



Council

Town Hall
Wallasey

26 August, 2021

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at **6.00 p.m. on Monday, 6 September 2021** in the Floral Pavilion, New Brighton, to take into consideration and determine upon the following subjects:

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.

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

Contact Officer: Daniel Sharples
Tel: 0151 666 3791
e-mail: danielsharples@wirral.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

AGENDA

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

3. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 30)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 19 and 26 May, 2021 (Annual Council) and the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 11 August, 2021.

4. PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

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

A. Public Questions

Notice of question to be given in writing or by email by 12 noon, Wednesday, 1 September, 2021 to the Council's Monitoring Officer (committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 10.

B. Statements and Petitions

Notice of statements to be given in writing or by email by 12 noon, Wednesday, 1 September, 2021 to the Council's Monitoring Officer ([commmitteeservices@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 Council. 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 Mayor will refer the matter to another appropriate body of the Council within whose terms of reference it falls without discussion, unless a relevant item appears elsewhere on the Agenda. Please give notice of petitions to committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

C. Members' Questions

To consider Members' questions to the Leader or Deputy Leader of the Council, Committee Chair or a Leader of a Political Group, in accordance with Standing Orders 12.

5. MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL OR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

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

A. Wirral Plan 2021-26 - Referral from P&R Cttee (Pages 31 - 54)

The Council is requested to approve the Wirral Plan 2021-26 as referred from the Policy and Resources Committee.

Policy and Resources Committee minute 34 (28/7/21) attached, together with the report.

B. Wirral Plan 2021-2026 - Draft Delivery Plans (Pages 55 - 68)

C. Revenue Outturn Report 2020/21 (Pages 69 - 70)

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

- (1) the 2020/21 budget of £46.574m in relation to Covid-19 funding for Council use and note the additional £22.963m of funds that is to be made available to the Council for onward relay to other organisations as passported funding. This recommendation follows on from the recommendation made by Policy & Resources Committee on 17th February 2021, following the recent notification of additional funding;
- (2) that the debts in excess of £10,000 included within Appendix 2 be approved for write off against the Provision for Bad Debts.

Policy and Resources Committee minute 23 (30/6/21) attached.

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

D. Capital Outturn Report 2020/21 (Pages 71 - 72)

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

- (1) that the additional year end re-profiling of £27.4m from 2020/21 to 2021/22 be noted;
- (2) that the financing of the Programme for 2020/21 be noted;
- (3) the approval of the virements referred to in Appendix 3 of the report;
- (4) that the Programme for 2021/22 and beyond be kept under review to ensure it is realistic, deliverable and affordable.

Policy and Resources Committee minute 24 (30/6/21) attached.

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

E. Treasury Management Annual Report 2020/21 (Pages 73 - 74)

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

That the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2020/21 be agreed.

Policy and Resources Committee minute 36 (28/7/21) attached.

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

F. Community Safety Strategy - Referral from Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee (Pages 75 - 100)

The Council is requested to approve the Community Safety Strategy as endorsed by the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee:

Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee minute 18 (27/7/21) and the report attached.

G. Members' Code of Conduct - Referral from Constitution and Standards Committee (Pages 101 - 140)

The Council is requested to agree the following recommendation of the Constitution and Standards Committee:

That Council be recommended to adopt the Members' Code of Conduct.

Constitution and Standards Committee minute 6 (23/6/21) attached, together with the report and appendices, which includes the revised Code of Conduct for Members.

- H. Report on Vacant Committee Place on Regulatory and General Purposes Committee (Pages 141 - 148)**
- I. Outside Body - North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority - Replacement of Member**
- J. Six Month Attendance Rule S85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 (Pages 149 - 152)**

6. REPORTS AND DECISIONS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND PARTNERSHIP ORGANISATIONS

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

To receive reports about and receive questions and answers on decisions made by Committees since the week of the publication of the last ordinary Council agenda.

The minutes of all committees which have met since 8 March, 2021 are attached, as below.

Members' attention is drawn to one minute, in accordance with Part 4, Section 4, paragraph 9 of the Constitution, in that a decision was taken, which was regarded as urgent by the Committee, as follows:

- Minute 109 (Policy and Resources Committee (24/3/21)) – Proposed Grant Agreement with LCR Combined Authority for the Costs of the Acquisition of 92 Grange Road, Birkenhead, as formal acceptance of the offer was required by 31 March, 2021.

Two urgent officer decisions have also been taken, and are also reported to the Council in accordance with part 4 of the Constitution, as referred to above. One on 8 July, 2021 by the Director of Neighbourhood Services, 'Covid Local Support Grant – Extension No.2' (Decision notice attached at pages 153 - 154); and a decision on 5 August, 2021 by the Director of Regeneration and Place, 'A Town Deal for Birkenhead – Acceptance of Head of Terms' (Report attached at pages 155 - 160)

A. DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING (Pages 153 - 418)

Minutes of Committees:

- Policy and Resources Committee – 17 and 24 March, 2021, 9 June and 30 June, and 28 July, 2021 (Pages 161 - 224)
- Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee – 7 June and 29 July, 2021 (Pages 225 – 250)
- Children, Young People and Education Committee – 11 March and 15 June, 2021 (Pages 251 - 270)
- Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee – 8 June and 26 July, 2021 (Pages 271 - 280)
- Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee – 16 March and 14 June, 2021 (Pages 281 - 304)
- Housing Committee – 10 March, 2021 (Pages 305 - 308)
- Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee – 16 June and 27 July, 2021 (Pages 309 - 318)
- Audit and Risk Management Committee – 9 March and 5 July, 2021
(Pages 319 - 336)
- Constitution and Standards Committee – 23 June, 2021
(Pages 337 - 342)
- Licensing Act Committee – 17 June, 2021 (Pages 343 – 344)
- Partnerships Committee – 29 June, 2021 (Pages 345 – 352)
- Pensions Committee – 29 March and 22 June, 2021 (Pages 353 - 366)
- Planning Committee – 18 March, 15 April, 10 June, 15 July and 12 August, 2021 (Pages 367 - 408)
- Regulatory and General Purposes Committee – 23 March and 17 June, 2021 (Pages 409 - 418)

B. JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

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

7. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (Pages 419 - 422)

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

1. Planning System Reform
2. Schools Need Adequate Funding to Ensure Our Children Catch Up
3. Inquiry into the Nicklaus Joint Venture Group (NJVG) Development Agreement
4. Creating Low Traffic Streets and Neighbourhoods Across Wirral



Director of Law and Governance

GUILLOTINE

Under Standing Order 9 of the Council Procedure Rules:

The Mayor will adjourn the meeting for a period of ten minutes at a convenient time after one and a half hours.

Where three hours have elapsed after the commencement of any meeting (and in the case of an extraordinary meeting of Council when two hours have elapsed since commencement of the meeting) the Mayor shall interrupt the meeting and the Member speaking must immediately cease doing so and sit down. The meeting shall then dispose of the item then under consideration as if the motion '*That the question be now put*' had been carried (i.e. the debate shall be concluded by the seconder and by the Member who has the right of reply and the vote will then be taken without any further discussion). This rule will not apply to meetings of a quasi-judicial or regulatory nature.

Audio/Visual Recording of Meetings

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

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

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL

Wednesday, 19 May 2021

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

Councillors	T Anderson	K Greaney	S Mountney
	B Berry	JE Green	Y Nolan
	J Bird	EA Grey	C O'Hagan
	M Booth	S Hayes	C Povall
	A Brame	A Hodson	L Rennie
	D Brennan	K Hodson	J Robinson
	D Burgess-Joyce	J Johnson	L Rowlands
	H Cameron	AER Jones	S Spoor
	I Camphor	C Jones	P Stuart
	C Carubia	S Jones	Jason Walsh
	W Clements	T Jones	S Whittingham
	M Collins	M Jordan	I Williams
	H Collinson	S Kelly	KJ Williams
	T Cox	B Kenny	S Williams
	S Foulkes	I Lewis	J Williamson
	S Frost	M McLaughlin	G Wood
	A Gardner	J McManus	A Wright
	P Gilchrist	P Martin	
	H Gorman	D Mitchell	

<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	K Cannon	E Gleaves
		P Cleary	P Hayes
		C Cooke	C Spriggs
		A Corkhill	Joe Walsh
		T Cottier	

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No such declarations were made.

2 **CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Civic Mayor noted that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kate Cannon, Pat Cleary, Chris Cooke, Andy Corkhill, Tony Cottier, Emily Gleaves, Paul Hayes, Chris Spriggs and Joe Walsh.

The Civic Mayor referred to the passing of former Mayors Margaret Green and Geoffrey Watt, since the Council had last met in person.

The Civic Mayor thanked all those who had supported him and the Mayoress throughout the past two years and in particular, those members of staff in the Civic Services office, Sue Carroll, Sonia Norman and Paul Stead for all their hard work and support. He also thanked all those in organising events and those who supported them in raising money for his two charities, Dementia Together Wirral and the Open Door Centre.

The Civic Mayor also referred to a number of the highlights of the many and varied engagements he and the Mayoress had undertaken and also to the difficulties faced during the time of the pandemic.

3 **ELECTION OF CIVIC MAYOR 2021/22**

The Civic Mayor invited nominations for election of the Civic Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

On a motion moved by Councillor Janette Williamson, seconded by Councillor Tom Anderson and, in the absence of any other nominations, it was:

Resolved (unanimously) – That Councillor George Davies be elected Civic Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral for the 2021/22 municipal year.

Councillor Davies proceeded to make his declaration of acceptance of office and the retiring Civic Mayor, Councillor Smith vacated the Chair. Councillor Davies occupied the Chair.

The new Civic Mayor welcomed his guests and spoke to his election.

4 **DEPUTY CIVIC MAYOR 2021/22**

The Civic Mayor invited nominations for the election of a Deputy Civic Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

On a motion moved by Councillor Janette Williamson, seconded by Councillor Tom Anderson, and in the absence of any other nominations, it was:

Resolved (unanimously) – That Councillor Jeff Green be appointed Deputy Civic Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral for the 2021/22 municipal year.

Councillor Green proceeded to make his declaration of acceptance of office.

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COUNCIL

Wednesday, 26 May 2021

Present: The Civic Mayor (Councillor George Davies) in the Chair
Deputy Civic Mayor (Councillor Jeff Green)

Councillors	T Anderson	E Gleaves	Y Nolan
	B Berry	H Gorman	C O'Hagan
	J Bird	K Greaney	C Povall
	M Booth	EA Grey	L Rennie
	A Brame	P Hayes	J Robinson
	D Brennan	S Hayes	L Rowlands
	D Burgess-Joyce	A Hodson	T Smith
	H Cameron	K Hodson	C Spriggs
	I Camphor	J Johnson	S Spoor
	C Carubia	AER Jones	P Stuart
	P Cleary	C Jones	Jason Walsh
	W Clements	S Jones	Joe Walsh
	M Collins	T Jones	S Whittingham
	H Collinson	M Jordan	I Williams
	C Cooke	S Kelly	KJ Williams
	T Cottier	B Kenny	S Williams
	T Cox	I Lewis	J Williamson
	S Foulkes	J McManus	G Wood
	S Frost	P Martin	A Wright
	A Gardner	D Mitchell	
	P Gilchrist	S Mounthey	

Apologies Councillors K Cannon M McLaughlin
A Corkhill

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No such declarations were made.

6 CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Civic Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. He referred to a gift of Fairtrade olive oil received from farmers in Palestine and on behalf of the

Council he sent Wirral's best wishes to all Wirral's friends in the Holy Land for their work for a long lasting sustainable just peace for everyone.

The Civic Mayor announced that apologies had been received from Councillors Kate Cannon, Andy Corkhill and Moira McLaughlin.

The Civic Mayor then referred to the Council Standing Orders and in particular SO 21.1 which required a Member to stand and address the meeting through the Mayor when they spoke at a Full Council Meeting. He announced that given that the Council was not currently meeting in the Council Chamber he would be happy for individual Members to decide if they wished to stand or remain seated when speaking.

7 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 22 March, 2021 had been circulated to Members. On a motion by the Civic Mayor, seconded by Councillor Jeff Green, it was –

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

8 **ELECTION RESULTS - 6 MAY 2021**

The Chief Executive / Returning Officer presented a summary of the results of the Local Government Elections held on 6 May, 2021.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

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

In accordance with Standing Order 1.3 three matters had been submitted for approval by the Council (see minutes 10 to 12 post).

10 **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES**

The first item requiring approval was in relation to the appointment of committees.

On a motion by the Civic Mayor, seconded by Councillor Janette Williamson, it was –

Resolved – That,

(1) the formation of those Committees set out in Part 3(B) of the Constitution, be agreed,

- (a) noting that Council determined on 28th September 2020 and 19th October 2020 respectively that the following meetings are exempt from political balance requirements:
 - (i) Constitution and Standards Committee (Council minute 8 (20/21) refers);
 - (ii) Senior Officer Appointments and Staffing Sub-Committee and associated sub-committees of the Policy and Resources Committee (Council minute 8 (20/21) refers); and
 - (iii) Local Plan Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee (Council minute 21 (20/21) refers); and
 - (b) seats on the Committees be allocated as set out in Appendix 1;
- (2) the Monitoring Officer as proper officer, be authorised to carry out the wishes of the Leaders of Political Groups in allocating Members to membership and substitute membership of the committees or other authorities, and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members;
 - (3) the appointment of sub-committees, panels and statutory/advisory committees, be delegated to the appropriate parent Committee of Council;
 - (4) authority be delegated to the Director of Law and Governance, to appoint Members to the Regulatory Panel of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee and appoint Members to the Licensing Panel of the Licensing Committee, in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons of these Committees, to enable meetings of either, or both, of these panels, if required, prior to their appointment at the first meetings of each of these committees.

11 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

The second matter requiring approval was in relation to the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees.

On a motion by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart, it was -

A. Resolved –

- (1) That Councillor Janette Williamson be appointed Leader of the Council (Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee).**

Having been invited by the Civic Mayor to make her acceptance speech, Councillor Janette Williamson then spoke to her election as Leader.

On a motion by Councillor Janette Williamson, seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart, it was -

B. Resolved -

- (2) That Councillor Yvonne Nolan be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council (Vice-Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee).**

On a motion by Councillor Janette Williamson, seconded by Councillor Tom Anderson, it was –

C. Resolved -

- (3) That Chairs and Vice-Chairs be appointed to Committees as referred to in the list circulated in the supplementary agenda, and that the appointments be as set out below.**

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Policy and Resources	Cllr Janette Williamson	Cllr Yvonne Nolan
Adult Social Care and Public Health	Cllr Yvonne Nolan	Cllr Mary Jordan
Children, Young People and Education	Cllr Wendy Clements	Cllr Kate Cannon
Economy, Regeneration and Development	Cllr Tony Jones	Cllr Andrew Hodson
Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport	Cllr Elizabeth Grey	Cllr Chris Cooke
Housing	Cllr Julie McManus	Cllr Allan Brame
Tourism Communities, Culture and Leisure	Cllr Helen Cameron	Cllr Chris Spriggs
Audit and Risk Management	Cllr Kathy Hodson	Cllr Stuart Whittingham
Decision Review	Cllr Paul Hayes	Cllr Jerry Williams

Partnerships	Cllr Jean Robinson	Cllr Jenny Johnson
Pensions	Cllr Pat Cleary	Cllr Cherry Povall
Planning	Cllr Stuart Kelly	Cllr Steve Foulkes
Regulatory and General Purposes	Cllr Andrew Hodson	Cllr Chris Jones
Urgency	Cllr Janette Williamson	Cllr Yvonne Nolan

12 **APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS TO OTHER BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS**

The third matter requiring approval was in relation to the appointment of Members (and/or other individuals) to outside bodies and organisations.

On a motion by Councillor Janette Williamson, seconded by Councillor Tom Anderson, it was –

Resolved – That Members, officers or others (as appropriate) be appointed or nominated, as the case may be, to represent the Council on various outside bodies and organisations, as listed in the agenda supplement.

