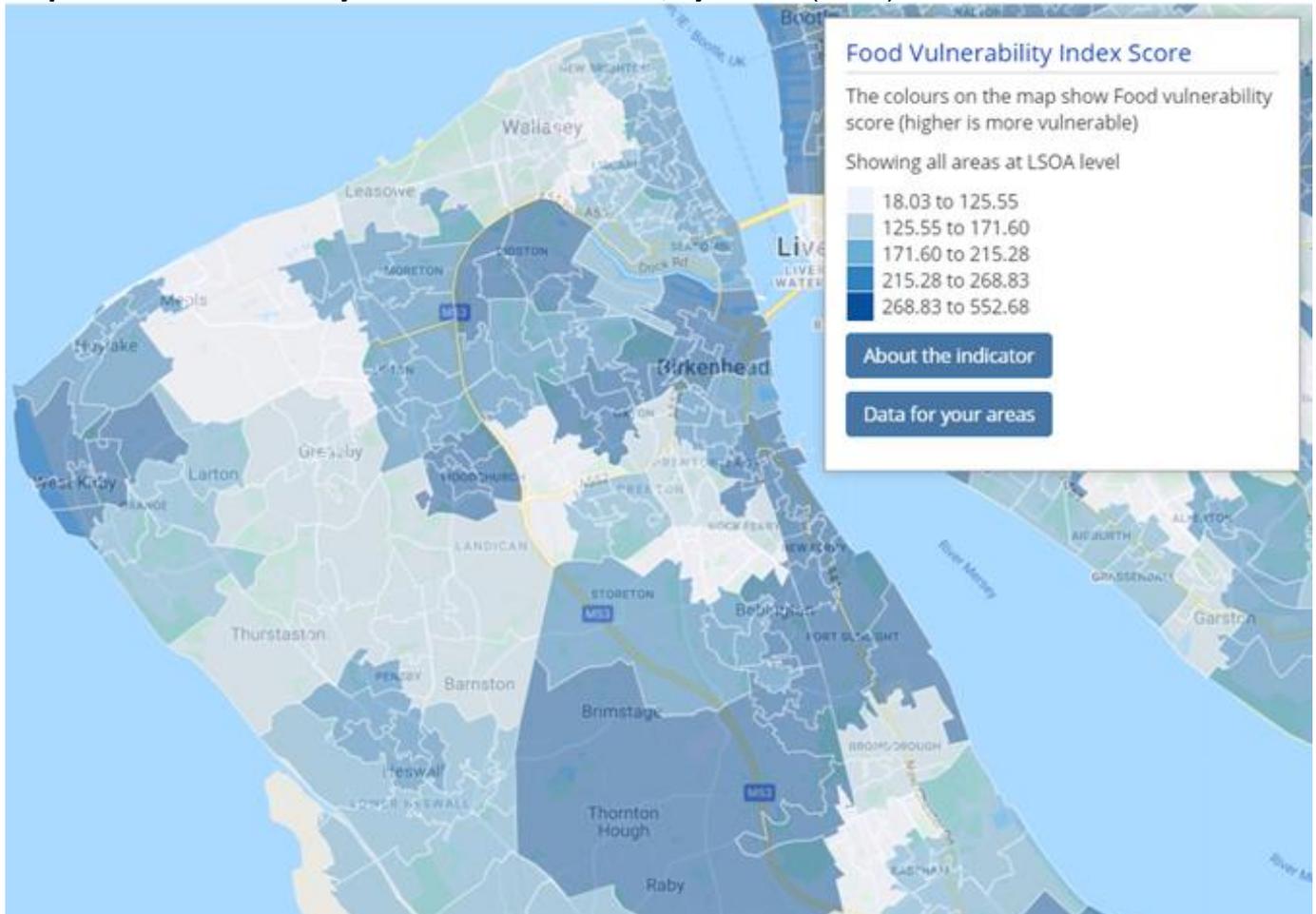
ONS has also reported that specifically, men working as security guards, taxi drivers and chauffeurs, bus and coach drivers, chefs, sales and retail assistants, lower skilled workers in construction and processing plants, and men and women working in social care had significantly high rates of death from COVID-19 (Source: [Wirral COVID-19 Mortality Report](#)).

Food insecurity

The Food Vulnerability Index was calculated by the British Red Cross in 2020 (See [Local Insight](#) for full definition), a higher score on the shown in **Map 1**, indicates a higher level of vulnerability.

As **Map 1** shows, scores ranged from 132 in Greasby, Frankby & Irby ward, to 296 in Bidston & St. James ward. The average score for Wirral overall was 197

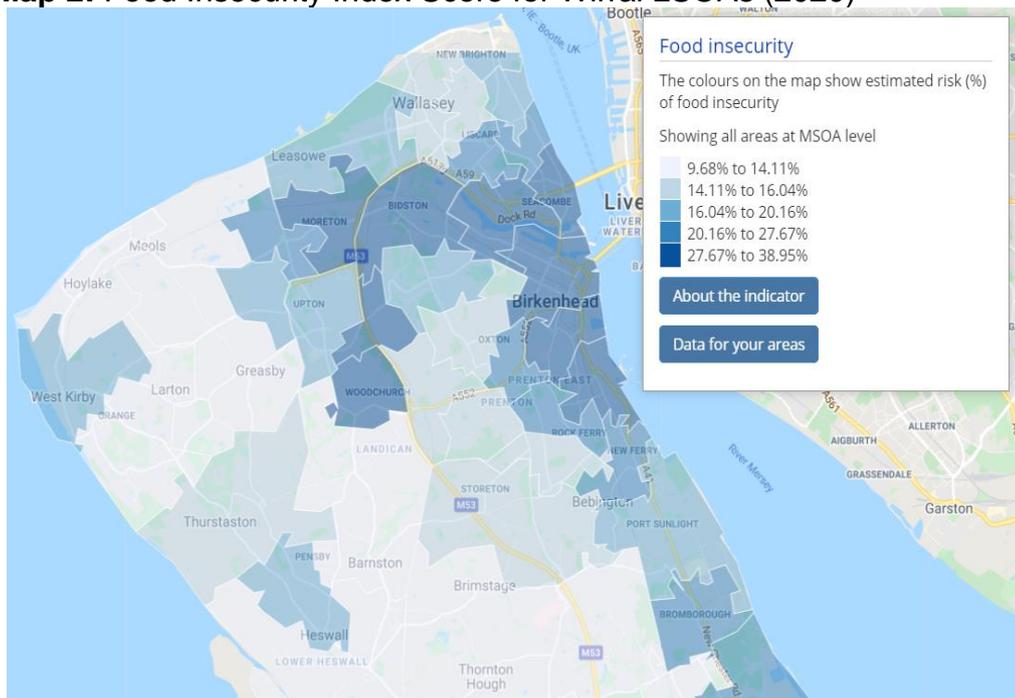
Map 1: Food Vulnerability Index Score for Wirral, by LSOA (2020)



Source: [Wirral Intelligence Service: Local Insight \(2021\)](#)

The estimated prevalence (%) of households at high risk of Food Insecurity (shown in **Map 2**) was calculated by the University of Southampton using two domains of economic characteristics: household composition and income-related benefit claimants.

Map 2: Food Insecurity Index Score for Wirral LSOAs (2020)



For Wirral, the overall proportion of the population estimated to be at risk of Food Insecurity is 16% of the population, however as **Map 2** shows, this varies widely across Wirral. It is as high as 32% (or 1 in 3) of the population of Bidston & St. James ward, to 12% (1 in 8) of people in Heswall.

Source: [Wirral Intelligence Service: Local Insight \(2021\)](#). Full methodology used by the University of Southampton is available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2017.12>.

In September 2019, an audit of Wirral’s local air quality actions (using Public Health England recommendations) was undertaken. Following this audit, a list of recommended local actions was formulated and outlined in a report to the Health and Wellbeing Board in November 2019. The recommendations included continued monitoring of air pollutants (specifically NO₂ and PM_{2.5}) to identify long term trends and areas for action locally.

Results of monitoring have found that Nitrogen Dioxide has reduced between 2015/2016 and 2019 (data obtained from two monitoring units located in Wirral); there was a 20% reduction in annual mean concentrations of Nitrogen Dioxide at Tranmere between 2015 to 2019 and a 15% reduction in annual mean concentrations of Nitrogen Dioxide at Birkenhead between 2016 to 2019 - data for 2015 is not available as the Birkenhead was installed in 2016).

The monitoring data for PM_{2.5} showed that background levels stayed the same between 2015–2019, with no change in the levels monitored (Source: 2020 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) In fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 Local Air Quality Management, Wirral Council, June 2020, and Wirral JSNA Air Quality Chapter).

Data from the [Consumer Data Research Centre](#) shows that despite recent falls, the worst performing areas in Wirral on NO₂ levels, were in the more deprived areas of Wirral in the east of the borough, see **Map 3**.

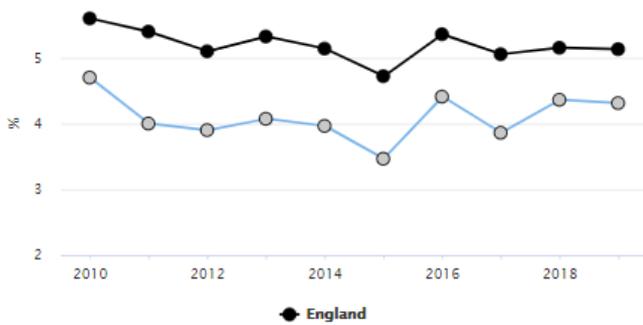
Map 3: Level of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) for Wirral (2017 latest DEFRA estimate)



Source: [Consumer Data Research Centre](#), 2021

The [Public Health England Outcomes Framework](#) has published data (currently up to 2019), showing that Wirral has lower proportion of mortality which can be attributed to particulate air pollution than both England and the North-West overall (4.3% versus 5.1% in England overall and 4.% in the North West overall – see **figure 3** below).

Figure 3: Trend in fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution for Wirral (2010 to 2020)



Period	Count	Wirral			North West	England
		Value	95% Lower CI	95% Upper CI		
2010	0	4.7%	-	-	5.1%	5.6%
2011	0	4.0%	-	-	4.6%	5.4%
2012	0	3.9%	-	-	4.4%	5.1%
2013	0	4.1%	-	-	4.6%	5.3%
2014	0	4.0%	-	-	4.4%	5.1%
2015	0	3.5%	-	-	4.1%	4.7%
2016	0	4.4%	-	-	4.6%	5.4%
2017	0	3.9%	-	-	4.1%	5.1%
2018	0	4.4%	-	-	4.3%	5.2%
2019	0	4.3%	-	-	4.5%	5.1%

Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#) (2021)

Green space

Wirral has a range of fantastic natural leisure assets, many of which can be enjoyed for free. Wirral has 25 miles of stunning coastline and over 1,500 hectares of parks and open spaces which provide endless leisure opportunities for walking, cycling, and enjoying time with friends and family (**Wirral Leisure Strategy: A 2020 Plan**).

Wirral saw an increase in the number of parks awarded Green Flag status in Wirral in 2020 (the largest number in the North-West for the third year running). In 2019, Wirral had 27 sites awarded Green Flag status (all were maintained in 2020, and a further 3 were added). Sites are awarded Green Flag status in recognition of good environmental standards, being well maintained, and providing clean and safe visitor facilities. (see **Map 4** for range of green space options in Wirral).

Map 4: Nearby Green Space for Wirral (2017)



Source: [Consumer Data Research Centre](#), 2021

Green space positively influences health and wellbeing; however, inequalities in use of green space are prevalent. A UK study carried out (between 30 April and 1 May 2020) which aimed to explore how movement restrictions had changed during the COVID-19 pandemic, measured time spent visiting green space and experience of green space and how this differed by demographic characteristics.

Overall, 63% of respondents reported a decrease in time spent visiting green space following movement restrictions. Lower social grade respondents were less likely to visit green space both before and after restrictions were enforced (OR: 0.35 (95% CI 0.24 to 0.51); OR: 0.77 (95% CI 0.63 to 0.95)).

Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to agree that green space benefited their mental health more following restrictions (PP: 0.70 vs 0.59). Older (65+ years) respondents were less likely than middle-aged (25–64 years) respondents to have visited green space following the restrictions (OR: 0.79 (95% CI 0.63 to 0.98)).

The conclusions of the study were that inequalities in green space use were sustained, and possibly exacerbated, during movement restrictions (**Source: BMJ Open 2021;11:e044067. doi:10.1136/ bmjopen-2020-044067**).

ONS found something slightly different in that the proportion of people leaving home for exercise increased during the early lockdown period (Spring 2020), as restrictions limited other leisure activities, but that the rise in exercise was at least partly driven by people working from home, who have been more likely to leave the house for exercise than those who travel to work each day (Source: [ONS, 2021](#)).

In July 2020, 46% of [people surveyed by Natural England](#) also said they had spent more time outside than usual during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, with the analysis indicating that some people turned to nature to cope with feelings such as increased anxiety (41% of people saying that visits to natural spaces were more important to their wellbeing in May 2020 compared with before the pandemic) (Source: ONS, 2021 [How has lockdown changed our relationship with nature?](#))

Connectedness and social/community networks

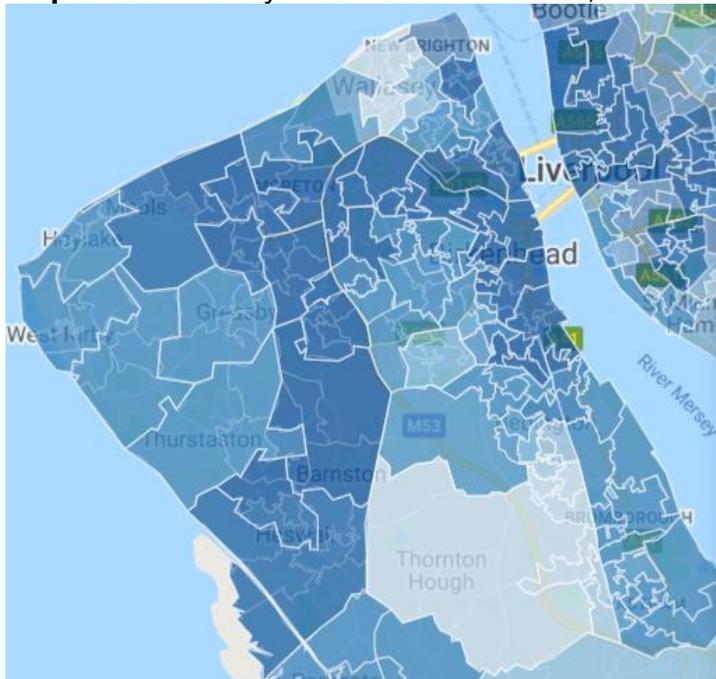
Community index score

The Community Needs Index was developed to identify areas experiencing poor community and civic infrastructure, relative isolation, and low levels of participation in community life.

The index was created by combining a series of 19 indicators (conceptualised under three domains: Civic Assets, Connectedness and Active and Engaged Community).

A higher score indicates that an area has higher levels of community need. The overall scoring for Wirral indicated a higher level of need compared to England overall (68 in England, compared to 96 in Wirral), but also that there were significant inequalities within Wirral; for example, scoring by ward varied from 130 in Seacombe and 122 in Bidston & St. James ward, to 41 in Clatterbridge and 42 in Wallasey). See **Map 5**.

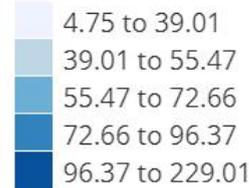
Map 5: Community Index Score in Wirral, 2019



Community Needs Index: Community Needs score

The colours on the map show Community Needs Index: Community Needs Score (higher = greater need)

Showing all areas at MSOA level



[About the indicator](#)

[Data for your areas](#)

Source: [Local Insight Wirral](#), 2021

Transport/car access

Access to a vehicle is very much linked to deprivation and as such, varies widely across Wirral. Although Census data is now several years old, it remains the definite source of information on vehicle access and the overall trend (that those in areas of deprivation have lower likelihood of having access to a vehicle) is a longstanding one and is unlikely to have shifted. The 2011 Census (see **table 1**) indicated that in Wirral overall, 28% of households (39,000 out of 140,000 households) had no access to a vehicle; this varied from 55.6% of households in Birkenhead & Tranmere to 10% of households in Heswall.

Table 1: Households with no access to a vehicle by area, 2011

Area	Households	No cars or vans in household	Percentage of area (%)
Bebington	6,645	1,439	21.7
Bidston & St James	6,889	3,488	50.6
Birkenhead & Tranmere	7,747	4,309	55.6
Bromborough	6,690	1,927	28.8
Clatterbridge	5,924	662	11.2
Cloughton	6,285	1,719	27.4
Eastham	5,955	1,199	20.1
Greasby, Frankby & Irby	5,978	721	12.1
Heswall	5,808	579	10.0
Hoylake & Meols	5,713	1,034	18.1
Leasowe & Moreton East	6,390	2,021	31.6
Liscard	6,891	2,420	35.1
Moreton West & Saughall Massie	6,176	1,243	20.1
New Brighton	6,784	2,115	31.2
Oxton	6,592	1,458	22.1
Pensby & Thingwall	5,803	962	16.6
Prenton	6,051	1,510	25.0
Rock Ferry	6,465	3,010	46.6
Seacombe	6,871	3,156	45.9
Upton	7,127	2,283	32.0
Wallasey	6,313	1,226	19.4
West Kirby & Thurstaston	5,486	910	16.6
Birkenhead Constituency	40,029	15,494	38.7
Wallasey Constituency	39,425	12,181	30.9
Wirral South Constituency	31,022	5,806	18.7
Wirral West Constituency	30,107	5,910	19.6
Wirral	140,583	39,391	28.0

Source: Census, 2011

Digital exclusion

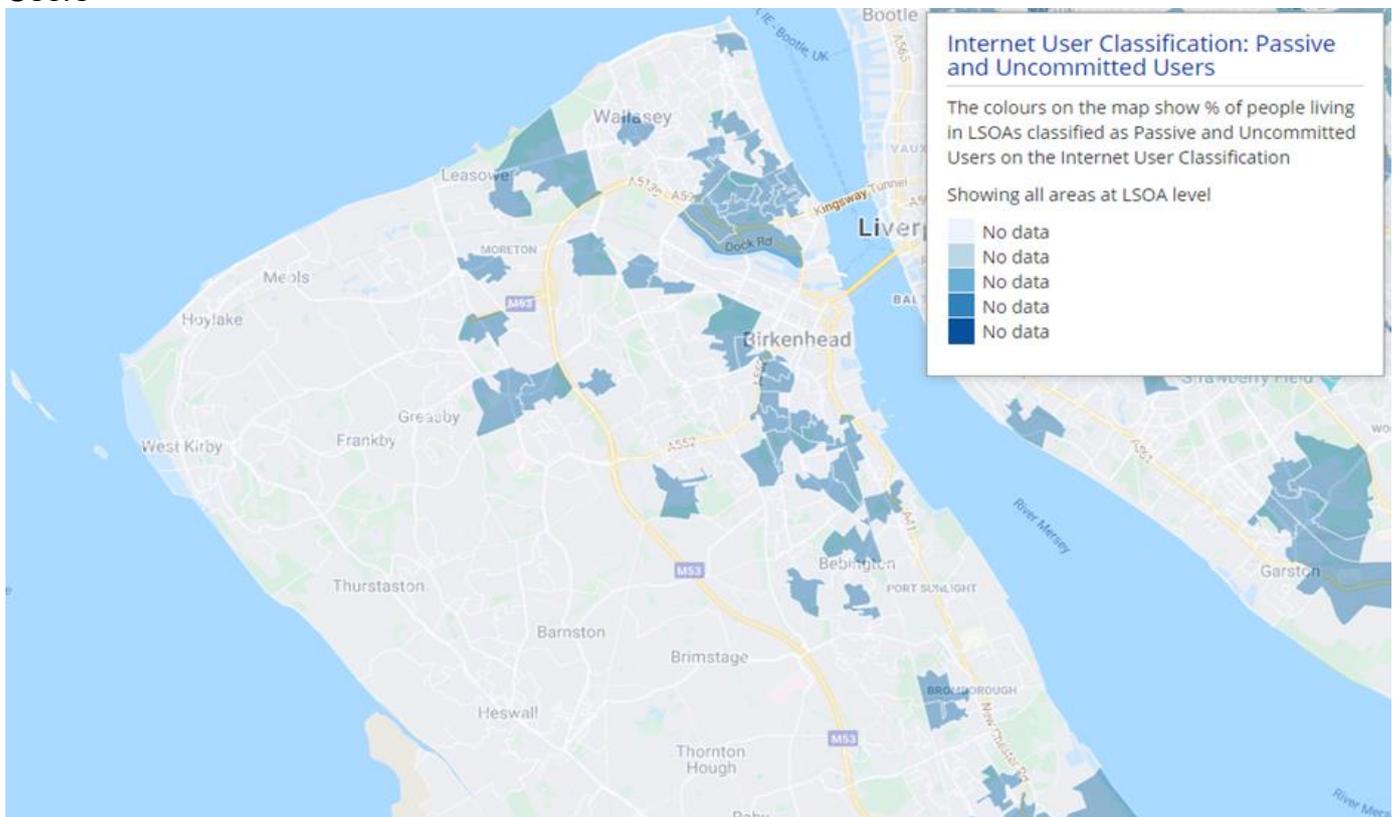
In 2018, the University of Liverpool, in association with the Consumer Data Research Centre (CDRC), produced an Internet User Classification (IUC) by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA). The IUC is a bespoke classification that describes how people in different parts of Great Britain interact with the internet. There are 10 different categorisations which are listed below, with the number in the brackets indicating how many LSOA's in Wirral are categorised as that classification:

- Digital Seniors (n = 24)
- **Passive and Uncommitted Users (n = 48)**
- Settled Offline Communities (n = 7)
- Youthful Urban Fringe (n = 0)
- E-Cultural Creators (n = 0)
- E-Mainstream (n = 37)
- E-Rational Utilitarians (n = 53)
- E-Veterans (n = 9)
- **E-Withdrawn (n = 28)**
- E-Professionals (n = 0)

Passive and Uncommitted Users and e-Withdrawn appear to be the two groups for whom internet access is **least** likely; both have been detailed below, with maps showing where in Wirral these groups are most likely to live and how many people are classified as belonging to these groups.

Passive and Uncommitted Users

Map 6: Lower Super Outputs Areas (LSOA) in Wirral Classified as “Passive and Uncommitted Users”



Source: [Wirral Intelligence Service: Local Insight \(2021\)](#)

The Passive and Uncommitted Users classification is the 2nd most prevalent in Wirral (behind E-Rational Utilitarians). The definition of this classification is as follows:

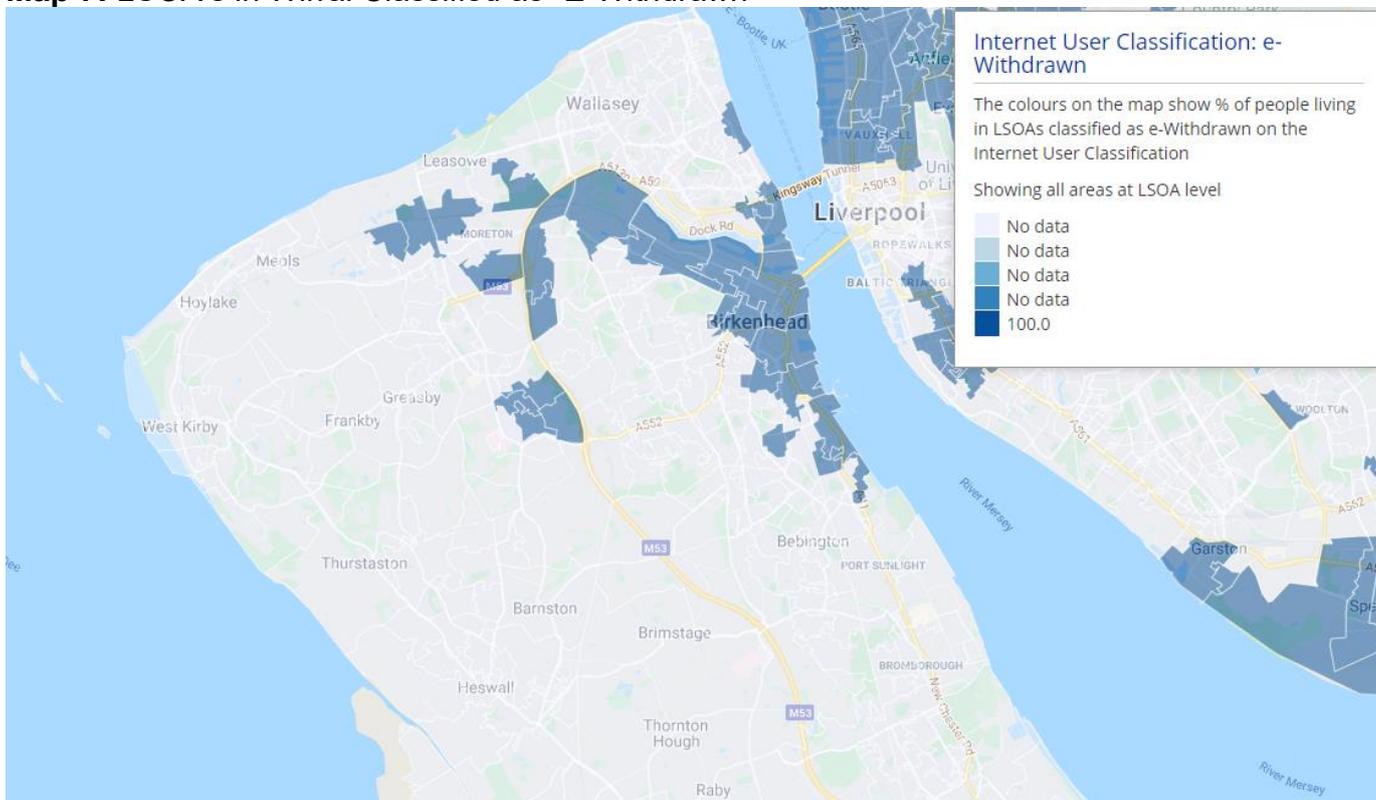
“The Passive and Uncommitted Users group comprises individuals with limited or no interaction with the Internet. They tend to reside outside city centres and close to the suburbs or semi-rural areas. Members of this Group have few distinctive characteristics in conventional socio-economic terms, albeit higher levels of employment in semi-skilled and blue-collar occupations. Individuals are rarely online, and most commonly report use once a week or less. Access to broadband is well below average, and for those online, there is mild preference for access via smartphones. The Internet is typically used for social networks, gaming, and some limited online shopping.”

