



## Housing Committee

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Tuesday, 19 October 2021</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>6.00 p.m.</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Floral Pavilion, New Brighton</b>

Members of the public are encouraged to view the meeting via the webcast (see below), but for anyone who would like to attend in person, seating is limited therefore please contact us in advance of the meeting if you would like to reserve a seat. All those attending will be asked to wear a face covering (unless exempt) and are encouraged to take a Lateral Flow Test before attending. You should not attend if you have tested positive for Coronavirus or if you have any symptoms of Coronavirus.

Wirral Council is fully committed to equalities and our obligations under The Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty. If you have any adjustments that would help you attend or participate at this meeting, please let us know as soon as possible and we would be happy to facilitate where possible. Please contact [committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk)

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

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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 interests 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 - 4)**

To approve the accuracy of the minutes held on 10 March 2021.

**5. PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

**5a Public Questions**

Notice of questions to be given in writing or by email, by 12 noon, Thursday 14 October 2021 to the Council's Monitoring Officer ([committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk)) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 10.

For more information on how your personal information will be used, please see this link:

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**5b Statements and Petitions**

Notice of representations to be given in writing or by email, by 12 noon, Thursday 14 October 2021 to the Council's Monitoring Officer ([committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk) in advance of the meeting.

**5c 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. WIRRAL PLAN DELIVERY PLANS (Pages 5 - 18)**

**SECTION B - BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

**7. 2020/21 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN (Pages 19 - 24)**

**8. 2021/22 BUDGET MONITORING AND 22/23 BUDGET PROCESS (Pages 25 - 40)**

**9. QUARTER 1 MONITOR REPORT (Pages 41 - 48)**

## **SECTION C - REVIEWS / REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

- 10. HOUSING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (Pages 49 - 56)**

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## HOUSING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 10 March 2021  
18:00 to 18:55

Present: Councillor J McManus (Chair)

Councillors	A Brame	J Johnson
	J Bird	J Robinson
	H Cameron	M Sullivan
	G Davies	S Whittingham
	I Lewis	

Apologies Councillor P Hayes

### 1 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

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

### 2 **APOLOGIES**

The Chair announced that apologies had been received by Councillor Paul Hayes, and Councillor Helen Cameron was deputising for him.

### 3 **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members of the Committee were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests, in connection with any item on the agenda, and to state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

### 4 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Housing Committee held on 27 January 2021 be approved and adopted as a correct record.**

### 5 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

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

## 6 **PROPOSAL TO ACQUIRE UNITS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING USE**

Members resolved that the Appendix 1 to agenda item 6 (Proposal to acquire units for Affordable Housing Use) contained exempt information relating to the financial and business affairs of the Council and other persons of a commercially sensitive nature, as defined by paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and that it would be treated as confidential information items during their public consideration by members.

Alan Evans, Director of Regeneration and Place, introduced a report on a proposal to acquire six new properties which would be used to enable the Council to use these properties for those in most need. Under this proposal the Council would add to the existing rental income generated from the Council's current housing stock.

It was noted that as another option for consideration, the Council could allocate funding secured through commuted sums and the Better Care Fund to Registered Providers to support the strategic delivery of these six units as new social sector homes for social rent but would still need to provide some level of funding to enable the homes to be let at social rents. However the Registered Provider would retain ownership of the units and so the Council would not receive any rental income from these units to support the long-term financial plan.

Members commented on the report and thanked the Director of Regeneration and Place and the team involved for the work they had done.

**RESOLVED – That Housing Committee requests that Policy and Resources Committee approves the following recommendations:**

- (1) The Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Place, be authorised to negotiate the acquisition of six new social rented housing properties from Lovell Partnerships Ltd and to finalise all necessary associated legal documentation;**
- (2) The Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to enter into negotiations with Lovell Partnerships Ltd to negotiate an enhanced energy efficiency specification which may include the installation of solar photovoltaics for such properties.**

**7      2020/21 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING FOR  
QUARTER THREE (APR - DEC)**

Karen Page, Senior Finance Business Partner, introduced the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place that provided a summary of the projected year-end revenue and capital position for Housing Committee as at the end of Quarter 3 of the 2020/21 financial year.

The report noted that the overall financial position of the Council remained challenging, and that a number of actions were in progress to mitigate the overall forecast position presented at Quarter 3, including limited spending to essential areas of service delivery only, with Corporate Directors supported to mitigate the risk of overspending.

**RESOLVED – that:**

- (1)      the favourable year-end forecast position presented at Quarter 3 of £0.234m be noted; and**
- (2)      the impact of funding and expenditure as a direct consequence of Covid-19, including the additional funding sources which have been identified, but as yet, not received, be noted.**

**8      LETTER FROM MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES & LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT**

The Chair noted that a letter had been sent to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on 13 November 2020, signed by the Chair and Conservative and Liberal Democrat Spokespersons of the Housing Committee regarding Leaseholder Reform. A response was received on 4 February 2021.

The Chair noted that since sending the letter, an all party Parliamentary group had been set up and that she had also written to this group and would update members when a response was received.

Members noted that the response from MHCLG was disappointing in that it did not fully address the position of current occupants of leasehold properties. The consensus of the meeting was that a further response should be sent to the MHCLG.

**RESOLVED – That:**

- (1)      the letter from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government be noted; and**
- (2)      the Chair of the Committee be authorised to provide a response to the MHCLG expressing the Committee's thoughts on the matter.**

## 9 HOUSING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

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

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

The report provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

The director of Regeneration and Place noted that a workshop needed to be set-up before the end of the municipal year to discuss the budget saving proposal. The Chair agreed that Party Spokespersons and Cllr Davies would attend the workshop.

**RESOLVED – That the Housing Committee Work Programme for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year be noted.**





## HOUSING COMMITTEE

19 October 2021

REPORT TITLE:	THE WIRRAL PLAN 2021-2026 DRAFT DELIVERY PLANS
REPORT OF:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE

### REPORT SUMMARY

This report presents The Wirral Plan 2021-26 Draft Delivery Plans. The Plans were approved at Council on 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

For completeness, a full set of the draft Delivery Plans is attached in Appendix 1. Members of the Housing Committee are asked to comment on the specific thematic priorities that fall within the remit of this Committee.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

Housing Committee is recommended to:

Consider and comment on the draft Delivery Plans, as they relate to Housing Committee set out in Appendix 1 to this report;

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 The Wirral Plan is a key policy document for the Borough, and drives the high level priorities, ambition, and key deliverables for the organisation. The Plan reflects what people have told us is important to them and will be used to help all staff understand their role in helping to deliver our corporate priorities.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 The Wirral Plan is a key policy document and is vital for the Council's planning and development in the coming years. Council on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 referred the draft Delivery Plans to Committees for further consideration, hence the report.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Wirral Plan provides the policy framework for Council activity in the coming year. Underpinning the Wirral Plan are a suite of draft Delivery Plans which have been developed to set out in-year actions as well some medium-term aims. Delivery Plans will need to align with the achievement of in-year budget efficiencies, be cognisant of budget planning for 2022/23 and the Council's emerging Change Programme.
- 3.2 Council on 6<sup>th</sup> September agreed that further consideration of the draft Delivery Plans would take place with relevant Committees to further shape the Delivery Plans and work programmes required to implement the Wirral Plan.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Wirral Plan is designed to align with and inform the budget setting process for the next five years.

### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Legal implications relating to the actions set out in the Wirral Plan will be addressed by directorates as appropriate.

### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 The Wirral Plan is a key strategic document to determine Council business planning and delivery resources.

### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 The Corporate Risk Register is being refreshed in line with the new Wirral Plan to ensure that any risks to delivery are understood and mitigating actions are put in place as appropriate.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

The Wirral Plan reflects what people have told us is important. Ongoing engagement will continue with staff, residents, businesses and partners as part of a collaborative approach to implementing the Plan.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The fundamental purpose and core of the Wirral Plan is to tackle inequalities and improve equity for all our residents. It will address the existing socio-economic and health inequalities in the Borough, to do things differently and make a fairer, more inclusive Wirral. Equality Impact Assessments will be carried out as the priorities within the Plan are implemented.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The Wirral Plan reflects the Council's strong commitment to improve the environment, with clear actions to address environment and climate emergency.

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 Wirral has some stark economic, social and health inequalities. The Wirral Plan is committed to addressing this – by shaping an economy that benefits all of our residents and one which keeps money within Wirral; a prosperous, inclusive economy where local people can get good jobs and achieve their aspirations. With Community Wealth Building at its heart, the Wirral Plan sets out how to tackle this and makes a major contribution to improving the economic, social and health outcomes of the borough.

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## **APPENDIX**

Appendix 1: The Wirral Draft Delivery Plans

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The Wirral Plan 2021-2026

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Council	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
Policy and Resources Committee	28 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
Council	6 <sup>th</sup> September 2021

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#### AIM

#### A THRIVING AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, CREATING JOBS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL.

	Summary	Projects & Initiatives	What we will deliver this year	Timescales	Delivery	How we will demonstrate progress
1. Local Plan	Delivering the Local Plan and addressing Housing needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Plan</li> <li>Affordable Homes</li> </ul>	Publish the Reg 19 for consultation	Autumn 21	Led by the Regeneration and Place Directorate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reg 19 published</li> <li>Local Plan published</li> <li>Housing schemes in pre-app/in planning/ consented/in construction.</li> <li>Annual monitoring report to ensure 5-year housing land supply on track</li> </ul>
			Submit Local Plan for Examination	Winter 21		
			Establish 5 Year Housing Supply	Autumn 21		
2. Economic Strategy	Ensuring the council plays an active and effective role alongside all partners to shape and achieve “good growth” for Wirral; creating great places for people to live, work, learn and enjoy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of Economic Strategy 2026</li> <li>Town Centres/High Streets</li> <li>Employment &amp; Skills</li> <li>Business Support &amp; Inward Investment</li> <li>Social Regeneration &amp; Community Wealth</li> </ul>	Consult and finalise the Economic Strategy 2026.	Autumn	Partnership working between the Council, Wirral Chamber of Commerce, and the Liverpool City Region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish the Economic Strategy 2026</li> <li>Secure New Contract for Wirral Business Support Service</li> <li>No. of business supported.</li> <li>Value of support (£s)</li> <li>Kickstart placements available and filled.</li> <li>Number engaged in the Ways to Work Programme and number of positive outcomes achieved.</li> </ul> <p>Note: Measures will be reviewed on completion of the Economic Strategy.</p>
			Ensure continuous delivery of a Wirral Business Support Service.	September 2021		
			Support business resilience through the provision of strategic financial support	Ongoing		
			Deliver the Kickstart scheme to create 6-month work placements aimed at those aged 16 to 24 on Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment.	Jan 2022		
			Deliver the Ways to Work Programme to support residents to access employment opportunities.	June 2023		
			Review at finalisation of Economic Strategy point to provide a catch all for other prime and/or new ES projects activities.	October 2021		
3. Birkenhead 2040 Framework	Ensuring the Council accesses and secures a range of funding streams to deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Centre Commercial Business District</li> <li>Hind Street</li> <li>Green Corridor</li> <li>Wirral Waters</li> </ul>	Approve Birkenhead 2040 and its supporting area-based Neighbourhood Frameworks.	TBA	Regeneration and Place Directorate are leading, collaboration partnership with site owners and developers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption of Final Framework</li> <li>Funding secured from public/private sources.</li> <li>schemes in pre-app/ in planning/ consented/in construction</li> </ul>

	projects for Birkenhead's regeneration.		Develop business cases to secure funding through Town Deal in Birkenhead.			SMART measure to be included on adoption of WP
			Deliver the Future High Streets Programme in Birkenhead and New Ferry.			
4. Regeneration Enabling Strategies	Strategies that enable the delivery of regeneration ambitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culture</li> <li>• Heritage</li> <li>• New Homes</li> <li>• Low Carbon</li> <li>• Visitor Economy</li> </ul>	Develop a Wirral Culture and Heritage Strategy to enhance and promote our heritage offer and explore ways to embed cultural/visitor economy opportunities into our regeneration programme	Summer 2021	Regeneration & Place Directorate in partnership with LCR and partners locally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Published Wirral Culture and Heritage Strategy (delivery measures to be reviewed on completion of strategy)</li> <li>• New district heating infrastructure – Stage's TBC</li> <li>• Publication of Design Guide</li> <li>• Increase in number and size of Wirral business conferences.</li> <li>• Increased overnight and day visitor numbers to Wirral, from April 2022.</li> </ul>
			Work with strategic partners to secure funding to improve the energy efficiency of buildings	Ongoing		
			Develop design codes for key regeneration areas, to ensure that all new development is of a consistently high design standard	Ongoing		
			New homes with low carbon/net zero targets planned or in construction	Ongoing		
			Visitor Economy Actions: In partnership with LCR, develop a business conferencing strategy, and Funded Destination Marketing plan	October 2021/ January 2022		
5. Housing	Increase affordable housing provision within the Borough through enabling and partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable Housing and Shared Ownership Programme</li> <li>• Planning Policy</li> </ul>	In 2021/22 700 units to commence on site works with 400 units to be completed	Regeneration and Place in collaboration with Registered Partners	March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable Housing and Shared Ownership Programme</li> <li>• Planning Policy</li> </ul>
	Prevent and Relieve Homelessness and Reduce numbers of rough sleepers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homelessness Strategy and Rough Sleeping Action Plan</li> <li>• Move On Accommodation Plan</li> </ul>	Deliver Wirral's agreed Move On Plan with MCHLG for those people who were accommodated into emergency temporary accommodation during the pandemic - Reduction to zero of those living in temporary accommodation during the lockdown period	Regeneration and Place Directorate in collaboration with partners	December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homelessness Strategy and Rough Sleeping Action Plan</li> <li>• Move On Accommodation Plan</li> </ul>

## AIM

ACTIVE AND HEALTHY LIVES FOR ALL, WITH THE RIGHT CARE, AT THE RIGHT TIME TO ENABLE RESIDENTS TO LIVE LONGER AND HEALTHIER LIVES.