Appendix - Committee Membership

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MEMBERSHIP of COMMITTEES 2021/2022

POLICY AND SERVICE COMMITTEES

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE (15 Council Members)

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
<p>7 Labour:</p> <p>Janette Williamson (Chair) Elizabeth Grey Tony Jones Julie McManus Yvonne Nolan (Vice-Chair) Jean Robinson Paul Stuart</p>	<p>Brian Kenny Steve Foulkes Sam Frost Karl Greaney</p>
<p>5 Conservative:</p> <p>Tom Anderson (S) Helen Cameron Wendy Clements Jeff Green Lesley Rennie</p>	<p>Andrew Hodson Mary Jordan Andrew Gardner</p>
<p>1 Liberal Democrat:</p> <p>Phil Gilchrist</p>	<p>Chris Carubia</p>
<p>1 Independent:</p> <p>Steve Hayes</p>	<p>Moira McLaughlin</p>
<p>1 Green:</p> <p>Pat Cleary</p>	<p>Chris Cooke</p>

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
(11 Council Members)**

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
<p>5 Labour:</p> <p>Yvonne Nolan (Chair) Kate Cannon Tony Cottier Samantha Frost Clare O'Hagan</p>	<p>Chris Jones Sharon Jones Paul Martin</p>
<p>3 Conservative:</p> <p>Ivan Camphor Mary Jordan (Vice-Chair) Simon Mountney</p>	<p>Alison Wright Bruce Berry</p>
<p>1 Liberal Democrat:</p> <p>Phil Gilchrist</p>	<p>Dave Mitchell</p>
<p>1 Green:</p> <p>Jason Walsh</p>	<p>Chris Cooke</p>
<p>1 Independent:</p> <p>Moira McLaughlin</p>	<p>Steve Hayes</p>

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
(11 Council Members, 4 co-opted members)

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
<p>5 Labour:</p> <p>Dave Brennan Kate Cannon (Vice-Chair) Helen Collinson Samantha Frost Paul Stuart</p>	<p>Adrian Jones Yvonne Nolan Clare O'Hagan</p>
<p>4 Conservative:</p> <p>Wendy Clements (Chair) Max Booth Cherry Povall Alison Wright</p>	<p>Ivan Camphor Steve Williams</p>
<p>1 Liberal Democrat:</p> <p>Chris Carubia</p>	<p>Dave Mitchell</p>
<p>1 Green:</p> <p>Chris Cooke</p>	<p>Pat Cleary</p>
<p>Co-opted members:</p> <p>2 Diocesan representatives (with voting rights): Roman Catholic – Ms Julie Johnson Church of England – Mr Chris Penn</p> <p>2 Parent Governor representatives: Vacancy (until 28 October 2023) Vacancy (until 8 February 2025)</p>	

**ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
(11 Council Members)**

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
<p>5 Labour:</p> <p>Karl Greaney Tony Jones (Chair) Paul Martin Tony Smith Gillian Wood</p>	<p>Jo Bird Samantha Frost Jerry Williams</p>
<p>4 Conservative:</p> <p>David Burgess-Joyce Andrew Gardner Andrew Hodson (Vice-Chair) Cherry Povall</p>	<p>Max Booth Jenny Johnson</p>
<p>1 Liberal Democrat:</p> <p>Dave Mitchell</p>	<p>Stuart Kelly</p>
<p>1 Green:</p> <p>Emily Gleaves</p>	<p>Pat Cleary</p>

**ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
(11 Council Members)**

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
<p>5 Labour:</p> <p>Helen Collinson Elizabeth Grey (Chair) Steve Foulkes Clare O'Hagan Irene Williams</p>	<p>Tony Cottier Adrian Jones Gillian Wood</p>
<p>4 Conservative:</p> <p>Bruce Berry Mike Collins Simon Mountney (S) Les Rowlands</p>	<p>Helen Cameron Tom Anderson</p>
<p>1 Liberal Democrat:</p> <p>Andy Corkhill</p>	<p>Allan Brame</p>
<p>1 Green:</p> <p>Chris Cooke (Vice-Chair)</p>	<p>Pat Cleary</p>

**HOUSING COMMITTEE
(11 Council Members)**

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
5 Labour: Julie McManus (Chair) Jo Bird Paul Martin Tony Smith Stuart Whittingham	 Steve Foulkes Jean Robinson Joe Walsh
4 Conservative: Helen Cameron Mike Collins Andrew Gardner (S) Ian Lewis	 Bruce Berry Paul Hayes
1 Liberal Democrat: Allan Brame (Vice-Chair)	 Stuart Kelly
1 Green: Harry Gorman	 Emily Gleaves

**TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE
(11 Council Members)**

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
<p>4 Labour:</p> <p>Brian Kenny Chris Spriggs (Vice-Chair) Jerry Williams Gillian Wood</p>	<p>Jo Bird Paul Stuart</p>
<p>4 Conservative:</p> <p>Helen Cameron (Chair) Max Booth Jenny Johnson Steve Williams</p>	<p>Les Rowlands Andrew Gardner</p>
<p>2 Liberal Democrat:</p> <p>Allan Brame (S) Phil Gilchrist</p>	<p>Andy Corkhill</p>
<p>1 Green:</p> <p>Pat Cleary</p>	<p>Jason Walsh</p>

REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEES

AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (11 Council Members)

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
5 Labour: Dave Brennan Kate Cannon Adrian Jones Tony Smith Stuart Whittingham (Vice-Chair)	 Tony Cottier Chris Jones Chris Spriggs
4 Conservative: Kathy Hodson (Chair) Jenny Johnson Ian Lewis Simon Mountney	 Tony Cox Cherry Povall
1 Liberal Democrat: Stuart Kelly	 Allan Brame
1 Green: Jason Walsh	 Harry Gorman

**CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE
(11 Council Members; 6 Independent Persons)**

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
<p>5 Labour:</p> <p>Steve Foulkes Karl Greaney Chris Jones Paul Stuart (S) Janette Williamson</p>	<p>Samantha Frost Adrian Jones Jean Robinson</p>
<p>3 Conservative:</p> <p>Tony Cox (S) Paul Hayes Steve Williams</p>	<p>Kathy Hodson Lesley Rennie</p>
<p>1 Liberal Democrat:</p> <p>Phil Gilchrist</p>	<p>Chris Carubia</p>
<p>1 Green:</p> <p>Chris Cooke</p>	<p>Pat Cleary</p>
<p>1 Independent:</p> <p>Moira McLaughlin</p>	<p>Steve Hayes</p>
<p>6 Independent Persons:</p> <p>Mr G Kerr (appointed until 10 Dec 2021) Mr JR McCosh (appointed until 10 Dec 2021) Mrs A Lloyd-Prince (appointed until 10 Dec 2021) Mr A Wilson (appointed until 10 Dec 2021) Mr C Jones (appointed until 27 Sept 2024) Professor RS Jones (appointed until 27 Sept 2024)</p>	

**DECISION REVIEW COMMITTEE
(11 Council Members)**

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
<p>5 Labour:</p> <p>Kate Cannon Sharon Jones Joe Walsh Irene Williams Jerry Williams (Vice-Chair)</p>	<p>Samantha Frost Karl Greaney Jean Robinson</p>
<p>4 Conservative:</p> <p>Paul Hayes (Chair) Tom Anderson Tony Cox Andrew Gardner</p>	<p>Ian Lewis David Burgess-Joyce</p>
<p>1 Lib Dem:</p> <p>Chris Carubia</p>	<p>Phil Gilchrist</p>
<p>1 Green:</p> <p>Pat Cleary</p>	<p>Chris Cooke</p>

**PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE
(11 Council Members)**

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
<p>5 Labour:</p> <p>Jean Robinson (Chair) Dave Brennan Tony Cottier Paul Martin Joe Walsh</p>	<p>Jo Bird Adrian Jones Stuart Whittingham</p>
<p>4 Conservative:</p> <p>Bruce Berry Ivan Camphor Jenny Johnson (Vice-Chair) Alison Wright</p>	<p>Wendy Clements Lesley Rennie</p>
<p>1 Liberal Democrat:</p> <p>Dave Mitchell</p>	<p>Phil Gilchrist</p>
<p>1 Independent:</p> <p>Steve Hayes</p>	<p>Moira McLaughlin</p>

PENSIONS COMMITTEE
(11 Council Members; 5 co-opted members)

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
<p>5 Labour:</p> <p>Jo Bird Helen Collinson Adrian Jones (S) Brian Kenny Joe Walsh</p>	<p>Tony Cottier Janette Williamson Gillian Wood</p>
<p>4 Conservative:</p> <p>Tony Cox Jeff Green Cherry Povall (Vice-Chair) Les Rowlands</p>	<p>Simon Mountney David Burgess-Joyce</p>
<p>1 Liberal Democrat:</p> <p>Chris Carubia</p>	<p>Allan Brame</p>
<p>1 Green:</p> <p>Pat Cleary (Chair)</p>	<p>Chris Cooke</p>
<p>5 Co-opted members:</p> <p>The nominees of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liverpool City Council • Knowsley MBC • St Helens MBC • Sefton MBC <p><i>plus</i> Representative of other Pension Fund employers</p>	

**PLANNING COMMITTEE
(11 Council Members)**

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
<p>5 Labour:</p> <p>Steve Foulkes (Vice-Chair) Samantha Frost Adrian Jones Brian Kenny Paul Stuart</p>	<p>Joe Walsh Irene Williams Stuart Whittingham</p>
<p>4 Conservative:</p> <p>Bruce Berry Andrew Gardner Kathy Hodson (S) Mary Jordan</p>	<p>Jenny Johnson Alison Wright</p>
<p>1 Liberal Democrat:</p> <p>Stuart Kelly (Chair)</p>	<p>Dave Mitchell</p>
<p>1 Green:</p> <p>Harry Gorman</p>	<p>Pat Cleary</p>

**REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
(15 Council Members)**

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
<p>7 Labour:</p> <p>Jo Bird Chris Jones (Vice-Chair) Sharon Jones Clare O'Hagan Chris Spriggs Irene Williams Jerry Williams</p>	<p>Karl Greaney Adrian Jones Tony Jones Paul Stuart</p>
<p>5 Conservative:</p> <p>Andrew Hodson (Chair) David Burgess-Joyce Mike Collins Steve Williams Alison Wright</p>	<p>Max Booth Les Rowlands</p>
<p>1 Liberal Democrat:</p> <p>Dave Mitchell</p>	<p>Chris Carubia</p>
<p>1 Green:</p> <p>Emily Gleaves</p>	<p>Chris Cooke</p>
<p>1 Independent:</p> <p>None</p>	<p>None</p>

**LICENSING ACT COMMITTEE
(15 Council Members)**

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES No provision for deputies
<p>7 Labour:</p> <p>Jo Bird Chris Jones (Vice-Chair) Sharon Jones Clare O'Hagan Chris Spriggs Irene Williams Jerry Williams</p>	
<p>5 Conservative:</p> <p>Andrew Hodson (Chair) David Burgess-Joyce Mike Collins Steve Williams Alison Wright</p>	
<p>1 Liberal Democrat:</p> <p>Dave Mitchell</p>	
<p>1 Green:</p> <p>Emily Gleaves</p>	Chris Cooke
<p>1 Independent:</p> <p>None</p>	None

**URGENCY COMMITTEE
(15 Council Members)**

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
<p>7 Labour:</p> <p>Janette Williamson (Chair) Elizabeth Grey Tony Jones Julie McManus Yvonne Nolan (Vice-Chair) Jean Robinson Paul Stuart</p>	<p>Brian Kenny Steve Foulkes Karl Greaney Kate Cannon</p>
<p>5 Conservative:</p> <p>Tom Anderson (S) Helen Cameron Wendy Clements Jeff Green Lesley Rennie</p>	<p>Andrew Hodson Mary Jordan Simon Mountney</p>
<p>1 Liberal Democrat:</p> <p>Phil Gilchrist</p>	<p>Chris Carubia</p>
<p>1 Independent:</p> <p>Steve Hayes</p>	<p>Moira McLaughlin</p>
<p>1 Green:</p> <p>Pat Cleary</p>	<p>Chris Cooke</p>

COUNCIL

Wednesday, 11 August 2021

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

Councillors	T Anderson	E Gleaves	J McManus
	B Berry	H Gorman	P Martin
	M Booth	K Greaney	D Mitchell
	A Brame	EA Grey	S Mountney
	D Brennan	S Hayes	Y Nolan
	D Burgess-Joyce	J Johnson	C O'Hagan
	H Cameron	AER Jones	L Rennie
	K Cannon	C Jones	J Robinson
	C Carubia	S Jones	L Rowlands
	P Cleary	M Jordan	I Williams
	M Collins	S Kelly	KJ Williams
	H Collinson	B Kenny	J Williamson
	T Cottier	D Kenny	G Wood
	A Gardner	I Lewis	A Wright

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No such declarations were made.

14 CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Civic Mayor announced that apologies had been received from the following –

Councillors:

Jo Bird	Phil Gilchrist	Tony Smith
Ivan Camphor	Jeff Green	Christine Spriggs
Wendy Clements	Paul Hayes	Paul Stuart
Chris Cooke	Andrew Hodson	Jason Walsh
Andy Corkhill	Kathy Hodson	Joe Walsh
Tony Cox	Tony Jones	Stuart Whittingham
Steve Foulkes	Moira McLaughlin	Steve Williams
Sam Frost	Cherry Povall	

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

On a motion by the Mayor, Councillor George Davies, seconded by Councillor Janette Williamson, it was -

Resolved – That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 5 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

16 **HOYLAKE GOLF RESORT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT**

Further to the resolution of the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting held on 28 July 2021 (minute 44 refers) to refer the matter to Council for a decision and having agreed to consideration of a referral item as a matter for consideration at this extraordinary Council, the Mayor called upon the Director of Law and Governance to introduce his exempt report on the matter of the Council's Framework Development Agreement relating to Hoylake Golf Resort.

Following the verbal update by the Director of Law and Governance, and prior to the tabling of a formal proposal and debate on the matter, the Mayor provided Councillors the opportunity to ask questions of the Director.

A number of Councillors sought clarification on a number of areas relating to the report, general history and timeline of the development agreement. The Director of Law and Governance responded accordingly.

Following the question and answer session, at 6.50pm, the Mayor adjourned the meeting for a short break.

The meeting resumed at 7.00pm.

Following a lengthy and considered debate, and after a further adjournment of 10 minutes, the Motion (recommendation as contained within the report) moved by the Mayor Councillor George Davies, seconded by Councillor Janette Williamson, was put to the vote.

In accordance with Standing Order 12, a number of Members rose to request a 'card vote'.

A recorded vote was then taken on the Motion and the Council divided as follows:

For the motion (22): D Brennan, K Cannon, H Collinson, T Cottier, G Davies, K Greaney, E Grey, S Hayes, AER Jones, C Jones, S Jones, B Kenny, D

Kenny, P Martin, J McManus, Y Nolan, C O'Hagan, J Robinson, I Williams, J Williams, J Williamson, G Wood.

Against the motion (21): T Anderson, B Berry, M Booth, A Brame, D Burgess-Joyce, H Cameron, C Carubia, P Cleary, M Collins, A Gardner, E Gleaves, H Gorman, J Johnson, M Jordan, S Kelly, I Lewis, D Mitchell, S Mountney, L Rennie, L Rowlands, A Wright.

It was therefore -

Resolved (22:21) no abstentions – That the recommendations within the report be approved.

Meeting concluded 7.52pm

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MINUTE EXTRACT

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

28 JULY, 2021

34 THE WIRRAL PLAN 2021-2026

Carly Brown, Assistant Director – Strategy and Partnerships, introduced a report on The Wirral Plan 2021-26. The Wirral Plan was a key policy document for the Borough, which drove the high level priorities, ambition, and key deliverables for the organisation over a 5-year period from 2021 to 2026. The Plan reflected what people had told the Council was important to them and would be used to help all staff understand their role in helping to deliver the Council's corporate priorities.

The refreshed Plan 2021-26 had been developed to build on the five thematic priorities from the previous Plan whilst also taking account of the changed social, economic, and political landscape brought about by COVID-19 which was having a significant impact on Wirral residents and businesses.

There was a need for a series of delivery plans against each of the Council plan priorities. Delivery plans were being developed which would define how the in-year priorities would be achieved. Delivery plans would need to align with the achievement of in-year budget efficiencies and be cognisant of emerging budget planning for 2022/23. It was proposed that draft delivery plans were reviewed by policy and service committees through dedicated sessions and budget workshops during the summer.

A Member commented upon the Plan being a document to be fine-tuned throughout the year and welcomed the opportunity for Policy and Service Committees to review the delivery plans aligned with the Plan, whilst expressing some concern with some changes in respect of environment and transport, as the themes of biodiversity and active travel were critical in the original plan.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was -

A. RECOMMENDED –

(1) That the Wirral Plan, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be referred to Council in September.

B. Resolved – That,

(2) further engagement and discussion with relevant Committees takes place to shape the underpinning delivery plans and work programmes required to implement the Wirral Plan; and

(3) the approach for the development of delivery planning and corporate change programme to support implementation, be approved.

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POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 28th July, 2021

REPORT TITLE:	THE WIRRAL PLAN 2021-2026
REPORT OF:	PAUL SATOOR, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report presents The Wirral Plan 2021-26. This is the overarching plan to make Wirral a great place to live, work and prosper. The Plan sets out the vision and key priorities for the Borough over a 5-year period from 2021 to 2026.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Policy and Resources Committee is recommended to:

1. Consider the contents of the Wirral Plan set out in Appendix 1 to this report and refer to Full Council in September; and
2. Agree that further engagement and discussion with relevant Committees takes place to shape the underpinning delivery plans and work programmes required to implement the Wirral Plan; and
3. That P&R approve the approach for the development of delivery planning and corporate change programme to support implementation.

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. No other options were therefore considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In October 2019, The Wirral Plan 2025 received cross party support and was approval by Full Council. At that time, the Plan was designed to take full account of one year of activity in 2020 as well as shaping some well-informed long-term objectives.
- 3.2 However, the social, economic, and political landscape in the borough has significantly changed during 2020. There is no doubt that COVID-19 is having a significant impact on Wirral residents and businesses and will continue to do so for the coming months. We have therefore reviewed the 2025 Plan to make sense of the radically changed world that we find ourselves in.
- 3.3 High level thematic priorities remain broadly the right ones, but there are some immediate, short term actions that must be delivered in parallel with longer term aspirations and ambitions. Detailed delivery actions will be determined through further engagement and discussion with relevant Committees and with partner agencies.
- 3.4 The refreshed Wirral Plan 2021-26 has been developed to build on the five thematic priorities from the previous Plan. The thematic priorities are high level, focus on changes for whole population groups, and can only be delivered by working with partners.
- 3.5 The vision for the Wirral Plan 2021-26 is:
Equity for People and Place: To create equity for people and place and opportunities for all to secure the best possible future for our residents, communities and businesses.
- 3.6 The thematic priorities for the Wirral Plan 2021-26 are:
- A thriving and inclusive economy, creating jobs and opportunities for all.
 - A clean-energy, sustainable borough, leading the way in tackling the environment crisis.
 - Brighter futures for all regardless of their background.
 - Safe and pleasant communities that our residents are proud of.
 - Healthy and active lives for all, with the right care, at the right time.