There are an estimated 76,200 people in Wirral classified as Passive and Uncommitted Users (or 24% of the Wirral population. The highest concentrations are in Wallasey Constituency (n=28,982 or 32% of the population of the Constituency). On the other hand, 1 in 5 people in Wirral South Constituency and just 1 in 12 Wirral West Constituency are classified as Passive and Uncommitted Users. See **Map 6** above for an indication of where this group live in Wirral.

E-Withdrawn

“The E-Withdrawn Group is mainly characterised by individuals who are the least engaged with the Internet. Their geography is expressed by areas that are associated with those more deprived neighbourhoods of urban regions. The socio-economic profile of the population is characterised by less affluent white British individuals or areas of high ethnic diversity; and it has the highest rate of unemployment and social housing among all other Groups. The E-Withdrawn Group appears to have the highest ratio of people that do not have access or have access but never engage with the Internet. It also expresses the lowest rates of engagement in terms of information seeking and financial services, as well as the lowest rate in terms of online access via a mobile device. Online shopping is also particularly low, except for Clothing on Credit, suggesting an opportunistic dimension to Internet usage.

Map 7: LSOA’s in Wirral Classified as “E-Withdrawn”



Source: [Wirral Intelligence Service: Local Insight \(2021\)](#)

This is further reinforced by the higher than average access to Cable broadband by TV Provider, which may suggest that some individuals have opted into broadband mainly for the TV-

associated benefits. It is possible that many people within this Group have opted out of online engagement, either because it is considered unnecessary or because of economic reasons.”

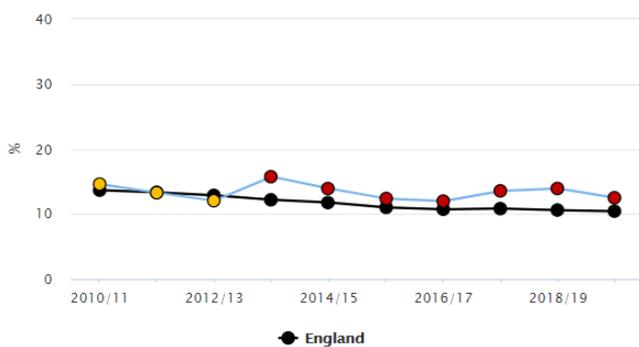
A map showing the location of the LSOA’s classified as E-Withdrawn is shown above in **Map 7**. It shows that the large majority of those classified as E-Withdrawn reside in the Birkenhead area, with very few in Wirral South and Wirral West Constituencies. This reflects the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) – with a large majority of the LSOA’s highlighted in **Map 7** being within the top 20% most deprived LSOA’s nationally.

Nationally, only 8.8% of people are classified as E-Withdrawn, but this figure is 13.9% in Wirral (n=44,813 people). This overall proportion hides a large variation, with Birkenhead Constituency having 28.4% (or 25,752) of its population classified as E-Withdrawn, compared to just 2.3% of people in Wirral South (n=1,676).

Lifestyle and behaviour

Smoking

Figure 4: Trend in smoking Status at time of delivery (2010/11 to 2019/20)

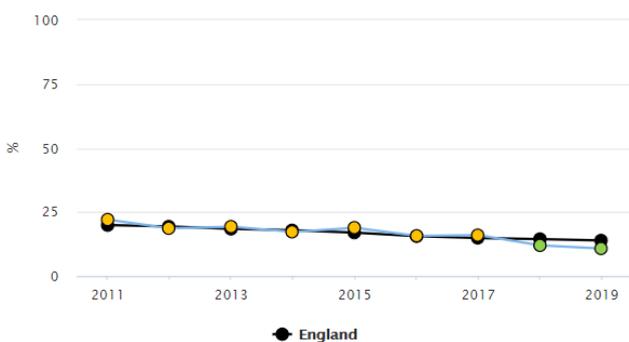


Recent trend: ➔ No significant change

Period		Wirral				North West	England
		Count	Value	95% Lower CI	95% Upper CI		
2010/11	●	523	14.6%	13.5%	15.8%	17.8%	13.6%
2011/12	●	479	13.2%	12.2%	14.4%	17.1%	13.3%
2012/13	●	418	12.0%	11.0%	13.1%	16.5%	12.8%
2013/14	●	420	15.7%*	14.4%	17.1%	15.5%	12.2%
2014/15	●	364	13.9%*	12.6%	15.3%	14.8%	11.7%
2015/16	●	354	12.4%*	11.2%	13.6%	13.8%	11.0%
2016/17	●	348	12.0%*	10.8%	13.2%	13.4%	10.7%
2017/18	●	379	13.5%*	12.3%	14.9%	13.4%	10.8%
2018/19	●	422	13.9%	12.7%	15.2%	12.7%*	10.6%
2019/20	●	372	12.5%	11.3%	13.7%	12.2%*	10.4%

Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#) (2021)

Figure 5: Trend in smoking Prevalence in adults (18+) – current smokers (2011 to 2019)



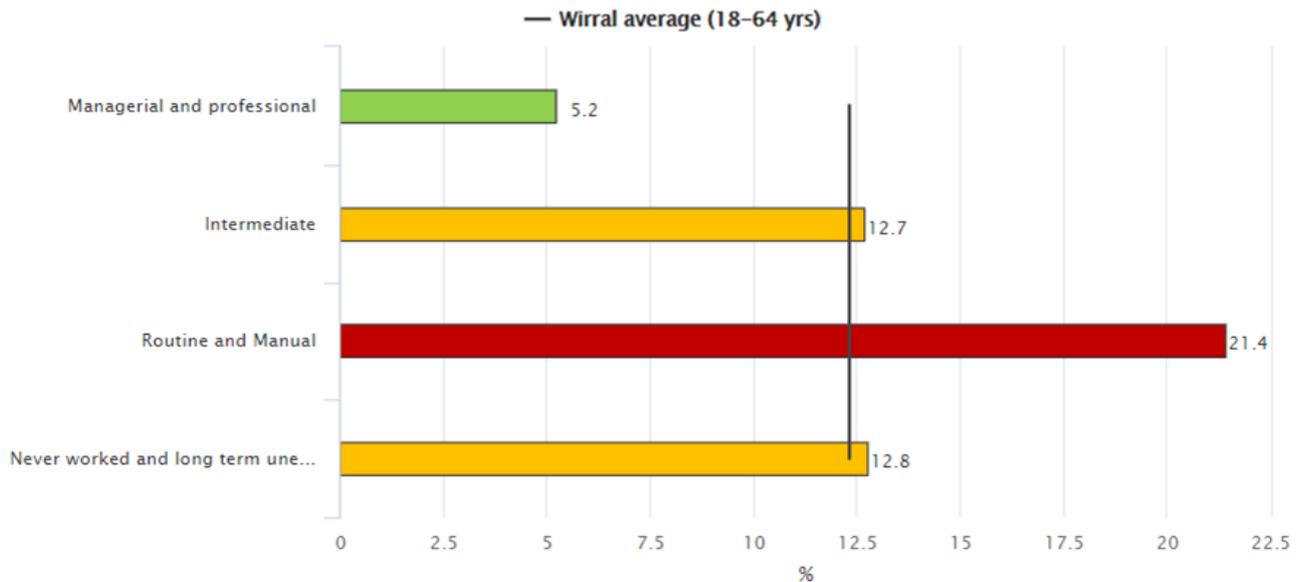
Recent trend: Could not be calculated

Period		Wirral				North West	England
		Count	Value	95% Lower CI	95% Upper CI		
2011	●	55,552	22.0%	19.2%	24.9%	21.9%	19.8%
2012	●	47,100	18.6%	16.1%	21.1%	21.1%	19.3%
2013	●	48,818	19.3%	16.6%	22.0%	20.0%	18.4%
2014	●	43,775	17.2%	14.7%	19.8%	19.6%	17.8%
2015	●	47,945	18.9%	16.0%	21.7%	18.6%	16.9%
2016	●	39,952	15.7%	13.0%	18.4%	16.8%	15.5%
2017	●	40,667	15.9%	13.3%	18.6%	16.1%	14.9%
2018	●	30,556	12.0%	9.6%	14.3%	14.7%	14.4%
2019	●	27,545	10.7%	8.5%	13.0%	14.5%	13.9%

Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#) (2021)

Although Wirral is lower than England (13.9%), the overall figure for Wirral of 10.7% (**figure 5**) hides wide inequalities, with prevalence ranging from 21.4% to 5.2% dependent on occupation, see **Figure 6**.

Figure 6: Smoking prevalence in adults aged 18+ by working status (2019)



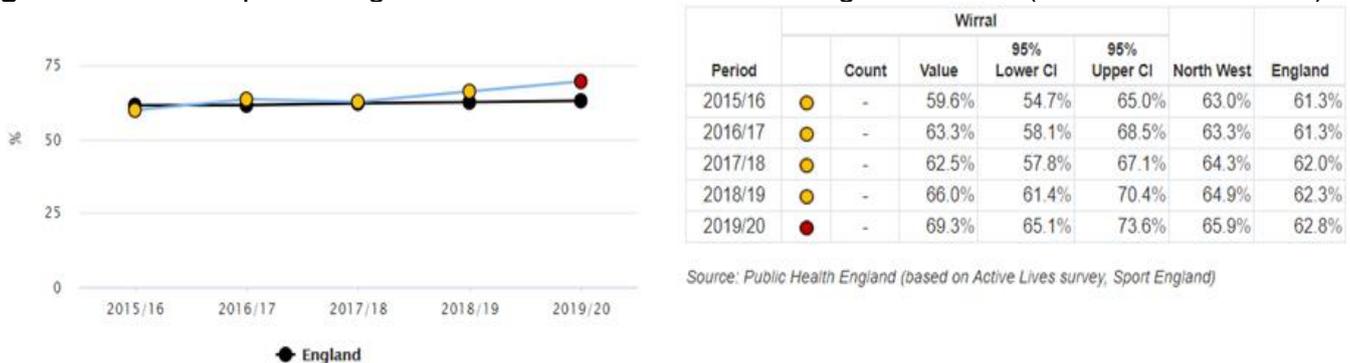
Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)

Unhealthy weight and diet (adults)

Data from PHE (**figure 7**), shows that the proportion of adults who are classified as an unhealthy weight (either overweight or obese) has increased in Wirral since 2015/16 to 2019/20; from 59.6% to 69.3% - an increase of almost 10% in 5 years.

This means that more than 2 in 3 of all adults in Wirral are either overweight or obese and as of 2019/20, Wirral was significantly higher than England for the first time since this indicator has been recorded (although not as high as the NW).

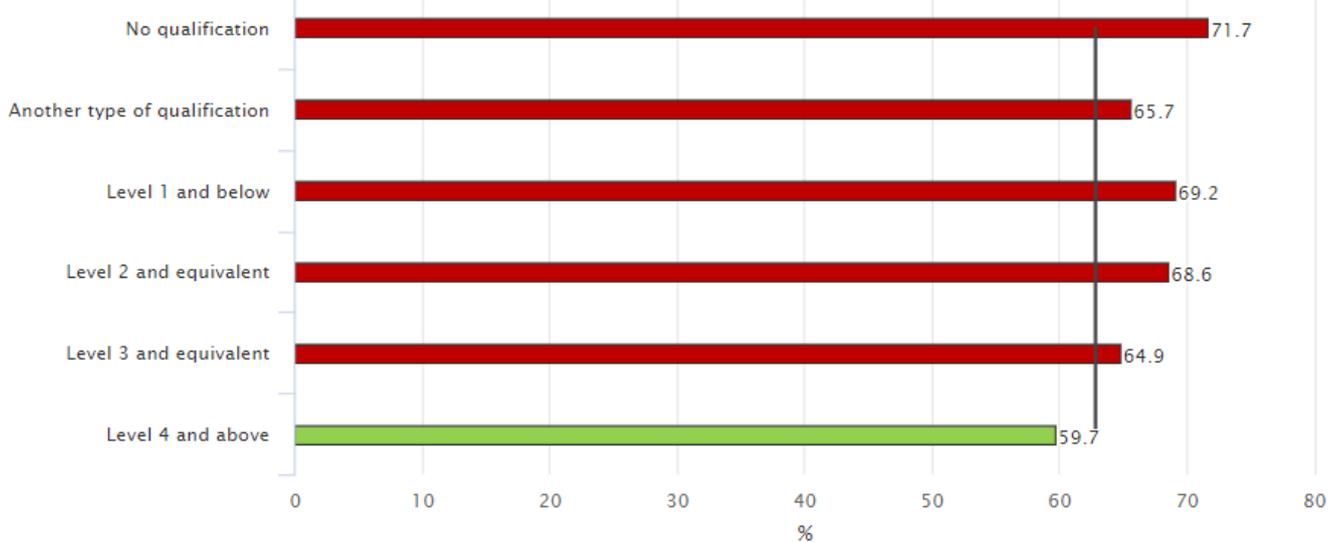
Figure 7: Trend in percentage of adults classified as overweight or obese (2015/16 to 2019/20)



Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)

This overall figure of 69.3% (which is still more than 2 in 3 adults), also hides considerable inequalities however, with the proportion of adults classified as either overweight or obese varying from 71.7% of adults with no qualifications, to 59.7% of adults educated to Level 4 or above (Level 4 or above – Degree level or above; Other Higher Education below degree level). See **Figure 8**.

Figure 8: Percentage of adults classified as overweight or obese by level of education (2019/20)

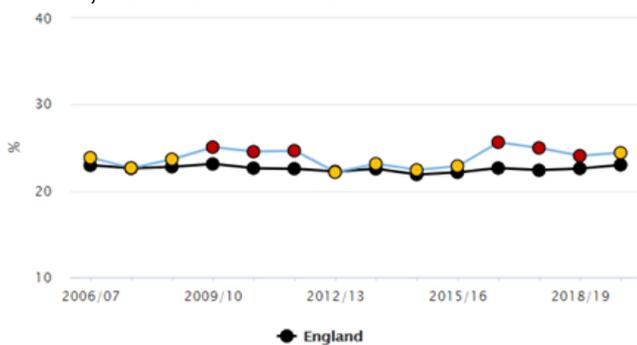


Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)

Unhealthy weight and diet (children)

As of 2019/20, almost 1 in 4 Reception aged children (aged 4-5) were either overweight or obese; this was higher than both England overall (24.4% in Wirral, vs 23.0% in England). There has been some fluctuation since 2006/07, but Wirral has generally always had a rate which is above England overall (see **figure 9** below).

Figure 9: Trend in prevalence of unhealthy weight (overweight and obese) in Reception age children, 2006/07 to 2019/20



Recent trend: ➔ No significant change

Period	Count	Value	Wirral		North West	England
			95% Lower CI	95% Upper CI		
2006/07	612	23.8%	22.2%	25.5%	*	22.9%
2007/08	700	22.7%	21.2%	24.2%	23.1%	22.6%
2008/09	786	23.7%	22.2%	25.1%	23.1%	22.8%
2009/10	838	25.1%	23.6%	26.5%	23.6%	23.1%
2010/11	859	24.5%	23.1%	26.0%	23.3%	22.6%
2011/12	879	24.6%	23.3%	26.1%	23.2%	22.6%
2012/13	789	22.2%	20.8%	23.6%	23.2%	22.2%
2013/14	838	23.1%	21.8%	24.5%	23.6%	22.5%
2014/15	808	22.4%	21.1%	23.8%	22.9%	21.9%
2015/16	851	22.9%	21.5%	24.2%	23.2%	22.1%
2016/17	979	25.6%	24.3%	27.0%	23.9%	22.6%
2017/18	888	25.0%	23.6%	26.4%	23.9%	22.4%
2018/19	851	24.1%	22.7%	25.5%	24.4%	22.6%
2019/20	345	24.4%*	22.2%	26.7%	25.2%	23.0%

Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)

Within Wirral, there were wide inequalities in the proportion of Reception aged children classified as either overweight or very overweight (obese) in 2019/20. The chart below (**figure 10**) shows that in Quintile 1 (20% most deprived section of the population), 13.5% of children were very overweight (obese), compared to 3.7% in the least deprived 20% of the population.

In other words, the rate of obesity is more than 3 times higher in areas of deprivation than areas classed as least deprived (or most affluent).

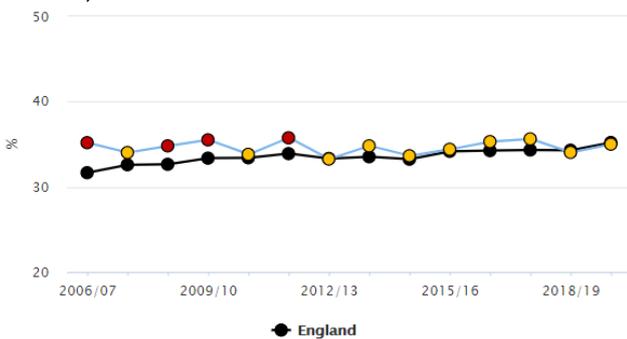
Figure 10: Prevalence of unhealthy weight (overweight and obese) in Reception age children, by deprivation quintile, 2019/20



Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)

By the time children reach Year 6 (age 10-11), a higher proportion are classified as either overweight or obese; in Wirral in 2019/20, this was 35% (**figure 11**). This was not significantly different to England (in fact, it was slightly lower than both the NW and England), but the fact remains that more than 1 in 3 children are overweight or obese by the age of 11 in Wirral; a proportion which has not changed significantly for the past 14 years.

Figure 11: Trend in prevalence of unhealthy weight (overweight and obese) in Year 6 age children, 2006/07 to 2019/20



Recent trend: ➔ No significant change

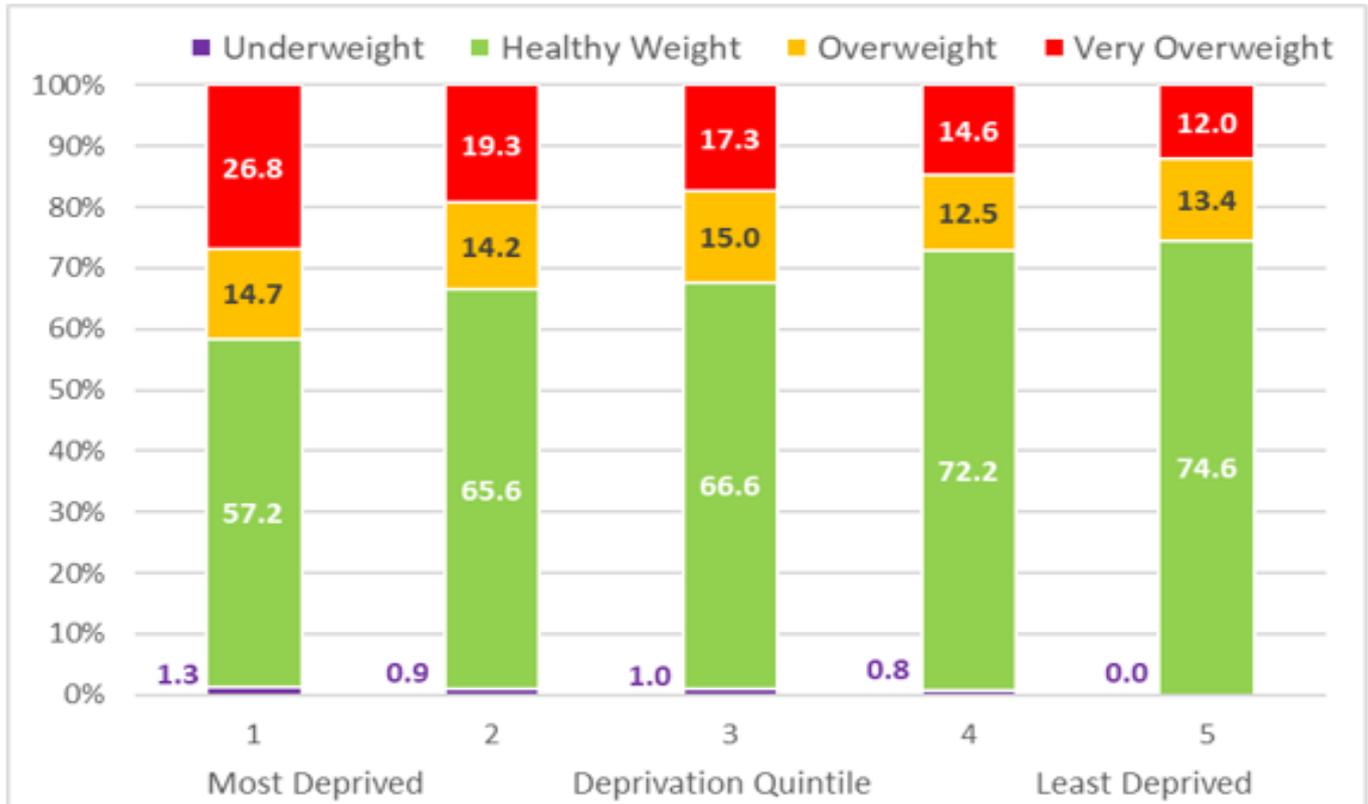
Period	Count	Value	Wirral		North West	England
			95% Lower CI	95% Upper CI		
2006/07	998	35.2%	33.4%	37.0%	*	31.7%
2007/08	1,056	34.0%	32.4%	35.7%	32.7%	32.6%
2008/09	1,127	34.8%	33.2%	36.5%	33.0%	32.6%
2009/10	1,164	35.5%	33.9%	37.2%	34.1%	33.4%
2010/11	1,093	33.8%	32.2%	35.5%	34.3%	33.4%
2011/12	1,130	35.7%	34.1%	37.4%	34.7%	33.9%
2012/13	1,021	33.3%	31.6%	34.9%	34.2%	33.3%
2013/14	1,109	34.8%	33.2%	36.5%	34.4%	33.5%
2014/15	1,105	33.6%	32.0%	35.3%	33.8%	33.2%
2015/16	1,171	34.4%	32.8%	36.0%	35.2%	34.2%
2016/17	1,231	35.3%	33.7%	36.9%	35.2%	34.2%
2017/18	1,262	35.6%	34.1%	37.2%	35.5%	34.3%
2018/19	1,191	34.0%	32.5%	35.6%	35.9%	34.3%
2019/20	1,180	35.0%	33.3%	36.5%	37.4%	35.2%

Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)

As was the case for Reception aged children, there are stark inequalities in the proportions of children who are overweight and very overweight (obese) for Year 6 within Wirral also. In 2019/20, over a quarter, or 1 in 4 children from the most deprived areas (26.8%) were obese, compared to 12% (or 1 in 8) children from the least deprived areas (12.0%).

In other words, the rate of obesity in the most deprived areas of Wirral, is more than double that of the least deprived areas (**figure 12**).