	Summary	Projects & Initiatives	What we will deliver this year	Timescales	Delivery	How we will demonstrate progress
1. Covid Outbreak Prevention and Management	Covid Outbreak Prevention and Management – Informing the Wirral for ‘living with Covid’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outbreak Management Plan</li> </ul>	Lead the strategic and operational Outbreak Management Plan and adapt/respond to Government guidance.	Ongoing	Outbreak Management Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wirral Plan 2025 refresh is set in the context of living with Covid.</li> <li>Enquiries are answered.</li> </ul>
			Inform the refresh of the Wirral Plan 2025 for ‘living with Covid’.	Early 2021		
2. Healthy Wirral Key Improvement Programme and drive forward the Health Inequalities Strategy	Tackling health inequalities and improving life chances through...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health Inequalities Strategy</li> <li>Leisure Strategy</li> <li>Prevention Programme</li> </ul>	Launch the Health Inequalities Strategy	April 2021	Health and Wellbeing Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced health inequalities and a range of ‘health’ measures (TBC)</li> <li>Savings / efficiencies</li> <li>Customer / Resident feedback and insight</li> </ul>
			Build the ‘early help’ offer to support vulnerable families and communities.	April 2021	Children’s Partnership Board to lead this work with a range of directorates and partners	
3. Delivery of 5 core projects	Supporting people to live fulfilling lives and have good mental health and emotional wellbeing whilst reducing the cost of care by having better conversations and promoting independence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New adult social care model (Three conversations)</li> <li>Smarter homes, assistive technology and extracare housing.</li> <li>Out of hospital pathways review</li> <li>Online Care and Financial Assessment.</li> <li>Wirral Evolutions review</li> </ul>	1. Care and Support Review-to trial new ways of working with people to provide a more personalised response.	April 2022	Working with Partners For Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater independence evidenced by reduced cost of care and reduced residential placements, increased community support.</li> <li>Reduction in care charge arrears (PFU)</li> <li>Increased responsiveness to care enquiries in innovation sites.</li> <li>Positive feedback from service users</li> <li>Improved performance in supporting people home from hospital.</li> <li>Increased number of people living in extracare housing.</li> </ul>
			2. Assistive Technology Plan-implement a range of technology and digital options to assist people to remain healthy and independent. An increased range of extracare housing.	By April 2022	Partnership with NHS Community Trust	
			3. Review and improve the support offer to people at risk of needing hospital care or who are being discharged from hospital.	Nov 2021	Partnership with NHS Cheshire and Wirral Partnership	
			4. Online Care and Financial Self-Assessments- to encourage more people to adopt the online service offer.	April 2022	Partnership with Wirral CCG	
			5. To work with Wirral Evolutions on an implementation plan for service development.	April 2022	Delivered through the Change Programme.	

# WIRRAL THEME DELIVERY PLAN – BRIGHTER FUTURES

LEAD COMMITTEE

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE

## AIM

BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR ALL REGARDLESS OF THEIR BACKGROUND.

	Summary	Projects & Initiatives	What we will deliver this year	Timescales	Delivery	How we will demonstrate progress
1. Transformational Partnership Accommodation Programme	Significantly improving the residential offer for children looked after and care leavers to improve outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership Accommodation Programme</li> <li>Residential homes</li> <li>Care Leavers Hub 'My Space'</li> </ul>	Establish a 6-bedded residential home as part of an extension of the Willowtree Short break service for Children Looked After with disabilities.	August/September 2021	Children's Services in partnership with - directorate with Finance, Major Projects, HR and Assets  Delivered through the Change Programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced demand/cost – e.g., looked after children</li> <li>Improved OFSTED rating.</li> <li>Increase in 'in-borough' placements.</li> <li>Reduction in children admission to Tier 4 mental health provision</li> <li>Improved emotional wellbeing and support for Care Leavers.</li> </ul>
			Launch the My Space Care Leaver Hub creating a new and dynamic accessible space for Care Leavers, with access to drop in help and services as and when they need it	October 2021		
			Acquire property through NHS England funding to develop a new three bedded specialist service to support and prevent children going into Tier 4 mental health provision	September 2021		
2. Prevention and Early Intervention Programmes	Ensuring all children and families in the borough receive the right help at the right time to enable them and their families to develop resilience to face future life challenges independently.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevention Framework and Breaking the Cycle programme</li> <li>Early Help Model</li> <li>Youth Offer</li> </ul>	Council adoption of the Prevention Framework and establishment of the Breaking the Cycle programme, encapsulating 8 core projects including: PAUSE, Cradle to Career, DRIVE with outcomes	June 2021 (Council adoption)  3-year programme to 2023	Children's Services in partnership with Adult's Services and wider corporate partners.  Delivered through the Change Programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved outcomes for children and families.</li> <li>Reduced demand/cost</li> <li>Reduction in prevalence of domestic abuse</li> <li>Improved co-ordination and collaboration in tackling perpetrators</li> <li>Reduction in Section 47 enquiries (Child Protection)</li> <li>Prevention of children becoming looked after</li> </ul>
			Implement the Youth Offer redesign in line with the neighbourhood model to ensure equity of access for all children and young people	January 2022		
			Continue to deliver the new early help model through the design of a new self-help digital tool for families.	April 2022		
			Feasibility study on delivering a neighbourhood/place-based model work continuously with health, adults, schools to maximise effectiveness.	December 2021		
3. School Improvement & Sufficiency Strategy	Ensuring that our education provision and offer is fit for purpose, inclusive and enables children to achieve their full potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School's review</li> <li>SEND Strategy</li> <li>Pathways - children to adult's services</li> <li>Apprenticeships Strategy</li> <li>Three conversations approach</li> </ul>	Complete Phase 1 of the Pupil Place Planning Strategy focussed on Birkenhead to address demand and surplus of school places where this is required.	June 2022	Children's Services in partnership with Assets and wider corporate partners.  Some elements will be delivered through the Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved educational attainment.</li> <li>Improved outcomes for children with SEND, including increased participation in employment, reduced school exclusions, increase in number of children attending mainstream settings and increased participation in</li> </ul>
			School Improvement Strategy to raise aspirations and improve outcomes for all Wirral children by creating a culture of high support and high challenge.	September 2021		



			SEND Inclusion review to look at the ways in which we can maximise the long-term life chances of children with SEND through understanding how they can better be included in local schooling to maximise opportunities and life chances.	September 2021	Programme.	<p>education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in children’s needs met at an earlier stage. Improve the percentage of education, health and care plans (EHCP) that are completed within the statutory timeline of 20 weeks.</li> </ul>
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## AIM

A CLEAN-ENERGY, SUSTAINABLE BOROUGH, LEADING THE WAY IN TACKLING THE ENVIRONMENT CRISIS.