- 3.7 The Plan is built on a detailed evidence base including the Strategic Needs Assessment drawing on the latest local and national data sources of the key challenges and opportunities facing the Borough.
- 3.8 During Summer 2020, a programme of partnership engagement was undertaken to help shape the content of the new Plan. This approach confirmed that there remains a strong appetite across the public, private and voluntary sectors for a shared strategic plan that supports collective ambitions.
- 3.9 As a result, the Plan brings together a number of organisational and partnership plans into a single coherent document and highlights the 'must do' priorities for the next 5 years. The Wirral Plan 2021-26 enables strong partnership working across Wirral, and promotes a collaborative and joined up response.
- 3.10 The Wirral Plan provides the policy framework for Council activity in the coming year. There is a need for a series of delivery plans against each of the Council plan priorities. Delivery plans are being developed which will define how the in-year priorities will be achieved. Delivery plans will need to align with the achievement of in-year budget efficiencies and be cognisant of emerging budget planning for 2022/23. It is proposed that draft delivery plans are reviewed by policy and service committees through dedicated sessions and budget workshops during the summer. This will align with the timetable to bring the Wirral Plan to Council in September.
- 3.11 This approach will ensure alignment with the Medium Term Financial Plan, any requirements MHCLG place on the Council in relation to the request for exceptional financial support, and any investment in change identified. The delivery plans will reflect activity delivered through Directorate operations, existing in-flight projects as well as new activities developed as part of a corporate programme of change. All new programmes and projects will be subject to business case approval through relevant policy and service committees. Details of the proposed change programme structure and governance will be confirmed following the approval of the Wirral Plan and associated delivery plans.

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.

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Rosemary Boylan rosemaryboylan@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: The Wirral Plan 2021-2026

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Wirral Plan 2021-2026

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council	14 th October 2019

THE WIRRAL PLAN 2021-26

Equity for People and Place



 **WIRRAL**

FOREWORD FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Without a doubt, there has been some remarkable changes taking place across Wirral during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pace and efficacy in which council services have adapted to the challenges presented by the unfolding situation has been astounding and the willingness of people across the borough to work together to protect lives and support each other has been humbling.

Incredible examples of how partners have joined together in community outreach, for new partnerships with local organisations, businesses, and individuals and how council employees have volunteered to undertake radically different roles, provide support where needed most and to deliver the critical services required to protect our most vulnerable.

Analysis has highlighted the importance of emergency planning, clear and honest communication, flexibility of working arrangements, quick thinking, rapid responses, and forward planning. Underpinning all of this has been a robust digital system, which has provided remote connectivity where face to face contact has been extremely restricted. It has enabled the Council to maintain essential services and redeploy talent.

However, as well as these positive responses, we know that COVID has illuminated and accelerated existing inequalities within the Borough in terms of:

- **Impact on health outcomes is worse for some groups**
- **Impact on wider socio-economic inequalities. Some groups have been and will be much more affected e.g., through unemployment, redundancy, loss of income, debt, hardship, children, families, and young people in poverty.**

There is no doubt that this crisis has sharply exposed existing unacceptable socio-economic and health inequalities in our Borough. We know the unfair impact of the pandemic on those already disadvantaged groups, and the additional burden COVID-19 has placed on areas with already poor health outcomes. That is why we are committed to building a fairer, more prosperous Wirral, where local people can get good jobs and achieve their aspirations. Community Wealth Building is a key part of how we will achieve this and will help improve the economic, social and health chances for residents. Community Wealth Building is therefore at the heart of our refreshed Wirral Plan, to help drive inclusive economic growth as well improving services for health and social care; families; environment; and housing.

For all of the above reasons, this Wirral Plan will put tackling inequalities at its core. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to do things differently and make a fairer, more inclusive Borough.

Wirral Council Leader

Councillor Janette Williamson

J. Williamson



1.0 INTRODUCTION

Wirral Council touches almost every aspect of residents' lives. That is a huge responsibility. We're expected to do our job, do it well, and help people live better, happier and safer lives. We're committed to reducing inequalities and promoting opportunities for everyone, right across the Borough.

To show how we aim to achieve these things, in October 2019 Council unanimously agreed the Wirral Plan 2025 which set out the Strategic Vision and key priorities for the Borough. The Plan was based on what people told us matter. In it we set out our stall and committed to what we will deliver over the next five years.

However, because of COVID-19, we need to review the 2025 Plan to make sense of the radically changed world that we find ourselves in.

There is no doubt that COVID-19 is having a significant impact on Wirral residents and businesses and will continue to do so for the coming months. Over the last ten months, we have had to rapidly adapt; take significant daily decisions in an unprecedented context that was constantly evolving; learning as we go.

As well as our ongoing COVID response, the priorities within the 2025 Plan are just as important today, but there are also some new short-term actions we need to focus on.

This 1-year Business Plan sets out the Council's priorities for the next 12 months.

Further discussions with residents, elected members, and Wirral partner agencies will continue in the coming months, to refresh and relaunch our 2025 Wirral Plan - as the joint Vision for the Borough - in Summer 2021.

2.0 THE BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

Wirral is as diverse as it is distinctive. It is a place of disparities. Some of the most affluent wards sit side by side with some of the most deprived wards, both nationally and on Wirral. There are huge inequalities in income and life expectancy depending on your Wirral postcode.

The below provides an overview of many key headlines, when compared to England, that affect Wirral residents from cradle to grave.

WIRRAL – THE PLACE

- Named one of the happiest places to live in the UK.
- A Peninsula of 15 miles long and 7 miles wide, bounded by the River Dee to the west, River Mersey to the east, and the Irish Sea to the north
- A well connected and accessible destination – A place to live, work, visit and to do business.
- Transformational regeneration of Wirral Waters and Birkenhead underway, creating sustainable waterfront neighbourhoods and urban parks on the LeftBank of the Mersey
- 50 miles of rural walking routes, cycle areas and beaches and 24 miles of coastline, featuring the longest prom in Britain and five nature reserves
- Some of the best parks and green spaces in the country – boasting 30 Green Flags and the world's first publicly-funded park in Birkenhead

IMPORTANCE OF CREATING EQUITY FOR PEOPLE AND PLACE THROUGH OUR VISION

- The inequalities in life expectancy at birth sees both male and female residents continuing to compare poorly against the England average, with a large gap in life expectancy between wards in the east and west of Wirral.
- This gap widened for both men and women between 2015-17 and 2016-18 from 9.3 to 10.7 years for women, and 9.8 to 12.1 years for men reflecting the large inequalities in the borough.
- In further trying to understand the challenges of our borough’s inequalities, the 2019 Indices of Deprivation saw Wirral ranked the 77th most deprived authority (of 317 authorities) in England.
- The report found that just over 35% of the Wirral population (around 115,500 people) are suggested to live in areas classified as being in the most deprived 20% of areas in England, with over 83,000 of those residents living in the 10% most deprived.

KEY DATA - WIRRAL PLAN THEMES

INCLUSIVE ECONOMY	<p>Wirral Borough is home to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 7,400 businesses providing employment for 111,000 people. • Economic activity rates in Wirral are currently below the national average at 73.9% compared to 79.1% of the working age population of Great Britain. • Gross weekly pay in Wirral (full time workers) is £561.2 compared to £560.3 in the North West. • Youth unemployment in Wirral (12%) is currently higher than the England average (9%), although working-age unemployment claimants in Wirral are at similar level to England. • In Wirral 23,000 people are employed in jobs related to human health and social work activities. This is 22.5% of the jobs available in Wirral, nationally in Great Britain 13.1% of people are employed in this sector and in the North West 14.2%.
SAFE AND PLEASANT COMMUNITIES	<p>Wirral sees lower than the average crime levels, compared to England:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between September 2019 and August 2020 Wirral had 97.8 crimes per 1,000 population compared to 102.2 per 1,000 population for England.
SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT	<p>Key environmental concerns for the borough led the Council to declare an “environment and climate emergency” in July 2019, with plans to focus on both biodiversity loss and climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impacts of climate change, such as flood risk associated with rising sea levels and coastal flooding, and more extreme weather events. Tidal and river flooding is also an issue in some areas, not only high surface water flood risks, and some being at risk from rising groundwater levels. • In response to the Climate Change Emergency the Council is committed to achieving net zero carbon by 2041, whilst aiming for 2030, which we believe is possible as we control our own buildings, fleet and work practices. • A key concern is therefore to reduce our GHG emissions from transport by promoting and enabling a modal shift from car and fossil fuel use to active travel ie walking and cycling. This would also help to improve air quality and road safety.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns for designated natural sites means we need to focus on improving and protecting biodiversity.
BRIGHTER FUTURES	<p>In terms of children and families Wirral has the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rate of children in care per 10,000 population in Wirral remains high at 121.6 compared to a national average of 67 Inequalities in education have also been highlighted, with lower GCSE attainment of just 11.8% of LAC pupils achieving Grades of 4 or above in English and Maths, compared to 24.4% nationally (2020) The percentage of pupils in Wirral with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) is 3.4%, slightly higher than the England average of 3.3% (2020) The number of children who are being electively home educated in Wirral has increased by 39% from 181 in March 2020 to 252 in March 2021 There has been 16.6% increase in pupils eligible for Free School Meals, from 10,848 in January 2020 to 12,652 in January 2021
ACTIVE AND HEALTHY LIVES	<p>Resident health is also a concern. Recent reports show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospital admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions are almost double the national average, with prevalence of hypertension (high blood pressure) at around one in six of the Wirral population. Other areas of health inequalities locally include a high rate of both diabetes and dementia diagnosis, Almost 4% of the working age adults claiming some type of Mental Health related benefits. Premature mortality (deaths in those aged under 75), with significantly higher rates of mortality from almost all the major causes of death (cancer, liver disease, heart disease and respiratory disease) in Wirral compared to England.
IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC	
<p>The full implications and population outcomes for the Coronavirus Pandemic are yet to be felt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the first 12 months to January 2021, there have been almost 22,000 reported cases of COVID-19. This is with over 108,545 tests per 100,000 residents being completed. In that same period, there has been 732 registered COVID-19 deaths in the borough. <p>However, due to the pandemic the cost to society in terms of impact and changes to life will likely be happening for many years to come.</p>	

3.0 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

There have been some great achievements over the past 12 months under each of the key priority areas of the Wirral 2025 plan including:

INCLUSIVE ECONOMY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Plan Reg 18 Issues and Option consultation achieved to MHCLG agreed timeline and now focussing on Urban Option Local Plan New comprehensive regeneration strategy produced leading to starts on site for Wirral Waters and the Town Centre (LGA acknowledging that Wirral is on cusp of Regeneration of National Significance) COVID-19 led distribution of £50m Business Grants and Strong Economy Plan with Community Wealth Building at its heart.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council’s response to Homelessness and the Everyone In campaign. • Safe closedown of operational estate during lockdown and remobilisation of Covid secure operating environments to ensure business continuity.
<p>SAFE AND PLEASANT COMMUNITIES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways, streetlights, and roads have improved - 13,500 LED streetlights fitted over last 12 months and £6m structural maintenance programme to support our biggest asset our roads including £15m transport schemes programme. • Delivered improved resident focused Neighbourhood services. • Managed services through challenging Covid19 pandemic, using innovative and collaborative solutions.
<p>SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways, streetlights, and roads continuing to improve - 13,500 LED streetlights fitted over last 12 months and £6m structural maintenance programme to support our biggest asset our roads including £15m transport schemes programme (consistent with above). Additional km of cycle lanes and improvements to walking and cycling routes. • Environment & Climate Emergency Declared and new Environment & Climate Emergency Action Plan to address it. • Launched the new Wirral Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy which has been endorsed by Friends of the Earth. • Successfully met our pledge to plant at least 20,000 trees each year in first year, despite Covid, and further natural regeneration planned.
<p>BRIGHTER FUTURES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedded the improvements made since the 2016 inspection to secure the transition of local authority out of intervention by the DfE and build on the recognition that leadership in Children’s Services is good. • Ensured services provide value for money by implementing our prevention strategy through a range of innovation programmes which include Cradle to Career, Social Workers in Schools, First Step for Families, Community Matter, Family Nurse Partnership Extension, PAUSE, DRIVE and our sufficiency strategy. • Responded effectively to Covid-19 by keeping children safe from abuse and neglect and ensuring that children were able to access education and learning.
<p>ACTIVE AND HEALTHY LIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led the boroughwide response to Covid-19 and provided strong public health leadership, advice and action. • Provides support to the care provider market during the pandemic and supported providers to respond quickly to changes in policy. • Worked with the regeneration team to improve health outcomes resulting from economic regeneration of the built environment, inputting health impact assessment into the Local Plan and the employment market. • Supported independent living and improved resident’s experience of Health and Care through partnerships and integrated services. • Commitment to encouraging contracted care providers to pay the Real Living Wage.

RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

During the Coronavirus Pandemic Wirral delivered:

- Over 700 items of content published.
- Over 15m social media impressions.
- Over 9m page views to Wirral's websites.
- Over 3m items of PPE issued.
- 24,271 helpline calls answered.
- Over 10,000 covid-19 emails answered.
- 506 staff redeployed to the front line.
- 2306 staff safely working from home.
- 12,250 business grant applications received.
- £94.5m business grants paid out.
- Over 18,000 food hampers delivered.
- 12,137 children able to access free school meals.
- 1,064 laptops & 147 routers to Wirral children and young people to support learning at home.

BUT WE KNOW THERE IS MORE TO DO...

These thematic priorities are still relevant, but some of the underpinning activity will change to reflect COVID context and learning from this year.

The focus must continue to be on:

STRATEGIC RECOVERY AND BUILDING ON OUR THIRD SECTOR & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

The Covid-19 pandemic has been the most challenging emergency the Borough of Wirral and the Council has responded to in recent times. The nature of the pandemic saw the Council react at speed to implement Government policy and local priorities to limit the spread of the virus, protect the health of all our residents and ensure the most vulnerable in our communities are safe and cared for.

This required a remarkable effort by our staff, partners and residents many of whom have worked tirelessly and acted with compassion to protect, support and care for others. Yet the financial, social and wider economic impact of the pandemic is the great test we now face and the scale of it cannot be underestimated.

As we move from lockdown to a transition period, we as a Council must commit to fundamentally transform and collectively work with our partners through the unprecedented challenges, while retaining the behaviours and principles which are at the core of being Wirral. We should take this unique opportunity to refresh our priorities and ambitions and move into a phase of transformation where we can create a fairer and more secure future for all of our residents in Wirral.

We aim to support all communities, businesses and public services in Wirral to recover following Covid-19. We will have to transform as a Council to address the significant adverse economic impacts of the crisis. We will strive to create a new future through harnessing the innovation and improvements made during the pandemic. We will build on the strengths and creativity of our communities and the partnerships we have developed to build a fairer, safer, greener and more secure society, with better health outcomes and a growing and more sustainable local economy.

During 2020 the social, economic, and political landscape in the borough has significantly changed. Covid has sharply exposed existing inequalities. That is why we are committed to building a fairer, more prosperous Wirral, where local people can get good jobs and achieve their aspirations. Community Wealth Building is a key part of how we will achieve this. It sets out a strong commitment to achieve ambitious growth that also brings benefits for local people, communities, and businesses; and helps to tackle wider social and economic disparities. That is why we are putting Community Wealth Building at the heart of our emerging Strategic Recovery Planning.

To do this this our Strategic Recovery Plan forms the core of the Wirral Plan 2021 - 2026. Our planning should consider two key phases: Recovery and Renewal.

1. Recovery: Recovery concentrates on the safe re-opening and resumption of assets and services, aligned with the government roadmap. It also supports the recovery of local businesses, schools and education, events, and planning for the winter period.

2. Renewal: Renewal considers new initiatives that will provide better services and experiences for our communities. It also aims to provide stronger resilience across the seven renewal themes:

- Corporate Organisation
- Children and Families
- Economy
- Neighbourhoods and Communities
- Housing and Homelessness
- Inequalities and Well-being
- Improving our High Streets and Coastal Areas

DELIVERING THE LOCAL PLAN

The Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan for the period 2020 to 2037. The Plan will set out how the Council will meet the Borough’s housing and development needs, and will include policies to tackle climate change, and protect our natural and built environmental assets. The Local Plan’s strategic policies will align with the objectives and aims of the Wirral Plan Refresh and will have at its heart the comprehensive regeneration of Birkenhead.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

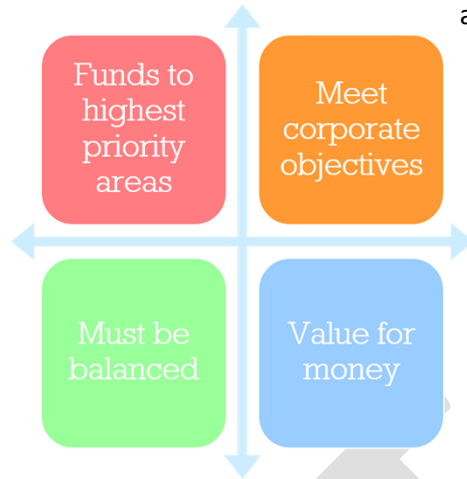
The Council is striving to deliver a background of challenging uncertainty and additional will be available and difficult made as part of budget the Medium-Term Financial related Plan (MTFP); short-term decisions in financial sustainability of the process. The Wirral Plan MTFS and MTFP are managing future pressures.

the best for residents against circumstances of financial pressures. Choices decisions will have to be setting and the delivery of Strategy (MTFS) and balancing the impact of order to align to the Council will be key in this needs to ensure that the achievable and capable of

The purpose of the MTFS is to ensure that the Council’s available resources are prioritised to the areas of highest need to ensure, amongst other things, that:

- Vulnerable residents can be supported.

- These resources are enable strategic objectives and
- Value for money is we provide.
- Financial a balanced budget



aligned to the Wirral Plan to borough and corporate priorities to be met. delivered for the services sustainability is in place via year on year.

General Fund Balancing & Earmarked Reserves

Maintaining General Fund Balances and Earmarked Reserves at an appropriate level is part of the Council’s strategic financial planning and approach to the management of risks it will face in the future. Both need to be maintained at sufficient levels to ensure that unforeseen financial pressures can be met without jeopardising the viability of the Council.

The Council’s approach to how it manages its reserves are based on Wirral’s local circumstances inclusive of the impact of Covid-19. The amount held is decided by the Council in line with its perceived future local demands. This is particularly important in an environment where future funding remains uncertain.

Over recent years the overall level of available reserves has continued to decline. Previously, one-off funding and the use of flexible capital receipts has been used to close the budget gap. In future years, the budget gap will be closed through the implementation of new financial proposals, additional income and reducing pressures.

General Fund Balances

Wirral Council’s risk-based strategy is applied in the context of the current state of the economy, other financial risks facing the Council and the underlying financial assumptions within the MTFS.