Figure 12: Prevalence of unhealthy weight (overweight and obese) in Year 6 children, by deprivation quintile, 2019/20

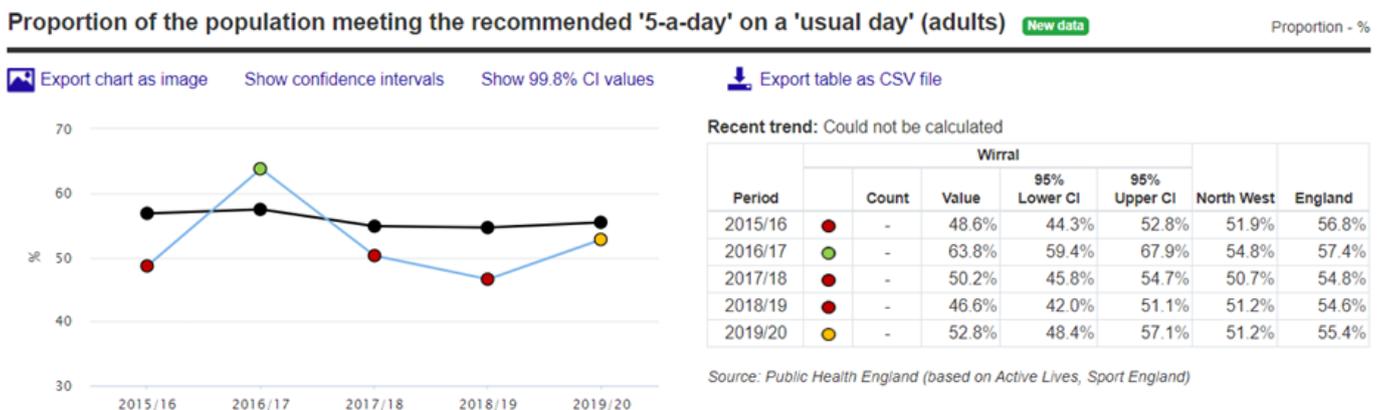


Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)

Diet

Wirral is currently just behind England on the proportion of the population meeting the recommendation (to eat at least 5 portions of fruit and veg per day) but not significantly so as seen in **figure 13** below. This is a slight improvement for Wirral, given that in the previous two time periods, Wirral has been significantly worse on this measure than England overall.

Figure 13: Trend in percentage of population meeting 5-a-day recommendations, 2015/16 to 2019/20



Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)

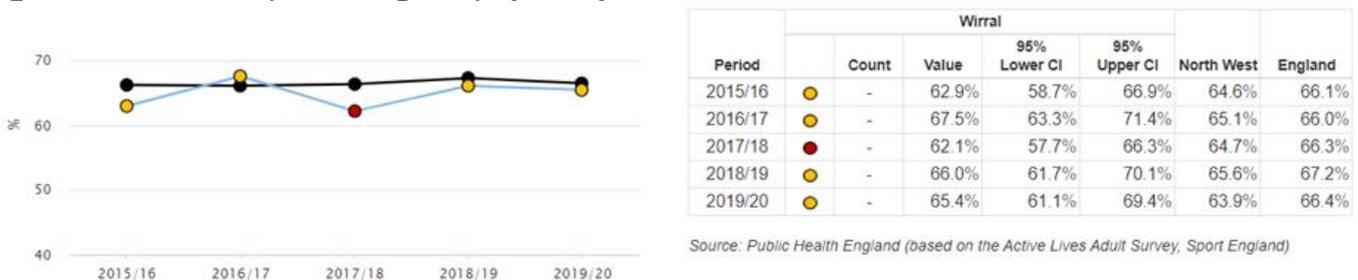
Physical activity

Physical inactivity is the 4th leading risk factor for global mortality accounting for 6% of deaths globally. People who have a physically active lifestyle have a 20-35% lower risk of cardiovascular disease, coronary heart disease and stroke compared to those who have a sedentary lifestyle. Regular physical activity is also associated with a reduced risk of diabetes, obesity, osteoporosis, and colon/breast cancer and with improved mental health. In older adults physical activity is associated with increased functional capacities.

The estimated direct cost of physical inactivity to the NHS across the UK is over £0.9 billion per year. The Chief Medical Officer for England (CMO) currently recommends that adults undertake a minimum of 150 minutes (2.5 hours) of moderate physical activity per week, or 75 minutes of vigorous physical activity per week or an equivalent combination of the two (MVPA), in bouts of 10 minutes or more. The overall amount of activity is more important than the type, intensity, or frequency.

Figure 14 suggests that just under 2 in 3 adults reported being physically active enough to benefit their health* in Wirral in 2019/20 – meaning 1 in 3 are **not** physically active enough to benefit their health (a proportion which is not significantly different to England or the North-West overall and improving over time).

Figure 14: Trend in percentage of physically active adults, 2015/16 to 2019/20



Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)

Notes: *Weighted number of respondents aged 19 and over, with valid responses to questions on physical activity, doing at least 150 MIE minutes physical activity per week in bouts of 10 minutes or more in the previous 28 days.

The picture for children is worse than that for adults, in 2017/18 (figures are not available for more recent years as they are for adults), less than half reported being physically active enough to benefit their health (44.4% in Wirral, vs 43.3% in England). While Wirral was slightly ahead of England, this was not significant and is still a concerningly low proportion (see **figure 15**).

Figure 15: Percentage of physically active children and young people, 2017/18



Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)

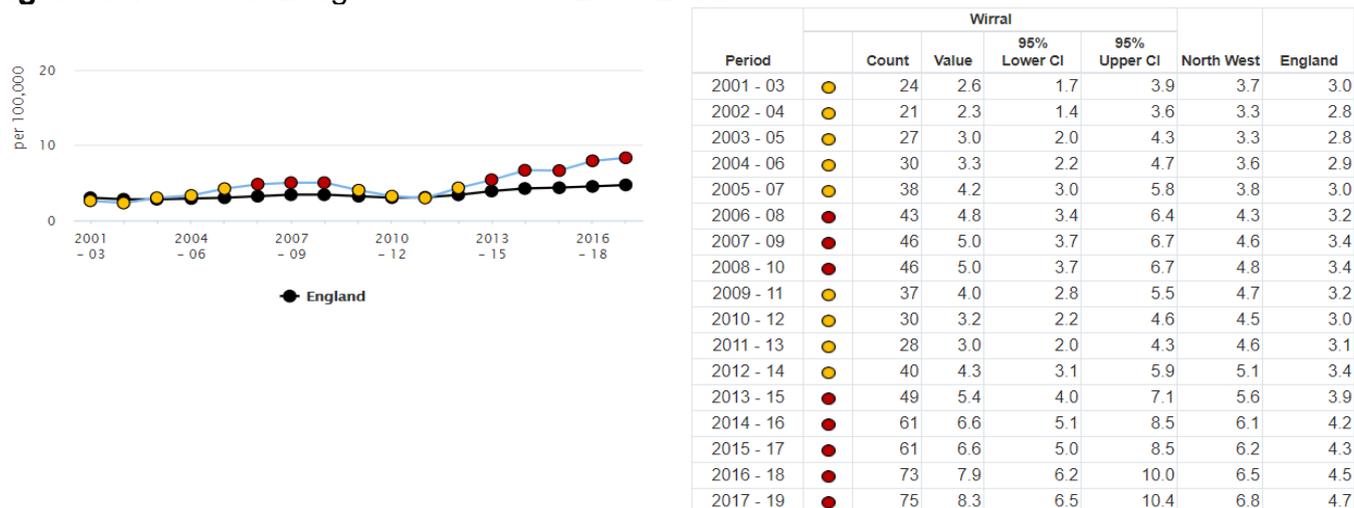
Notes: *Percentage of children aged 5-16 that meet the UK Chief Medical Officers' (CMOs') recommendations for physical activity (an average of at least 60 minutes moderate-vigorous intensity activity per day across the week)

Drugs

Wirral [Drug Misuse JSNA chapter](#) gives an in-depth analysis of the impact of drugs misuse on the residents of Wirral, compared to regional and national comparators. The JSNA chapter details how issues such as the rate of client self-referral for treatment for drug issues and admissions

due to drug misuse are higher in the more deprived areas of Wirral. A summary of some of the information is below, but users are directed to the full chapter for more information.

Figure 16: Trend in Drug Misuse deaths 2001-2019



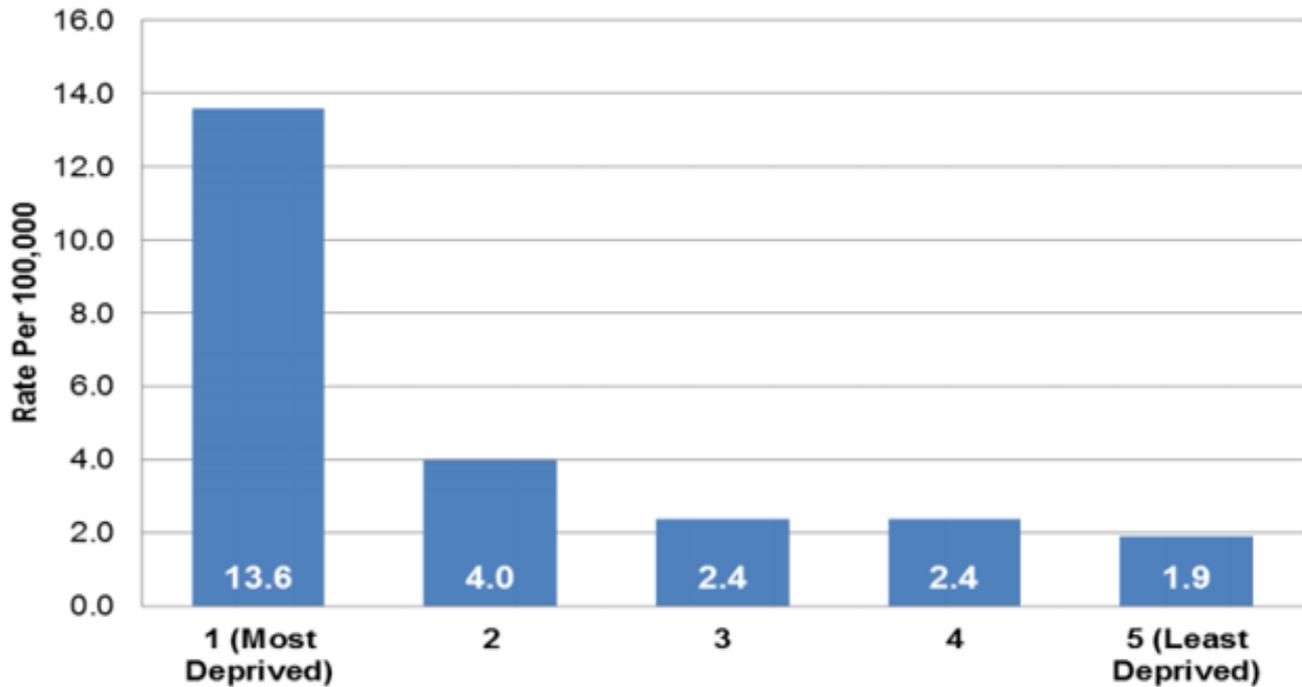
Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)

ONS have published the following information which provides some context for the increase in drug-related deaths, which has occurred nationally and internationally, as well as in Wirral:

- Drug-related deaths have been on an upward trend for the past decade. The reasons behind this are complex and differ by drug type. The overall trend is driven primarily by deaths involving opiates, but also by an increase in deaths involving other substances like cocaine
- Across Europe, rates of deaths involving heroin or morphine have been increasing, while [the number of new heroin and morphine users has fallen](#). This indicates higher rates of death among existing long-term drug users. Possible explanations include:
 - there is an [ageing cohort of drug users](#), likely to be suffering from the effects of long-term drug use and becoming increasingly susceptible to a fatal overdose
 - new trends in taking specific drugs, including [gabapentinoids](#) and [benzodiazepines](#), alongside heroin or morphine, may increase the risk of an overdose
 - [disengagement or non-compliance with opiate substitute therapy \(OST\)](#)
 - The rise in deaths involving cocaine is likely to be a direct consequence of the [increasing prevalence in cocaine use](#). This [increase in cocaine use is also seen across Europe](#)
 - Both [cocaine and heroin have been reported to have high availability in recent years](#), with low prices and high purity levels.

There are wide inequalities in the rate of drug misuse deaths in Wirral and these are shown in **Figure 17** below. It highlights that the rate of drug related deaths in Quintile 1 (most deprived), is 7 times higher than the in Quintile 5 (least deprived).

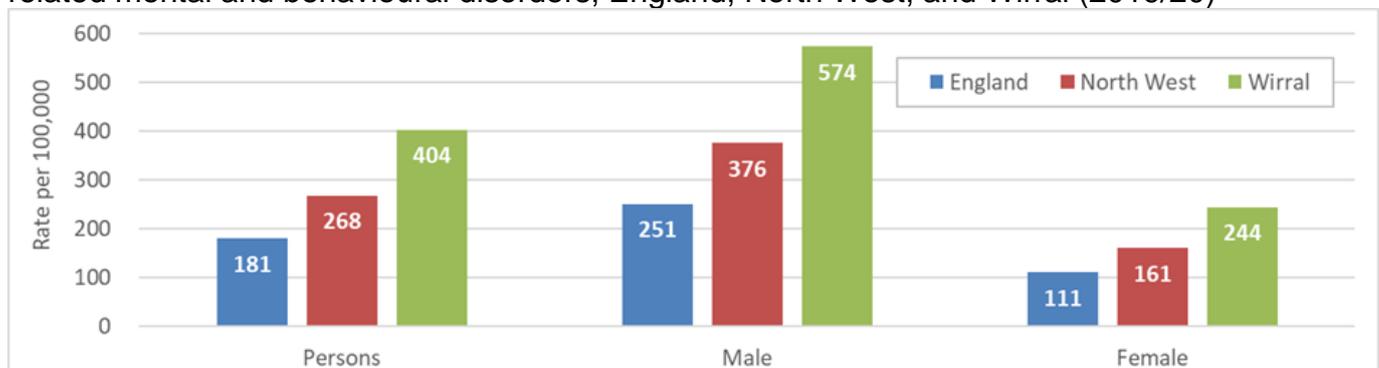
Figure 17: Drug Misuse Deaths by Indices of Multiple Deprivation quintile (rate per 100,000), Wirral, 2015-2017



Source: Primary Care Mortality Database (PCMD, 2020)

The number of NHS hospital admissions for drug-related mental and behavioural disorders (primary diagnosis of a drug-related mental and behavioural disorder), is shown in **Figure 18**.

Figure 18: Rate of hospital admissions episodes with a primary or secondary diagnosis of drug related mental and behavioural disorders, England, North West, and Wirral (2019/20)

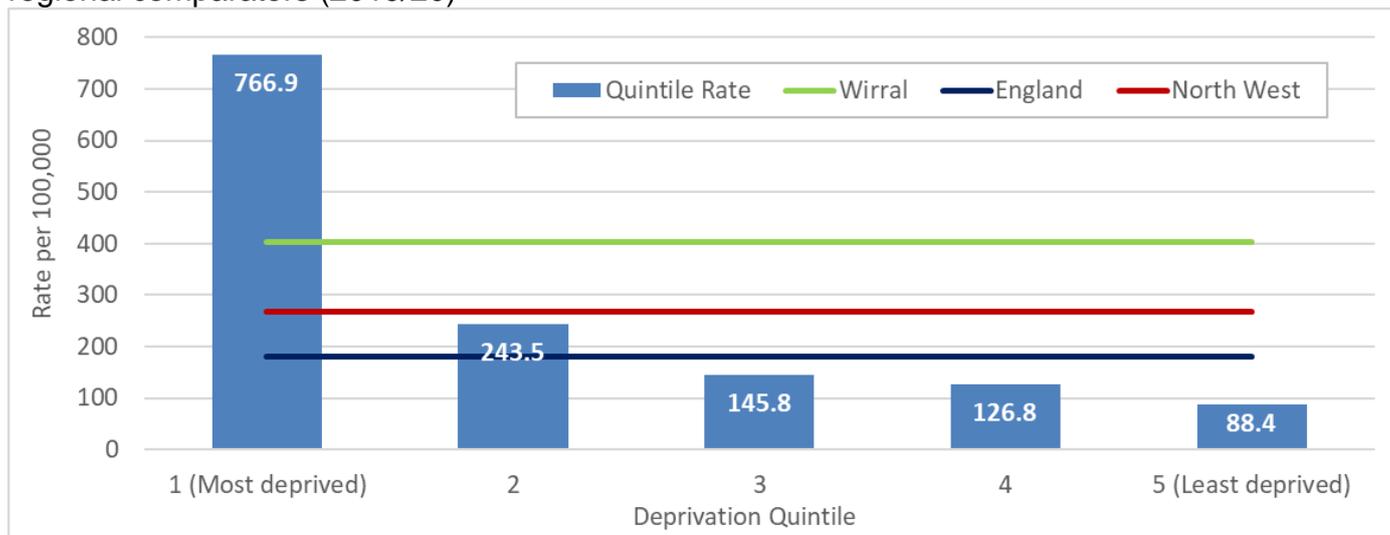


Source: NHS Digital, 2021

There was a total of 1,325 admissions where the primary or secondary diagnosis was drug-related mental and/or behavioural disorders in Wirral in 2019/20; giving an admission rate per 100,000 for Wirral of 404 (more than double the England rate of 181 per 100,000).

As the above chart also shows, rates in males were more than double those for females and for both males and females in Wirral, admission rates were more than double the rates in England overall and were also higher than the North-West overall. Within Wirral, there were also significant inequalities, as **Figure 19** shows

Figure 19: Rate of hospital admissions episodes with a primary or secondary diagnosis of drug related mental and behavioural disorders, by Wirral deprivation quintile and with national and regional comparators (2019/20)



Source: NHS Digital, 2021

Alcohol

On every key alcohol indicator measured by Public Health England, Wirral performs significantly worse than England, see **Figure 20**.

Figure 20: Public Health England key alcohol indicators, Wirral outcomes

Indicator	Period	Recent Trend	Wirral		Region England			England		Best
			Count	Value	Value	Value	Worst	Range		
Admission episodes for alcohol-related conditions (Narrow)	2018/19	→	2,858	895	742	664	1,127		389	
Admission episodes for alcohol-related conditions (Broad)	2018/19	↑	10,534	3,162	2736	2367	4,022		1,329	
Admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions	2019/20	↑	3,960	1,231	891	644	2,590		331	
Admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions - Under 18s	2017/18 - 19/20	-	95	46.9	43.6	30.7	111.5		7.7	
Alcohol-related mortality	2018	→	201	58.9	54.9	46.5	86.1		26.9	
Alcohol-specific mortality	2017 - 19	-	168	17.0	14.6	10.9	27.3		3.9	

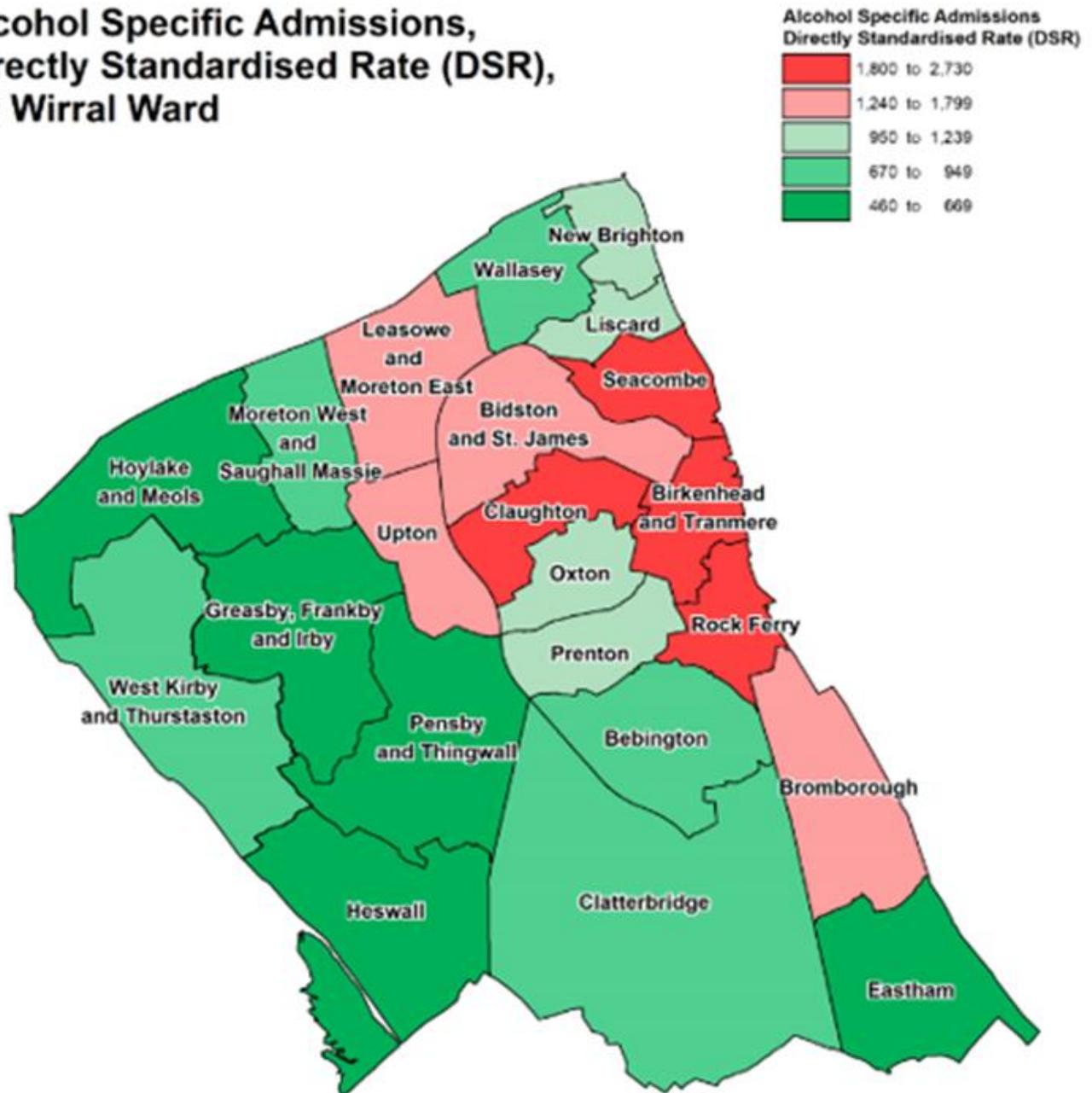
Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)

There was a total of 3,960 alcohol-specific admissions in Wirral in 2019/20 and they were strongly correlated with deprivation. The most deprived wards in Wirral had the highest admission rates, while the most affluent had the lowest rates. The Wirral overall rate (DSR or Directly Standardised Rate) was 1,140.

Heswall (the most affluent ward in Wirral) had a DSR of 461, while Birkenhead & Tranmere ward (the most deprived ward in Wirral) had a DSR of 2,726. This is a long-standing trend in Wirral. See **Map 8** below.