	Summary	Projects & Initiatives	What we will deliver this year	Timescales	Delivery	How we will demonstrate progress
1. Drive forward the Climate Emergency agenda	Working for a sustainable environment that leads the way in its response to the environment and climate emergency and is environmentally friendly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cool Wirral2 Climate Change Strategy</li> <li>Environment &amp; Climate Emergency Policy and Action Plan</li> <li>Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Strategy</li> </ul>	Plant and establish over 21,000 trees. Delivery of the Pollinators Plan Establish an action plan for the Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy	During 2021 - 2022	Cool Wirral Partnership  Climate Emergency Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced CO2 from Council operations</li> </ul>
			Secure green sustainable energy for the Council's energy requirements.	During 2021 - 2022	Environment & Climate Emergency Action Group	
			Re-establish the Council's carbon budget and reporting process.	During 2021 - 2022	Delivered through the Change Programme.	
2. Implementation of major capital infrastructure investment which supports Wirral's Highways & Infrastructure (cross-cutting with Safe & Pleasant Communities)	Ensure Wirral's infrastructure is sustainable for the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highways Asset Management Strategy &amp; Policy</li> <li>Lifecycle Programmes</li> <li>Street Light Policy</li> <li>Tree Woodland and Hedgerow Strategy</li> <li>Invest to Save Programme</li> <li>Deliver the commitments of the Environment &amp; Climate Emergency Policy</li> </ul>	Progress the major LED replacement scheme which will have replaced an additional 26,000 Street Lights with LEDs and around 9,200 lighting columns.	Throughout 2021 – Work to be completed by early 2022	Neighbourhood and Delivery Directorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of LED streetlight replacements in Wirral by 2022.</li> <li>Reduction of costs and savings - energy costs and carbon tax when the streetlight upgrade is completed.</li> <li>Number of trees planted and established per year.</li> <li>Number of trees felled for safety purposes.</li> <li>Carbon off set from sequestration.</li> <li>Council's carbon budget</li> <li>Number of Council members and officers trained to gain carbon literacy</li> </ul>
			Tree Woodland & Hedgerow Strategy delivery, planting 21,000 trees per year over the next 10 years. Since March 2020 over 24,000 trees have been planted, exceeding the first-year target.	Ongoing throughout the next 10-year tree planting programme, annual target of planting 21,000 trees.		
			Establishment of the Council's environment and climate emergency action plan, driven by an action group of senior officers.			
			Gain carbon literacy organisation status. Delivery of the Highways Asset Management strategy and lifecycle programmes	Throughout 2021/2022		
3. Safer, Sustainable Transport	Embedding active travel solutions and local cycling and walking	Active Travel	Support the LCRCa to develop the business case for the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), segregated strategic cycle route between New Brighton to Birkenhead	March 2023	Neighbourhoods and Regeneration & Place team working with LCR.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of Business Case by LCRCa</li> <li>Publication of Active Travel Strategy (delivery measures to be</li> </ul>

	infrastructure across all of Wirral		Deliver an Active Travel Strategy	December 2021		<p>reviewed on completion of strategy).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in volume of cycle journeys.</li> <li>• Increase in sustainable journeys to school.</li> <li>• Continuing reduction in Road Traffic Collisions</li> </ul>
			Delivery of a strategic cycle route from Leasowe to Seacombe Ferry	December 2022		
			Implementation of 6 ‘School Streets’ Projects	March 2022		
			Deliver new Road Safety Action Plan	March 2022		

# WIRRAL THEME DELIVERY PLAN 2021 – SAFE & PLEASANT COMMUNITIES

LEAD COMMITTEE

TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE  
COMMITTEE AND ADULTS COMMITTEE

## AIM

SAFE AND PLEASANT COMMUNITIES THAT OUR RESIDENTS ARE PROUD OF.

	Summary	Projects & Initiatives	What we will deliver this year	Timescales	Delivery	How we will demonstrate progress
1. Domestic Abuse Strategy  (ADULTS COMMITTEE)	Ensure the right support at the right time and improving outcomes for the most vulnerable by breaking the cycles of poverty and harm through taking a preventative approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic Abuse</li> <li>Prevention programme</li> <li>Three conversations approach.</li> </ul>	Invest in large-scale workforce training on trauma informed practice.		Adults and Children's Services in partnership with Community Safety Partnership and wider stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced cost / demand on a range of Council services – efficiencies.</li> <li>Domestic abuse: Reduction in cases and re-offending, increased reporting, feedback from survivors.</li> </ul>
			Engage with underrepresented groups, such as elderly, LGBTQ, pregnant women, people with learning difficulties and disabilities and people living in more affluent areas, to understand how they are affected by domestic abuse.			
			Begin longer-term media campaigns and engagement with the Criminal Justice System and Family Courts.			
2. Community and Leisure strategies	Creating a sustainable model for the delivery of leisure and cultural services in Wirral which celebrate the best of Wirral's assets, environments, and communities. Libraries will become community hubs for learning and family support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sports &amp; Physical Activity Strategy</li> </ul>	<p>Implement the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy</p> <p>To provide our residents and stakeholders with outstanding connected, accessible and affordable services through the right blend of facilities, outreach and prevention and intervention activities that make physical and mental health, lifelong learning and cultural enrichment part of everyone's everyday lives.</p> <p>Implement the new Library Strategy and model with a new library service offering vibrant, welcoming and accessible community hubs. With space to support community collaboration by hosting co-designed range of services at multi use sites</p>	Within the next 12mths	Neighbourhood Services Directorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved public health outcomes in areas of need.</li> <li>More integrated services delivered locally.</li> <li>Increase participation in sport and physical activity among Wirral residents.</li> <li>Support reading attainment in areas of identified need</li> <li>Increase in uptake of library online services.</li> <li>Increase in community usage of libraries by local cultural groups.</li> <li>Increase in activities and events that have a health and wellbeing focus in areas of identified need.</li> </ul>
	Neighbourhoods model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neighbourhood model, workforce modernisation programme</li> </ul>	Workforce modelling to support a resident and member first approach to dealing with enquiries and pro-actively deal with issues efficiently.	Throughout 2021/22		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure members and residents are at the heart of delivery of our services.</li> </ul>

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improved access channels for reporting and resolution of customer enquiries.</li></ul>
	Wirral Museums Service will contribute to the regeneration of Birkenhead, help improve mental health & wellbeing and celebrate local artists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Town Deal initiative at Birkenhead Priory</li><li>Historic Documentation digitisation project</li><li>Exhibition &amp; Events Programme</li></ul>	<p>Commission new visitor facilities at for Birkenhead Priory</p> <p>Go live with the first phase of an online, searchable database of Wirral’s art and museum collections.</p> <p>Deliver a series of events that support business development and access to funder for creatives and creative industries in Wirral.</p> <p>Show the work of local artists and crafts people past and present.</p>	Throughout 2021/2022		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Wirral Museums will help improve mental health &amp; wellbeing.</li><li>Help drive local economy and support local artist to become economically active.</li><li>Online access to collections</li></ul>
3. Community Safety Strategy	The overarching aim of the Community Safety Strategy is to build safer, stronger, more resilient communities in Wirral and reduce the fear of crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Launch co-produced community safety strategy.</li><li>10 Strategic themes</li><li>Use of CCTV cameras to tackle crime and provide community reassurance</li></ul>	Invest in new CCTV Control room and comprehensive upgrade of public realm CCTV network	All to be delivered by 31 March 2022.	Community Safety Team and Neighbourhood Engagement along with all partners of the Safer Wirral Partnership Board.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nos of crimes detected through use of CCTV</li><li>Reduced number of emergency calls for water/coastal rescue.</li><li>Nos of citizens signed up to Flood Watch.</li></ul>
			Design and Co-produce Coastal and Inland Water Safety Plan (Drowning Prevention Strategy)			
			Build on Resilient Communities project by working with our communities to ensure they are prepared for emergencies.			