The setting and justification of the General Fund Balance, at a minimum of £10m for 2021/22, is part of the MTFS and is consistent with previous years. It is crucial the Council has sufficient contingency in this reserve to maintain financial standing and resilience. For Local Councils there is no statutory minimum level of the General Fund Balance and it is for each Council to take local circumstances into consideration.

The foundations for determining the level of General Fund balances are consideration of risks, available funding and a risk percentage factor.

Earmarked Reserves

In addition to the General Fund Balance, the Council maintains Earmarked Reserves that are set aside for specific purposes, some through internal decision-making others through legal requirements (the Council is obliged to maintain a number of legally restricted reserves which represent sums of money that the Council is required to set aside for legally defined purposes). These reserves are set aside by the Council to meet future expenditure, such as decisions causing anticipated expenditure to be delayed. As such, they are made available to be spent on specific purposes.

The key categories for Earmarked Reserves are as follows:

- Insurance & Taxation - Assessed liabilities including potential cost of meeting outstanding Insurance Fund claims.
- Business Rates - To cover potential costs of appeals and retention rate risk.
- Schools Related - Which can only be used by schools and are not available to pay for Council services.
- Support Service Activities and Projects - Includes Government Grant funded schemes; when a grant is received, and the sum of money is earmarked for the completion of programmes across years.

A robust reserves strategy is a key part of the financial resilience of the Council and provides the first line of defence in underpinning the statutory requirement to set an annually balanced budget. Adequate reserve levels help to prevent local authorities from overcommitting themselves financially, mitigate against risk and provide organisational stability in the event of unanticipated, unforeseen, or emergency spending being required. An assessment of the adequacy of reserves is a key statutory requirement to be undertaken at least annually.

Risk

Risk is an integral part of financial resilience and is embedded in all that we do. To enable the Council to monitor its financial resilience it needs to take an assessment of risk across all activities to ensure that where corporate risks have been identified that these are being mitigated and monitored on a regular basis.

4.0 THE WIRRAL PLAN 2021-2025: VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

The vision for the Wirral Plan 2021-26 has been developed to build on the five thematic priorities from the previous Plan. The thematic priorities are high level, focus on changes for whole population groups, and can only be delivered by working with partners locally and regionally.


VISION FOR THE WIRRAL PLAN 2021 - 2025

Equity for People and Place:

To create equity for people and place and opportunities for all to secure the best possible future for our residents, communities and businesses.

The key underpinning principles for achieving our vision are:

 <p>Joined up design Ensuring our services are accessible, person-centric and joined-up</p>	 <p>No one left behind Inclusive Services which recognise the different needs of residents, families and communities</p>	 <p>Prevention Tackling the root cause of inequalities and demand on Council Services. The right support at the right time</p>
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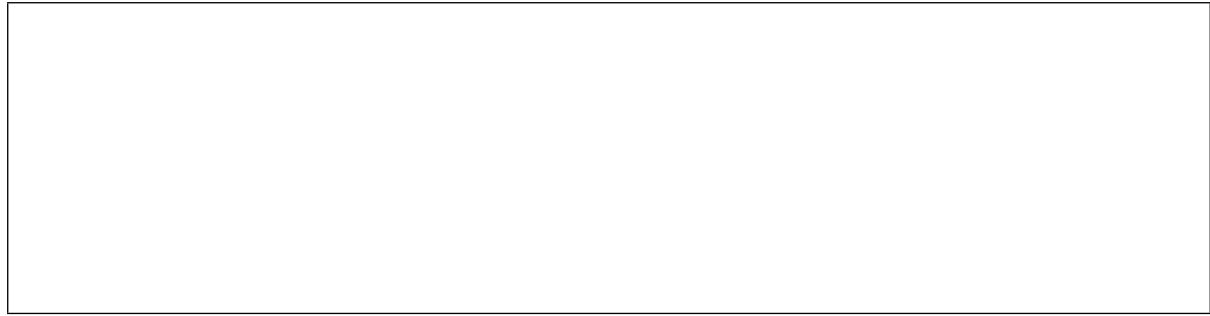
Regeneration
Investing in infrastructure and supporting businesses for a thriving



Independence
Enabling individuals, families and communities to help themselves



Relationships
Working with residents, partners, businesses and communities for a



5.0 THE WIRRAL PLAN 2021-2026: KEY THEMATIC PRIORITIES

The Wirral Plan 2021-26 is a key policy document and articulates the ambition and key deliverables for the organisation for this year.

Our Plan has been created by:

- Listening to what people have told us is important to them.
- Helping staff understand their role in supporting the delivery our corporate priorities.
- Committing to deliverables which local people can hold us to account.

The thematic priorities for the Wirral Plan 2021-26 are:



Appendix 1 captures the detail of aims, deliverables and performance on a 'Plan on a Page'.

DRAFT

6.0 THE WIRRAL PLAN 2021-2026: CROSS CUTTING STRATEGIES

To help us achieve our aims, we are creating some underpinning strategies for how we will get there:

Wirral Local Plan 2021 – 2037	Wirral’s Local Plan sets out the vision for how the borough will be developed over the next 15 years, in line with national policy and legislation.
Health Inequalities Strategy	The Health Inequalities Strategy will improve health outcomes for all by a focusing on wider socio-economic factors and tackling health inequalities.
Healthy Wirral Plan	The Healthy Wirral Plan places a great emphasis on closer working between health and social care, helping people to stay healthy and preventing people becoming unwell. There will also be more use of digital technology and health and care staff working together as teams to deliver better care to people.
Prevention and Early Intervention Programme	The Prevention and Early Intervention Programme (including Anti-Poverty Strategy) will set out the need for a whole system approach across council and partnership to meet the needs of our residents earlier, in order to deliver better outcomes and prevent/avoid demand for high-cost statutory services.
Community Wealth Building	Driving Community Wealth Building right across everything we do, to create and maintain local wealth and assets for everyone.
Economic Strategy	The Economic Strategy sets out our economic vision for the Borough, as well as a number of significant regeneration projects, which will help us to achieve our economic goals.
Affordable Housing Plan	There is a need to ensure that the delivery of affordable housing continues to be a priority aligned to and both the local plan process and regeneration programme for the borough. A new plan will be set out outlining our needs and opportunities for the delivery of affordable housing with our partners.
Homelessness Strategy and Rough Sleeping Plan	Wirral’s Homelessness Strategy and Rough Sleeping Strategy sets out the Council’s ambition to meet the challenges faced, through partnership working to deliver better outcomes for our households at risk of homelessness and to reduce rough sleeping. The strategy sets out a five-year action plan (2020 – 2025) setting out the short, medium and long-term solutions and actions identified to deliver lasting change to those at risk of, or currently homeless in Wirral.
Active Travel Strategy	The Active Travel Strategy will embed active travel solutions and local cycling and walking infrastructure across the Borough, as well as within regeneration projects and ambitions.
Neighbourhoods Model	The COVID-19 pandemic has been unprecedented in highlighting the importance and critical role of our communities and the unique ability of our Voluntary, Community and Faith sectors to mobilise and respond to the humanitarian and social needs of local communities. We will build on our community assets and develop ways in which our residents, neighbourhoods and community sector can be at the heart of our new Plan to see things working differently in their local communities.

Climate Emergency Plan	The Environment and Climate Emergency Plan will highlight the actions we will take to tackle the climate emergency in our borough, address biodiversity and climate crisis to ensure Wirral is a greener, more sustainable place to live, work and visit.
Digital Strategy	New Digital Strategy will focus on doing things differently and tackling digital exclusion.
Community Safety Strategy	The Community Safety Strategy builds on the collaborative approach developed throughout the current COVID pandemic. Community partnership work during the pandemic has achieved real results and the aim is to harness this learning to help build an outcome-rich, more inclusive Community Safety Strategy. The thematic drivers include the following: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Crime and Violence Reduction, Hate Crime, Modern Slavery, Community Safety, Domestic Abuse, Emergency Planning and Road Safety

7.0 WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

In recent months, we have been having discussions across the Wirral Partnership about future joint priorities to refresh the Wirral Plan as our collective vision for the Borough.

The Council and our partners agree that we can only achieve our goals by working together, and that the Partnership has a unique strategic role in shaping Wirral as a place.

Ongoing engagement with our partners indicates a strong appetite across the public, private and voluntary sectors for a shared strategic plan that supports collective ambitions. We are reviewing our Partnership arrangements to ensure that we continue to build on our excellent partnerships and networks to support delivery of our refreshed Wirral Plan. The delivery plan will be a live document that can be updated as and when necessary, to ensure that The Wirral Plan 2021-26 remains agile and is ready to respond to challenges and opportunities as they arise.

Wirral's Partnership arrangements are also being reviewed to reflect national changes for NHS reforms. This includes proposals for local Integrated Care Systems.

New Partnership arrangements will provide strategic vision, shared leadership and coordination of local networks in order to improve Wirral and the population health outcomes of its residents. To achieve this there are some key pillars of work related to the delivery of the Wirral Plan:

- Ensure that the sustainable regeneration of the Borough, contributes to improved outcomes for residents in line with those set out in the Wirral Plan.
- Ensure that partnership and integrated care arrangements are in place and that they are effective in delivering improved health outcomes and experiences of care for residents of Wirral.
- Understand the needs of the local communities in order to develop and implement a Health & Wellbeing Strategy to tackle inequalities and improve the lives of residents.
- Provide oversight, strategic direction, and coordination of the statutory responsibilities of the Health & Wellbeing Board.

In the coming weeks, partnership engagement will continue. Building on extensive partner engagement and collaborative working with our third sector and communities as part of our joint response to the pandemic, new arrangements will be brought forward and systemised to ensure that we have a shared commitment to the Wirral Plan 2026, and an effective platform for delivery.

As well as partnership working during Covid, Wirral has been playing a key role within the LCR Combined Authority, working together to drive the devolution of powers and resources to have a real impact on the City Region's communities, in areas such as economic development, education and skills, transport, employment, culture, digital and housing.

To support delivery of the Wirral Plan, we will continue to build on our successful partnership working in the Liverpool City Region including to:

- Ensure Wirral's interests are represented.
- Secure significant funding opportunities to support Wirral's Regeneration ambitions absolutely key to the borough's recovery and generating income for future sustainability and inclusive economic growth.
- Lead Community Wealth Building and Inclusive Economic Growth.
- Joint lobbying for additional resources to support our local communities.

We are a Borough of inequality but one of great aspirations, communities and a desire to work with our partners to deliver a shared goal.

8.0 OUR COMMITMENT TO WIRRAL

The ambitions described in this report are our promise to Wirral residents. These are the things we will deliver to make this borough a better, fairer, more prosperous place for everyone who lives here.

They are about creating jobs, improving services and making public money work harder for public benefit and community wealth. They're about making sure Wirral residents can continue to live in a place which they are proud of, with modern public services there to support them.

In 2025, when this Wirral Plan is complete and we reflect on our progress, I am keen to be held accountable for delivering the priorities set out in this document.

Now it is time to deliver on our promises.

APPENDIX 1 The Wirral Plan 2021-26: Plan on a Page

APPENDIX 2 How the Plan aligns with our Governance and Committee Structure

APPENDIX 1 – THE WIRRAL PLAN 2021 – 2026: PLAN ON A PAGE

WIRRAL PLAN 2021 – 2026				
EQUITY FOR PEOPLE AND PLACE				
To create equity for people and place and opportunities for all to secure best possible future for our residents, communities and businesses.				
Brighter Futures	Inclusive Economy	Sustainable Environment	Safe & Pleasant Communities	Active & Healthy Lives
AIMS				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Break the cycle of poor outcomes. Reduce educational attainment inequalities. Raise the aspirations of all our children and young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver regeneration, transport and growth ambitions. Create Community Wealth/Social Value. Create jobs and support local businesses. Develop quality, affordable and sustainable homes. Prevent and relieve homelessness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to the Climate Change emergency. Protect our cherished local environment. Improve street cleanliness. Support and promote active travel networks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partner agencies to reduce crime and tackle anti-social behaviour. Tackle rough sleeping and homelessness. Deliver everyday neighbourhood services to the best possible standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partner agencies to improve mental wellbeing. Encourage active living. Support people to live independently. Deliver public health services and actions to improve wider determinants of health. Tackle health inequalities.
DELIVERABLES				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a prevention programme. Deliver the Transformational Partnership Accommodation Strategy. Build the 'early help and intervention' offer. Deliver the School Asset and Sufficiency Strategy. Deliver the SEND Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the Local Plan. Deliver the Economic Strategy 2026. Deliver the Birkenhead 2040 Framework. Deliver regeneration enabling strategies. Deliver transport strategies and regen/active travel projects. Deliver the Community Wealth Building Strategy. Deliver the Homelessness Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the Climate Emergency Action Plan and Cool Wirral 2 Strategy. Progress the major LED replacement scheme. Implementation of major capital infrastructure investment which supports Wirral Highways and Infrastructure. Deliver the Cycling and Walking Programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the DRIVE programme. Begin design of new Neighbourhoods model Deliver the new libraries model and strategy. Deliver new Sports and Physical Activities Strategy. Deliver the Community Safety Strategy. Ensure Culture and Learning is embedded in the heart of communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead the strategic and operational Outbreak Management Plan. Launch the Health Inequalities Strategy. Develop a new leisure offer. Develop a new adult social care model. Deliver against the Prevention programme.
PERFORMANCE MEASURES				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in children making expected progress educationally. A closing gap in educational achievement. Increase in children ready for school. Decrease in rate of looked after children in Wirral. Children in Need rate per 10,000 0-17 population. Increased success of the early intervention family programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value of investments secured Hectares of Brownfield Land remediated/ regenerated. Number of jobs created and safeguarded. Claimant Count (reduction) Business Count (increase) No. of affordable homes delivered. Reduction in those living in temporary accommodation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased recycling Reduce the overall collected general waste (non-recycling) per household Increase energy efficiency in Council owned buildings Improved biodiversity, through tree planting, rewilding and natural regeneration. Increase in active travel, including walking and cycling. Improve ratings for our designated nature sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in anti-social behaviour Reduction in the number of crimes reported to the police Reduce first time entrants into the Youth Justice System Reduce the incidents of repeat domestic abuse reporting. Increased library usage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More people are supported to remain independent in their own homes. Care, health and support services are joined up and responsive. Fewer admissions to hospital or long term care. Number of home adaptations completed. Proportion of residents living in suitable housing. Increase in people using Council leisure facilities.
CROSS-CUTTING STRATEGIES AND STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wirral Local Plan 2020 – 2037 Health Inequalities Strategy Healthy Wirral Plan Prevention Programme Community Wealth Building Strategy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Strategy Affordable Housing Plan Homelessness Strategy and Rough Sleeping Plan Active Travel Strategy Neighbourhoods Model 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Emergency Plan Digital Strategy Community Safety Strategy 		

Appendix 2: Overview of Committees

Committee	Policy and Resources	Adult Social Care and Health	Children, Young People and Education	Economy, Regeneration and Development	Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport	Housing	Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure
Nominated Committee Chair	Cllr Janette Williamson	Cllr Yvonne Nolan	Cllr Wendy Clements	Cllr Tony Jones	Cllr Elizabeth Grey	Cllr Julie McManus	Cllr Helen Cameron
Lead Officer(s)	Chief Executive	Director of Care and Health and Director of Public Health	Director of Children's Services	Director of Regeneration and Plan	Director of Neighbourhood Services	Director of Regeneration and Plan and Head of Housing Services	Director of Neighbourhood Services
<p>Overview of Committee Responsibilities (detailed responsibilities included within Appendix)</p> <p>Page 54</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy matters • Performance, budget monitoring and risk management. • Lead in matters concerning relationships with HM Government, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, and other major public and non-public bodies. • Lead in the Council's response to the Climate Emergency. • Appointment of Council representatives. • Nominate Councillors and other persons to outside bodies • Undertake responsibility for developing and monitoring the enabling corporate services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult social care matters (18+) including protection for vulnerable adults, support for carers. • Drug and alcohol commissioning • Mental health services • Preventative services • All Public Health functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services to children and young people in relation to their care, wellbeing, education, or health. • Provision of education • Corporate Parent for children in care and care leavers. • Working with schools in raising standards of attainment and developing opportunities. • Delivery of services for children, young people, and families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan • Spatial planning • Economic development including infrastructure, enterprise, skills and seeking, securing, and managing external funds. • Promotion of economic growth and the establishment and development of business. • Promotion and development of the economic factors in the area. • Overseeing the development of major projects as enabler, funder, or joint enterprise partner with Wirral Growth Company LLP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways matters • Traffic management and transport • Road safety and active travel • Traffic orders and rights of way issues. • Parking, including on and off-street parking and civil parking enforcement. • Parks, open spaces, countryside management, allotments, playgrounds, and cemeteries, including arboriculture, gardening, Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy and warden services. • Management of authorised and unauthorised sites and encampments. • Waste - waste collection authority and litter authority. • Coast protection authority and lead local flood authority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic and private sector housing policies as the housing authority. • Homelessness and Rough Sleeping • Housing needs and links to affordable housing • Council's Housing Strategy. • Analysis, development, and overview of housing policies. • Financial Assistance • Empty Homes • Disabled Facilities Grant in line with legislation • Policy for housing register and allocations policy for affordable housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer and community contact services, including various offices and meeting points, customer contact centres and advice and transaction services. • Community engagement. • Considering options and develop proposals for neighbourhood arrangements. • Provision and management of leisure, sports, and recreation facilities. • Delivery of the authority's library and museums services. • Tourism, the arts, culture, and heritage • Bereavement services and support to the Coroner's service. • Community safety, crime, and disorder • Trading standards and environmental health.



COUNCIL

Monday 6 September 2021

REPORT TITLE:	THE WIRRAL PLAN 2021-2026 – DRAFT DELIVERY PLANS
REPORT OF:	PAUL SATOOR, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report presents The Wirral Plan 2021-26 Draft Delivery Plans. These have been developed during the summer, with Group Leaders considering the draft Plans on Friday 20 August 2021. They agreed the attached Appendix should be shared with Council alongside the documentation that Policy and Resources has already considered.