Map 8: Alcohol Specific Admissions (DSRs) by Wirral ward, 2019/20

Alcohol Specific Admissions, Directly Standardised Rate (DSR), By Wirral Ward

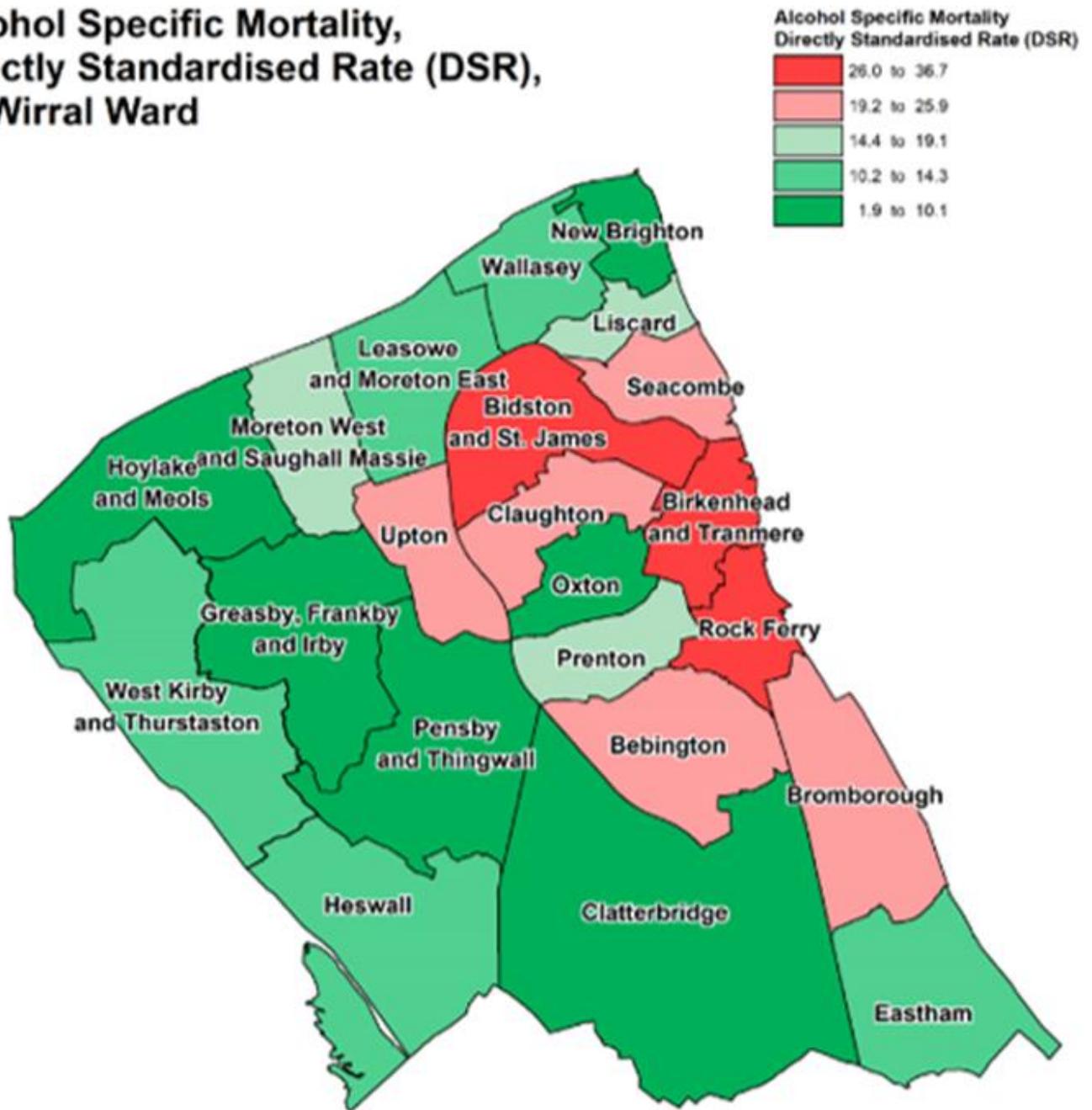


Source: SUS, 2020 (2015-19, 5 pooled years)

The same pattern (areas of deprivation having a greater burden of morbidity and mortality related to alcohol) is observable for Alcohol-Specific Mortality rates in Wirral in 2019/20, see **Map 9**

Map 9: Alcohol Specific Mortality (DSRs) by Wirral ward, 2019/20

Alcohol Specific Mortality, Directly Standardised Rate (DSR), By Wirral Ward

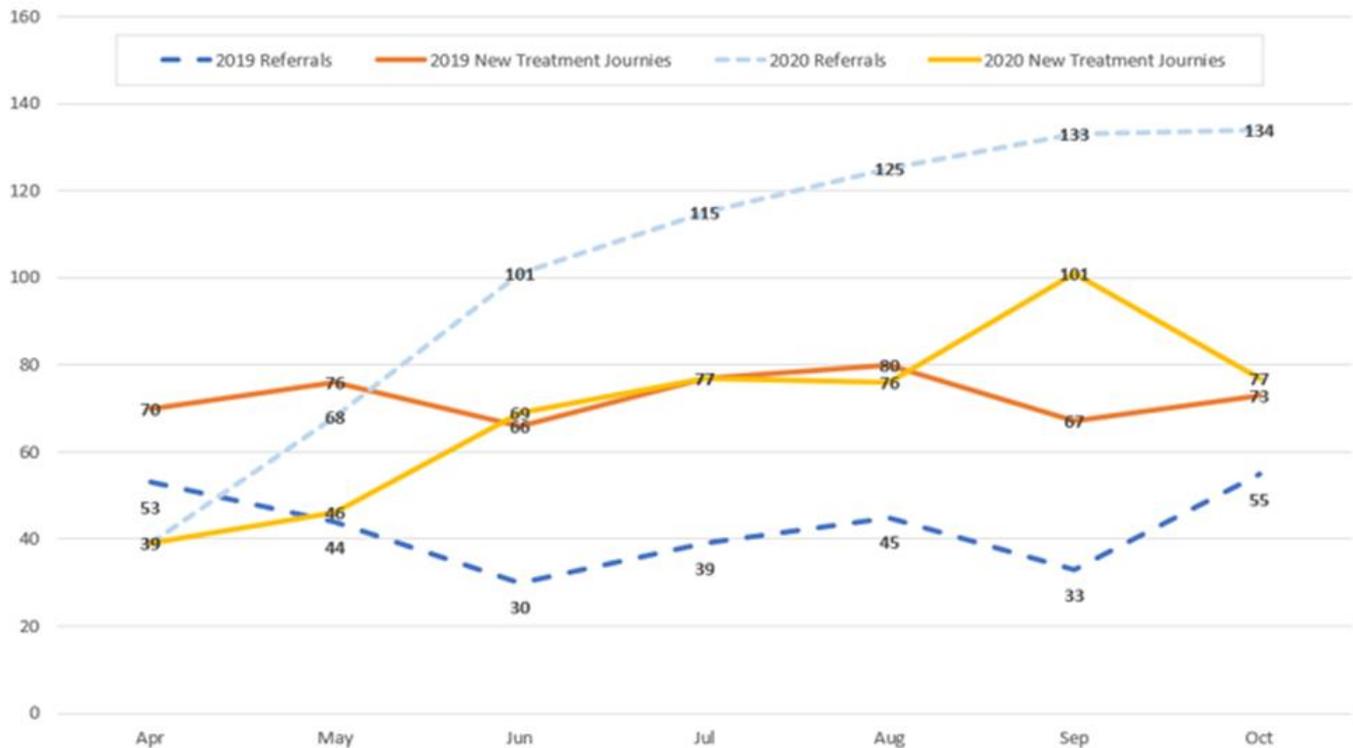


Source: SUS, 2020 (2015-19, 5 pooled years)

Referrals to alcohol treatment

- **Figure 21** below shows number of alcohol referrals (broken lines) and new treatment journeys (solid lines) for 6 month period April to October 2020, compared to same period in 2019 (to CGL – Change, Grow, Live – Wirral’s main provider of Drug and Alcohol services)
- 299 total referrals for 2019, vs 715 for 2020 (a 139% increase)
- 508 new treatment journeys in 2019, vs 485 for 2020 (a 5% decrease to October)
- The largest increase was in self-referrals (317 in 2020 vs 94 during same 6 month period in 2019)

Figure 21: Referrals for alcohol treatment in Wirral: 2019 and 2020 comparison



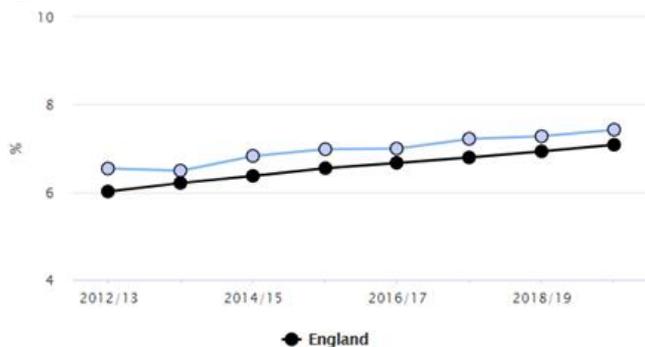
Source: CGL (Change, Grow, Live), 2021

Long Term Conditions

Diabetes

Prevalence of diabetes in Wirral in 2019/20 is higher than both the Cheshire & Merseyside area and England overall (7.4% versus 7.1% in Cheshire & Merseyside and England overall) – **figure 22**. Prevalence of diabetes has been steadily increasing in recent years, from 17,504 people in 2012/13 to 20,392 people in 2019/20; an increase of 16.5% in 7 years.

Figure 22: Trend in prevalence of diabetes in those aged 17+ (2012/13 to 2019/20)



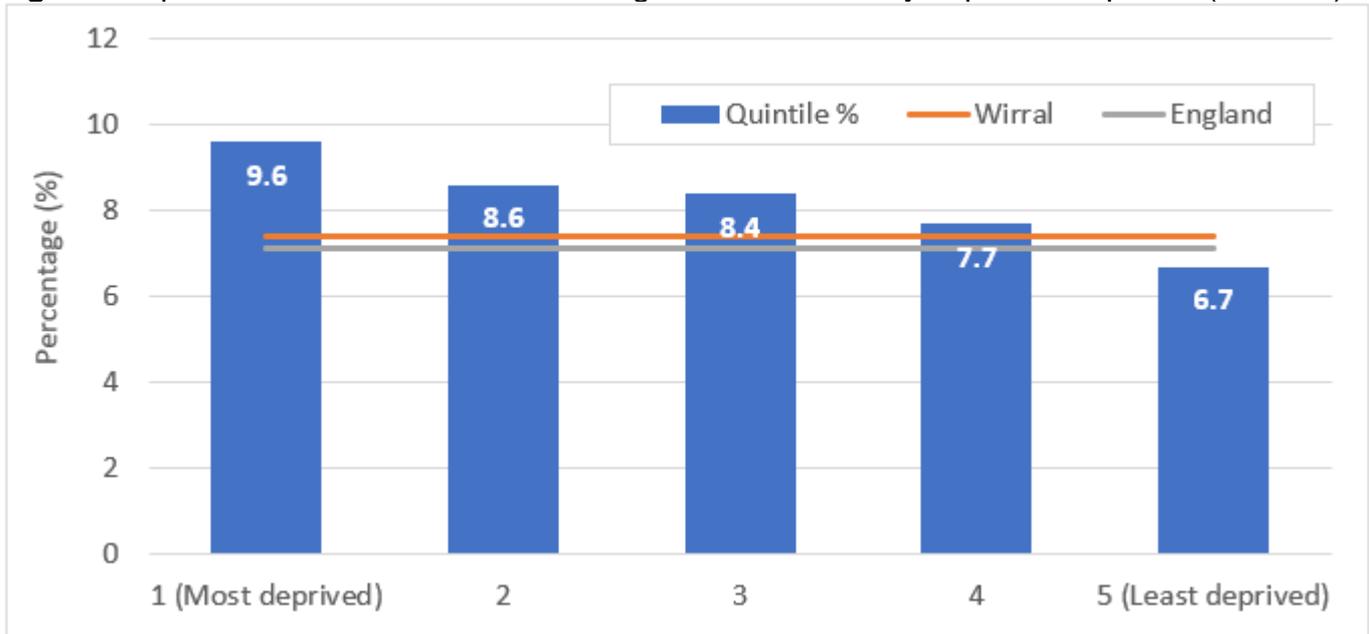
Period	NHS Wirral CCG				Cheshire and Merseyside	England
	Count	Value	95% Lower CI	95% Upper CI		
2012/13	17,504	6.5%	6.4%	6.6%	6.2%*	6.0%
2013/14	17,450	6.5%	6.4%	6.6%	6.3%*	6.2%
2014/15	18,399	6.8%	6.7%	6.9%	6.5%	6.4%
2015/16	18,889	7.0%	6.9%	7.1%	6.7%	6.5%
2016/17	19,428	7.0%	6.9%	7.1%	6.8%	6.7%
2017/18	19,658	7.2%	7.1%	7.3%	6.9%	6.8%
2018/19	19,893	7.3%	7.2%	7.4%	7.0%	6.9%*
2019/20	20,392	7.4%	7.3%	7.5%	7.1%*	7.1%

Source: Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), NHS Digital

Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)

Diabetes prevalence by deprivation quintile in Wirral in 2019/20 is shown in **Figure 23** and is 43% higher in the most deprived quintile of the population (9.6% of the population in the most deprived quintile compared to 6.7% in Quintile 5, the least deprived quintile).

Figure 23: prevalence of diabetes in those aged 17+ in Wirral by deprivation quintile (2019/20)

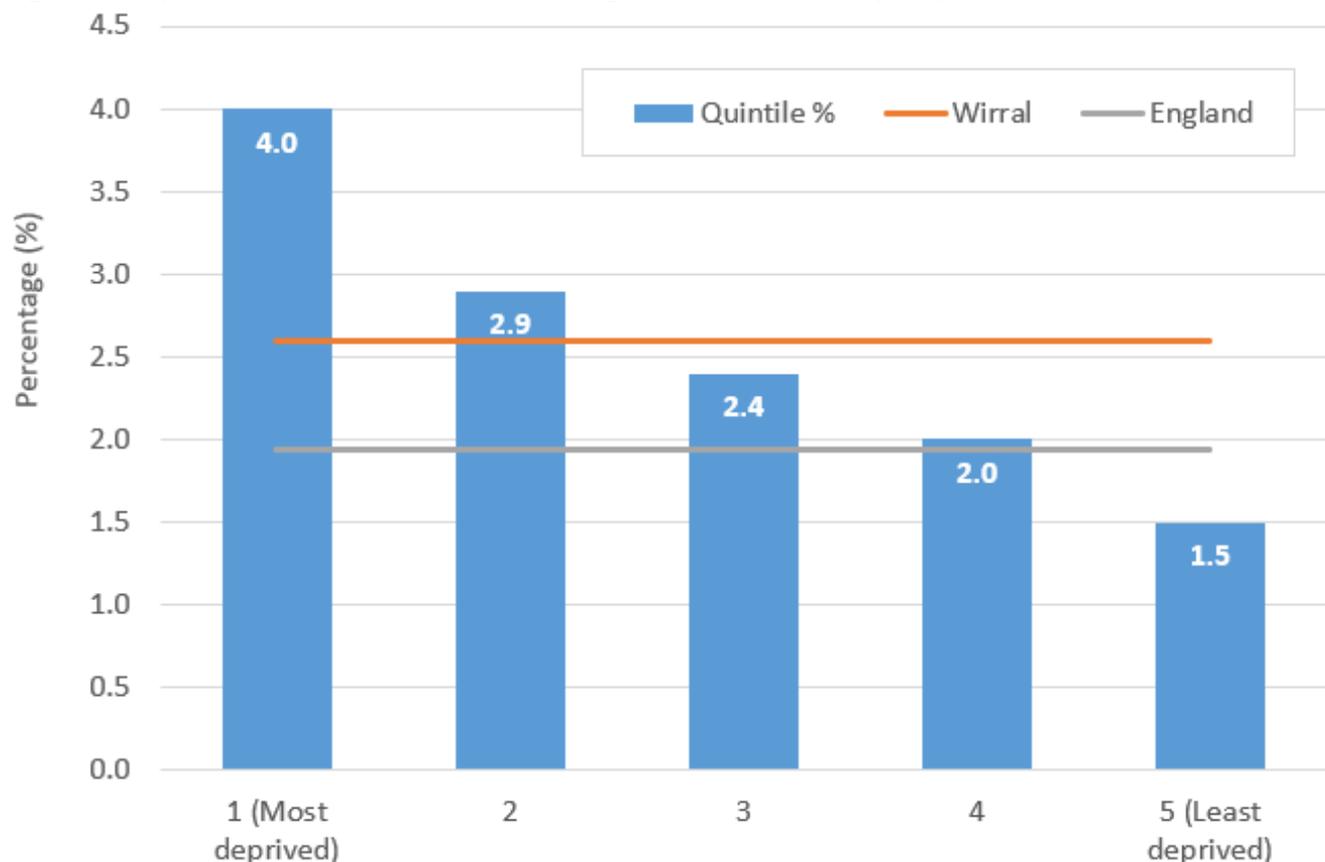


Source: QOF ([Quality & Outcomes Framework](#)), NHS England

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

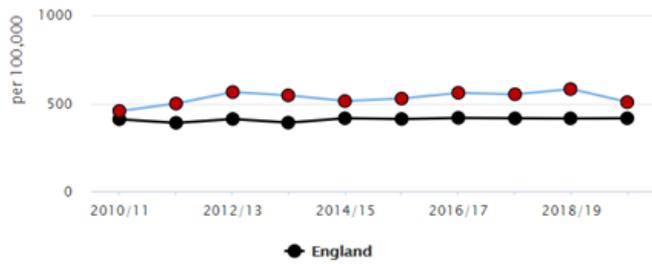
Prevalence of COPD in Wirral in 2019/20 is higher than both the NW and England overall (2.6% versus 2.5% in the NW and 1.9 in England overall). Prevalence of COPD has been steadily increasing in recent years, from 7,814 people in 2012/13 to 8,821 people in 2019/20; an increase of 13% in 7 years. COPD shows a clear association with deprivation, with those in the most deprived quintile, having a rate of COPD which is more than double that of the least deprived quintile (4.0% population in the most deprived quintile versus 1.5% population in the least deprived quintile) see **figure 24** and **figure 25**.

Figure 24: prevalence of COPD in those aged 17+ in Wirral by deprivation quintile (2019/20)



Source: QOF ([Quality & Outcomes Framework](#)), NHS England

Figure 25: Trend in emergency admissions for COPD, 2010/11 to 2019/20



Period	Count	Value	Wirral		North West	England
			95% Lower CI	95% Upper CI		
2010/11	873	457	427	488	568	410
2011/12	966	499	467	531	526	389
2012/13	1,104	564	531	599	549	411
2013/14	1,077	545	513	579	508	390
2014/15	1,026	513	482	545	553	415
2015/16	1,058	527	496	560	534	411
2016/17	1,148	560	528	594	532	417
2017/18	1,144	552	520	585	532	415
2018/19	1,210	581	549	615	530	414
2019/20	1,075	507	477	538	536	415

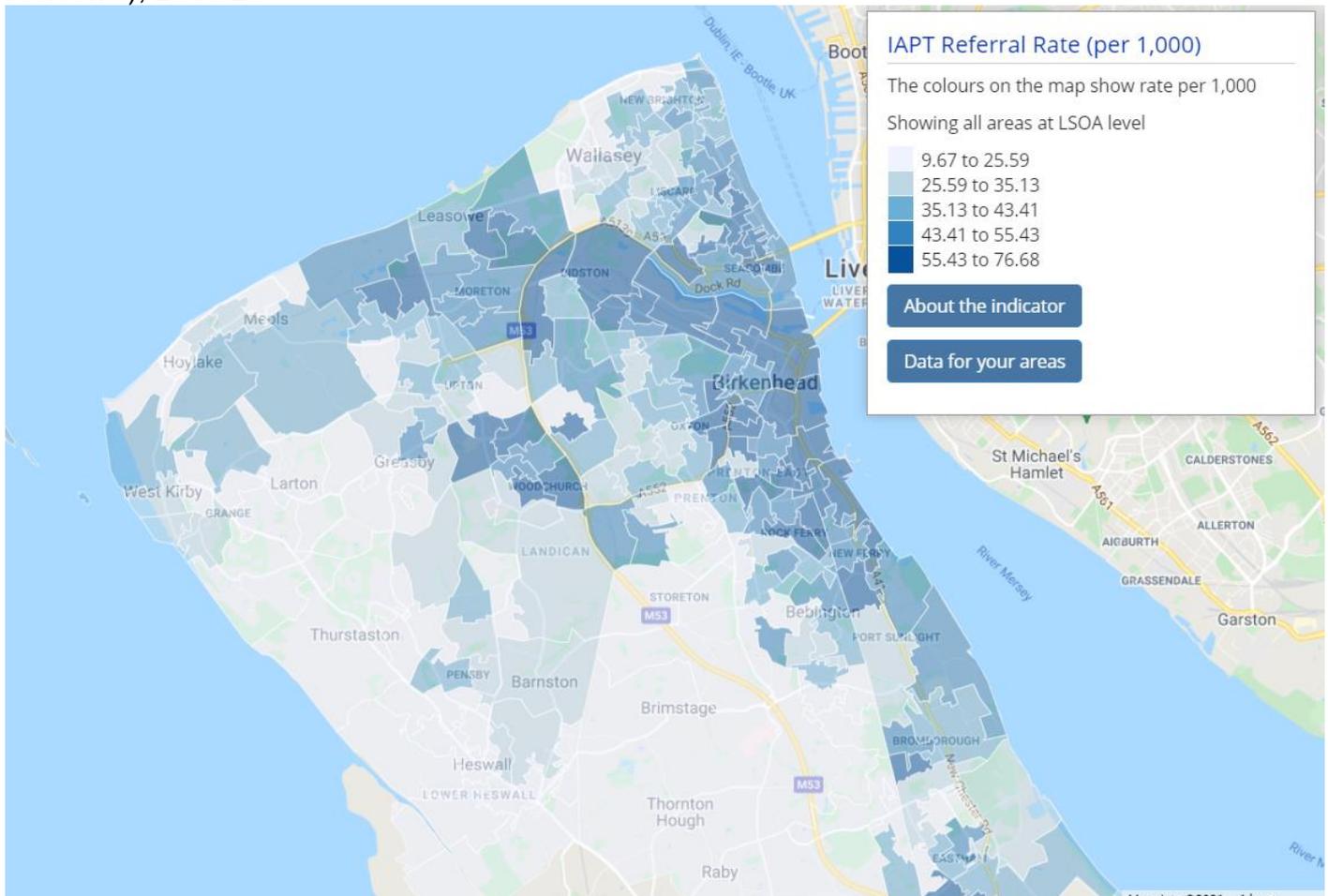
Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)

Mental health

Referral rates for psychological therapy

Map 10 below shows referrals to IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapy) Service per 1,000 patients registered to GP practices within Wirral CCG in 2019/20. Although not all referrals will enter treatment, it is a fairly good indicator of mental health need

Map 10: IAPT (Improving the access to Psychological Therapies), referral rate (per 1,000 residents), 2019/20



Source: Wirral CCG BI Team

As **Map 10** above shows, referral rates vary considerably by ward; the overall rate of referral was 42 per 1,000 residents, but this varied from 61 per 1,000 in Birkenhead & Tranmere ward, to 20 per 1,000 in Heswall ward. In other words, the rate of referral was 3 times higher in areas of deprivation in Wirral, compared to more affluent areas.

Self-harm

Self-harm events severe enough to warrant hospital admission are shown on the PHOF as a proxy of the prevalence of severe self-harm, these are only the most acute manifestation of poor mental health in relation to the burden of self-harm. Self-harm is defined as an intentional act of self-poisoning or self-injury irrespective of the type of motivation or degree of suicidal intent. However, following an episode of self-harm, there is a significant and persistent risk of suicide which varies markedly between genders and age groups [PHOF, PHE].

In contrast to the trends in completed suicide, the incidence of self-harm has continued to rise in the UK over the past 20 years and, for young people at least, is said to be among the highest in Europe [PHOF, PHE]. Data on self-harm trends using HES data may be somewhat misleading and the large rise they suggest probably reflects improved data collection. Suicide risk is raised 49-fold in the year after self-harm, and the risk is higher with increasing age at initial self-harm [PHOF, PHE].

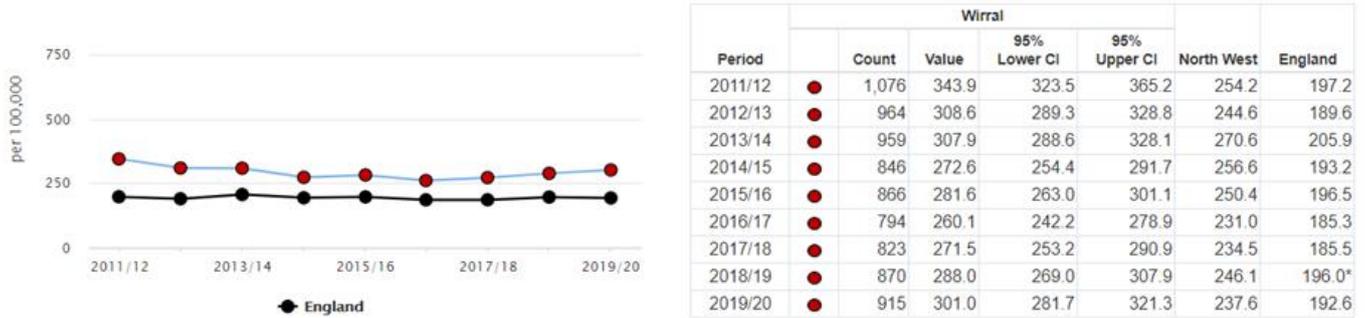
Self-harm is still often poorly understood and people who harm themselves are subject to stigma and hostility; those who self-harm have a 1 in 6 chance of repeat attendance at A&E within the year. One study of people presenting at Accident & Emergency (A&E) showed a subsequent suicide rate of 0.7% in the first year - 66 times the suicide rate in the general population. After 15 years, 4.8% of males and 1.8% of females had died by suicide.[3] Aside from the obvious danger of death, self-harm and suicide attempts can be seriously detrimental to an individual's long-term physical health if they survive. Paracetamol poisoning is a major cause of acute liver failure. Self-cutting can result in permanent damage to tendons and nerves, not to mention scarring and other disfigurements. The NICE guidelines on self-harm note that people who have survived a medically serious suicide attempt are more likely to have poorer outcomes in terms of life expectancy [PHOF, PHE].