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## HOUSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 19 October 2021

REPORT TITLE:	2020/21 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER THREE (APR - DEC)
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND PLACE

### REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the projected year-end revenue and capital position for Housing Committee as at the end of Quarter 3 (December 2020) of the 2020/21 financial year.

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

The overall financial position for the Council remains challenging, and a number of actions are in progress to mitigate the overall forecast position presented at quarter 3, including limiting spending to essential areas of service delivery only, with Corporate Directors supported to mitigate the risk of overspending. This is not a key decision.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Housing Committee is recommended to :

1. Note the favourable year-end forecast position presented at the end of March 2021 of £0.234m.
2. Note the impact of funding and expenditure as a direct consequence of Covid-19, including the additional funding sources which have been identified, but as yet, not received
3. Note the Capital report

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

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

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1.1 This report provides a summary of the projected year-end revenue position as at the end of Quarter 3, Month 9 (December 2020) of 2020/21 financial year.
- 3.1.2 The year-end forecast recorded as part of December's financial monitoring activity represents a favourable variance from budget of £0.234m for this committee.

### **3.2 2020/21 COMMITTEE REVENUE BUDGET**

- 3.2.1 The budget for the Housing Committee is included within the Regeneration & Place Directorate.
- 3.2.2 The Housing Committee is predicting a small Favourable budget variance of £0.234m at year-end against a budget of £6.7m. The favourable variance has been driven by one-off grants for Homelessness, more effective use of the Better Care Fund that has supported income recovery from minor works adaptations.
- 3.2.3 Significant variances are above £0.1m.



**TABLE 1 2020/21 – Housing Committee Revenue Budget & Forecast**

	<b>Full Year</b>				
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Forecast</b>	<b>Variance</b> <i>(+ Fav, - Adv)</i>		<b>Adv/Fav</b>
	£0	£0	£0	%	
Housing Strategy & Investment	461	379	82	18%	Favourable
Housing Standards	763	705	58	8%	Favourable
Homelessness	984	1,010	-26	-3%	Adverse
Supported Housing	4,507	4,387	120	3%	Favourable
<b>Total Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>6,715</b>	<b>6,481</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>Favourable</b>

**3.2.4 Housing Strategy & Investment:** There are no significant variances in this area.

**3.2.5 Housing Standards:** There are no significant variances in this area.

**3.2.6 Homelessness:** The service is maximising the use of one-off additional specific grants as a result of the pandemic for Homelessness activity.

**3.2.7 Supported Housing:** A Supported Housing favourable variance of £0.120m has been forecast using the current occupancy rates and taken into account an increase in income recovery from the Better Care fund for eligible minor works carried out by the home adaptations team.

### 3.3 2020/21 COMMITTEE CAPITAL BUDGET

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

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Budget £m</b>	<b>Actual £m</b>	<b>Variance £m</b>	<b>Variance %</b>
Adult Social Care & Health	7.550	0.991	-6.56	-87%
Children, Young People & Education	5.500	3.614	-1.89	-34%
Economy, Regeneration & Development	60.362	40.972	-19.39	-32%
Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport	21.851	32.805	10.95	50%
Housing	7.806	6.123	-1.68	-22%
Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure	0.774	1.499	0.72	94%
<b>Total</b>	<b>103.843</b>	<b>86.004</b>	<b>-17.84</b>	<b>-17%</b>

3.3.1 Table 1 provides an update on the 2020/21 capital Programme. A number of significant variations have arisen since the programme was agreed in March 2020. These include the re-profiling of expenditure into and out of the 2020/21 financial year, inclusion of additional grant funded schemes, variations to spend forecasts and the inclusion of potential new capital schemes that are seeking funding via this report. Further detail is provided below.

3.3.2 Given the budgetary pressures that the Council faces, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 outbreak, a review of the programme continues to try and identify schemes that may no longer be financially viable, essential or deliverable. This review has resulted in scheme reductions totalling £5.81 million and the reprofiling of budget into future years of £61.56 million. It is anticipated that further reductions and/or deferrals of budget will be made as the review continues. Such deferrals will reduce the borrowing costs incurred during 2020/21 (the effects of which are included within the Quarter 3 revenue monitoring) and also delays the resultant Minimum Revenue Provision charges into future years.

### 4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This is the Quarter 3 budget monitoring report that provides information on the forecast outturn for the Council for 2020/21. The Council has robust methods for reporting and forecasting budgets in place and alongside formal Quarterly reporting to Policy & Resources Committee, the financial position is routinely reported at Directorate Management Team meetings and corporately at the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). In the event of any early warning highlighting pressures and potential overspends, the SLT take collective responsibility to identify solutions to resolve these to ensure a balanced budget can be reported at the end of the year.

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires the Chief Finance (s.151) Officer (as the responsible officer) to ensure the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs. Regular monitoring of, and reporting on, budgets as required by section 28 of the Local Government Act 2003 (the 2003 Act), is an essential requirement placed on Directorates and members of the Senior Leadership Team in discharging this statutory responsibility.
- 5.2 The provisions of section 25, of the 2003 Act further require that, when the Council is making the calculation of its budget requirement, it must have regard to the report of the chief finance (s.151) officer as to the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves. This is in addition to the personal duty on the Chief Finance (Section 151) Officer to make a report, if it appears to them that the expenditure of the authority incurred (including expenditure it proposes to incur) in a financial year is likely to exceed the resources (including sums borrowed) available to it to meet that expenditure.

## **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

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

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

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

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

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

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

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

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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee Wednesday, 17 February  
2020/21 Revenue Budget Monitoring for Quarter 3  
2020/21 Capital Budget Monitoring for Quarter 3

### **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Housing Committee	28 October 2020
Housing Committee	26 November 2020
Housing Committee	27 January 2021



## HOUSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 19 October 2021

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

### REPORT SUMMARY

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

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

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

### 2021/22 Budget Monitoring

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

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

- Full revenue budget monitoring report for the preceding quarter

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

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

## **2022/23 Budget Process**

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

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

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

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

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

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the Housing committee:

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

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

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

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

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

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

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

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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