There will be subsequent additional opportunities to consider the draft Delivery Plans with relevant Committees as set out in Recommendation (2) below.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Council is recommended to:

1. Consider the additional contents within the draft Delivery Plans set out in Appendix 1 to this report; and
2. Agree that further engagement and discussion with relevant Committees takes place to further shape the underpinning delivery plans and work programmes required to implement the Wirral Plan.

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. No other options were therefore considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Wirral Plan provides the policy framework for Council activity in the coming year. There is a need for a series of underpinning Delivery Plans against each of the Wirral Plan priorities. Delivery Plans are being developed which will define how the in-year priorities will be achieved. Delivery Plans will need to align with the achievement of in-year budget efficiencies and be cognisant of emerging budget planning for 2022/23.
- 3.2 Policy and Resources Committee on 28th July agreed that the draft Delivery Plans could be initially considered during the summer to align with the timetable to bring the Wirral Plan to Council in September.
- 3.3 Additional consideration of the draft Delivery Plans will also 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.

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Rosemary Boylan rosemaryboylan@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: The Wirral Draft Delivery Plans

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Wirral Plan 2021-2026

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council	14 th October 2019
Policy and Resources Committee	28 th July 2021

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AIM

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

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	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"> Local Plan Affordable Homes 	Publish the Reg 19 for consultation	Autumn 21	Led by the Regeneration and Place Directorate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reg 19 published Local Plan published Housing schemes in pre-app/in planning/ consented/in construction. Annual monitoring report to ensure 5-year housing land supply on track
			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"> Delivery of Economic Strategy 2026 Town Centres/High Streets Employment & Skills Business Support & Inward Investment Social Regeneration & Community Wealth 	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"> Publish the Economic Strategy 2026 Secure New Contract for Wirral Business Support Service No. of business supported. Value of support (£s) Kickstart placements available and filled. Number engaged in the Ways to Work Programme and number of positive outcomes achieved. <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"> Town Centre Commercial Business District Hind Street Green Corridor Wirral Waters 	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"> Adoption of Final Framework Funding secured from public/private sources. schemes in pre-app/ in planning/ consented/in construction

	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"> • Culture • Heritage • New Homes • Low Carbon • Visitor Economy 	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"> • Published Wirral Culture and Heritage Strategy (delivery measures to be reviewed on completion of strategy) • New district heating infrastructure – Stage's TBC • Publication of Design Guide • Increase in number and size of Wirral business conferences. • Increased overnight and day visitor numbers to Wirral, from April 2022.
			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. Transport	Embedding active travel solutions and local cycling and walking infrastructure into regeneration projects and ambitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	Regeneration & Place team working with LCR.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of Business Case by LCRCA • Publication of Active Travel Strategy (delivery measures to be reviewed on completion of strategy). • Increase in volume of cycle journeys. • Increase in sustainable journeys to school.
			Deliver an Active Travel Strategy	December 2021		
			Delivery of a strategic cycle route from Leasowe to Seacombe Ferry	December 2022		
			Implementation of 6 'School Streets' Projects	March 2022		
6. Housing	Increase affordable housing provision within the Borough through enabling and partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable Housing and Shared Ownership Programme • Planning Policy 	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"> • Affordable Housing and Shared Ownership Programme • Planning Policy
	Prevent and Relieve Homelessness and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness Strategy and Rough Sleeping Action Plan • Move On Accommodation Plan 	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	Regeneration and Place Directorate in collaboration with partners	December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness Strategy and Rough Sleeping Action Plan • Move On Accommodation Plan

	Reduce numbers of rough sleepers		temporary accommodation during the lockdown period			
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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"> Outbreak Management Plan 	Lead the strategic and operational Outbreak Management Plan and adapt/respond to Government guidance.	Ongoing	Outbreak Management Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wirral Plan 2025 refresh is set in the context of living with Covid. Enquiries are answered.
			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"> Health Inequalities Strategy Leisure Strategy Prevention Programme 	Launch the Health Inequalities Strategy	April 2021	Health and Wellbeing Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced health inequalities and a range of ‘health’ measures (TBC) Savings / efficiencies Customer / Resident feedback and insight
			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"> New adult social care model (Three conversations) Smarter homes, assistive technology and extracare housing. Out of hospital pathways review Online Care and Financial Assessment. Wirral Evolutions review 	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"> Greater independence evidenced by reduced cost of care and reduced residential placements, increased community support. Reduction in care charge arrears (PFU) Increased responsiveness to care enquiries in innovation sites. Positive feedback from service users Improved performance in supporting people home from hospital. Increased number of people living in extracare housing.
			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.	

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"> Partnership Accommodation Programme Residential homes Care Leavers Hub 'My Space' 	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"> Reduced demand/cost – e.g., looked after children Improved OFSTED rating. Increase in 'in-borough' placements. Reduction in children admission to Tier 4 mental health provision Improved emotional wellbeing and support for Care Leavers.
			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"> Prevention Framework and Breaking the Cycle programme Early Help Model Youth Offer 	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"> Improved outcomes for children and families. Reduced demand/cost Reduction in prevalence of domestic abuse Improved co-ordination and collaboration in tackling perpetrators Reduction in Section 47 enquiries (Child Protection) Prevention of children becoming looked after
			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"> School's review SEND Strategy Pathways - children to adult's services Apprenticeships Strategy Three conversations approach 	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"> Improved educational attainment. 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
			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		

			<p>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.</p>	<p>September 2021</p>	<p>Programme.</p>	<p>education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
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AIM

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

Page 65

	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"> Cool Wirral2 Climate Change Strategy Environment & Climate Emergency Policy and Action Plan Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Strategy 	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 Environment & Climate Emergency Action Group Delivered through the Change Programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced CO2 from Council operations
			Secure green sustainable energy for the Council's energy requirements.	During 2021 - 2022		
			Re-establish the Council's carbon budget and reporting process.	During 2021 - 2022		
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"> Highways Asset Management Strategy & Policy Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Strategy Environment & Climate Emergency Policy Street Light Policy 	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"> Number of LED streetlight replacements in Wirral by 2022 leading to positive environmental impacts. Reduction of costs and savings - energy costs and carbon tax when the streetlight upgrade is completed.
			Through the Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Strategy, we will plant over 210,000 trees across the borough over the next 10 yrs. 24,000 trees were planted in 2020-21, exceeding the annual target.	Over the next 10 years		

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"> Domestic Abuse Prevention programme Three conversations approach. 	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"> Reduced cost / demand on a range of Council services – efficiencies. Domestic abuse: Reduction in cases and re-offending, increased reporting, feedback from survivors.
			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. Implementation of major capital infrastructure investment which supports Wirral’s Highways & Infrastructure (cross-cutting with Environment)	Ensure Wirral’s infrastructure is sustainable for the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highways Asset Management Strategy & Policy Lifecycle Programmes Street Light Policy Tree Woodland and Hedgerow Strategy Invest to Save Programme Deliver the commitments of the Environment & Climate Emergency Policy 	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 2022	Neighbourhood Services Directorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of LED streetlight replacements in Wirral by 2022. Reduction of costs and savings - energy costs and carbon tax when the streetlight upgrade is completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of trees planted and established per year. Number of trees felled for safety purposes. Carbon off set from sequestration. Council’s carbon budget Number of Council members and officers trained to gain carbon literacy
			Delivery of the Highways Asset Management strategy and lifecycle programmes	Throughout 2021/2022		
			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. Establishment of the Council’s environment and climate emergency action plan, driven by an action group of senior officers. Gain carbon literacy organisation status.	Ongoing throughout the next 10-year tree planting programme, annual target of planting 21,000 trees.		
3. 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,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports & Physical Activity Strategy 	Implement the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 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	Within the next 12mths	Neighbourhood Services Directorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved public health outcomes in areas of need. More integrated services delivered locally. Increase participation in sport and physical activity among Wirral residents.

	environments, and communities. Libraries will become community hubs for learning and family support.		learning and cultural enrichment part of everyone's everyday lives. 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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support reading attainment in areas of identified need Increase in uptake of library online services. Increase in community usage of libraries by local cultural groups. Increase in activities and events that have a health and wellbeing focus in areas of identified need.
	Neighbourhoods model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood model, workforce modernisation programme 	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"> Ensure members and residents are at the heart of delivery of our services. Improved access channels for reporting and resolution of customer enquiries.
	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"> Town Deal initiative at Birkenhead Priory Historic Documentation digitisation project Exhibition & Events Programme 	Commission new visitor facilities at for Birkenhead Priory Go live with the first phase of an online, searchable database of Wirral's art and museum collections. Deliver a series of events that support business development and access to funder for creatives and creative industries in Wirral. Show the work of local artists and crafts people past and present.	Throughout 2021/2022		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wirral Museums will help improve mental health & wellbeing. Help drive local economy and support local artist to become economically active. Online access to collections
4. 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"> Launch co-produced community safety strategy. 10 Strategic themes Use of CCTV cameras to tackle crime and provide community reassurance 	Invest in new CCTV Control room and comprehensive upgrade of public realm CCTV network Deliver new Road Safety Action Plan 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.	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"> Nos of crimes detected through use of CCTV Continuing reduction in Road Traffic Collisions Reduced number of emergency calls for water/coastal rescue. Nos of citizens signed up to Flood Watch.

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MINUTE EXTRACT

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

30 JUNE, 2021

23 REVENUE OUTTURN FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-21

Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources introduced a report which provided a summary of the year-end revenue position for the 2020/21 financial year as at the end of March 2021. As part of the budget monitoring cycle, the financial position of the Council had been reported to Members quarterly, the first from April to June 2020 was reported to the former Cabinet. The following three reports, from July to September 2020; October to December 2020 and this report, to the Policy and Resources Committee.

At the end of the year, the position had improved since the last report to committee with an adverse variance of £6.525m reported as the final position and the value that the Council would borrow under the Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) (also known as the capitalisation directive) approval. As the lockdown restrictions started to relax, there was an opportunity for the Council to take stock and review whether the assumptions made during the year for demand and expenditure commitments had come to fruition. As nothing like this had been experienced before, there was no real way to accurately predict the value of funding and support required so best estimates had been used and had been firmed up as more of the situation became known.

Although many of the savings agreed at Budget Council in March 2020 had still not been achieved, offsetting alternative savings had been available as a result of the way the Council had been working under lockdown restrictions. With the majority of Council buildings remaining closed and the majority of staff working at home, savings had been made from utilities costs, staff mileage and supplies and services costs such as printing, stationery and face to face training events.

She reported that in total, in 2020/21, £205m funding had been provided to Wirral by the Government to support the emergency pandemic. An additional £10m of Tranche 5 funding had been notified as being received in 2021/22 which had been fully committed to Covid-19 pressures already identified in 2021/22. The year-end position represented an adverse variance of £6.525m which would be the subject of borrowing under EFS approval from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). It must be noted that this was a draft position as this was subject to External Audit sign-off of the accounts by the Council's auditor, Grant Thornton.

In response to comments from Members, Shaer Halewood explained the use of the term 'cross cutting initiatives' in the report, which were in respect of unachieved savings not able to be allocated across directorates due to the unprecedented Covid situation and the Council's response. She assured the Committee that there had been no double counting in respect of any of these savings. The term would not show again in the report on the 2021/22 financial year.

Members expressed their views about the various funding streams which the Government had provided to Wirral during the pandemic.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was –

A. Resolved – That this Committee,

- (1) agrees that the draft, unaudited outturn variance for 2020/21 is £6.525m as compared to the end of December forecast outturn variance of £8.9m;**
- (2) agrees that following the approval of ‘not exceeding £9m’ Exceptional Financial Support from MHCLG that the outturn of £6.525m is capitalised in line with the relevant guidance;**
- (3) notes the impact of funding and expenditure as a direct consequence of Covid-19, including the additional funding sources that have been received for 2020/21;**
- (4) notes the impact of funding and expenditure as a direct consequence of Covid-19, including the additional funding sources which have been identified, but as yet, not received.**

B. RECOMMENDED - To Council,

- (5) the 2020/21 budget of £46.574m in relation to Covid-19 funding for Council use and note the additional £22.963m of funds that is to be made available to the Council for onward relay to other organisations as passported funding. This recommendation follows on from the recommendation made by Policy & Resources Committee on 17th February 2021, following the recent notification of additional funding;**
- (6) that the debts in excess of £10,000 included within Appendix 2 be approved for write off against the Provision for Bad Debts.**

MINUTE EXTRACT

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

30 JUNE, 2021

24 CAPITAL OUTTURN FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/21

Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources, introduced a report which detailed the Capital Out-turn for 2020/21, the resources used to fund the Programme and provided a review of the progress of the delivery of the agreed Capital Programme. The capital expenditure for the year amounted to £46.465m. This was funded from borrowing of £25.182m, Capital Grants of £20.311m, capital receipts of £0.784 m and other revenue/reserve contributions of £0.188m.

As a result of the £25.182m borrowed to finance the Capital Programme in 2020/21, the General Fund would be charged with its first repayment via the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) in 2021/22 of £0.815m. This would bring the total MRP charge for 2021/22 to £4.462m for borrowing associated with delivering the Capital Programme.

The re-profiling of schemes from 2020/21 to 2021/22 had seen the funding similarly re-profiled. This included the planned borrowing which had been deferred and had contributed towards the cost reductions in Treasury Management activities within the revenue budget. A permanent saving only occurred if schemes ceased, otherwise the full budget would be required in 2021/22 when the re-profiled expenditure was incurred. It must be noted too that this was a draft position as this was subject to External Audit sign-off of the accounts by the Council's auditor, Grant Thornton.

In response to Members' comments, Shaer Halewood stated that the appendices to the report listed all the capital programme schemes as approved at the start of the year, and that the quarter 1 financial monitoring report to come before committees in September would list where schemes were up to. She agreed that the way this was presented would be looked at as to how best the information could be shared with Members and to inform on the achievability of schemes. With regard to those schemes listed as proposed virements she agreed to provide a written response listing those which were still going ahead, where there had been slippage and those which were not, or which had been underspent. She also agreed to provide an update on proposed work at Riverside Primary School, Wallasey.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was –

RECOMMENDED – To Council,

- (1) that the additional year end re-profiling of £27.4m from 2020/21 to 2021/22 be noted;**
- (2) that the financing of the Programme for 2020/21 be noted;**

- (3) the approval of the virements referred to in Appendix 3 of the report;**
- (4) that the Programme for 2021/22 and beyond be kept under review to ensure it is realistic, deliverable and affordable.**

MINUTE EXTRACT

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

28 JULY, 2021

36 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources, introduced a report on the Authority's treasury management activity which was underpinned by CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management ("the Code"), which required the Authority to approve treasury management semi-annual and annual reports.

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

As projected in the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report, there was an overspend on Treasury activities which was attributable to 2020/21 budget savings that were not achieved due to implementation delays emanating from COVID response activity and significant changes in interest rates on investments. This overspend was incorporated into the Revenue Outturn report.

The level of Capital Financing debt held on the balance sheet, including the Merseyside Residuary Body debt managed by the Council on behalf of the constituent authorities, was £166 million at 31 March 2021. This was a reduction of £3 million since 1 April 2020 and reflected policies to minimise and delay borrowing costs which adversely impacted upon the revenue budget.

The Council had complied with the Treasury Management Indicators as set out in the agreed Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/21.

In response to Members' comments, Pete Molyneux, Senior Finance Manager, gave an explanation as to those 'unrated' components of the Council's investment portfolio. Shaer Halewood, agreed to provide more detail in respect of the investment portfolio and the names of organisations and sums involved.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was -

RECOMMENDED - To Council, that the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2020/21 be agreed.

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MINUTE EXTRACT

TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

27 JULY, 2021

18 COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

Nikki Butterworth, Director of Neighbourhood Services, introduced this report regarding the Community Safety Strategy which was a statutory responsibility for Councils. The report introduced the Community Safety Strategy 2021-2026 which had been co-produced following significant consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.

Members debated types of crime reported to them or of concern to them, such as domestic violence, anti-social behaviour, hate crime and road safety, and wished for a greater frequency of reporting than annually. Paul Morrison, Neighbourhood Safety Officer, and Police Superintendent Martin Earle answered Members questions.

Resolved – That

- (1) the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (Community Safety Strategy) be noted and its submission to the Council Meeting for final approval be endorsed.**
- (2) the Assistant Director Neighbourhoods, Safety and Transport be requested to provide regular updates (twice a year) to the Committee on the progress made in respect to the delivery of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (Community Safety Strategy).**

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TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE COMMITTEE**27 July 2021**

REPORT TITLE:	COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2021-2026
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT SUMMARY

It is a statutory responsibility under the Crime and Disorder Reduction Act 1998 for Councils to lead on the production of a coherent Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (Community Safety Strategy).

This report introduces the Community Safety Strategy 2021-2026 (Appendix 1 attached) which has been co-produced following significant consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.

Community Safety is one of five key themes of the wider Wirral Plan 2021-2026 and the Wirral Community Safety Strategy and the work of the Safer Wirral Partnership Board has one key objective - to make Wirral a safe place to live, work and visit.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) The Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee is recommended to comment on the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (Community Safety Strategy) and endorse its submission to the Council Meeting for final approval.
- 2) That the Assistant Director Neighbourhoods, Safety and Transport be requested to provide regular updates (at least annually) to the committee on the progress made in respect to the delivery of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (Community Safety Strategy)

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 It is a statutory requirement for the Council to produce a Community Safety Strategy. Our Community Safety Strategy 2021-2026 is a critical over-arching document in Wirral's drive to improve the safety and perceptions of safety for our residents, businesses and visitors.
- 1.2 The strategy not only sets out the governance structure for the Safer Wirral Partnership Board but also clearly articulates the ten key priority themes which were articulated through the stakeholder engagement process.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 There were no other options considered as it is a statutory requirement to produce a Community Safety Strategy.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The strategy has been co-produced in concert with elected members, victims of crime and other key statutory and voluntary sector agencies.
- 3.2 Five on-line workshops were held to outline the scope of the document, take views on priorities, both local and Wirral-wide and to shape the new direction of travel for this significant piece of work.
- 3.3 The ten priority themes are ASB, Violent Crime, Domestic Abuse, Drugs and Alcohol, Hate Crime, Modern Slavery, Prevent, Road Safety, Emergency Planning and Coastal and Inland Water Safety.
- 3.4 Each of the themes outlined above in 3.3 will be under-pinned by a detailed Action Plan which will focus on operational delivery, driven by partnership working and clear realistic outcomes.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Community Safety strategy will be delivered within existing budgets and will maximise grant and other income opportunities where they arise.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is a statutory responsibility under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for Councils to lead on the production of a coherent Community Safety Strategy.
- 5.2 The delivery of this strategy and its accompanying thematic action plans will be overseen by the Safer Wirral Partnership Board.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no specific resource implications arising as a direct result of the strategy.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 All of the ten thematic priorities will be accompanied by their own programme specific risk register.