Those at greater risk include [PHOF, PHE]:

- Women - rates of deliberate self-injury are two to three times higher in women than men
- Young people - Self-harming in young people is not uncommon (10-13% of 15-16-year-olds have self-harmed in their lifetime)
- Older people who harm themselves are more likely to do so in an attempt to end their life
- People who have or are recovering from drug and alcohol problems
- Self-harm in prisons is associated with subsequent suicide in this setting, suggesting the prevention and treatment of self-harm is an essential component of suicide prevention in prison
- People who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or gender reassigned
- Socially deprived people living in urban areas
- Women of South-Asian ethnicity
- Individual elements including personality traits, family experiences, life events, exposure to trauma, cultural beliefs, social isolation, and income
- Other factors such as education, housing, and wider macro-socioeconomic trends such as unemployment rates may also contribute directly, or by influencing a person's susceptibility to mental health problems

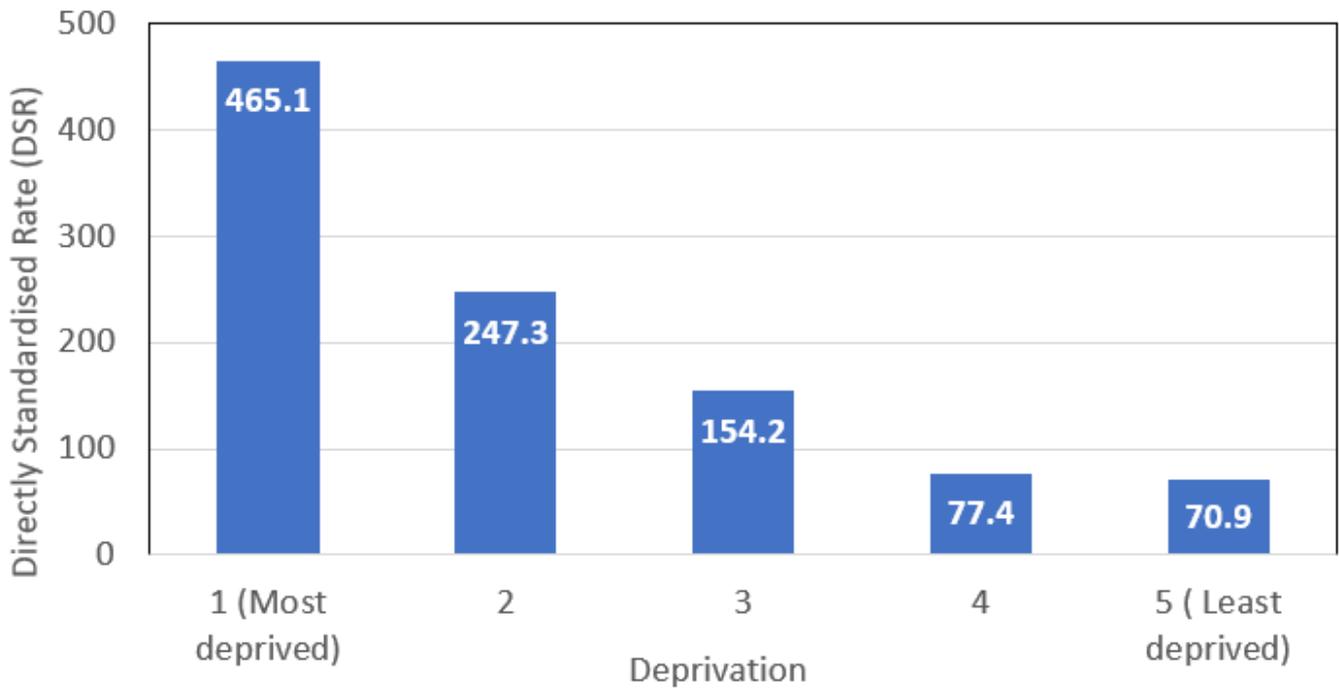
Admissions for self-harm are significantly higher in Wirral than in England overall (301.0 per 100,000 locally, versus 192.6 nationally – or 915 in actual numbers) (**figure 26**) and have been since information on this indicator has been made available. As further breakdown (**figure 27**) shows, these overall numbers show that women are far more likely than men to be admitted as a result of self-harm.

Figure 26: Rate (DSR) of Emergency Hospital Admissions for intentional self-harm in Wirral with comparators England, North West (2011/12 – 2019/20)



Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)

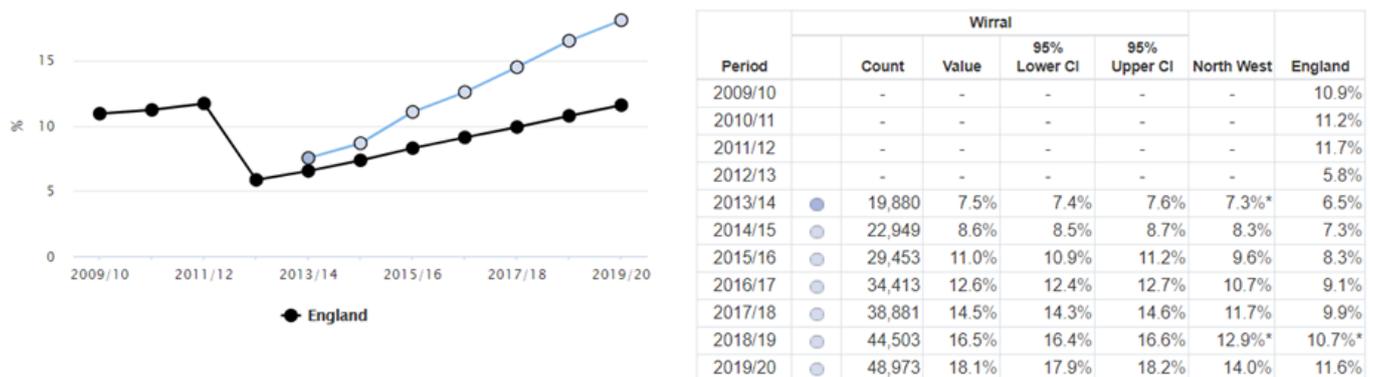
Figure 27: Rate of admissions for Self-harm in Wirral by Deprivation Quintile, 2019/20



Depression

The recorded depression prevalence (**figure 28**) is the number of people with depression recorded on GP practice registers, as a proportion of the practice list size of the CCG aged 18 years or over.

Figure 28: Recorded prevalence of Depression (%) (aged 18+) for Wirral with comparators England, North West (2009/10 – 2019/20)



Source: *Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), NHS Digital*

Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)

The prevalence of those recorded as having ever had depression on GP records in Wirral is much higher than England, at 18.1% of the population aged 18+ overall, compared to 11.6% in England. This figure has increased considerably in recent years, in 2013/14 the overall prevalence in Wirral was 7.5% compared to 6.5% in England – meaning prevalence has more than doubled in 6 years.

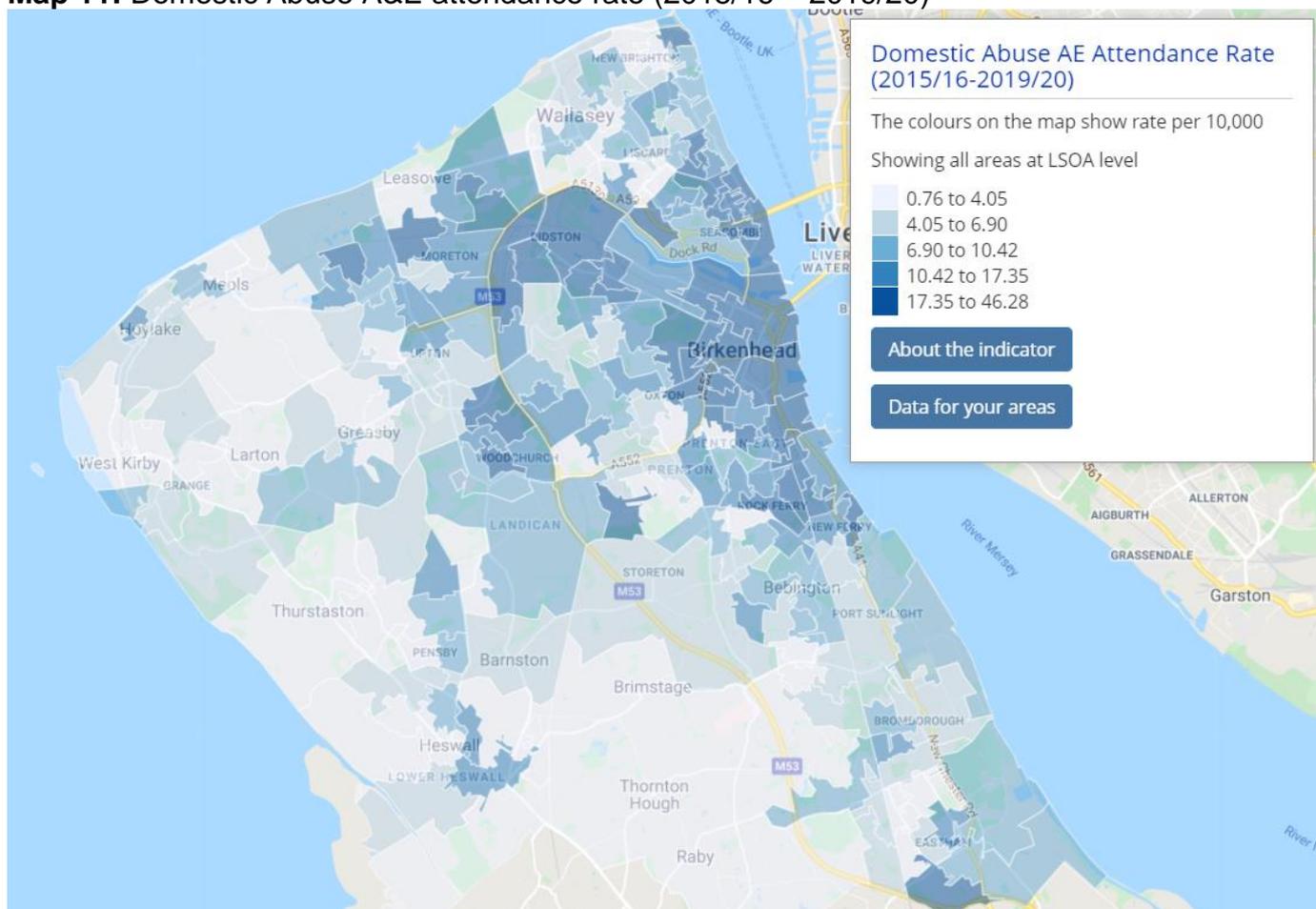
Even this large overall figure, however, hides large inequalities, with some practices with populations in areas of deprivation having as many as 1 in 3 (or 33.6%) of their populations recorded as having depression. In more affluent areas, the equivalent is around 1 in 14 (or 7.7%) of their practice population recorded as having had depression in 2019/20 (Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)).

Crime

Anti-social behaviour

Map 11 shows the rate of attendances for domestic abuse (5 pooled years); it shows that rate of attendances mirrors the areas of deprivation in Wirral – with rates varying from 26.5 per 10,000 in Birkenhead & Tranmere ward, to 3.7 in West Kirby & Thurstaston ward (overall Wirral rate of 11.2 per 10,000).

Map 11: Domestic Abuse A&E attendance rate (2015/16 – 2019/20)



Source: [Local Insight Wirral](#), 2021 (data from Trauma, Injury Intelligence Group (Liverpool John Moores University, 2021)

Attendances at Arroe Park A&E for injuries and assaults reported as being carried out by somebody known to the attendee are compiled by TIIG (Trauma, Injury & Intelligence Group) of LJMU.

Reported incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB), were located to the point at which they occurred and allocated to the appropriate Constituency; ASB is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person'. The data in **Table 2** below is reported incidents and shows the two calendar years of 2019 and 2020.

Table 2: Reported incidents of anti-social behaviour in Wirral, by Constituency, 2019 and 2020 (calendar years)

Area	2019		2020		Change	
	Number	Rate per 1,000	Number	Rate per 1,000	Number	%
Birkenhead	2,283	25.2	3,439	37.9	1,156	50.6
Wallasey	1,433	15.8	2,444	27.0	1,011	70.6
Wirral South	775	10.6	1,409	19.2	634	81.8
Wirral West	797	11.5	1,600	23.0	803	100.8
Wirral	5,288	16.3	8,892	27.4	3,604	68.2

Source: <https://data.police.uk/data/>

As **Table 2** shows, there has been a 68% increase in ASB in Wirral between 2019 and 2020 when a large number of months were spent in lockdown. The overall increase hides large variation between Constituencies, which ranged from 50.6% in Birkenhead (lowest increase, but still the highest number of reported incidents), to 100.8% increase in Wirral West.

Domestic Abuse

As **Table 3** shows, the number of crimes and incidences of domestic abuse have been increasing in recent years. This may not necessarily be due to increased incidence, but due to increased awareness and willingness to report to the police. It is clear that Wirral has a higher rate than Merseyside, the North West and England overall and this appears to be a long-standing trend.

Table 3: Trend in Domestic abuse crimes and incidences in Wirral and comparators, 2010/11 to 2019/20

Year	Wirral	Merseyside	North West	England	
	Crimes and Incidences				Rate per 1,000
2010/11	9,214	*	27.6	22.2	18.4
2011/12	9,416	*	28.8	21.1	18
2012/13	9,591	36.8	29.3	21.4	18.1
2013/14	9,589	36.8	28.4	21.4	19.4
2014/15	9,806	37.5	27.6	20.5	20.4
2015/16	10,308	39.4	26.2	23.5	23.7
2016/17	9,965	38.1	24.6	24.1	24.0
2017/18	10,189	38.9	23.6	25.1	25.1
2018/19	11,942	45.5	25.8	28.6	27.4
2019/20	12,795	48.7	28.8	25.7	28.0

Source: [Wirral Intelligence Service Annual Statistical Compendium, 2021](#)

Notes and definitions for Table 3

1. Domestic abuse is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members. It can include psychological, physical, sexual, financial and/or emotional abuse (Home Office, 2013)
2. Figures from 2015/16 include the new methodology which captures data relating to the new categories of all domestic abuse related crimes and domestic abuse related incidents. Figures from 2015/16 onwards are therefore not comparable with data released in previous years.
3. An incident is an occurrence reported to the police where circumstances are considered as domestic by the call the call handler. An incident may or may not result in a crime record being created
4. A crime is controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality
5. Offences have been recorded as a crime, whereas the number of incidents refers to those that were not recorded as a crime, so the two categories are mutually exclusive of each other
6. Rates have been calculated using the preceding calendar years mid-year population estimated sourced from the Office for National Statistics (ONS)
7. * notes that data is not available at the time of publishing

Source: *Public Health Outcomes Framework*, [Public Health England \(PHE\)](#) and *Merseyside Police Information Management Systems*

Life expectancy

Life expectancy is an important marker for the underlying health of the population. Consequently, it is calculated regularly (annually). Life expectancy at birth in England showed dramatic increases throughout the twentieth century as health and living conditions improved.

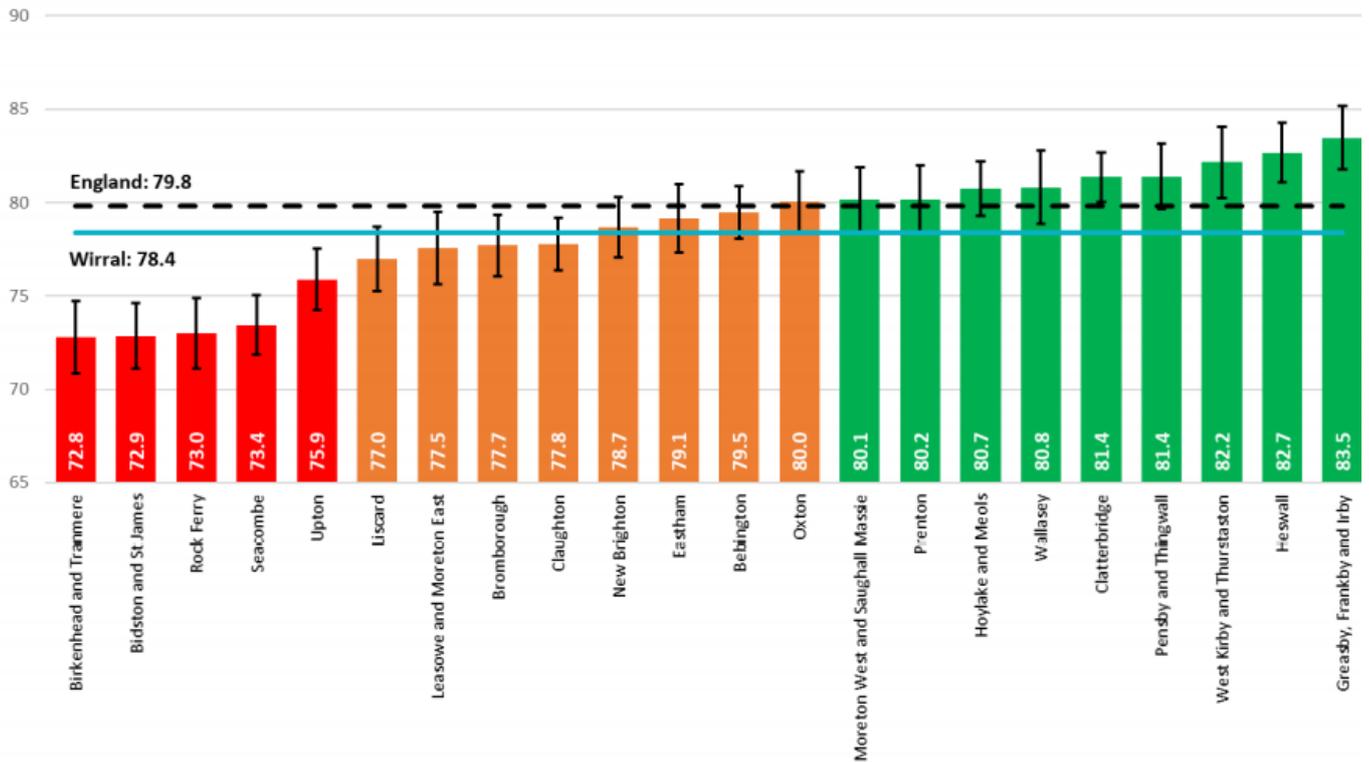
It increased from 46 for males and 50 for females in 1900, to 76 for males and 80 for females in 2000 and has continued to increase since.

However, increases in life expectancy have not been uniform across all social groups and the inequality in life expectancy between those from more deprived areas and those from more affluent areas has continued to increase. A full report on [Life Expectancy in Wirral updated for 2017-19 is available here](#). This report also highlights the causes of the gap between Wirral and England (e.g. showing that the largest cause of the gap was respiratory disease, for both males and females). This analysis on the gap, was originally carried out by Public Health England and more information is available on the [Segment Tool section](#) of the Public Health Outcomes Framework website.

As **Figure 29** shows, there is a gap of 10.7 years between the wards with the highest and lowest male LEx in Wirral for 2017-19 (Birkenhead and Tranmere and Greasby, Frankby and Irby). The average Wirral LEx for males was 78.4 years, whilst the England average was 79.8 for the same time period (1.4 years higher).

The four wards with the lowest LEx are also the four most deprived wards in Wirral according to the IMD 2019: Birkenhead & Tranmere, Bidston & St James, Rock Ferry and Seacombe.

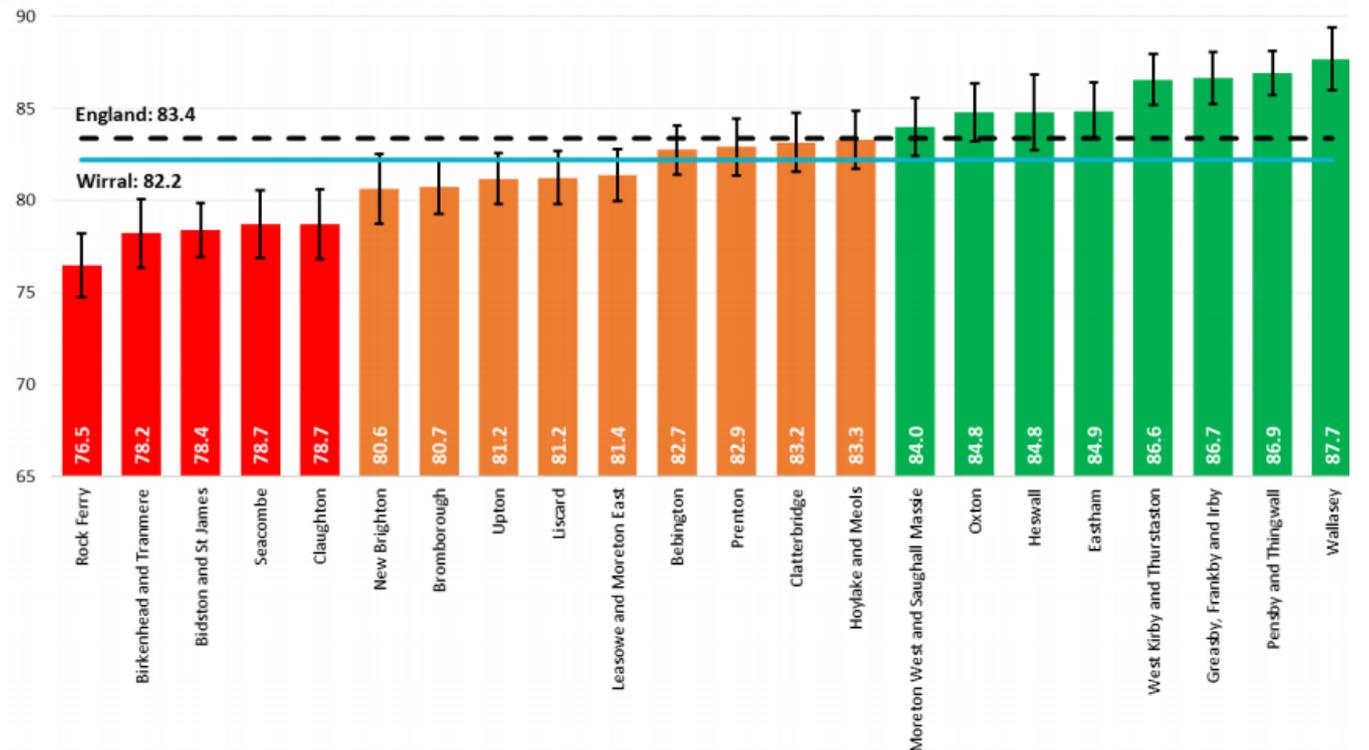
Figure 29: Male life expectancy at birth, by Wirral Ward, 2017-19



Source: Public Health Intelligence Team, Wirral Intelligence Service, 2021

As **Figure 30** below shows, in 2017-19, the gap between the Wirral wards with the highest and lowest female LEx was 11.2 years (Rock Ferry and Wallasey). As was the case with males, the four wards with the lowest female LEx are the four most deprived wards in Wirral: Rock Ferry, Birkenhead & Tranmere, Bidston & St. James and Seacombe.

Figure 30: Female life expectancy at birth, by Wirral Ward, 2017-19



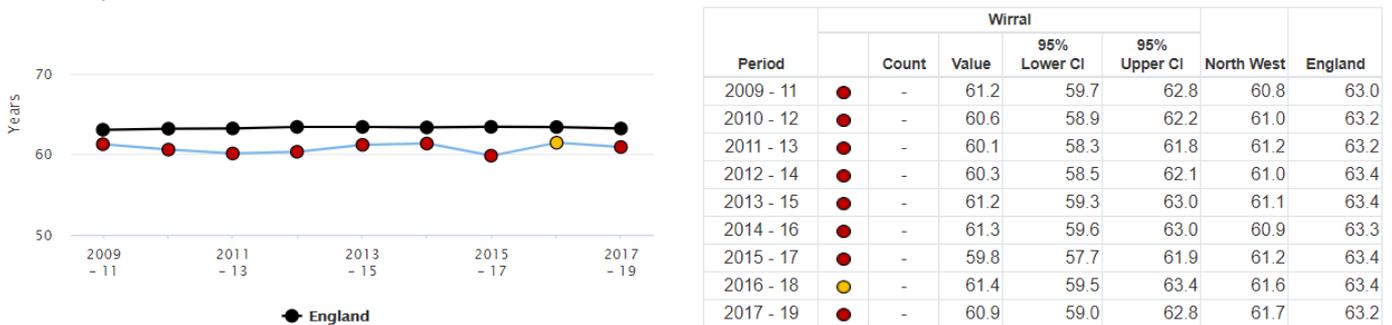
Source: Public Health Intelligence Team, Wirral Intelligence Service, 2021

Healthy life expectancy

In addition to life expectancy, we also monitor healthy life expectancy (HLE), or the number of years people can expect to live in 'good' health. Increases in HLE have not matched the gains in life expectancy, meaning that although people are living longer, their later years are spent in poorer health, creating greater demands on health and social care services.

In 2017-19, HLE in Wirral was 60.9 years for men compared to 63.2 years for men in England (significantly worse than England, as shown by **figure 31** below). On comparing HLE to LEx, this measure shows that, in Wirral, a male is likely to spend approximately only three-quarters (or 77.6%) of their life in 'good' health and the remainder (22.4% or 17.6 years) in poorer health.