## **2021/22 Budget Monitoring**

- 3.2 Committee's will be accountable for ensuring that the budget remains within the relevant envelope for each committee and will take collective responsibility via the Policy and Resources Committee to ensure that the whole Council budget remains in balance at all times or provides mitigating actions to bring the budget back in line, should a year end deficit be forecast.
- 3.3 To enable committees to manage and monitor budgets effectively in year, a suite of detailed information will be provided on a quarterly basis:
- Full revenue budget monitoring report for the preceding quarter (available at the end of Quarter 1)
  - Summary Budget Book (To be included at the budget workshops)
  - Full list of budget savings proposals and the progress for their achievement (Appendix 1)
  - Full list of reserves allocated to the Committee for future on-off commitments (Appendix 2)
  - Full capital budget monitoring report for the preceding quarter (available at the end of Quarter 1)
  - Other specific information relevant to the individual committee
- 3.4 Committees had previously requested a budget book that detailed the individual budgets for each committee. The full budget books are extremely detailed and could contain hundreds of separate lines and would be more conducive to a workshop where these can be scrutinised and discussed in detail. It is recommended that a budget working group is established by the Committee, convened immediately, that would meet throughout the summer to:
- Oversee the monitoring of the 2021/22 in-year budget.
  - Review the detailed budgets for the committee.
  - Undertake the Zero Based Budgeting exercise (paragraph 3.13)
  - Identify proposals to be included for the 2022/23 budget (paragraph 3.17)
- 3.5 Committees have the autonomy to vire (transfer) budgets from one function to another within their overall committee budget envelope. Virements will be also agreed by the Section 151 Officer as there are certain conditions where budgets are not allowed to be vired for the purposes of gaining a specific benefit e.g. where budgets from supplies budget headings are vired to employees budget headings to take advantage of an uplift for pay inflation.
- 3.6 Each committee will be responsible for remaining within its overall budget envelope and not overspending. Where an adverse variance is forecast, each committee will be required to take remedial action to bring the budget back in line and ensure that overspends are mitigated.
- 3.7 Where a committee has taken all possible steps for remedial action and is unable to mitigate an overspend, this must be reported to the P&R Committee who will take an organisational view of how this adverse variance will be managed. There must be

immediate action agreed to ensure a forecast balanced budget can be reported, and this will be monitored by the P&R Committee.

- 3.8 Whilst each committee is required to remain within its annual budget envelope, there maybe reasons for committees to report a favourable variance in-year. Committees wishing to use any forecast underspend must have approval from the P&R Committee to do this. The council cannot be in a situation where one committee is forecasting an overspend that it is unable to mitigate, and another committee is forecasting an underspend and utilises this for its own purposes.
- 3.9 The P&R Committee has overall responsibility for taking any necessary steps required to ensure a whole Council budget can report a balanced budget throughout the year.

### **2021/22 Interim Budget Forecast**

- 3.10 As at June 2021, the saving for the Committee is forecast to be made. Members will note that this was originally a £0.5m savings but was agreed t be split over two years to enable the saving to be fully achieved.

### **Zero Based Budgeting**

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

### **2022/23 Budget Setting**

- 3.14 The process for setting the 2022/23 will commence immediately. Officers, to satisfy the requirement of MHCLG for exceptional financial support, have compiled a five-year medium term financial plan (MTFP). Committees will consider whether the proposals included in the MTFP for the 2022/23 budget, and beyond, are to be taken forward or whether they are to be replaced by alternative proposals that the committees recommend.
- 3.15 The budget gap for the Council for 2022/23 currently stand at £19.5m. At the Policy and Resources Committee on 17 March, a full list of proposals were included in the

budget report that balanced this gap. Since then, as Officers have been reviewing these proposals, some of these values are currently at risk and there now remains a forecast unmitigated budget gap, of around £5m.

3.16 In readiness for the first committees of the new municipal year, Officers have prepared a suite of documents for the committees. These are:

- List of future years savings included within the MTFP (Appendix 3)
- Summary business cases for each of the savings' proposals in the MTFP for 2022/23 and whether any specific consultation is required for each one (To be included as part of the budget workshops)
- Oversight of all savings proposals and growth/pressures over the medium term for Members to ensure no duplication or contradiction across Committees (To be included as part of the budget workshops)

3.17 Included within the MTFP for 2022/23 are the following proposals:

3.17.1 A saving in Housing over two years of £0.5m each year. The 2019/20 Benchmarking data identifies that the Council is above the Metropolitan average per head for Housing Strategy, Advice and Enabling. This data is currently being analysed further as this does not correlate with the views of the service and needs a more detailed review. Benchmarking data can sometimes be subjective and open to error, depending on how the return have been compiled. However as it is assumed that MHCLG will refer to this date as part of their external assurance review, it is important to alert the Committee to the current findings. The outcome of the review will be brought to the budget workshop for Members to consider whether any savings are available within the Committee.

3.18 Each committee, via the budget working groups, will be accountable for identifying, developing and agreeing savings proposals during the summer to meet the 2022/23 budget gap and ensure a draft balanced budget can be considered by the P&R Committee in October 2021, to enable budget consultation to start in a timely manner in November 2021.

3.19 It is recommended that the budget workshops not only identify additional savings proposals to meet the gap but to scrutinise and challenge the pressures and growth items included in the MTFP for 2022/23 to see if these can be reduced.

### **Exceptional Financial Support**

3.20 Members will be aware that in March, MHCLG provided a conditional offer of Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) to the Council of up to £10.7m to support the indirect pressures forecast as an ongoing impact of Covid-19 in the 2022/23 budget. One of the conditions of that offer was that an external assurance review would be commissioned by MHCLG.

3.21 In preparedness for this review, the Council has been working with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to carry out an interim

assessment of MTFP and a high level review of the cost of the services the Council provides. Further information regarding EFS can be found at Appendix 4.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

have the appearance of fairness. The setting of the budget and council tax by Members involves their consideration of choices.

- 5.6 When considering options, Members must bear in mind their fiduciary duty to the council taxpayers of Wirral. Members must have adequate evidence on which to base their decisions on the level of quality at which services should be provided.
- 5.7 Where a service is provided pursuant to a statutory duty, it would not be lawful to fail to discharge it properly or abandon it, and where there is discretion as to how it is to be discharged, that discretion should be exercised reasonably.
- 5.8 The report sets out the relevant considerations for Members to consider during their deliberations and Members are reminded of the need to ignore irrelevant considerations. Members have a duty to seek to ensure that the Council acts lawfully. Members must not come to a decision which no reasonable authority could come to; balancing the nature, quality and level of services which they consider should be provided, against the costs of providing such services.
- 5.9 There is a particular requirement to take into consideration the Council's fiduciary duty and the public sector equality duty in coming to its decision.
- 5.10 The public sector equality duty is that a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to: (1) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010; (2) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and (3) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- 5.11 Any decision made in the exercise of any function is potentially open to challenge if the duty has been disregarded. The duty applies both to Full Council when setting the budget and to the Policy and Services Committees when considering decisions.
- 5.12 Once a budget is in place, Council has delegated responsibility to the Policy and Services Committees to implement it. The Committees may not act contrary to the Budget without consent of Council other than in accordance with the Procedure Rules set out at Part 4(3) of the Constitution.
- 5.13 It is essential, as a matter of prudence that the financial position continues to be closely monitored. In particular, Members must satisfy themselves that sufficient mechanisms are in place to ensure both that savings are delivered and that new expenditure is contained within the available resources. Accordingly, any proposals put forward must identify the realistic measures and mechanisms to produce those savings.
- 5.14 Members are also individually reminded that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to this meeting. Members who are two months or more in arrears with their Council Tax must declare this to the meeting and must not vote on budget recommendations, as to do otherwise can be a criminal offence.