7.2 There is a risk of partner organisations being unable to fulfil the high standards set out in the strategy. This is mitigated by the robust governance and meetings structure which is hallmark of all community safety work both in Wirral and across the region.

7.3 Furthermore, it is anticipated that the strengthened partnership relationships developed during the course of the Covid pandemic will continue and provide a fruitful base, from which to deliver an outstanding community safety programme of interventions.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The strategy has been written and co-produced, working alongside Elected Members and all key partners via an extensive workshop programme. It has also taken on-board, comments from wider community consultations carried out via specific projects such as, Safer Streets and Cradle to Career.

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, does 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.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The Safer Wirral Partnership Board will be cognisant of the need for all delivery to take account of the Council's declaration of a Climate emergency.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Mark Camborne**
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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Community Safety Strategy 2021-2026

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

WIRRAL COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

2021-2026

Anti-Social Behaviour

Violent Crime

Domestic Abuse

Drugs and Alcohol

Hate Crime

Modern Slavery

Prevent

Road Safety

Emergency Planning

Coastal and Inland Water Safety

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SAFER WIRRAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD PRIORITIES	7
PRIORITY THEMES	8
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	9
VIOLENT CRIME	10
DOMESTIC ABUSE	11
DRUGS AND ALCOHOL	12
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MODERN SLAVERY	14
PREVENT	15
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EMERGENCY PLANNING	17
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INTRODUCTION

As required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Wirral Council and Merseyside Police have worked together with key partners and organisations to develop and implement local crime reduction strategies. In developing such strategies, partners must identify key local crime and disorder priorities through consultation and by analysing crime levels and patterns in the area. Wirral Council came together with Merseyside Police, Mersey Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS), Public Health, voluntary/community sector organisations and housing providers, to form The Safer Wirral Partnership Board (SWPB).

Community Safety is one of five key themes of the wider Wirral Plan 2021-2026 and the Wirral Community Safety Strategy and the work of the SWPB has one key objective - to make Wirral a safe place to live, work and visit.

The previous chair of the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee was keen to ensure that we co-produced this strategy, holding five separate on-line workshop sessions with key stakeholders, crime prevention organisations and elected members. The workshops led to the development of ten Priority Themes, with an action plan for each. The strategy will be taken to the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee and then, to Full Council for approval.

This strategy sets out the priorities for the next five years and I am honoured to have been a part of the strategy development, confident that it will have a lasting, positive impact on communities across Wirral.

Cllr Helen Cameron
**Chair of Tourism, Communities,
Culture and Leisure Committee**

DEVELOPING A SAFER WIRRAL

Wirral is undergoing significant change, with large-scale regeneration programmes planned across the borough. Aligned to this, Wirral Council and partners have been developing infrastructure projects to ensure Wirral continues to be safe.

Funding from the Home Office, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Violence Reduction Partnership are helping to keep Wirral safe. Projects include upgrades to CCTV cameras and software, a new improved Emergency Control Room, Safer Streets in North Birkenhead which has installed new alleygates, new street lighting, CCTV and home security.

In line with the government target to reduce neighbourhood crime by 20% we will continue to work with colleagues from the National Probation Service and Merseyside Police to support their Integrated Offender Management refresh strategy.

Across Wirral, a range of projects working with early years, young people and adults have been developed to help them better understand behaviours and consequences, to prepare them better for the challenges that life will inevitably bring.

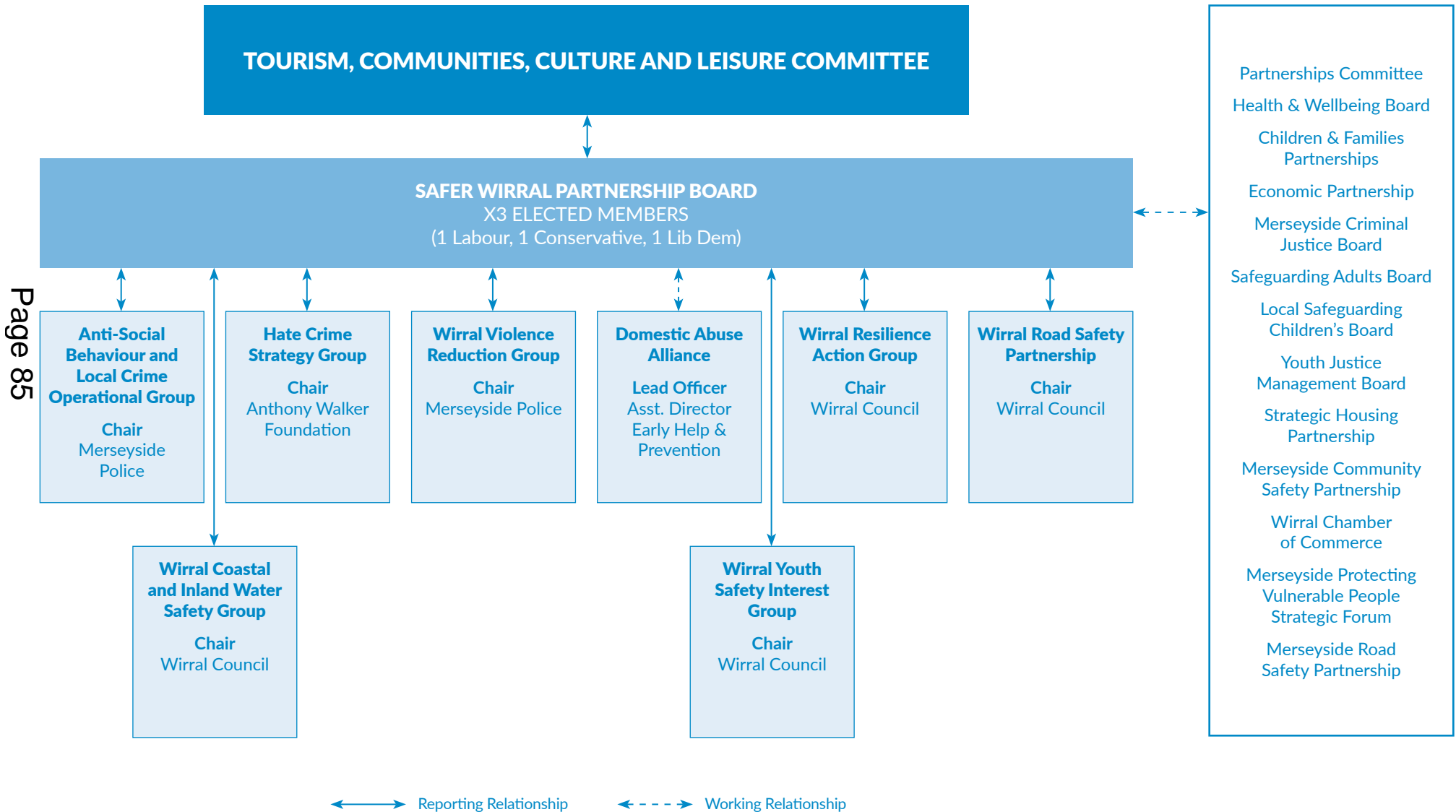
Recognising the role community safety plays in safeguarding and making Wirral safer for children and young people, this strategy has been developed with the support of safeguarding partners. Delivery around this strategy will seek to coordinate with relevant wider strategic forums. Coordination with the Youth Justice Management Board and the Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership's work will be central to this.

To help monitor and evaluate progress Wirral has developed a monitoring tool, the Safer Wirral Tracker, which monitors and reports on all crime patterns and trends across Wirral. The tracker enables SWPB partners to respond to adverse patterns and deploys resources and actions to alleviate any pressures.

In 2021, overall crime has reduced compared to 2020, correlating with a year of living with the impact of COVID. However, ASB, Hate Crime and Domestic Abuse have seen increases, again perhaps as a result of intolerance due to COVID restrictions.

This year, in a positive move, the strategy has expanded to include Road Safety and Coastal and Inland Water Safety to bring together all the key elements to help keep Wirral safe.

SWPB GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



PRINCIPLES OF STRATEGY

The following principles will guide our strategic approach throughout this 5 year strategy.

1. A public health approach

Focus on early intervention and prevention, and the wider determinants of crime and community safety, including social inequalities, employment, skills, health, housing and environment.

2. Resident engagement

Work with the local community to understand local priorities and develop an approach that is responsive and effective in increasing feelings of safety.

3. Collaboration

Share data and intelligence and work across agencies to facilitate an efficient and effective approach and better targeted interventions.

4. Supporting victims

Ensure a focus on victims and strengthen local systems to support victims, reduce repeat victimisation, and recognise that perpetrators of violence can often be victims too.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Wirral is committed to a joined-up approach that addresses the underlying issues that affect levels of crime and reoffending, and will reflect these cross-cutting issues in all our work. This includes:

Substance Misuse

We know that a significant proportion of crime is linked to substance misuse, from acquisitive crime to serious violent offending and gang crime linked to drug markets. This will be an important cross-cutting theme within all our priorities, and partners will seek to reduce substance misuse through health interventions and treatment; supporting repeat offenders out of substance misuse and addiction through targeted interventions; and disrupting drug markets through enforcement activity.

Mental Health

A significant proportion of those in contact with the criminal justice system suffer from mental health problems, with people particularly at risk during and after contact with criminal justice system. Evidence suggests that 33 per cent of male and 51 per cent of female prisoners suffer from depression, compared to 9 per cent and 13 per cent in the general population. By identifying and addressing mental ill health at the earliest opportunity we can aim for the best outcomes for those people experiencing mental health issues and provide holistic support for people with complex and challenging needs.

Housing and Homelessness

Wirral has a persistent small cohort of homelessness and rough sleeping has been increasing year on year prior to Covid pandemic. This has a significant impact on the health of those individuals involved, while homelessness can also be linked to vulnerability and victimisation, as well as anti-social behaviour and substance misuse. The council is developing strategies to step-up the delivery of genuinely affordable homes, and to tackle homelessness with compassion and care. The Safer Wirral Partnership Board will also consider homelessness as a cross-cutting issue as part of a holistic approach to improving community safety.

Social integration

A thriving, cohesive and well-integrated community can help to reduce the risk of hate crime and the risk of extremism taking root. However, there is a role for the local authority and partners to continue to monitor and promote social-integration and provide an environment where people of all backgrounds come together regularly as one community. The Safer Wirral Partnership Board will consider social integration and community engagement cutting across the priorities in this plan.

SAFER WIRRAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD PRIORITIES

The ten priorities set out below have been developed as a result of feedback from the numerous SWPB's stakeholder workshops and the priorities set by the Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner.

1. Anti-Social Behaviour
2. Violent Crime
3. Domestic Abuse
4. Drugs and Alcohol
5. Hate Crime
6. Modern Slavery
7. Prevent
8. Road Safety
9. Emergency Planning
10. Coastal and Inland Water Safety

PRIORITY THEMES

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The ASB theme was the number one issue on the feedback from the consultation workshops and on our residents' surveys in 2015 and 2017, as it is often a blight on the majority of law-abiding residents. We will tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, using the appropriate powers and legislation.

ASB is categorised as Personal (broken windows, cars vandalised, threats, harassment etc), Nuisance (group gatherings, loud/rowdy behaviour, alcohol/drug misuse etc) and Environmental (littering, graffiti, urinating in public etc).

Priorities in Wirral sit under four broad headings:

1. To strengthen and reassure

- Identify and support vulnerable victims and witnesses.
- Work with residents, local communities, elected members, businesses and partner agencies.
- Provide guidance and advice to assist residents to resolve low level neighbour disputes.

2. To prevent and deter

- Promote and publicise successful ASB case outcomes.
- Use of CCTV in hot spot areas.
- Use of community action days/events.
- Attendance at public meetings.
- Promote diversionary activities for young people.
- Use overt patrol deployment to ASB hot spot areas.

3. To conduct timely and appropriate enforcement

- Manage ASB cases, interventions, mediation and enforcement activities.
- Utilise legal and statutory powers to tackle anti-social behaviour including Public Safety Protection Orders (PSPOs e.g. New Brighton and West Kirby).

4. Support to tackle the cause of anti-social behaviour

- Offer support to people to change their behaviour. We are committed to providing a balance between enforcement action and support.



DID YOU KNOW?

Between 2016/17 and 2019/20 ASB incidents in Wirral have fallen by 47%.

VIOLENT CRIME

Violent crime includes knife and gun crime, use of corrosive substances, violence and gang activity, and other violent offences such as Robbery and non-domestic violence with injury

Merseyside Police are working collaboratively with the Safer Wirral Partnership Board to deliver a number of different initiatives across the borough aimed at preventing violent crime, pursuing offenders and protecting victims in order to make the Wirral a safe place.

Wirral has completed the second year of Home Office-funded violent crime intervention programmes commissioned through the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership. The programme aims to follow the successful 'Glasgow Model' a health-based approach which is recognised as best practice across Europe and is proving successful across Merseyside and Wirral.

There is new legislation for Serious Violence putting more emphasis and responsibility on partner organisations to collaborate to prevent and reduce serious violence.

Priorities in Wirral for Violent Crime include:

Operation Target

- Targeting suspects and locations
- Acting on and developing intelligence
- Reducing and preventing serious violent crime
- Gaining confidence through reassurance
- Engaging partners and communities
- Teaching, learning and sharing.

Disruption and targeted action against serious violence offenders and networks.

Build resilience and defence for vulnerable people, communities and businesses, including improved street lighting, CCTV and improved home security.



DID YOU KNOW?

There were 73 fewer violent offences recorded in Wirral in 20/21 compared to 19/20 and a reduction in knife crime by 24 offences.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

In Wirral over the last year there has been an increase in Domestic Abuse, a reflection of the nation-wide pattern and often pinned on a year of the added stresses and strains of living with COVID.

We want Wirral to be a place where, as few people as possible are affected by domestic abuse, but those who are, can get help to end the abuse and go on to live the lives they want and deserve.

Wirral's ambitious strategy, 'Domestic Abuse - No Excuse', shifts the focus towards those directly and indirectly affected, victims, survivors, perpetrators, their children, friends and families and intends to lead to improved experiences and better outcomes for Wirral residents.

Projects underway include intensive work with young victims and perpetrators, early years work in schools, TRAUMA and ACES training, drugs and alcohol interventions and work to address Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). These projects are partnerships between the Council, Public Health, schools and the voluntary and community sector.

Priorities in Wirral for Domestic Abuse include:

Be there when we are needed.

Increase safety for those at risk, without adding to their trauma.

Reduce opportunities for perpetrators to abuse.

Support people to live the lives they want after harm occurs.

Build a better, kinder future for the next generation.

DID YOU KNOW?

In Wirral in 2019/20 over 8000 individuals are known to have been affected by Domestic Abuse.



DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Wirral data on drug and alcohol-related crime is, to some extent, reflective of the national trend which shows an increase in drug and alcohol related deaths and crimes. Drugs and alcohol have well-recognised causal link to ASB and crime and in Wirral we are increasingly aware of the impact drugs and alcohol has on the exploitation of our younger generation through County Lines and other activities.

Priorities in Wirral for Drugs and Alcohol include:

Reduce drug related deaths - strengthening the links between specialist drug services and Primary and Secondary health care.

Reduce Drug and Alcohol related crime - supporting those that need help and build the connections between specialist drug and alcohol treatment services and the criminal justice system, custody suites, the courts, prison and Merseyside Police.

Reduce the prevalence of misuse - focus on education, adopting an early intervention approach and provide consistent quality information and messaging through the most appropriate channels.

Protect children, young people and families.

Create safe environments.



DID YOU KNOW?

12% of all crime in Wirral is alcohol related.

26% of all violent crime with injury, in Wirral is alcohol related.

HATE CRIME

Hate crime has increased across Wirral and on Merseyside. This is reflected across England and again as with other offences, COVID related stresses are highlighted as a likely contributory factor in the increase.

Hate crime takes many forms including race, disability, gender, sexuality, religious beliefs and can be verbal, physical and increasingly perpetrated via social media.

In Wirral, key agencies are part of a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and meet to consider hate crime incidents.

Agencies include Anthony Walker Foundation, Daisy UK, Citizens Advice, Police and Crime Commissioner, Police, ASB Team, Housing, Irish Community Care, Wirral Change, Deen Centre, MEAS (Merseyside Educational Achievement Service), Tomorrow's Women Wirral.

Priorities in Wirral for Hate Crime include:

Tackling race and religious hate crime. This accounts for 80% of hate crime in Wirral.

Continue to act on every instance of hate crime.

Develop and support campaigns and events to educate and inform to reduce hate crime incidents. On-going campaigns include Black Lives Matter, Holocaust Remembrance Day, Hate Crime Awareness Week, Wirral Remembers Srebrenica, Show Racism the Red Card, LGBT History Month, Pride, Schools/Borough of Sanctuary.

Work with schools and young people to provide quality interventions to educate and inform to prevent Hate Crime.



DID YOU KNOW?

In March 2021 Religious/Race Hate Crime increased by 30% in Wirral, compared to March 2020.