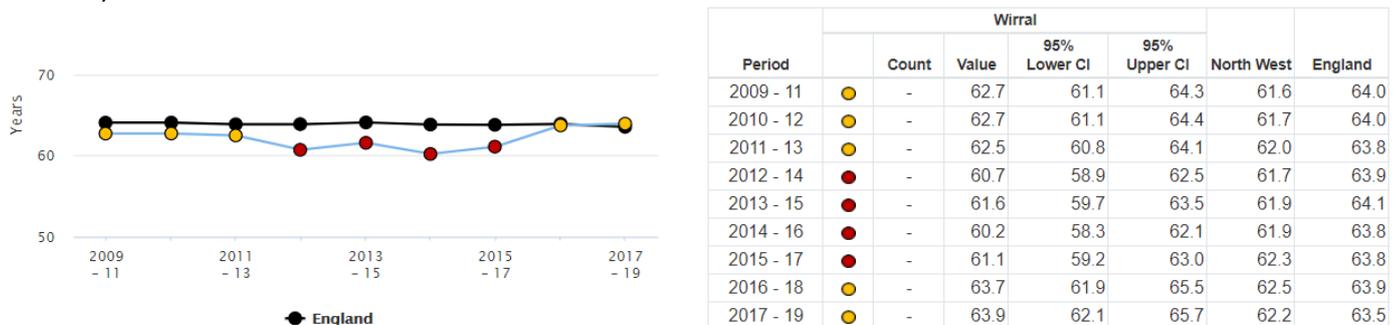
Figure 31: Trend in male Healthy Life Expectancy for Wirral and comparators, 2009/11 to 2017/19)



Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)

Women in Wirral are estimated to spend 77.6% of their life (or 63.9 years) in 'good' health and 22.4% (or 18.4 years) in poorer health. See **figure 32** below. This is marginally higher than women in England overall (but not significantly so).

Figure 32: Trend in female Healthy Life Expectancy for Wirral and comparators, 2009/11 to 2017/19)



Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)

Mortality

Avoidable mortality

Avoidable mortality is deaths from causes for which all or most deaths are considered avoidable through timely and effective healthcare and public health interventions, specifically:

- Preventable mortality - deaths that can be mainly avoided through effective public health and primary prevention interventions
- Treatable mortality - deaths that can be mainly avoided through timely and effective healthcare interventions, including secondary prevention and treatment

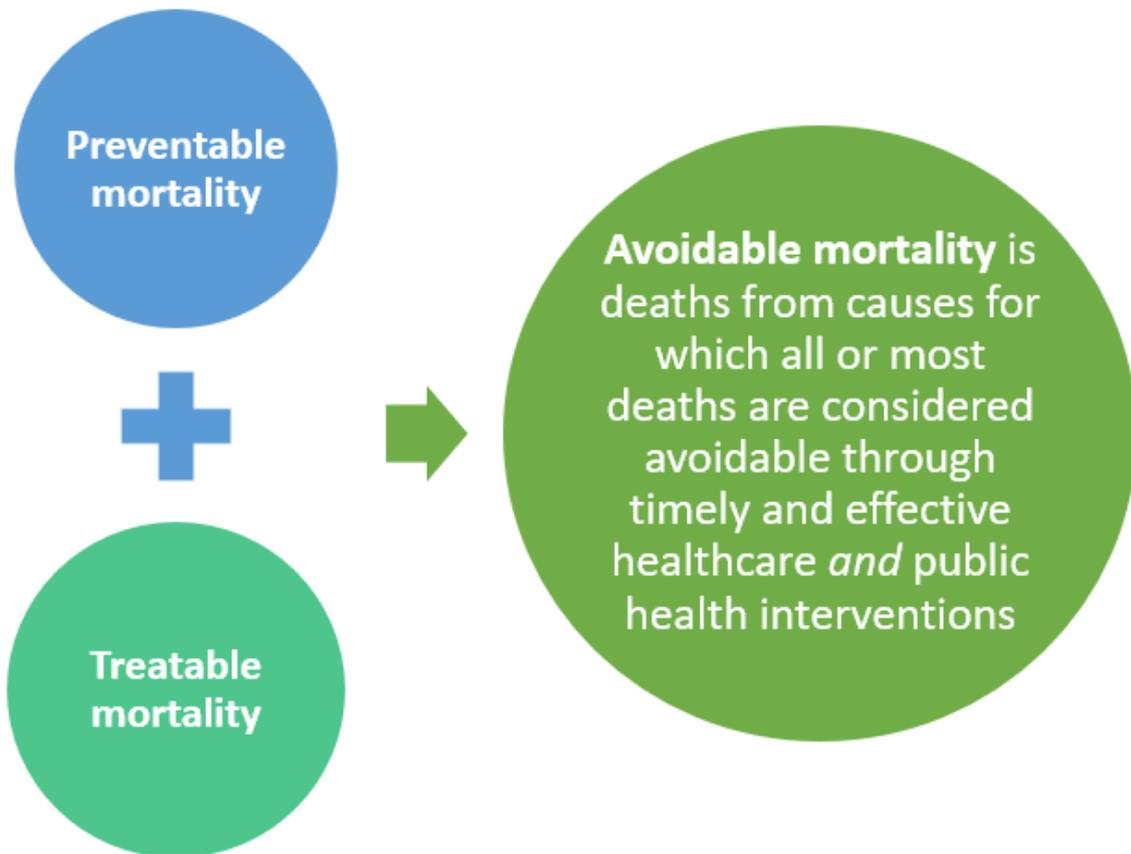
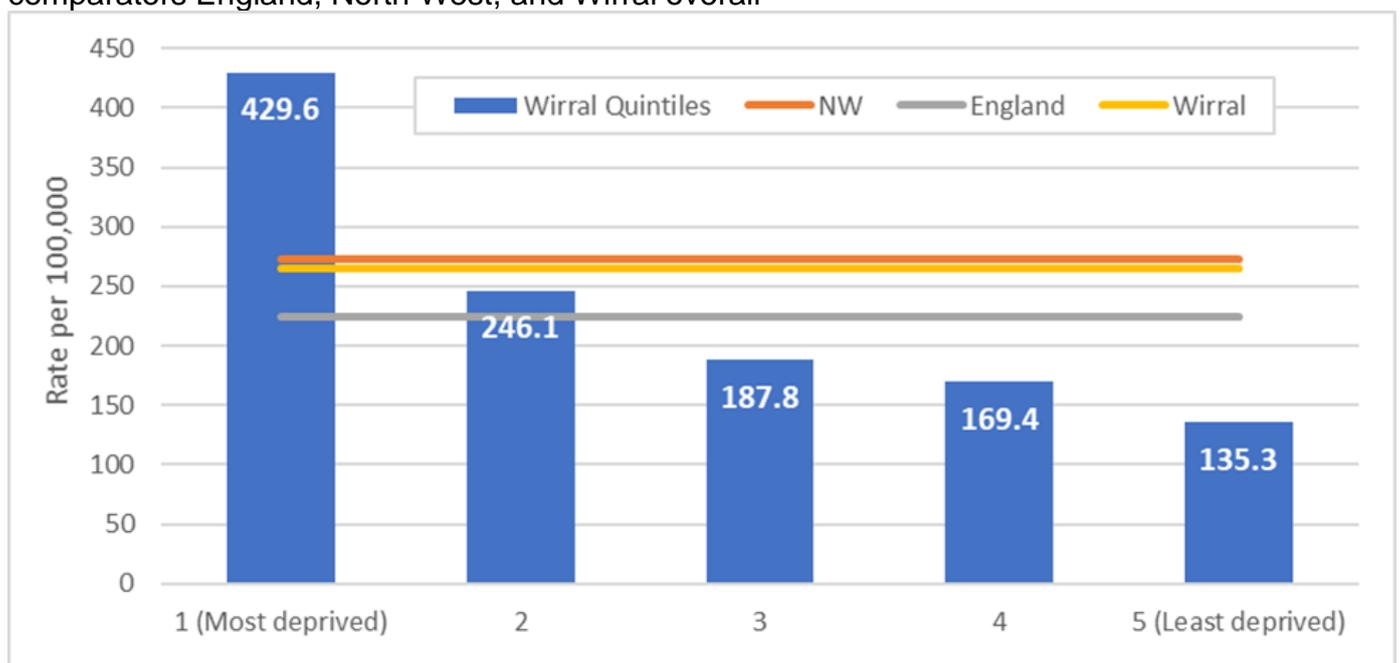


Figure 33 below shows the rate (per 100,000) of avoidable deaths in Wirral by deprivation quintile in 2017-19 (with comparators of England, the North West and Wirral overall as comparator lines).

Figure 33: Rate of Avoidable Mortality by Deprivation Quintile in Wirral in 2017-19, with comparators England, North West, and Wirral overall



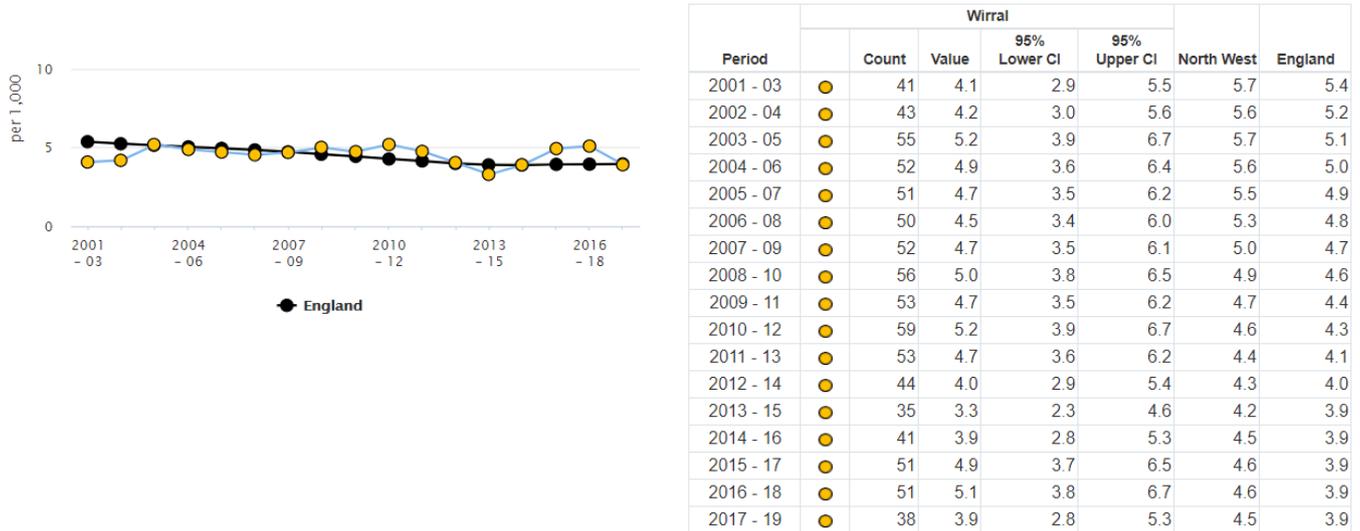
Source: PCMD (Primary Care Mortality Database), 2021

As **Figure 33** shows, the rate of Avoidable Mortality in Wirral in 2017 varied widely by deprivation quintile, with the rate more than 3x higher in the most deprived quintile of the population, compared to the least deprived quintile (429.6 vs 135.3 per 100,000).

Infant mortality

Infant mortality is an indicator of the general health of an entire population. It reflects the relationship between causes of infant mortality and upstream determinants of population health such as economic, social, and environmental conditions. Deaths occurring during the first 28 days of life (the neonatal period) in particular, are considered to reflect the health and care of both mother and newborn (see **Figure 34** below).

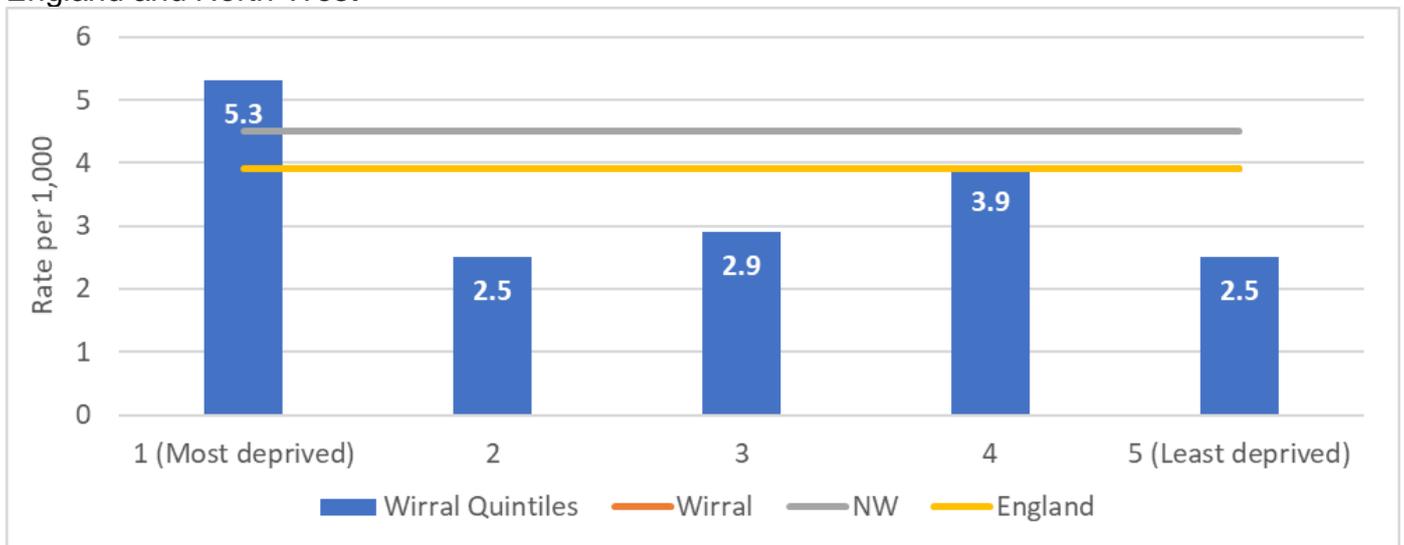
Figure 34: Trend in Infant Mortality rate for Wirral and comparators, 2001/03 to 2017/19)



Source: [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(2021\)](#)

In 2017-19, Wirral overall had an infant mortality rate that was exactly the same as England (3.9 per 1,000) and was lower than the North-West overall (4.5 per 1,000). As with so many health issues however, the overall rate hides large inequalities, shown in the **Figure 35** below.

Figure 35: Infant mortality in 2017-19 by deprivation quintile in Wirral, with comparators of England and North-West



Source: PCMD, 2021 (Primary Care Mortality Database)

Note: Wirral line is hidden by the England line, as both rates are exactly 3.9

As **Figure 35** shows, the most deprived quintile had an infant mortality rate that was more than double the rate of the least deprived quintile.

Although quintile 4 (for reasons that are unclear but are possibly a product of fairly low numbers (n=38 for the 3 pooled years of 2017-19), has the 2nd highest rate, that Quintile 1 has by far and away the highest rates.

Geographical access

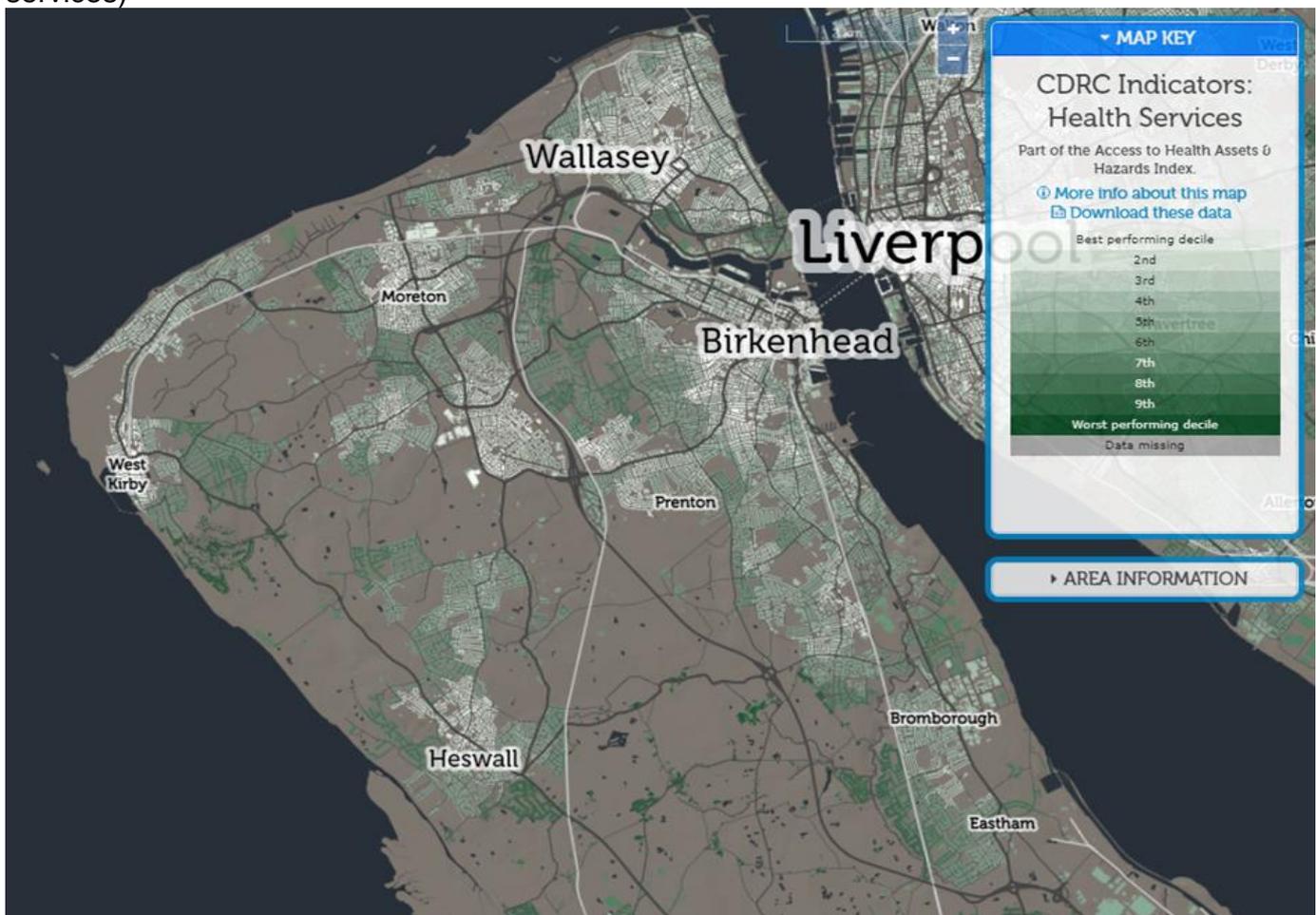
Geographic accessibility to health services has been demonstrated to be associated with use of services. As part of the Index of '[Access to Healthy Assets and Hazards](#)' (AHAH) developed by the University of Liverpool and the CDRC ([Consumer Data Research Centre](#)), accessibility to three 'domains' has been calculated and mapped; the 'domains' are:

- 1) Retail environment
- 2) Health services
- 3) Physical environment

The accessibility to health-related services included distance (km) to: GP surgeries; A&E Hospitals; Pharmacies; Dentists and Leisure Centre's and the **map 12** below shows Wirral's performance on this domain.

Map 12 below shows a mixed picture in Wirral, with accessibility being poor in both in some areas of deprivation (Bidston, Beechwood, parts of Seacombe, Poulton and Moreton for example), but also in some affluent areas (such as Caldy, Spital, Dibbinsdale, Irby and Thornton Hough), although the much higher likelihood of having access to a vehicle in more affluent areas is likely to mean longer distances to health services is likely to be less of an issue (see **Table 1**).

Map 12: Access to health services in Wirral (GPs, hospitals, pharmacies, dentists, leisure services)



Source: [Consumer Data Research Centre](#), 2021

Waiting times

The NHS England waiting time for non-urgent treatments and procedures is 18 weeks (from the day an appointment is booked, or when the hospital or service receives a referral letter), to the time of treatment. In March 2020, the average waiting time in Wirral (WUTH), was 9.3 weeks (across all specialties), by March 2021, this had increased to 9.4 weeks. The percentage of people seen within the 18 week target in March 2020 was 76.4%; by March 2021 this has reduced to 70.0% of people.

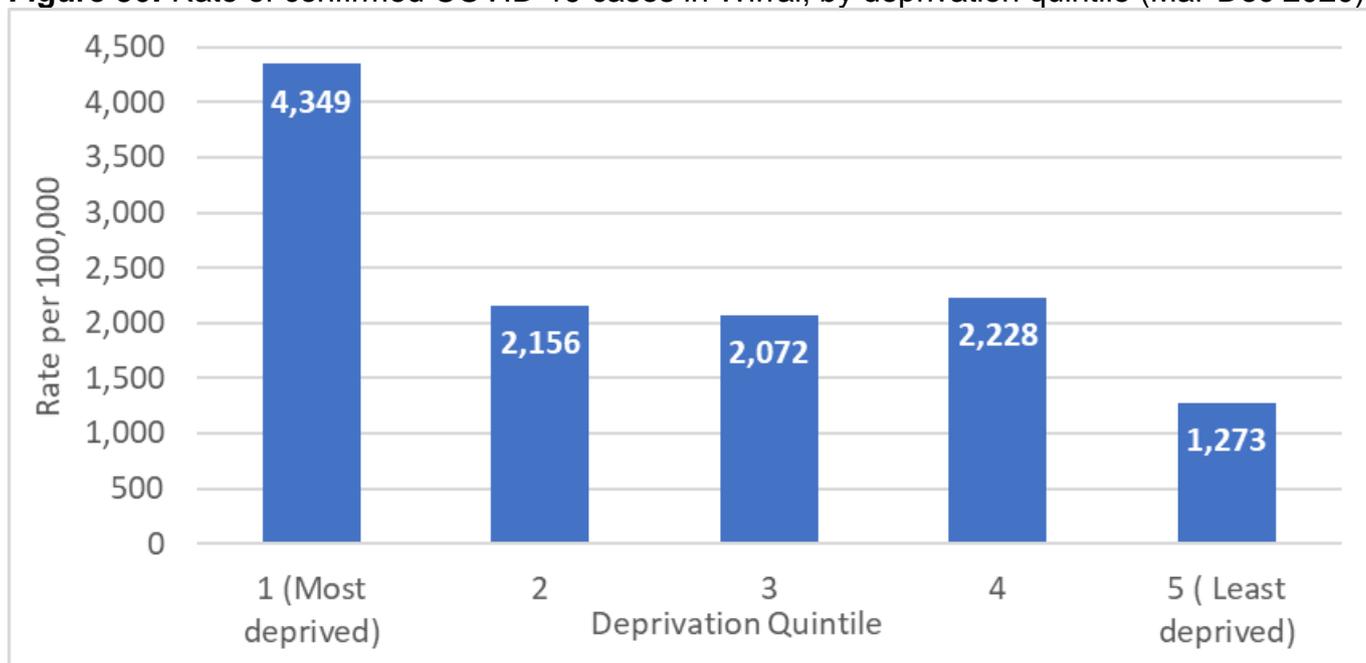
The largest increase in waiting times has been in the Geriatric Medicine specialty, which has gone from 94.1% of people seen within 18 weeks in March 2020, to 61.5% in March 2021 (average waiting time has increased from 4 weeks to 14 weeks).

COVID-19

COVID-19 Cases

COVID-19 cases were widely predicted to have a disproportionate impact on the most deprived at the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020 (by organisations such as Red Cross*, Centre for Progressive Policy etc...) and this turned out to be the case both locally and nationally.

Figure 36: Rate of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Wirral, by deprivation quintile (Mar-Dec 2020)



Source: Situational Explorer, Public Health England, 2021

Figure 36 shows that the rate of COVID-19 infections (March to December 2020) was more than triple the rate in the most deprived quintile, than was the case in the least deprived quintile.