## **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

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

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 The Council's ability to maintain a balanced budget for 2021/22 is dependent on a static financial position. This is an impossible scenario due to estimated figures being provided in the calculation for the 2021/22 budget, albeit the best estimates that were available at the time, plus any amount of internal and external factors that could impact on the budget position in year. Examples of which are new legislation, increased demand, loss of income, increased funding, decreased funding, inability to recruit to posts, ongoing impact of the pandemic etc
- 7.2 A robust monitoring and management process for the 2021/22 budget must be agreed and in place as soon as possible. If at any time during the year an adverse position is forecast, remedial action must be agreed and implemented immediately to ensure the budget can be brought back to balanced position.
- 7.3 The risk of this not being able to be achieved could mean that the Council does not have enough funding to offset its expenditure commitments for the year and therefore not be able report a balanced budget at the end of the year. This could result in the Section 151 Officer issuing a Section 114 notice.
- 7.4 The budget agreed by full Council on 1 March 2021 for 2021/22 was underpinned by an offer of a maximum of £10.7m exceptional financial support provided by MHCLG. This offer was conditional and is described in paragraph 3.21. If the Council does not accept recommendations made from the external assurance review, this may put the offer of the exceptional financial support at risk. If the Council is not able to report a balanced budget without some or all of the exceptional financial support, this may also result in the Section 151 Officer issuing a Section 114 notice in year.
- 7.5 A key risk to the Council's financial plans is that funding and demand assumptions in particular can change as more information becomes available. As such, the MTFP is regularly reviewed and updated as part of routine financial management.
- 7.6 Under the system of retained Business Rates, Authorities benefit from a share of any increased revenues but are liable for at least a share of any falls in income (subject to safety net triggers) and any non-collection. This includes reductions arising from appeals relating to past years which partially fall on the Authority. These risks are mitigated through a combination of the operation of the Collection Fund, General Fund Balances and a Business Rates Equalisation Reserve.
- 7.7 The MTFP currently presents a balanced budget over a five-year period. If the committees are not minded to accept the proposals included by officers in the MTFP, especially for the 2022/23 budget, alternative proposals need to identified and agreed as soon as possible. A delay in agreeing these may put the timetable for

setting the 2022/23 at risk and may result in a balanced budget not being identified in time for the deadline of 11 March 2022.

- 7.8 The five-year MTFP is based on current estimated information available. A four-year comprehensive spending review (CSR) is anticipated from Government from 2022/23. Assumptions have been made in the current MTFP for income and funding from business rates and council tax and social care grants as the main sources of funding. If there is an adverse change to these assumptions as a result of the CSR, additional savings proposals or reduced expenditure would need to be identified as soon as possible to ensure a balanced five-year MTFP can be achieved. Committees will be kept updated with any announcements regarding the CSR through the year.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

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

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

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

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## **APPENDICES**

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

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

MHCLG Exceptional Financial Support Offer Letter

### **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Policy and Resources Committee</b>	<b>17 March 2021</b>
<b>Full Council</b>	<b>1 March 2021</b>
<b>Policy and Resources Committee</b>	<b>7 October 2020</b>



## APPENDIX 1

### Progress on the achievement of approved 2021/22 Budget Savings

<b>Saving Title</b>	<b>Agreed Value</b>	<b>Forecast Value</b>	<b>RAG Rating</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Cease Support for Community Alarms (two year saving with £0.3m in 22/23)	£0.2m	£0.2m	<b>Green</b>	On target to be achieved
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£0.2M</b>	<b>£0.2M</b>		

## APPENDIX 2

### List of Reserves as at 1 April 2021

	£	
Selective Licensing	-537,647	
Challenge Fund Properties	-22,095	
HMO Licence Fees	-131,212	
<b>Housing Total:</b>		<b>-690.954</b>

## APPENDIX 3

### Future years budget proposals and Pressures/Growth Items

<b>Savings Proposals</b>	<b>2022/23 £m</b>	<b>2023/24 £m</b>	<b>2024/25 £m</b>	<b>2025/26 £m</b>
Review High cost of service	0.5	0.5		
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>		

### Exceptional Financial Support

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

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

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

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

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

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



## HOUSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 19 October 2021

REPORT TITLE:	QUARTER 1 MONITOR REPORT
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND PLACE

### REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the projected year-end revenue and capital position for Housing Committee as at the end of Quarter 1 (June 2021) of the 2021/22 financial year. 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.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Housing Committee is requested to :

1. Note the projected year-end revenue forecast variance of £0.155m favourable position as reported at quarter 1 (Apr-Jun) of 2021-22.
2. Note progress on the achievement of approved savings and the projected year-end forecast position at quarter 1 (Apr-Jun) of 2021-22.
3. Note the reserves allocated to the Committee for future one-off commitments
4. Note the projected year-end capital forecast expenditure position of £7.976m as reported at quarter 1 (Apr-Jun) 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 1, Month 3 (June 2021) of 2021/22 financial year.
- 3.2 As at the end of June 2021, the forecast year-end position for the Housing service is a favourable variance of £0.155m against a budget of £7.583m.

**TABLE 1: 2021/22 Housing – Service Budget & Forecast**

Objective	Budget	Forecast	Variance (+ Fav, - Adv)		Adv/Fav
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Housing Strategy & Investment	481	485	-4	0%	
Housing Standards	855	818	37	4%	Favourable
Homelessness	1,004	1,004	0	0%	
Supported Housing	4,360	4,238	122	3%	Favourable
<b>Directorate Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>6,701</b>	<b>6,546</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>Favourable</b>
Support / Admin Building Overhead	882	882	0	0%	
<b>Total Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>7,583</b>	<b>7,428</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>Favourable</b>

- 3.3 **Housing:** A Favourable variance of £0.155m is reported for 2021-22. Whilst grant support for Housing has helped present a favourable position at Quarter 1, further

work is currently underway to establish eligible expenditure forecast against the available grant funding, the outcome of this review will be reported in Quarter 2.

- 3.4 **Supported Housing service**– Favourable variance £0.122m. This relates to Supported Housing lower staff costs of £0.039m and grant support for Hospital Discharge / Minor Adaptions of £0.092m.

**TABLE 2: 2021/22 Housing – Subjective Budget & Forecast**

Subjective	Budget £000	Forecast £000	Variance (+ Fav, - Adv) £000 %		Adv/Fav
Income	-2,594	-3,027	433	17%	<b>Favourable</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Employee	3,608	3,782	-173	-5%	Adverse
Non-Pay	5,687	5,791	-105	-2%	Adverse
Cost of Care	0	0	0	0%	
Total Expenditure	<b>9,295</b>	<b>9,573</b>	<b>-278</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>Adverse</b>
<b>Directorate Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>6,701</b>	<b>6,546</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>Favourable</b>
Support / Admin Building Overhead	882	882	0	0%	
Movement on Reserves	0	0	0	0%	
<b>Total Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>7,583</b>	<b>7,428</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>Favourable</b>

- 3.5 **Income:** A favourable variance of £0.433m is reported for 2021-22. This relates to mainly to grant support income, including Hospital Discharge / Minor Adaptions (£0.093m), Syrian Family Scheme (£0.115m) and Rough Sleeper grant (£0.147m).
- 3.6 **Employees:** An adverse variance of £0.173m is reported for 2021-22. This relates to increased costs associated with new grant awards (as shown in Income), with interim staff support to ensure services and projects can be delivered. This is offset by a favourable variance on increased income associated to support this.
- 3.7 **Non Pay:** An adverse variance of £0.105m is reported for 2021-22. This mainly relates to costs of the Supported Housing Programme which is covered by Grant funding income.