MODERN SLAVERY

Modern Slavery includes forced sexual exploitation, domestic slavery or forced labour on farms in construction, shops, nail bars, car washes or manufacturing. A growing form of slavery is trafficking young people into crime, often via County Lines drugs operations and/or production (e.g. cannabis farms).

Wirral developed a comprehensive Modern Slavery Strategy in 2019 and embarked on training a host of safeguarding and regulatory agencies across the Safer Wirral Partnership.

In addition, Wirral Council Procurement guidelines overtly refer to Modern Slavery policy and guidelines to ensure the drive to ensure value for money does not compromise the employment standards or ethics of its suppliers.

Priorities in Wirral for Modern Slavery include:

Protecting Vulnerable people - includes Operation Sanctuary, a Police-led multi-agency team working with partners such as Immigration, Red Cross, Salvation Army to prevent and recognise modern slavery

Child Exploitation Team - a multi-agency team tackling County Lines as a high priority issue as well as safeguarding, violence, and drug and alcohol themes.

Homelessness - the oppression and exploitation of our most vulnerable residents is a critical part of the modern slavery issue. An awareness raising campaign - Invisible People, which will include a conference, a workshop and a strategy and action plan will help tackle the exploitation of this vulnerable group

Coordinating Partners - Embedding awareness and best practice among key agencies and giving those agencies with the tools and powers - Regulatory bodies - Environmental Health, Licensing, Trading Standards, Councillors and even building control and development control, the knowledge of the issues that help them to recognise the signs and address the issues of modern slavery.

Procurement Rules - Embedding awareness of Modern Slavery within procurement regulations and practise to ensure the efforts made to reduce costs, do not compromise the rights of our service providers/users and that they sign up to minimum standards.



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2020/21 there were 24 recorded Modern Slavery crimes in Wirral.

PREVENT

PREVENT is about safeguarding and supporting those most vulnerable to being radicalised into extremism/terrorism.

Wirral has a strong partnership approach to the PREVENT agenda as part of the overall Home Office CONTEST strategy which follows the 4 P's, Pursue, Prevent, Protect, Prepare.

Priorities in Wirral for PREVENT include:

Tools to Resist Radicalisation - a schools' programme in primary schools across Wirral to educate children to prevent grooming by sexual predators. The programme ensures children are able to practise and demonstrate critical thinking and build a 'digital resilience' to the online world which they increasingly inhabit.

Grassing and Grooming Programme - this work feeds into County Lines work led by Merseyside Police and is supported by local head teachers. Already delivered 6 events for 27 schools across Wirral and is being delivered by Ariel Trust in 2021.

Channel Process - this ensures all the correct agencies are around the table and follow best practice - funded by Home Office for nine Local Authorities across Merseyside and Cheshire and includes:

- Counter Terrorism Local Profile
- Counter Terrorism Police give an annual update on the extremism terrorism status of Wirral and how it compares to the national picture.

Continue to endorse the Home Office best practice hallmarks guidance, including: local risk assessment, operating an effective multi agency group, Prevent partnership plan, monthly referral process, monthly Channel panel, problem solving process, training programme, policies for venue hire and IT policies, voluntary and faith sector engagement.

Develop a clear Communications Plan to communicate the need and impact of Prevent, to frontline staff and communities.



DID YOU KNOW?

We work in schools across Wirral to prevent grooming into any form of extremism.

ROAD SAFETY

Improving road safety continues to be an essential priority in Wirral. Despite overall ongoing improvements and casualty reduction on our road network there is still much more to be achieved.

Travel on our road network is essential for our everyday lives. An effective and safe transport system is essential to support our communities, for people to access employment and education services, leisure activities and to assist driving economic growth and we need to continue to support the ongoing increase in active travel as part of our Climate Emergency.

We will continue to use and develop a range of sources of information to expand on our Statutory Duty to improve road safety. However, it is important to recognise that the responsibility for road safety is not simply one just for the Council's Road Safety Team, but cuts across a range of Council departments, partner agencies, businesses, educational settings and indeed, our community, as a whole. It is a shared responsibility, and everyone will need to play their part.

We aspire to an overarching goal that nobody should be hurt whilst using our road network. Using our ongoing analysis of road casualty types, listening to community concerns and working with partners we have identified a number of issues and road user groups as our strategic priorities.

Priorities in Wirral for Road Safety include:

Develop & encourage key stakeholder partnership working to improve road safety, including communities and community concern groups.

Continue to develop programmes of intervention, education, training & publicity for key casualty groups such as Children & Young People; Pedestrians; Cyclists; Motorcyclists; Young Drivers and Senior Road Users.

Take steps to introduce more widespread 20mph speed limits on non-major residential roads, roads near educational and shopping areas.

Support policies and programmes to increase 'active travel'.



DID YOU KNOW?

Between the year 2000 and 2019 the number of recorded road traffic collisions reduced from 1,379 to 417.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

Wirral has a number of key challenges around Emergency Planning which include the impact and response to COVID, but also around coastal flooding and, being a popular visitor destination, around event and crowd management. There are also control and regulatory planning/exercises with key local industrial and chemical plants.

It is important that on Wirral we have resilient communities who understand the risks they face and are prepared to respond as and when the need arises. Examples include signing up to Flood Watch, engaging in public information updates, having emergency supplies to hand for power/food supply disruptions.

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 requires Local Authorities to prepare, plan and exercise for emergency response and recovery; similar to 'Blue Light' emergency services.

The below functions are carried out within the Local Resilience Forum, locally known as the Merseyside Resilience Forum (MRF), where responders work in a collaborative basis to plan, train, exercise and debrief our response and recovery arrangements.

Priorities in Wirral for Emergency Planning include:

Assess local risks and use this to inform emergency planning.

Put in place emergency plans.

Put in place Business Continuity Management arrangements.

Put in place arrangements to make information available to the public about civil protection matters and maintain arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency.

Share information with other local responders (Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Ambulance Service, RNLI, Environment Agency and voluntary sector agencies) to enhance co-ordination.

Co-operate with other local responders to enhance co-ordination and efficiency.

Provide advice and assistance to businesses and voluntary organisations about business continuity management. (Local Authorities only).



DID YOU KNOW?

Merseyside has 10 upper tier COMAH Sites (Control Of Major Accidents Hazards). 40% are located on Wirral.

COASTAL AND INLAND WATER SAFETY

Wirral Council is responsible for the borough's coastline, which is made up of a range of different sites including beaches, coastal paths, recreational and commercial marine operations and activities.

We work in partnership with Coastal Management and Environmental Health departments, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and Marine Coastguard Agency. Together they coordinate a joint response through a collaboration of resources, shared practise, guidance and expertise to ensure effective water safety management is achieved along Wirral's coastline. There is also the vital working partnership between Wirral Council and RNLI who are contracted to provide lifeguard services at key locations.

The overall strategy for Wirral will focus on what will save the most lives.

Priorities in Wirral for Coastal and Inland Water Safety include:

Public Rescue Equipment - ensure the quality and availability of appropriate resources.

Edge Protection - maintain and protect our shores and coastline.

Coastal Path Maintenance - maintain safe access along Wirral's coastal pathways.

Signage - ensure adequate signage alerting users to follow guidance and/or hazards

Education - develop a communications plan to enable the safe use of our waterways beaches and coastline.



DID YOU KNOW?

Wirral has four beaches designated by the Environment Agency as good/excellent for the quality of the bathing water at West Kirby, Meols, Moreton and Wallasey.

To discuss or ask questions, please contact:
Mark Camborne, Assistant Director Neighbourhoods, Safety & Transport
markcamborne@wirral.gov.uk

www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments



MINUTE EXTRACT

CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

23 JUNE 2021

6 Proposed Members' Code of Conduct 2021

Phil McCourt, Director of Law and Governance introduced the report which set out a proposed revised Members' Code of Conduct. The Committee was reminded that following the introduction of the Localism Act in 2012, councils were free to adopt their own Code of Conduct as long as they accorded with the Nolan Principles. A review had since taken place which concluded that many Councils' codes did not comply with best practice, and therefore it was recommended that the Local Government Association produce a model code for councils to adopt.

Members were advised that following the last meeting where the draft model code was considered, councils across the Liverpool City Region had considered the model code and provided minimal comments which the Local Government Association had accepted, therefore the code was before members for consideration. It was anticipated that a full suite of guidance would be circulated to supplement the code.

Members acknowledged the requirement for an annual review of the Code of Conduct.

Resolved – That Council be recommended to adopt the Members' Code of Conduct as attached at Appendix A.

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REPORT TITLE:	Proposed Members' Code of Conduct 2021
REPORT OF:	Director of Law and Governance

REPORT SUMMARY

The Local Government Association (LGA) published a model Councillor Code of Conduct (Model Code), with corrections 19th January 2021. The nine authorities across the City Region have previously had differently worded codes of conduct, creating the potential for confusion and differing interpretation when acting in a shared capacity. The authorities have therefore been working, involving the advisors producing the LGA Model Code, to produce a shared version of the Model Code. The Code, as adapted for the committee system of Wirral, is proposed for adoption.

Assistance has also been provided in relation to the associated Guidance, expected to be published by the LGA shortly.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Constitution & Standards Committee recommends to Council the adoption of the Members' Code of Conduct as attached at Appendix A.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The Local Government Association (LGA) has developed the Model Councillor Code of Conduct (Model Code), in association with key partners and after extensive consultation with the sector, as part of its work on supporting all tiers of local government to continue to aspire to high standards of leadership and performance. The Model Code is a template for local authorities to adopt in whole and/or with local amendments developed for English local authorities in response to one of the recommendations of the Committee for Standards in Public Life (CSPL) to the LGA and Government.
- 1.2 All local authorities are required to have a local Code of Conduct that is consistent with the principles as published by the CSPL in January 2013.
- 1.3 Further to the meeting of 24th February 2021, a local version of the LGA model code Model Councillor Code of Conduct has been developed for the authorities within the Liverpool City Region so as to ensure Members and officers working alongside one another or within the joint committees of the councils or one of the combined authorities all operate according to the same understanding and Code. This has already been adopted by some of the authorities, with others likewise being recommended to follow in July 2021.
- 1.4 The LGA is producing supporting guidance to be published shortly. It has stated it will undertake an annual review of this Code, to ensure it continues to be fit- for-purpose, incorporating advances in technology, social media and changes in legislation.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Not updating the Code would result in Wirral Council's Code not remaining up to date with best practice.
- 2.2 Not updating the Code in association with City Region authorities may result in difficulties in shared interpretation and for councillors who were also a member of one or more of the combined authorities or joint committees.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Localism Act requires all Councils to have a local Member Code of Conduct. The Council's previous Code was adopted on 11 July 2012, which was largely based on the Council's Pre-Localism Code (amended appropriately) and was amended to marry up to the LCR CA code for use across the city-region in September 2020.
- 3.2 As reported to the Committee's meeting of 24th February 2021, the Committee for Standards in Public Life (CPSL) in its January 2020 report into Local Government Ethical Standards included a best practice recommendation for local authorities to the adopt a Code of Conduct and recommended that it be based on a model to be

produced by the Local Government Association (LGA). This sat alongside other recommendations, including some to Government that require primary legislation.

- 3.3 Appendix C of the LGA Model Code lists the CPSL's 15 Best practice recommendations and notes that the Government is yet to respond to the recommendations made by CPSL, some of which require legislative changes. It should be noted that the Government's response, when it comes, may require a change to the Council's adopted Code. The date of the response is unknown.
- 3.4 When researching the local Codes of Conduct, the CPSL found there was considerable variation in the length, quality and clarity of codes of conduct. They believed that this created confusion among members of the public, and among councillors who represent more than one tier of local government. This is an issue for Wirral MBC councillors who may also sit on one or more of the combined authorities and on joint committees with neighbouring authorities, such as the Police and Crime Panel or the Joint Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee(s). In September 2020, Wirral Council adopted a revised Code to match that of the LCR Combined Authority as a first step.
- 3.5 The LGA produced a draft model code of conduct, which was subject to a 10 week consultation in the summer of 2020 and to which Members and officers made comment. Considering the comments then made it is worth noting that this led to changes being made, including:
- All references to "civility" have been replaced with "respect"
 - Discrimination has been added to the bullying and harassment section
 - More wording has been added relating to access to information
 - Gifts and hospitality threshold of £50 confirmed
 - More detail has been added to Appendix B relating to Declaring Interests.
- 3.6 An error was contained in an earlier publication and the final version was published on 19th January 2021. It is based on the CPSL best practice recommendations and the expectation is that all councils should adopt it as a minimum, but with provision for additional local variations.
- 3.7 Discussions with Monitoring Officers from the City Region authorities indicated a collective leaning towards adoption of the Model Code albeit with local variations. All intend to take the issue to the upcoming meetings of their standards committees. This has led to the production of a revised common Code, which is attached as Appendix A.
- 3.8 It was considered that there may be the opportunity for further engagement but some councils wished to adopt the Code early and so was submitted directly. The remainder are submitting the Code at the same time as at this meeting and are therefore intending to adopt the Code in July 2021.
- 3.9 The differences between the LGA Model Code and the LCR recommended is primarily three issues:
- (a) A change in the introduction to reflect local circumstance and the LGA explanation.
 - (b) A re-ordering of the interests that require disclosure and to leave the chamber or meeting room. The LGA Model Code makes only oblique reference to the

concepts of personal and prejudicial interests. This is because, at the ending of the mandatory code of conduct and the development of templates in 2012 to accompany the introduction of the Localism Act, there was a marked difference between those parts of the country that kept the concept of personal and prejudicial interests and those who abandoned those definitions. The LGA Model Code is, therefore, designed to 'cater for all tastes' in the way it is set out. All of the authorities in the City Region retained the definitions of personal and of prejudicial interests, however, and the concepts are thus well understood. For that reason, it was felt to make the Model Code more intelligible and flow better to continue with that approach. The changes made were discussed with those engaged to write the LGA Model Code (Hoey Ainscough as supported by Wilken Chapman Solicitors) who was supportive of the LCR drafted changes.

- (c) The introduction of a set of standard dispensations, which was left out of the LGA Model Code for local consideration. Those set out are reflective of the current standard dispensation and the model used in the previous mandatory code and the current Welsh Code.

- 3.10 It is considered that there remains some issues with the LGA model Code, not least is definitions and application. Since publication of the Model Code in January 2021, the LGA has commissioned Guidance to be drafted to assist in this process. The Monitoring Officer is one of those supporting Hoey Ainscough in their drafting of the Guidance to the Model Code. At the time of writing the draft guidance was not yet submitted to the LGA for approval and publication. As soon as this set of Guidance documents is available it will be brought to the Committee's attention.
- 3.11 One of the CPSL's best practice recommendations is that principal authorities should review their Code of Conduct annually and regularly seek, where possible the views of the public, community organisations and neighbouring authorities. Given the wide-reaching and extensive consultation conducted by the LGA, it is not recommended that further consultation is currently required. Likewise, the LGA has committed to an ongoing and at least annual review of their Model Code. On that basis, it is suggested that this Committee carries out an annual light touch health check upon the publication of the LGA annual review and continue to encourage that such a review also takes place at a City Region level.

4.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Extensive consultation was undertaken with all relevant stakeholders by the LGA for 10 weeks from Monday 8 June until Monday 17 August prior to publication of the new model Code of Conduct.
- 4.2 The comments of the Governance Review Working Group in response to the consultation were submitted to the LGA in August 2020.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Under the Localism Act 2011 all councils must adopt a code of conduct dealing with the conduct that is expected of members and co-opted members when that are acting in that capacity. There is no national prescribed version of a code in England and no

obligation to adopt a particular model. The code must be consistent with the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. Councils must also ensure that their codes include appropriate provisions about declaring pecuniary and other interests.

- 5.2 The Committee is responsible for Standards functions as set out in the Constitution. This includes advising the Council on codes of conduct and making arrangements under which allegations may be investigated. Changes to the Code of Conduct and the Constitution are, however, decisions reserved to full Council

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no specific financial implications arising out of this report.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 7.1 There are significant implications for the Council in changing its Members Code of Conduct.

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 8.1 Considering best practice and implementing improvements will help maintain sound corporate governance and the integrity of local authority decision making, minimising risk of challenge, corruption, improper conduct and standards complaints.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no identified equality impact implications directly arising from this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no environmental and climate implications arising directly out of this report.

REPORT AUTHOR: Philip McCourt
Director of Law & Governance
Tel: 0151 691 8569

APPENDICES

- Appendix A – Recommended Members Code of Conduct 2021
Appendix B – LGA Model Code (January 2021)
Appendix C – Best Practice Recommendations of the Committee on Standards in Public Life
(Annexe C to LGA Document)

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1) Notes arising from meetings of the Governance Review Working Group
- 2) Report of CSPL on “Local Government Ethical Standards”
- 3) LGA Model Code of Conduct,
- 4) LGA draft and consultation questionnaire
- 5) Wirral Council response to LGA consultation



CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL

Part 5 Section 1

THE MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

Introduction

This Authority and those across the Liverpool City Region have adopted this Code of Conduct to promote and maintain high standards of conduct and underpin public confidence in the authority and its members and co-opted members. It is adapted from the Local Government Association (LGA) 2021 Model Councillor Code of Conduct [and Guidance].

The LGA Model Code was introduced by a Joint Statement from the political groups that:

“The role of councillor across all tiers of local government is a vital part of our country’s system of democracy. It is important that as councillors we can be held accountable and all adopt the behaviours and responsibilities associated with the role. Our conduct as an individual councillor affects the reputation of all councillors. We want the role of councillor to be one that people aspire to. We also want individuals from a range of backgrounds and circumstances to be putting themselves forward to become councillors.

As councillors, we represent local residents, work to develop better services and deliver local change. The public have high expectations of us and entrust us to represent our local area; taking decisions fairly, openly, and transparently. We have both an individual and collective responsibility to meet these expectations by maintaining high standards and demonstrating good conduct, and by challenging behaviour which falls below expectations.

Importantly, we should be able to undertake our role as a councillor without being intimidated, abused, bullied or threatened by anyone, including the general public.