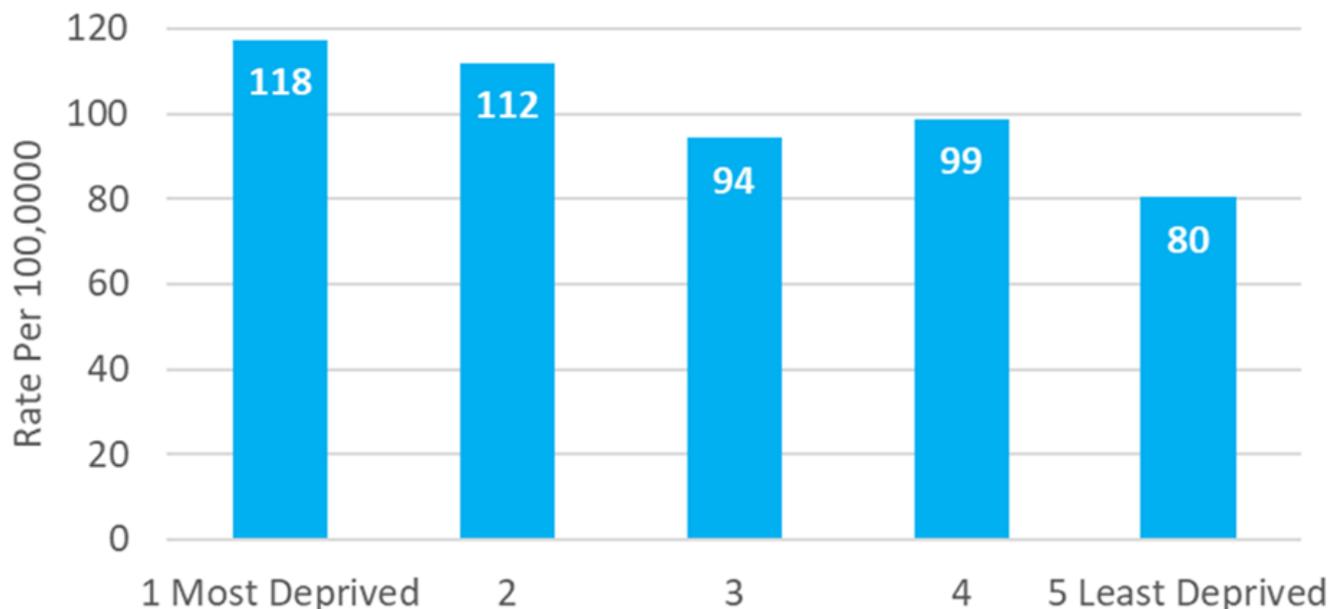
COVID-19 Mortality

Nationally, PHE has reported that mortality rates from COVID-19 in the most deprived areas were more than double the least deprived areas, for both males and females (Source: [Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19](#). Public Health England, June 2020).

Locally however, the relationship between deaths and deprivation initially appeared less clear, with rates highest in Quintile 4 (second least deprived quintile); A large contributory factor to this, however, was the location of Care Homes in Wirral, as the majority of COVID-19 deaths in Quintile 4 occurred in Care Home residents. When deaths in non-Care Home residents were

analysed separately, the pattern was much more comparable with national findings (i.e., death rates highest in Quintile 1 and lowest in Quintile 5). See **Figure 37**.

Figure 37: Rate of COVID-19 deaths (rate per 100,000) in Wirral, in non-Care Home residents by IMD Quintile in 2020



Source: Situational Explorer, Public Health England, 2021

As **Figure 37** above shows, when deaths which occurred *outside* of care homes are calculated separately as a rate per 10,000 deaths (for each quintile), the highest rates are seen in Quintile 1 and the lowest seen in Quintile 5.

- Nationally, PHE report that men working as security guards, transport workers, chefs, sales/retail assistants, lower skilled workers in construction and processing plants and social care workers of both genders had significantly high rates of death from COVID-19.
- In Wirral, just 68 out of a total of 616 COVID-19 deaths (to 31/12/2020) were of working age (aged 16-67); almost one in five of those deaths (19%) had a blank field for occupation.
- With the caveat that numbers locally are small, the largest categories of occupational field for deaths from COVID-19 in Wirral were Health & Social Work (13%), Construction (12%) and Motor Trade, Wholesale & Retail (10%).
- The presence of Health & Social Work and Motor Trade, Wholesale & Retail in the top 3 is not surprising, as they are the two largest employment fields in Wirral, employing respectively, 22.8% and 16.6% (almost 40% in total) of the total working population of Wirral.
- In fact, given that 22.8% of Wirral work in Health & Social Work, plus a potential level of exposure to COVID-19 which is higher than the public at large, it is perhaps surprising that the number of deaths is not larger in this group (16.4% of all deaths from COVID-19).
- The most over-represented occupational group in Wirral was Construction, which employs only 4.0% of the Wirral population, but accounted for 14.5% of deaths (caveat of small numbers)

Local Data

Indirect impact of COVID on population outcomes

This [short report](#) and its themes, provided by various departments in Wirral Council outline the emerging and evolving evidence about the indirect impacts of COVID-19 across a range of themes that impact upon health.

These themes are based on research evidence nationally, regionally, and locally exploring the impact of the pandemic on health and wellbeing. As validated intelligence systems often have substantial time lag, this information is based on locally collated intelligence. It will need to be regularly reviewed, updated, and validated to better understand the wider impact of the pandemic in order to deliver strategies, services, and programmes relevant to Wirral and our residents.

[Short Report: Indirect impact of COVID on population outcomes \(July 2021\)](#)

Background reports

Life Expectancy in Wirral 2017-19

<https://www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/this-is-wirral/wirral-population/life-expectancy/>

Wirral Council Health & Wellbeing Board (2021) Tackling Health Inequalities through Regeneration: Health & Employment, 16th June 2021

Wirral Council, Place & Investment Team, Interim Economic Strategy Evidence Base, March 2021

JSNA: Children & Young People Population & Demographics, January 2020

<https://www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/this-is-wirral/children-young-people/>

This is Wirral: Crime and Safety, December 2019 <https://www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/this-is-wirral/crime-and-safety/>

This is Wirral: Housing, December 2019 <https://www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/this-is-wirral/housing/>

Adult Care & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Public Health and Housing, 27th February 2020

Public Health Outcomes Framework, 2021

[Public Health Outcomes Framework - Data - PHE](#)

Community Needs Index – measuring social and cultural factors, OCSI 2021

<https://ocsi.uk/2019/10/21/community-needs-index-measuring-social-and-cultural-factors/>

Wirral Community Insight, OCSI 2021 <https://wirral.communityinsight.org>

This is Wirral: Health & Wellbeing, December 2019 [Health & Wellbeing - Wirral Intelligence Service](#)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

CQC (2021) COVID-19 INSIGHT, Issue 12

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/20210721%20COVID%20V%20Insight%20issue%2012%20slides.pdf>

COVID-19 Mortality in Wirral, March 2021 [COVID-19: The impacts - Wirral Intelligence Service](#)

Contact details

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Embracing Optimism

Living with COVID-19

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Director of Public Health for Wirral

Annual Report 2020-2021



What a year it's been...

In January 2020 Wirral became one of the first places in the world to respond to COVID-19 when we hosted British residents repatriated from Wuhan, China. Since then, we have all worked hard together to **Keep Wirral Well**.

Although COVID-19 has been the biggest health challenge to affect us all for generations, many of the enduring health problems we faced before the pandemic have worsened as a result.

Whilst the pandemic has touched us all, some people have felt the impact of the virus and the measures to control it more than others. It has also showed us how valuable our health is and how staying healthy protects us all.



Julie Webster
Director of Public Health

Same Virus

Different Struggles

The pandemic held up a mirror to the existing health, economic and social inequalities in our borough.

COVID-19 has made these differences worse, and the heaviest impacts have fallen on the lives of people who are already experiencing health, economic and social inequalities.

These differences are the most significant health challenge in Wirral. They impact on the quality of people's lives; the way residents use services and how individuals and the economy prosper.



Health inequalities in Wirral

Health inequalities are ultimately about differences in the status of people's health. They occur due to factors often outside of people's direct control and as a result people can experience systematic, unfair, and avoidable differences in their health, the care they receive and the opportunities they have to lead healthy lives.

Research has shown that health inequalities occur because of the different conditions into which we are born, grow, live, work and age.

This diagram shows how these factors interact.

The Dahlgren and Whitehead Health Determinants Model (1991)



Wirral life course statistics 2021

A comparison to England

There are many reasons why people do not have the same experience of health as others. The places we live and work, the people we know and how we live all affect our health and wellbeing.

This diagram details how some of these factors affect the health of Wirral residents throughout their life.



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What do we do about it?

We have made great progress in supporting people to live healthier lives. However, health inequalities are stubbornly persistent.

Crucially we are presented with the opportunity to reduce the gap in health between our communities and the rest of England or face the possibility that failure to act together, and at pace, increases poor health in Wirral.

Tackling health inequalities will benefit every resident of Wirral. The pandemic has shown us what we can achieve when we all work together and the speed at which we can make change happen.

Recommendations

The following recommendations have been made to improve the health and wellbeing of residents, and reduce health inequalities in Wirral

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1

Prioritise economic regeneration and a strong local economy

2

Safeguard a healthy standard of living for all

3

Increase support for children, young people and families

4

Strengthen action to address differences in health outcomes and prevention

5

Residents and partners continue to work together

1. Prioritise economic regeneration and a strong local economy

I recommend that:

- Economic development plans are reviewed to ensure that they respond to the impact of the pandemic on residents and communities.
- Economic Regeneration and Development Committee, working with the Health and Wellbeing Board, should consider the development of an Economic Inequalities Strategy for Wirral.
- Employment support services and skills development programmes are available, accessible and sustainable to ensure income maximisation and support those most susceptible to job loss and job insecurity.
- Partners embed a 'Health in All' policies approach to regeneration planning. We can use this approach to ensure that the wide breadth of health impacts of the pandemic is part of routine decision making and to reduce health inequalities.

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2. Safeguard a healthy standard of living for all

I recommend that:

- Wirral's Housing Strategy is reviewed to reflect the changing needs of residents and to address the challenges that have emerged during the pandemic.
- Page 124 there is an integrated information and advice offer to enable people to access support when they need it.
- Build on the progress made during the pandemic to support people who are homeless.
- Define and streamline fuel poverty support pathways with partners across Wirral learning from COVID response.
- Relevant partners utilise Health Impact Assessment in spatial planning to identify risks to health and ways to mitigate them.



3. Increase support for children, young people and families

I recommend that:

- The impacts of the pandemic on our young people are examined to ensure that children and families have the support they need to predict future areas requiring support and inform the offer for early years support from the Council and other partners.
- Continue to develop the early help and intervention model underpinned by a prevention framework.
- Work with families, early years, schools, further and higher education sectors to ensure all children and young people fulfil their potential through a 'cradle to career' approach.
- Ensure that services are maximising opportunities to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on children, young people and families with a focus on physical and mental health.
- Review existing support and services for our most vulnerable children, young people and families to ensure they are resilient, accessible and driving progress.



4. Strengthen action to address differences in health outcomes and prevention

I recommend that:

- Local health and care partners focus on tackling inequalities in healthcare provision - this is their direct responsibility and must be the prime focus of their action.
- Local NHS partners ensure they can access high-quality data to measure performance on reducing health inequalities across services. This includes being able to breakdown outcome and performance data by deprivation and ethnicity.
- NHS partners use their role as local anchor institutions and the choices they make as an employer and a purchaser to reduce inequalities.
- Preventative programmes and proactive health management for groups at greatest risk of poor health outcomes are accelerated across key service areas as outlined within the NHS Long Term Plan.
- The developing integrated care system and local providers have a named executive board level lead for tackling health inequalities and access training made available by local and national partners.
- Local NHS partners engage with and play a supportive role in multi-agency action to improve the social, economic and environmental conditions in which people live.
- Health and care partners focus on good infection prevention control to ensure avoidable infections are prevented.



5. Residents and partners continue to work together

I recommend that:

- All partners should continue to build on the strong partnership work developed through our COVID-19 response by implementing the action emerging from the Health and Wellbeing Board Community and Voluntary Sector work.
- ~~Page 42~~ All partners fully engage local people to co-design services and initiatives to enable residents to recover and improve their health and wellbeing. We need to prioritise our more vulnerable residents who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and use tailored communication methods.
- We undertake a resident listening exercise to learn from the experience of the pandemic to understand local people's experiences and aspirations for the future. This work should be a blueprint for developing a sustainable model for the use of insights gathered from local people.



Thank you



ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Monday, 15th November 2021

REPORT TITLE:	OUTCOMES OF BUDGET WORKSHOPS
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOODS

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for the Committee to consider feedback and outcomes from the Budget Workshops which have been held in recent months. The workshops enabled officer and member liaison on proposed budget options, to facilitate discussion and allow direction to be obtained on further analysis required. The Budget Workshops also provided an opportunity for alternative proposals to be considered.

The Policy and Service Committees are responsible for those services being delivered under their operational headings within their annual budget envelope. 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.

The Budget Workshops considered 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 will recommend.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended:

1. That the Committee agrees the Budget Workshop feedback and outcomes, as detailed in appendix 1, being reported to Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The Council has a legal responsibility to set an annual balanced budget, which establishes how financial resources are to be allocated and utilised. To successfully do so, engagement with members, staff and residents is undertaken; the recommendations in this report are an initial step in this approach and act as a precursor to budget proposals, scheduled to be made to Full Council on 28 February 2022, following the schedule of activity shown in Appendix 2.
- 1.2 Failure to set a lawful budget in time may lead to a loss of revenue, significant additional administrative costs, as well as reputational damage. Failure to set a budget may lead to intervention from the Secretary of State under section 15 the Local Government Act 1999.
- 1.3 The scale of the financial challenge that the Council faces cannot be overstated. The short-term support afforded by government in the form of a capitalisation directive does not extend beyond 2021/22, reinforcing the requirement for an in-depth review of Council operations to enable considered and robust proposals to be made to Council in February 2022 for the 2022/23 budget allocation. This will require difficult decisions to ensure that a balanced budget can be presented. Regular Member engagement on the process, which this report forms part of, is considered essential for effective budget formulation.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 A report does not have to be provided to the Committee to outline activity at this stage, however it is considered appropriate to do so in order to ensure that the Committee has up-to-date information in respect of the financial context that the Council is operating within and set out the budget setting stages that are expected to follow; in order that the Committee can comment accordingly and reduce the risk that it will not have the relevant information required to make an informed decision in respect of budget proposals to Full Council.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Policy & Resources Committee is responsible for co-ordinating processes for the development of the Budget and Policy Framework, together with decision making on cross-cutting policies not part of the Policy Framework. The Policy and Service Committees are responsible for those services being delivered under their operational headings within their annual budget envelope. 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.
- 3.2 Budget setting activity has been undertaken in line with the recommendations accepted by the Committee in June 2021, which built upon the approach outlined in March 2021.

- 3.3 The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) has met regularly to discuss the budget setting process, budget proposals, the budget gap that the Council faces and the associated uncertainty on funding. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance (CIPFA) were engaged by the Director of Resources to support progress on developing robust business cases for budget proposals, to provide an additional level of scrutiny and external insight to matters. Member engagement in the process has taken place through Budget Workshops.
- 3.4 These Budget workshops were convened to enable officer and member liaison on proposed budget options, in order to facilitate discussion and allow direction to be obtained on further analysis required. The Budget Workshops also provided an opportunity for alternative proposals to be considered.
- 3.5 The five-year medium term financial plan (MTFP) produced to satisfy the requirement of The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) (now known as The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)) for exceptional financial support, formed the basis of Budget Workshop discussions. Consideration has been given as to 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 will recommend.
- 3.6 The outcomes of these workshops are to be reported to meetings of those committees (in November) and will in turn be communicated to the Policy & Resources Committee (in December).
- 3.7 Details of the government's comprehensive spending review, which will outline funding implications for local government, is expected at the end of 2021. The outcome of the review will provide clarity on the funding assumptions currently in place, which in turn will demonstrate the specific funding gap that the Council will need to bridge as part of the budget proposals to be considered.
- 3.8 The impact of the government's comprehensive spending review on the Council's financial assumptions will be taken into account, along with feedback from the consultation process and the budget proposals developed through the Service Committee and Policy & Resources Committee (P&R) Budget Workshop approach to present a robust position on financial matters to be considered in formulating a budget proposal to Full Council. Further details of the key milestones associated with the 2022/23 budget setting process is shown at Appendix 2, which illustrates the proposed timetable for budget setting.
- 3.9 Policy & Resources Committee budget recommendations will be proposed in February 2022 in respect of the agreement of the annual Budget, setting of the council tax requirement and related matters to the Council, which will be debated by Full Council and voted upon by a simple majority.
- 3.10 With a potential revised budget gap in excess of £30m (as reported in the Pre-Budget Report presented to Policy & Resources Committee on 25 October 2021), the current level/breadth of services provided by the Council is not considered feasible and viable for continuance, hence the requirement to continue to develop a

number of potential budget proposals via the policy and service committees to ensure this gap can be closed.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report provides the Committee with an update on recent budget setting activity and describes the context in which the budget for 2022/23 is being set, where a prudent approach is being undertaken to develop budget proposals amidst an uncertain financial landscape.
- 4.2 Delivering financial sustainability is vitally important for the Council, with the capitalisation directive aspects of recent years reinforcing the need to develop a revised approach to operations, in order that any future crisis situation can be managed within available resources. This is reflective of comments made by Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditor, who noted as part of their value for money review during the audit of the 219/20 accounts, "We note that the capitalisation directive will only provide support to the Council for 2020/21 and 2021/22. As such, the Council needs to ensure that it delivers against its revised MTFs. It will need to put in place clear plans to reduce its future recurring service expenditure and move to a balanced revenue position that does not rely on reserves".

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 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 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.

- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 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.
- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 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 agreed 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.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 At this time, there are no additional resource implications. However, where the budget is unbalanced and further proposals are required, then there may 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 is dependent on a proactive approach due to estimated figures being provided in the calculation for the budget, albeit the best estimates available at the time, plus any amount of internal and

external factors that could impact on the budget position. 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 budget is in place. 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 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.
- 7.5 A balanced MTFP is fundamental in demonstrating robust and secure financial management. Delivering a balanced position requires continual review and revision of plans to allow alternative financial proposals to be developed and embedded in plans as situations change. A delay in agreeing these may put the timetable for setting the 2022/23 budget at risk and may result in a balanced budget not being identified in time for the deadline of 11 March 2022.
- 7.7 Assumptions have been made in the current budget outlook 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.
- 7.8 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.

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 2022/23 budget setting process. SLT have overseen the production of the budget scenarios laid out in this report.
- 8.2 Engagement with local residents and businesses will be part of the budget setting process.

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.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 This report has no direct community wealth implications however the budget proposals under consideration should take account of related matters across headings such as the following:
- **Progressive Procurement and Social Value**
How we commission and procure goods and services. Encouraging contractors to deliver more benefits for the local area, such as good jobs, apprenticeship, training & skills opportunities, real living wage, minimising their environmental impact, and greater wellbeing.
 - **More local & community ownership of the economy**
Supporting more cooperatives and community businesses.
Enabling greater opportunities for local businesses.
Building on the experience of partnership working with voluntary, community and faith groups during the pandemic to further develop this sector.
 - **Decent and Fair Employment**
Paying all employees a fair and reasonable wage.
 - **Making wealth work for local places**

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – BUDGET WORKSHOP FEEDBACK AND OUTCOMES

APPENDIX 2 – BUDGET SETTING MILESTONES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CIPFA's Financial Management Code

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Policy and Resources Committee	17 March 2021
Full Council	1 March 2021
Policy and Resources Committee	9 June 2021
Policy and Resources Committee	25 October 2021

APPENDIX 1 – BUDGET WORKSHOP FEEDBACK AND OUTCOMES



Budget Workshops	
Subject:	Environment Communities and Culture Committee
Date:	8 th September 2021
From:	Anna Perrett, Senior Democratic Services Officer annaperret@wirral.gov.uk
To:	P&R Committee

1. Background

All local authorities are required to set a balanced budget by 10th March each year.

The Neighbourhoods Directorate has developed efficiency options for consideration by the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee before their recommendations are put forward to the Policy and Resources Committee (P & R) for review. Workshops to gather the below feedback were held on the 10 August and 8 September 2021. Budget option recommendations were agreed during the workshop on the 14 September. This will inform the P & R's Committee's proposals and final budget recommendation to Council.

Members were made aware that the Indicative Budget gap for 2022/23 currently stands at £31.6m and that Officer proposals (savings/income) to bridge that gap total £24.8m. Members were advised that one of the requirements of submitting the capitalisation request to MHCLG was a 5 year balanced MTFP

Members were then informed that as at 17 March P&R Committee the gap was balanced but since then some additional pressures have emerged and some estimated savings have reduced. With all the officer proposals the current gap is now £6.8m. Some assumptions have been made which may change this gap which will not be known until later in the year

2. Key Considerations

Indicative Budget gap for 2022/23 currently stands at £31.6m.
Officer proposals (savings/income) to bridge that gap total £24.8m.
Therefore with the officer proposals, the current gap is now £6.8m.
There are a number of pressures, including an increase in multiple Levies

Members of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee Consider were asked to consider and identify any cross-cutting impact across the directorate and culminate in a 22/23 budget and identify future years budget gap.

Table 1: Future Year Savings – Neighbourhoods Directorate

Review of Neighbourhoods Directorate in 22/23
2022/23 Total Savings £150k

Future Year Pressures – Neighbourhoods Directorate

No Pressures were identified for this Committee. The pressure in relation to the Waste Levy increase was identified as a corporately and was not considered as part of the Committee workshops as it is controlled externally by Merseyside Regional Waste Authority (MRWA).

Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee Suggested Savings and income generation

Table 2: Waste and Environment

Increase in charge for ERIC collections	Income dependant on increasing in charges between £0.50 - £4.50. Benchmarking shows 4 options are feasible.
Increase in charges for schools residual bins collection	Increase in recycling has meant that income target has not been met.
Introduction of a charge for school recycling bin collection	Introduction of charge per bin. Recycling costs lower than residual waste to encourage recycling.
Increase in charges to supply new green bin	Income resulted in increase of cost of bins.
Introduction of charges to supply new grey bin- 50% of cost.	Introduce £20 charge per bin- WDF fund to subsidise grey bins is spent. Capital funds to be used instead
Increase in charges for bin repairs	Income dependant on increasing in charges.
Increase in charges for Garden Waste Bin Collection	Income dependant on increasing in charges for garden waste. Option for discount, paying by direct debit as there are long-term admin benefits

Increase in charges for additional garden waste bins collection	Income dependant on increasing charges for an extra garden waste collection.
Commercial offer tree management team	Potential for charging landowners and partners for tree inspections
Forest and eco schools offer	Potential for charging schools and other institutions for access to scheme.
2022/23 Total Waste Environment Savings – £156k - £336k	Savings dependant on options taken where impact is variable.

Table 3: 2022/23 Saving/Income Ideas – Transport & Highways

Transport services and engineering modernisation	
Highways advertisement opportunities	
Commercial offer from HoS- to businesses and residents	
Fleet efficiencies- going green	
Income opportunities in electric charging points	
Total Transport & Highways savings 22/23	£75K

Table 4: Waste & Environment and Transport & Highways– 22/23 Total Savings Summary

Waste & Environment savings 22/23	Savings dependant on options taken where impact is variable.
Transport & Highways savings 22/23	
Total Waste Environment & Highways 22/23 savings	£231k - £411k

The Director of Neighbourhood Services put forward the proposed savings and income generation for the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee with none of the options being discounted.

The Savings proposals would be developed following input from the Committee

Savings rejected by the Committee

No savings outlined in the table above were rejected by the Committee

List of Savings and Pressures to be considered further

As no savings were rejected by the Committee, all savings outlined in the table above will be put forward for consideration. Savings will be between £231K to £411K depending on which options are accepted. These savings have been identified in addition to the £150K outlined in Table 1 in relation to the review of Neighbourhoods.

3. Members questions

- During the first workshop Councillors asked for more detail on overlapping proposals and also asked for certain phrases to be expanded upon. Members also asked for any controversial decisions to be flagged early.
- Councillors also asked if officers had taken into consideration secondary impacts of proposals. For example, changes to bin collections impacting fly tipping – officers responded by saying this had been considered
- Several Councillors expressed concern around the ethics of highway advertising as well as the potential for distracting motorists. Officers took on board these comments and assured that any decisions would be subject to planning permission.
- Councillors were concerned that income generation was not substantial enough to offset residents concerns. A suggestion was made to raise charges in line with inflation rather than more intermittent price increases.
- One Councillor queried the use of Hire Vehicles and asked about the average age of the fleet. Officers said they could look at efficiencies in this area and also advised that there is a corporate saving of 1 Million Pounds on transport to meet.
- Officers asked if there was anything that was especially unpalatable to Councillors. Most Councillors agreed that they wanted to see more detail.
- During the second workshop Members were concerned about disincentivising recycling if the Authority adds any additional charges to this services.
- Councillors also queried if we charged schools for support and advice on the Climate Emergency. They suggested that this may be viable as this comes at a cost to us and it would be easier to maintain the service if we are able to charge. Officers said they would look into this and repackaging the offer, noting that schools varied greatly in their financial capacities and do buy services from the private sector.
- Also discussed was options for income generation such as dropped curbs, memorial benches and other promotional opportunities.
- One Councillor queried a review of fleet vehicles in more detail. Officers responded by saying that they look to identify vehicles which are too costly to repair. If vehicles are no longer viable financially then they are taken off the fleet. Officers are also looking at replacing the fleet with electric vehicles.

Councillors then discussed the possibility of combining services within the neighbourhood's directorate, creating a multi skilled work force.