## **Budget Saving Achievement Progress**

- 3.8 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 Housing – Budget Savings**

<b>Saving Title</b>	<b>Agreed Value</b>	<b>Forecast Value</b>	<b>RAG Rating</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Cease support for Community Alarms	£0.20m	£0.20m	<b>AMBER</b>	Saving will be delivered through mitigation whilst a review of the Community Alarms service is undertaken.
<b>Total</b>	<b>£0.2m</b>	<b>£0.2m</b>		

### **Earmarked Reserves**

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

**TABLE 4 : Housing Committee Reserves**

<b>Reserves</b>	<b>2021-22 Opening balance (£000)</b>
Selective Licensing	-538
HMO Licence Fees	-131
Maintenance & Emergency repairs	-71
Challenge Fund Properties	-22
<b>Total</b>	<b>-762</b>

### **2021/22 COMMITTEE CAPITAL BUDGET**

**TABLE 5: 2021/22 – Housing Committee Capital Budget & Forecast**

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>2021/22</b>		
	<b>Budget at 01.04.21 £000</b>	<b>Forecast Outturn £000</b>	<b>Variance £000</b>
<b>Housing</b>			
Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grants	7,782	6,856	-926
Clearance	390	390	0
Empty Property Grant Scheme	380	310	-70
Home Improvements	0	350	350
Property Pooled Plus I.T System	0	70	70
<b>Total Housing</b>	<b>8,552</b>	<b>7,976</b>	<b>-576</b>



- 3.10 Table 5 summarises the forecast expenditure against Capital Budgets, which shows a favourable variance of £0.576m.
- 3.11 Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facilities Grants has slipped £0.926m into 2022-23 for committed/planned programmes which will incur expenditure next financial year.
- 3.12 Home Improvements has previously been approved by Members with budget provision top sliced from the Better Care Fund grant.
- 3.13 Members should note the majority of the housing capital programme operates on a rolling programme basis related to approvals and works being undertaken therefore expenditure against available budgets can fluctuate across financial years.

#### **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 This is the budget monitoring report that provides information on the forecast outturn for the Housing 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 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 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

6.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

## **7 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 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 The priorities in the Council Plan 2025 were informed by stakeholder engagement carried out in 2019.

## **9 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 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The Wirral Plan 2025 includes a set of goals and objectives to create a sustainable environment which urgently tackles the environment emergency. These are based on developing and delivering plans that 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 There are none arising from this report.

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## **APPENDICES**

None

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 2021/22 BUDGET MONITORING
- P&R Budget Monitoring 2021/22 Quarter 1

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Housing Committee	26 November 2020
Housing Committee	27 January 2021
Housing Committee	10 March 2021

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## HOUSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday 19 October 2021

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION &amp; PLACE</b>

### REPORT SUMMARY

The Housing Committee 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.

The work programme is 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 Housing Committee is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

Members of the committee are invited to comment on and note the proposed Housing Committee work programme for the 2020/21 municipal year.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1** To ensure Members of the Housing Committee have the opportunity to contribute to the annual work programme.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1** Various formats for the workplan were explored. The current format is 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:

- (i) The Council Plan
- (ii) The Council's transformation programme
- (iii) The Council's Forward Plan
- (iv) Service performance information
- (v) Risk management information
- (vi) Public or service user feedback
- (vii) Referrals from Council

### **Terms of Reference**

The Housing Committee has responsibility for taking a strategic approach to the Council's various housing functions, including issues concerning social rented and affordable housing, homelessness, allocations and standards of housing.

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

- (a) the Authority's role and functions in relation to strategic and private sector housing policies and as the housing authority, including but not limited to
- (i) the Council's Housing Strategy;
  - (ii) homelessness and the allocation of housing;
  - (iii) private sector housing, including taking action to remedy overcrowding, disrepair, unfitness and statutory nuisances; to promote fire safety in private sector housing and the Council's functions in relation to houses in multiple occupation;
  - (iv) licensing schemes;
  - (v) tenancy relations and the provision of housing advice;
  - (vi) relationship with Registered Providers of housing;
  - (vii) housing loans and grants;
  - (viii) housing related support services; and
  - (ix) policies and actions with a view to reducing and eliminating street homelessness to ensure that appropriate action is taken;

- (b) analysis, development and overview of housing policies in terms of spatial planning to submit to the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee to inform the Local Plan and planning policies;
- (c) providing a view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management in relation to the Committee's functions; and
- (d) 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 it's 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.

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Housing Committee Workplan

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The Council Plan  
The Council's transformation plan  
The Council's Forward Plan  
The Constitution of the Council

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Housing Committee	28 October 2020
Housing Committee	26 November 2020
Housing Committee	27 January 2021
Housing Committee	10 March 2021



## HOUSING COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22

**Contact Officer/s:** Bryn Griffiths, Senior Democratic Service Officer  
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### PROPOSED AGENDA FOR HOUSING COMMITTEE

DATE: 19 October 2021

Item	Key Decision Yes/No	Lead Departmental Officer	Wirral Plan Priority
Wirral Plan - Delivery Plans	No	Mike Callon / Rosemary Boyle	All
2020/21 Revenue and Capital Outturn	No	Mark Lightburn	Inclusive Economy
2021/22 Budget Monitoring and 22/23 Budget Process	No	Mark Lightburn	Inclusive Economy
2021/22 Q1 Monitoring Report	No	Mark Lightburn	Inclusive Economy

Deadline for Reports to SLT	Deadline for reports for briefing	Agenda Published
27.09.2021	04.10.2021	11.10.2021

### ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS – WAITING TO BE SCHEDULED

Item	Approximate timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
Wirral Private Sector Stock Conditions	Between November 2021 and January 2022	Alan Evans
Strategic Housing Market Assessment	Between November 2021 and January 2022	Alan Evans

Affordable Homes Update/Affordable Homes Statement	TBA with Party Spokes	Alan Evans
LCR Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Programme Update	TBA with Party Spokes	Alan Evans
Financial Assistance Update Report	TBA with Party Spokes	Alan Evans
Housing Growth Strategy – Delivering for Wirral <b>(Key)</b>	Between November 2021 and January 2022	Alan Evans
Council Housing Building Options	Between November 2021 and January 2022	Alan Evans
Housing Needs of Care Leavers	Between November 2021 and January 2022	Alan Evans
Property Pool Plus allocations policy Consultation	Between November 2021 and January 2022	Alan Evans
Homelessness Update – Rough Sleeper Count and Next Steps Update	After November	Alan Evans

## STANDING ITEMS AND MONITORING REPORTS

Item	Reporting Frequency	Lead Departmental Officer
Budget and Performance Monitoring Report	TBA	Alan Evans
Housing Committee Work Programme Update	Every Committee	Bryn Griffiths

## WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE COMMITTEE

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress
<b>Working Groups/ Sub Committees</b>				
-	-	--	-	-
<b>Task and Finish Reviews</b>				
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<b>Spotlight Sessions and Workshops</b>				
Budget & Housing Workshop	Committee wide workshop	28.10.2020	Alan Evans	

Budget and Performance Workshop	Committee wide workshop	26.11.2020		Alan Evans		
Budget Workshop	Committee wide workshop	23.09.2021		Alan Evans		
Affordable Housing Statement	Committee Wide workshop	Date needs to be scheduled in		Alan Evans		

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