APPENDIX 2 – BUDGET SETTING MILESTONES

MONTH	ACTIVITY
June to September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy & Resources Committee (P&R) agreed approach to budget setting (9th June 2021) • Budget workshops commenced to identify savings/income/reductions in pressures for 2022/23 (26th July 2021 onwards)
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P&R 2022/23 Pre-Budget Report (25th October) • Ongoing budget service committee workshops (leading to budget setting outcomes reports) • Chancellor’s Autumn Statement – indication of how resources to be aligned (27th October 2021)
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake generic budget consultation • P&R budget Sub-committee initiated (subject to approval) • Budget setting workshop activity - outcomes report - for consideration of Service Committees & P&R • Collation of budget proposals for potential incorporation within 2022/23 budget options
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual government finance settlement • Service Committees & P&R - Business Case Development/ Validation • P&R Committee meeting (15th December 2021)
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to P&R to provide an update on budget assumptions and the budget gap (13th January 2022)
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P&R recommend 22/23 Budget to Council (15th February 2022) • Budget Council - 2022/23 - budget approval (28th February 2022)
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget amendments - if 22/23 not approved by February full Council • Reserve Council Meeting - budget approval (7th March 2022)

NB:

Following Policy & Resources Committee on 25 October it was also agreed to include a specific proposal consultation period in January



Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee

Monday, 15th November 2021

REPORT TITLE:	BUDGET MONITORING QUARTER 2
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOODS

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the financial monitoring information for the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee as at quarter 2 (Apr – Sep) of 2021-22. The report provides Members with an overview of budget performance to enable the Committee to take ownership of their specific budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

The Committee is accountable for ensuring that the committee budgets remain 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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee is requested to;

1. Note the projected year-end revenue forecast position of £0.552m adverse, as reported at quarter 2 (Apr – Sep) of 2021-22
2. Note progress on the achievement of approved savings and the projected year end forecast position at quarter 2 (Apr – Sep) of 2021-22
3. Note the reserves allocated to the Committee for future one-off commitments.
4. Note the projected year-end capital forecast position of £2.036m favourable, as reported at quarter 2 (Apr – Sep) of 2021-22

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Regular monitoring and reporting of revenue and capital budgets, reserves, savings achievements and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) position enables decisions to be taken faster, 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

Revenue Forecast Position

- 3.1 This section provides a summary of the projected year-end revenue position as at the end of Quarter 2, Month 6 (September 2021) of 2021/22 financial year.
- 3.2 As at the end of June 21 (Quarter 2), the forecast year end position for Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport is an adverse variance of £0.551m against a budget of £66.599m
- 3.3 The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee is currently predicting an adverse variance of £0.552m as at Quarter 2. This includes the mitigation available from the Sales, Fees and Charges income loss compensation scheme.
- 3.4 As case rates within the Borough remain high, localised decisions have been taken based on Public Health advice which means some restrictions remained in place after the government road map date of 19th July. Although most services are now open at full capacity there are risks associated with this and this decision could have an adverse effect on projected income targets and some 2021/22 savings targets. This will be kept under review throughout the year and Directorate will aim to mitigate these if necessary.

TABLE 1: 2021/22 Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport – Service Budget & Forecast

	Budget	Forecast	Variance (+ Fav / - Adv)		Adv/ Fav
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Environment (including Parks and Open Spaces)	8,099	8,158	-59	-1%	Adverse
Highways Management and Infrastructure	5,771	6,646	-875	-15%	Adverse
Recycling and Waste	30,536	30,153	383	1%	Favourable
Transport Levy	22,193	22,193	0	0%	
Surplus / (Deficit)	66,599	67,150	-551	-1%	Adverse

- 3.5 **Highways and Infrastructure:** An adverse forecast variance of £0.875m is reported for 2021-22. Charging for car parking has now resumed, however as footfall is expected to be at 75% of the pre-pandemic levels this has adversely impacted income. Some income is available from the sales, fees and charges income loss compensation scheme for Quarter 1. The 2021/22 saving associated with Car Parking will not be fully achieved this year due to delays in implementation. The full year impact of the saving equates to £1.0m and consists of £0.5m relating to standardisation of fees and £0.5m relating to charges at new sites. In August 2021 the Decision Review Committee agreed to implement the savings on new sites and to report back to the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee with the outcome of the consultation on Traffic Regulation Orders.
- 3.6 The standardisation has been implemented from September, however as this has been delayed by five months this results in a forecast pressure of £0.2m. The remaining saving relating to charges at new sites will take longer to implement as it will be necessary to carry out capital works. Therefore, this element of the saving is unlikely to be realised before the end of the year. This will result in an additional forecast pressure of £0.5m. Overall pressures from car parking in 2021/22 equate to £0.7m, although it is expected that the saving will be fully achieved in 2022/23. As at Quarter 2 £0.270m of this is expected to be mitigated from income from the Sales, Fees and Charges income loss compensation scheme and from a slight increase in footfall. This will bring the projected adverse variance to £0.430m and the area will be monitored during the remainder of the year to identify further mitigation.
- 3.7 Additional adverse variances relate to Highways Management of £0.442m. This is due to increases in demand for maintenance and remedial work. The service is currently exploring other sources of funding and capitalisation opportunities to mitigate some of these costs.

- 3.8 The remaining part of the adverse variance is due to under recovery of income within the Design Team which equates to £0.150m as the service is not fully resourced. Income generating opportunities within this area are being explored to mitigate this. There are smaller overall favourable variances within other areas of Highways and Infrastructure which are assisting in mitigating the overall position.
- 3.9 **Parks & Environment:** A favourable forecast variance of £0.324m is reported for 2021-22. Income streams relating to Garden Waste Subscriptions and Parks Income were impacted by COVID-19 in 2020/21. Garden Waste has not been impacted in 2021/22 as charges for the service have return to pre pandemic levels. The service has achieved 41,000 subscribers this year. The direct debit system was implemented in 2020/21 and this has assisted in retaining existing subscribers. Overall Waste and Street Cleansing is predicting a favourable variance of £0.383m. This is due to the waste contract inflation being less than what was anticipated (£0.08m) and due to a reduction in overall expected costs to this service this year, as some costs were covered in the previous financial year (£0.3m).
- 3.10 As at Quarter 2 income from Parks is expected to be impacted by COVID-19 which has resulted in an adverse variance of £0.121m. Services relating to pitch hire have resumed, however income in relation to events has been affected which has resulted in a shortfall in income. This is mitigated in part by income from the sales, fees and charges income loss compensation scheme. However, this depends on there being no further restrictions later in the year. This will be reviewed during the year, and losses will be mitigated through favourable variances and a reduction in expenditure within other areas of Waste and Environment.
- 3.11 Regulatory Services is predicting a favourable variance of £0.063m. This is due to employees, as the service has faced challenges in recruiting and retaining staff due to current market demand because of COVID-19. There are plans to address this in the future, however this is currently assisting in mitigating the adverse variance within Parks.
- 3.12 **Transport Levy:** A balanced position is reported for 2021/22 This was budgeted based on the levy allocated to Wirral by Merseytravel for this year and is currently reporting a balanced position.

TABLE 2: 2021/22 Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport – Subjective Budget & Forecast

	Budget	Outturn	Variance (+ Fav / - Adv)		Adv/ Fav
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Income	-17,482	-17,119	-363	2%	Adverse
Expenditure:					
Employee	15,009	14,302	707	5%	Favourable
Non Pay	65,069	65,964	-895	-1%	Adverse
Cost of Care	0	0	0	0%	
Total Expenditure	80,078	80,266	-188	0%	
Surplus / (Deficit)	62,596	63,147	-551	-1%	Adverse
Support/Admin Building Overhead	4,003	4,003	0	0%	
Total Surplus/ (Deficit)	66,599	67,150	-551	-1%	Adverse

Budget Virements

- 3.13 The budget has changed from £66.549 to £66.599m between Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, representing a reduction of £0.05m. This is due to removal of an internal recharge between Car Parking and Leisure.

Budget Saving Achievement Progress

- 3.14 Within each Committee's revenue budget there are a number of savings proposals, 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.

TABLE 3: 2021/22 Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Budget Savings

Saving Title	Agreed Value	Forecast Value	RAG Rating	Comments
LED savings	£0.4m	£0.4m	Green	The 21/22 saving originated from the business case for LED replacement in 2018/19 and was the anticipated achievable saving at the time.

Additional and increased car parking charges	£1.0m	£0.953m	Red (Amber with mitigations)	The options paper to determine how the saving was to be made was presented to June Committee and this was subsequently called in. This has resulted in a part year delay. The saving will be fully achieved in 2022/23. Opportunities to mitigate this within the Directorate are still being explored. £0.3m of this saving has been achieved through flat rate fee introduction from September. A further £0.653m is mitigated. There may be some scope from income relating to the Sales, Fees and Charges income loss compensation scheme for Quarter 1 losses which will equate to approximately £185K. There is also an additional £85K as footfall has been greater than originally anticipated. An additional mitigation of £383K is available due to waste costs being less than anticipated. Opportunities to mitigate the remainder will be identified throughout the year.
Targeted and Discretionary Environmental Enforcement	£0.15m	£0.15m	Amber (Green with mitigations)	This will not be fully achieved in 2021/22 due to delays in commencement. The projected shortfall of £0.075m will be mitigated this year from reserve.
Royden Park Commercial Development	£0.08m	£0.08m	Amber (Green with mitigations)	This will not be fully achieved in 2021/22 due to delays in commencement and will be reviewed as part of the Arrowe Park Sports Village. The projected shortfall of £0.080m will be mitigated this year from reserve.
Reduction in grass cutting and	£0.25m	£0.25m	Green	The options paper to determine how the saving will be made was presented to

maintenance of verges				June Committee, resulting in a part year delay. Any shortfall this year will be mitigated through one off in year favourable variances, which have arisen whilst the Parks restructure was implemented.
Amenity space maintenance cessation	£0.1m	£0.1m	Amber (Green with mitigations)	This will be fully achieved in 2022/23 but there is a reported shortfall in 2021/22 due to some employees leaving the authority after 01/04/21. The shortfall this year will be mitigated through one off in year favourable variances, which have arisen whilst the Parks restructure was implemented.
Review of the Neighbourhood Services Directorate	£0.35m	£0.35m	Green	On target to be achieved
Contract efficiency savings with BIFFA	£0.075m	£0.075m	Green	On target to be achieved
Total	£2.41m	£2.358m		

3.15 Most savings are on track to be achieved as at Quarter 2. Car Parking is rated Amber due to delays in implementing the charges. Current projections are based on flat rate charges being implemented from September following the outcome of the Decision Review Committee. Introduction of charges at new sites will be delayed until 2022/23 as it will take time to purchase and install the ticket machines. The shortfall against this saving will be mitigated in 2021/22 through one off favourable variances across Neighbourhoods.

Earmarked Reserves

3.16 Earmarked reserves are amounts set aside for a specific purpose or projects.

TABLE 4: 2021/22 Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport – Earmarked Reserves

Reserve	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Health & Safety Flood Prevention	-455			-455
Parks Tree Maintenance	-374	374		0
Environmental Health	-300			-300
Climate Emergency	-100			-100

Litter Enforcement - development of initiatives	-49	34		-15
Weed Spraying : Mitigate against additional costs	-41			-41
Coastal Protection	-35	35		0
Environmental Health F.S.A. Backlog	-28			-28
Trading Standards	-25			-25
Health & Safety Armed Forces Welfare Pathway	-14			-14
BikeSafe	-10			-10
Repairs & Maintenance upgrades on Public Conveniences	-8			-8
LAMPS to Concerto system replacement	-2			-2
Total	-1,441	443	0	-998

3.17 At Quarter 2 reserves Parks and in Environment are expected to be fully utilised in 2021/22. This relates to funding for Tree Maintenance works that are projected in addition to the revenue budget available. Reserves are also projected to be utilised in relation to Litter Enforcement and Coastal Protection.

Capital Forecast Position

3.18 Capital budgets are the monies allocated for spend on providing or improving non-current assets, which include land, buildings and equipment, which will be of use or benefit in providing services for more than one financial year.

TABLE 5: 2021/22 Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport – Capital Budget and Forecast

Capital Programme	2021/22			2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	Budget £000	Forecast £000	Variance £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000
Buildings	900	450	450	450	0	0	0
CCTV	0	233	-233	0	0	0	0
Flood Prevention	7,727	3,497	4,230	4,330	0	0	0
Parks	5,591	3,541	2,050	3,645	0	0	0
Roads and Bridges	5,449	8,449	-3,000	477	0	0	0
Street Lighting	4,067	5,385	-1,318	182	0	0	0
Travel and Transport	3,013	3,363	-350	2,080	0	0	0
Tree Strategy	640	433	207	264	34	0	0
Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	27,387	25,351	2,036	11,428	34	0	0

3.19 Table 5 summarises the forecast expenditure against Capital Budgets. A full breakdown of each Capital Scheme with details can be found in Appendix A. The forecast favourable variance of £2.036m is due to several schemes relating to Flood Prevention and Parks. This is due to expenditure being slipped into future years due to delays in commencement. In addition to this, there are adverse variances reported against Street Lighting (£1.318m) and Roads and Bridges (£3.000m) which are grant funded.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This is the revenue budget monitoring report that provides information on the forecast outturn for the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee for 2021/22. The Council has robust methods for reporting and forecasting budgets in place and alongside formal Quarterly reporting to the 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 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.

5.2 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.

5.3 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.

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.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The themes in the Wirral Plan were initially informed by stakeholder engagement carried out in 2019, as part of the development of the Wirral Plan 2025. These themes have remained the same, however further engagement has been sought over the past year aligned to the refreshed Wirral Plan 2021 - 2026 to ensure social and economic changes as a result of the pandemic and other factors are reflected.

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 specifically from this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Wirral Plan includes five themed areas. One of which is focused on creating a 'Sustainable Environment', which outlines our ambitions and priorities for tackling the climate emergency. These are based on developing and delivering action plans that will improve the environment for Wirral residents. The performance report will include information on key areas where environment and climate related outcomes are delivered.
- 10.2 No direct implications. The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on emissions of Greenhouse Gases.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 This report has no direct community wealth implications however, when Council budgets are set they take account of related matters across headings such as the following:
- **Progressive Procurement and Social Value**
How we commission and procure goods and services. Encouraging contractors to deliver more benefits for the local area, such as good jobs, apprenticeship, training & skills opportunities, real living wage, minimising their environmental impact, and greater wellbeing.
 - **More local & community ownership of the economy**

Supporting more cooperatives and community businesses.
 Enabling greater opportunities for local businesses.
 Building on the experience of partnership working with voluntary, community and faith groups during the pandemic to further develop this sector.

- **Decent and Fair Employment**
 Paying all employees a fair and reasonable wage.
- **Making wealth work for local places**

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APPENDICES

Appendix A – Detailed breakdown of Capital Schemes

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 2021/22 BUDGET MONITORING AND 22/23 BUDGET PROCESS
- P&R Budget Monitoring 2021/22 Quarter 2

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee	22 October 2020
Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee	3 December 2020
Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee	1 February 2021
Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee	16 March 2021
Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee	14 June 2021
Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee	7 September 2021

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Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee
Monday 15th September 2021

REPORT TITLE:	BUDGET MONITORING QUARTER 2
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOODS

Appendix A – Breakdown of Capital Expenditure

Areas	Scheme	Budget at 01.04.21 £000	Forecast Outturn £000 2021/22	Variance £000 2021/22	Budget £000 2022/23	Budget £000 2023/24	Budget £000 2024/25
Buildings	Energy efficient buildings	900	450	450	450	0	0
CCTV	Removal of remaining analogue CCTV circuits	0	233	-233	0	0	0
Flood Prevention	Coastal Defence - Meols Feasibility Study	0	100	-100	0	0	0
	Connecting Wirral Waters: Detailed Design	610	610	0	0	0	0
	Coronation Park Sustainable Drainage	182	182	0	0	0	0
	Moreton Sandbrook Drainage	440	440	0	0	0	0
	Quick Win Levy 16-17	45	45	0	0	0	0
	SUD - Leasowe to Seacombe Corridor	1,141	150	991	991	0	0

	Surface Water Management Scheme	90	90	0	0	0	0
	West Kirby Flood alleviation	5,139	1,800	3,339	3,339	0	0
	Woodchurch Rd Drainage	80	80	0	0	0	0
Parks	Allotment Sites Expansion	127	127	0	0	0	0
	Arrowe Country Park - New Machine Shed & Wash Bay	186	186	0	0	0	0
	Arrowe Country Park Depot: Re-Surfacing, Material Bays & Electronic Entrance Barrier	40	40	0	0	0	0
	Beach Cleaning - Replacement of equipment	122	122	0	0	0	0
	Birkenhead Park Depot Resurfacing	30	30	0	0	0	0
	Birkenhead Park Event Infrastructure	164	0	164	164	0	0
	Birkenhead Park World Heritage Project Team	85	85	0	0	0	0
	Cemetery Extension & Improvements (Frankby)	171	171	0	0	0	0
	Central Park Compound	180	0	180	0	0	0
	Landican Chapels	71	119	-48	0	0	0
	Mersey PK & Ilchester Parks improvements-P&C 19-20	4	4	0	0	0	0
	New Ferry Rangers Community Clubhouse	872	922	-50	0	0	0
	North Wirral Coastal Park	40	0	40	0	0	0
	Parks and Countryside DDA	455	25	430	430	0	0
	Parks Machinery	1,383	552	831	2,083	0	0
	Parks Vehicles	571	250	321	821	0	0
	Play Area Improvements	467	467	0	0	0	0
	Plymyard Cemetery Welfare & Storage	75	0	75	0	0	0

	Plymyard Playing Field	147	0	147	147	0	0
	Washdown Facilities	57	97	-40	0	0	0
	West Kirby Marine Lake Study	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Wirral Country Park Car Park Surfacing	210	210	0	0	0	0
	Wirral Way Widening	134	134	0	0	0	0
Roads and Bridges							
	Aids to Navigation	40	40	0	0	0	0
	Bridges-Lingham Lane Bridge	350	350	0	0	0	0
	Bridges-Network rail	401	401	0	0	0	0
	Dock Bridges replacement	517	517	0	0	0	0
	Highway Maintenance	773	4,313	-3,540	0	0	0
	Highways Asset Management System - procurement of integrated asset management system	133	133	0	0	0	0
	Key Route Network	88	88	0	0	0	0
	Key Route Network (LGF3) - Operate Key Roads / Routes Efficiently	361	361	0	0	0	0
	Key Route Network 21/22	0	537	-537	0	0	0
	Lyndale Ave Parking & Safety Measures	150	150	0	0	0	0
	Major Infrastructure Development & Strategic Transport Forward Planning - Traffic Management	462	200	262	262	0	0
	Modernisation of CCTV System	170	170	0	0	0	0
	Monks Ferry Slipway	40	40	0	0	0	0
	New cycle infrastructure	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0
	Northbank West Cycle Scheme	0	0	0			
	Onstreet Residential Chargepoint Scheme	102	102	0	0	0	0

	TAG Bus Case-A41 Corridor North	265	50	215	215	0	0
	TAG Bus Case-Wirral Waters outline	131	131	0	0	0	0
	Tower Road National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) - ease congestion / upgrade national or local networks	134	534	-400	0	0	0
	Town Link Viaduct	332	332	0	0	0	0
Street Lighting	Street Lighting Column - Replacement or Upgrade	3,703	5,203	-1,500	0	0	0
	Street Lighting -Illuminated Lighting and Signage	364	182	182	182	0	0
Travel and Transport	Active Travel Tranche 1	188	188	0	0	0	0
	Active Travel Tranche 2	681	681	0	1,000	0	0
	Combined Authority Transport Plan (CATP)	1,509	1,659	-150	1,000	0	0
	Depot Welfare Improvements	0	200	-200	80	0	0
	Green Travel Corridors Sustainable Urban Development	0	0	0	0	0	0
	STEP	625	625	0	0	0	0
	Thermal mapping	10	10	0	0	0	0
Tree Strategy	Tree Strategy	115	115	0	57	34	0
	Urban Tree Challenge Fund	525	318	207	207	0	0
Waste	Wheelie Bin Purchase	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total		27,387	25,351	2,036	11,428	34	0



ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Monday 15 November 2021

REPORT TITLE:	ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport 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 Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are invited to note and comment on the proposed Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee work programme 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 Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport 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 Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee has responsibility for parks and open spaces, highways management and infrastructure, coastal protection and flood defence and environment and waste matters. It is the Committee that leads on behalf of the Council in responding to and matters concerning the Climate Emergency.

The Committee is charged by full Council to undertake responsibility for the Council's role and functions:

- (a) in co-ordinating the response to cross-cutting sustainability issues such as reducing carbon emissions, climate change response, improving resource efficiency and developing sustainable energy;
- (b) in relation to all highways matters and as highway authority, street authority, bridge authority, including but not limited to public open spaces, street furniture on the highway and open spaces or parts of open spaces immediately adjacent to the highway;
- (c) in relation to traffic management and transport and as traffic authority, including but not limited to public passenger transport and the co-ordination of transport for service users, traffic orders and rights of way issues;

- (d) in relation to parking, including on and off-street parking and civil parking enforcement;
- (e) in respect of parks, open spaces, countryside management, allotments, playgrounds and cemeteries, including arboricultural, gardening and warden services;
- (f) in relation to the management of authorised and unauthorised sites and encampments, this to include all activities necessary or incidental to the Council's performance of its responsibilities in relation to Gypsies, Roma and Travellers;
- (g) in relation to waste and as waste collection authority, litter authority, including but not limited to dealing with litter, street cleansing, abandoned vehicles and dog fouling, and the Council's relationship with Merseyside Recycling & Waste Authority (MRWA) as the joint waste disposal authority;
- (h) as coast protection authority and lead local flood authority;
- (i) in respect of emergency planning and community resilience (infrastructure and contract services);
- (j) providing a view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management in relation to the Committee's functions; and 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.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no direct implications as a result of this report.

REPORT AUTHOR:

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APPENDICES Appendix 1: Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee Work Plan

BACKGROUND PAPERS

<http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13641&path=0>

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years) Council Meeting Date

Council Meeting	Date
Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee	22 nd October 2020
	3 rd December 2021
	1 st February 2021

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ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

Contact Officer/s: Mike Jones
Anna Perrett

NOVEMBER AGENDA FOR ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

Item	Key Decision	Lead Departmental Officer	P&R referral Yes/No
Acceptance of Tenders and Award of Contracts – Highway Services	Yes	Simon Fox	No
West Kirby flood alleviation – award of contract for construction phase	Yes	Neil Thomas	No
Public Health Annual Report	No	Julie Webster	No
Q2 Budget Monitoring	No	Sarah Cox	No
Budget Report	No	Sarah Cox	No

Work Programme Update	No	Anna Perrett	No
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KEY DECISIONS – On forward plan to be scheduled

Item	Key Decision Yes/No	Lead Departmental Officer	Wirral Plan Priority
Highway 'A' contracts tender acceptance	Yes	Simon Fox	Sustainable Environment
Dog Control PSPO Dog Fouling Strategy	Yes	Mark Cockburn/Clare Brandwood	Sustainable Environment
West Kirby Flood alleviation	Yes	Colin Clayton/Neil Thomas	Sustainable Environment
Wallasey Embankment Reinforcement	Yes	Colin Clayton/Neil Thomas	Sustainable Environment
Allotment Strategy	Yes	Matthew Humble	Sustainable Environment
Acceptance of Tenders for Civil and Highways Consultancy Support 2021/23	Yes	Simon Fox	Sustainable Environment
Tender Acceptance and Design Approval of Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) Green Travel Corridor Phase 5 - Beaufort Road /	Yes	Simon Fox	Sustainable Environment

Wallasey Bridge Road Key			
Winter Maintenance Plan 2021/22	Yes	Simon Fox	Sustainable Environment
Environmental Crime Strategy	Yes	Mike Cockburn	Sustainable Environment
Waste Strategy	Yes	Mike Cockburn	Sustainable Environment

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS – WAITING TO BE SCHEDULED

Item	Approximate timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
Marine Lake Update	2021/22	Colin Clayton
Pollinators update	Jan 2022	Colin Clayton
Tree Management and Inspection Update	Jan /22	Colin Clayton
Flooding Update	2021/22	Neil Thomas

STANDING ITEMS AND MONITORING REPORTS

Item	Reporting Frequency	Lead Departmental Officer
Budget Monitoring	Every Cycle	Sarah Cox
Performance dashboard	Commencing Oct 2022	Nicki Butterworth
Carbon Budget Performance Report	Annually in June	Andrew Snow

WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE COMMITTEE

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress
Working Groups/ Sub Committees				
Car Parking Charges	Working Group	Nov 2020	Simon Fox	Completed
Road Safety	Working Group	Jan-Feb 2021	Simon Fox	Complete

Hoylake Beach	Working Group	Feb 2021	Colin Clayton/Neil Thomas	Completed
Climate Emergency	Working Group	December 2020	Mike Cockburn	Completed
Active Travel	Working group	December 2021	Julie Barnes	Ongoing
Roadside Maintenance Working group	Working Group	Early 2022	Mike Cockburn	TBC
Tree Maintenance Working Group	Working group	Early 2022	Mike Cockburn	TBC
Task and Finish work				
Allotment provision Task & Finish	Workshop and Report	October 2020	Alex Davidson	Complete
Referral From Council				
Motion - Protecting Residents from Flood Risks	TBC			
Motion – Equal Pavement Pledge	TBC			