This Code has been designed to protect our democratic role, encourage good conduct and safeguard the public’s trust in local government.”

The Code sets out general obligations about the standards of conduct expected of Members and co-opted members of the authority, together with provisions about registering and declaring interests. It has been adopted under section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 by the Authority on [].

The LGA Model Code is to be reviewed annually and is supported by Guidance [to be issued mid – 2021].

Definitions

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, a “Member” means a member or co-opted member of a local authority. A “co-opted member” is defined in the Localism Act 2011 Section 27(4) as “a person who is not a member of the authority but who:

- a) is a member of any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or;
- b) is a member of, and represents the authority on, any joint committee or joint sub-committee of the authority;

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, “local authority” includes the upper tier councils, town or parish councils and the combined authorities (the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority and the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority) together with any joint committee of two or more of the local authorities across the Liverpool City Region.

Purpose of the Code of Conduct

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to assist you, as a Member, in modelling the behaviour that is expected of you, to provide a personal check and balance, and to set out the type of conduct that could lead to action being taken against you. It is also to protect you, the public, fellow Members, local authority officers and the reputation of local government. It sets out general principles of conduct expected of all Members and your specific obligations in relation to standards of conduct. The fundamental aim of the Code is to create and maintain public confidence in the role of Member and local government.

General principles of Member Conduct

Everyone in public office at all levels; all who serve the public or deliver public services, including ministers, civil servants, Members and local authority officers; should uphold the Seven Principles of Public Life, also known as the Nolan Principles.

Building on these principles, the following general principles have been developed specifically for the role of Member.

In accordance with the public trust placed in me, on all occasions:

- I act with integrity and honesty
- I act lawfully
- I treat all persons fairly and with respect; and
- I lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of Member.

In undertaking my role:

- I impartially exercise my responsibilities in the interests of the local community.
- I do not improperly seek to confer an advantage, or disadvantage, on any person.
- I avoid conflicts of interest.

- I exercise reasonable care and diligence; and
- I ensure that public resources are used prudently in accordance with my local authority's requirements and in the public interest.

Application of the Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct applies to you as soon as you sign your declaration of acceptance of the office of Member or attend your first meeting as a co-opted member and continues to apply to you until you cease to be a Member.

This Code of Conduct applies to you when you are acting in your capacity as a Member which may include when:

- you misuse your position as a Member; or
- your actions would give the impression to a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of all the facts that you are acting as a Member.

The Code applies to all forms of communication and interaction, including:

- at face-to-face meetings
- at online or telephone meetings
- in written communication
- in verbal communication
- in non-verbal communication
- in electronic and social media communication, posts, statements and comments.

You are also expected to uphold high standards of conduct and show leadership at all times when acting as a Member.

Your Monitoring Officer has statutory responsibility for the implementation of the Code of Conduct, and you are encouraged to seek advice from your Monitoring Officer on any matters that may relate to the Code of Conduct.

Standards of Member conduct

This section sets out your obligations, which are the minimum standards of conduct required of you as a Member. Should your conduct fall short of these standards, a complaint may be made against you, which may result in action being taken.

Guidance is included to help explain the reasons for the obligations and how they should be followed.

General Conduct

1. Respect

As a Member:

1.1 I treat other Members and members of the public with respect.

1.2 I treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the local authority with respect and respect the role they play.

Respect means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word. Debate and having different views are all part of a healthy democracy. As a Member, you can express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views, ideas, opinions and policies in a robust but civil manner. You should not, however, subject individuals, groups of people or organisations to personal attack.

In your contact with the public, you should treat them politely and courteously. Rude and offensive behaviour lowers the public's expectations and confidence in Members.

In return, you have a right to expect respectful behaviour from the public. If members of the public are being abusive, intimidatory or threatening you are entitled to stop any conversation or interaction in person or online and report them to the local authority, the relevant social media provider or the police. This also applies to fellow Members, where action could then be taken under the Member Code of Conduct, and local authority employees, where concerns should be raised in line with the local authority's Member-officer protocol.

2. Bullying, harassment and discrimination

As a Member:

2.1 I do not bully any person.

2.2 I do not harass any person.

2.3 I promote equalities and do not discriminate unlawfully against any person.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) characterises bullying as offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour, an abuse or misuse of power through means that undermine, humiliate, denigrate or injure the recipient. Bullying might be a regular pattern of behaviour or a one-off incident, happen face-to-face, on social media, in emails or phone calls, happen in the workplace or at work social events and may not always be obvious or noticed by others.

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 defines harassment as conduct that causes alarm or distress or puts people in fear of violence and must involve such conduct on at least two occasions. It can include repeated attempts to impose unwanted communications and contact upon a person in a manner that could be expected to cause distress or fear in any reasonable person.

Unlawful discrimination is where someone is treated unfairly because of a protected characteristic. Protected characteristics are specific aspects of a person's identity defined by the Equality Act 2010. They are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The Equality Act 2010 places specific duties on local authorities. Members have a central role to play in ensuring that equality issues are integral to the local authority's performance and strategic aims, and that there is a strong vision and public commitment to equality across public services.

3. Impartiality of officers of the local authority

As a Member:

- 3.1 I do not compromise, or attempt to compromise, the impartiality of anyone who works for, or on behalf of, the local authority.**

Officers work for the local authority as a whole and must be politically neutral (unless they are political assistants). They should not be coerced or persuaded to act in a way that would undermine their neutrality. You can question officers in order to understand, for example, their reasons for proposing to act in a particular way, or the content of a report that they have written. However, you must not try and force them to act differently, change their advice, or alter the content of that report, if doing so would prejudice their professional integrity.

4. Confidentiality and access to information

As a Member:

- 4.1 I do not disclose information:**

- a. given to me in confidence by anyone**
- b. acquired by me which I believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, unless**
 - i. I have received the consent of a person authorised to give it;**
 - ii. I am required by law to do so;**
 - iii. the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional legal advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or**
 - iv. the disclosure is:**
 - 1. reasonable and in the public interest; and**
 - 2. made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the local authority; and**
 - 3. I have consulted the Monitoring Officer prior to its release.**

- 4.2 I do not improperly use knowledge gained solely as a result of my role as a Member for the advancement of myself, my friends, my family members, my employer or my business interests.**

- 4.3 I do not prevent anyone from getting information that they are entitled to by law.**

Local authorities must work openly and transparently, and their proceedings and printed materials are open to the public, except in certain legally defined circumstances. You should work on this basis, but there will be times when it is required by law that discussions, documents and other information relating to or held by the local authority must be treated in a confidential manner. Examples include personal data relating to individuals or information relating to ongoing negotiations.

5. Disrepute

As a Member:

5.1 I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute.

As a Member, you are trusted to make decisions on behalf of your community and your actions and behaviour are subject to greater scrutiny than that of ordinary members of the public. You should be aware that your actions might have an adverse impact on you, other Members and/or your local authority and may lower the public's confidence in your or your local authority's ability to discharge your/it's functions. For example, behaviour that is considered dishonest and/or deceitful can bring your local authority into disrepute.

You are able to hold the local authority and fellow Members to account and are able to constructively challenge and express concern about decisions and processes undertaken by the local authority whilst continuing to adhere to other aspects of this Code of Conduct.

6. Use of position

As a Member:

6.1 I do not use, or attempt to use, my position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of myself or anyone else.

Your position as a member of the local authority provides you with certain opportunities, responsibilities, and privileges, and you make choices all the time that will impact others. However, you should not take advantage of these opportunities to further your own or others' private interests or to disadvantage anyone unfairly.

7. Use of local authority resources and facilities

As a Member:

7.1 I do not misuse local authority resources.

7.2 I will, when using the resources of the local or authorising their use by others:

- a. act in accordance with the local authority's requirements; and**
- b. ensure that such resources are not used for political purposes unless that use could reasonably be regarded as likely to facilitate, or be conducive to,**

the discharge of the functions of the local authority or of the office to which I have been elected or appointed.

You may be provided with resources and facilities by the local authority to assist you in carrying out your duties as a Member.

Examples include:

- office support
- stationery
- equipment such as phones, and computers
- transport
- access and use of local authority buildings and rooms.

These are given to you to help you carry out your role as a Member more effectively and are not to be used for business or personal gain. They should be used in accordance with the purpose for which they have been provided and the local authority's own policies regarding their use.

8. Complying with the Code of Conduct

As a Member:

8.1 I undertake Code of Conduct training provided by my local authority.

8.2 I cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and/or determination.

8.3 I do not intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is likely to be involved with the administration of any investigation or proceedings.

8.4 I comply with any sanction imposed on me following a finding that I have breached the Code of Conduct.

It is extremely important for you as a Member to demonstrate high standards, for you to have your actions open to scrutiny and for you not to undermine public trust in the local authority or its governance. If you do not understand or are concerned about the local authority's processes in handling a complaint you should raise this with your Monitoring Officer.

Protecting your reputation and the reputation of the local authority

9. Interests

As a Member:

9.1 I register and disclose my interests.

Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Monitoring Officer to establish and maintain a register of interests of Members of the local authority.

You need to register your interests so that the public, local authority employees and fellow Members know which of your interests might give rise to a conflict of interest. The register is a public document that can be consulted when (or before) an issue arises. The register also protects you by allowing you to demonstrate openness and a willingness to be held accountable. You are personally responsible for deciding whether or not you should disclose an interest in a meeting, but it can be helpful for you to know early on if others think that a potential conflict might arise. It is also important that the public know about any interest that might have to be disclosed by you or other Members when making or taking part in decisions, so that decision making is seen by the public as open and honest. This helps to ensure that public confidence in the integrity of local governance is maintained.

You should note that failure to register or disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest as set out in **Table 1**, is a criminal offence under the Localism Act 2011.

Appendix B sets out the detailed provisions on registering and disclosing interests. If in doubt, you should always seek advice from your Monitoring Officer.

10. Pre-Determination or Bias

As a Member I:

10.1 Never place myself under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations who might seek to influence me in the performance of my official duties.

10.2 Consider all matters with an open mind and make decisions based upon weighing the best evidence before me, fairly and on merit.

Where you have been involved in campaigning in your political role on an issue which does not impact on your personal and/or professional life, you should not be prohibited from participating in a decision in your role as Member. However, you must ensure that your integrity is not compromised.

You may be pre-disposed to a number of outcomes to a decision, based upon your, philosophy, beliefs or political allegiance (including any application of a Group whip), but this must not predetermine your actions or the outcome of a decision you are to make. You must always remain open to the potential for further evidence or argument to alter any previously expressed or held viewpoint at the time of making your decision. For this reason, particularly in relation to contractual matters or those affecting individuals' civil rights, it is often best to be cautious about how or if your views are expressed before coming to make a decision.

11. Gifts and hospitality

As a Member:

11.1 I do not accept gifts or hospitality, irrespective of estimated value, which could give rise to real or substantive personal gain or a reasonable suspicion of influence on my part to show favour from

persons seeking to acquire, develop or do business with the local authority or from persons who may apply to the local authority for any permission, licence or other significant advantage.

11.2 I register with the Monitoring Officer any gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50 within 28 days of its receipt.

11.3 I register with the Monitoring Officer any significant gift or hospitality that I have been offered but have refused to accept.

In order to protect your position and the reputation of the local authority, you should exercise caution in accepting any gifts or hospitality which are (or which you reasonably believe to be) offered to you because you are a Member. The presumption should always be not to accept significant gifts or hospitality. However, there may be times when such a refusal may be difficult if it is seen as rudeness in which case you could accept it but must ensure it is publicly registered. However, you do not need to register gifts and hospitality which are not related to your role as a Member, such as Christmas gifts from your friends and family. It is also important to note that it is appropriate to accept normal expenses and hospitality associated with your duties as a Member. If you are unsure, do contact your Monitoring Officer for guidance.

Appendices

Appendix A – The Seven Principles of Public Life

The principles are:

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must disclose and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Annex B Registering interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or your re-election or re-appointment to office you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)** which are as described in “The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012”. You should also register details of your other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 2 (Other Registerable Interests)**.

“**Disclosable Pecuniary Interest**” means an interest of yourself, or of your partner if you are aware of your partner's interest, within the descriptions set out in Table 1 below.

“**Partner**” means a spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

“**Standard Dispensation**” means a dispensation that has been granted by the Authority relieving the member or co-opted member from the restrictions or obligations under this Code as detailed in **Table 3** below.

1. You must ensure that your register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.
2. A ‘sensitive interest’ is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the Member, or a person connected with the Member, being subject to violence or intimidation.
3. Where you have a ‘sensitive interest’ you must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why you believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees they will withhold the interest from the public register.

Disclosure and Non-participation in case of disclosable pecuniary interest

4. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in **Table 1**, you must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation or a Standard Dispensation applies. If it is a ‘sensitive interest’, you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.
5. Where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you in exercise of your function as a Member (such as Chair or Vice-Chair or acting as consultee to an officer decision or in attending an informal briefing as Leader, Deputy Leader, Group Leader or Spokesperson), you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests and Non-Registerable Interests (Personal and Prejudicial Interests)

Personal Interests

6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects**:
 - a. your own financial interest or well being;
 - b. a financial interest or well-being of a relative, close associate; or
 - c. a body included in those you need to disclose under Other Registrable Interests as set out in **Table 2**

you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing the interest the following test should be applied

Prejudicial Interests

7. In the following instances, you must disclose the interest and you may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise, you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.
 - a. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to one of your Other Registerable Interests (as set out in **Table 2**).
 - b. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in Table 1) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate.
 - c. Where a matter **affects** your financial interest or well-being:
 1. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
 2. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest
8. Where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority and you have made an executive decision in relation to that business, you must make sure that any written statement of that decision records the existence and nature of your interest.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees

9. You also have a prejudicial interest in any business before an overview and scrutiny committee of your authority (or of a sub-committee of such a committee) where:

- (a) that business relates to a decision made (whether implemented or not) or action taken by your authority's committees, sub-committees, boards, joint committees or joint subcommittees; and
 - (b) at the time the decision was made or action was taken, you were a member of the committee, sub-committee, joint committee, board or joint sub-committee mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) and you were present when that decision was made or action was taken.
10. Paragraph 9 does not prevent you attending and participating in a meeting if you are required to attend a meeting of an overview or scrutiny committee, by such committee exercising its statutory powers.

Table 1: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

This table sets out the explanation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in the Relevant Authorities ([Disclosable Pecuniary Interests](#)) Regulations 2012.

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain. [Any unpaid directorship.]
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the local authority) made to the Member during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a Member, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the Member or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the Member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land and Property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the Member or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the Member is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licenses	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer

<p>Corporate tenancies</p>	<p>Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)—</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the council; and</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body that the Member, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the Member is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.</p>
<p>Securities</p>	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the Member, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the Member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2: Other Registrable Interests

You have a personal interest in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:

- a) any body of which you are in general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
- b) any body
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
 - (ii) any body directed to charitable purposes or
 - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

Table 3: Standard Dispensations

2. You will not be regarded as having a prejudicial interest in any business where that business relates to:

- (a) the housing functions of your authority where you hold a tenancy or lease with your authority, provided that you do not have arrears of rent with your authority of more than two months, and provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease;
- (b) the functions of your authority in respect of school meals, transport and travelling expenses, where you are a guardian, parent, grandparent or have parental responsibility (as defined in section 3 of the Children Act 1989) of a child in full time education, unless it relates particularly to the school which that child attends;
- (c) the functions of your authority in respect of statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, where you are in receipt of, or are entitled to the receipt of such pay from your authority;
- (d) the functions of your authority in respect of an allowance or payment made under sections 22(5), 24(4) and 173 to 176 of the Local Government Act 1972, an allowance or pension under section 18 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 or an allowance or payment under section 100 of the Local Government Act 2000;
- (e) any ceremonial honour given to one or more Members; or
- (f) the setting of the authority's council tax requirement, council tax, levy or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (except that this dispensation does not apply if you are two months or more in arrears with their Council Tax you must declare this to the meeting and must not vote on budget recommendations, as to do otherwise can be a criminal offence).



Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020 (version 2)

Definitions

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, a “councillor” means a member or co-opted member of a local authority or a directly elected mayor. A “co-opted member” is defined in the Localism Act 2011 Section 27(4) as “a person who is not a member of the authority but who:

- a) is a member of any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or;
- b) is a member of, and represents the authority on, any joint committee or joint sub-committee of the authority;

and who is entitled to vote on any question that falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or sub-committee”.

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, “local authority” includes county councils, district councils, London borough councils, parish councils, town councils, fire and rescue authorities, police authorities, joint authorities, economic prosperity boards, combined authorities and National Park authorities.

Purpose of the Code of Conduct

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to assist you, as a councillor, in modelling the behaviour that is expected of you, to provide a personal check and balance, and to set out the type of conduct that could lead to action being taken against you. It is also to protect you, the public, fellow councillors, local authority officers and the reputation of local government. It sets out general principles of conduct expected of all councillors and your specific obligations in relation to standards of conduct. The LGA encourages the use of support, training and mediation prior to action being taken using the Code. The fundamental aim of the Code is to create and maintain public confidence in the role of councillor and local government.

General principles of councillor conduct

Everyone in public office at all levels; all who serve the public or deliver public services, including ministers, civil servants, councillors and local authority officers; should uphold the **Seven Principles of Public Life**, also known as the Nolan Principles.

Building on these principles, the following general principles have been developed specifically for the role of councillor.

In accordance with the public trust placed in me, on all occasions:

- I act with integrity and honesty
- I act lawfully
- I treat all persons fairly and with respect; and
- I lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of councillor.

In undertaking my role:

- I impartially exercise my responsibilities in the interests of the local community
- I do not improperly seek to confer an advantage, or disadvantage, on any person
- I avoid conflicts of interest
- I exercise reasonable care and diligence; and
- I ensure that public resources are used prudently in accordance with my local authority's requirements and in the public interest.

Application of the Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct applies to you as soon as you sign your declaration of acceptance of the office of councillor or attend your first meeting as a co-opted member and continues to apply to you until you cease to be a councillor.

This Code of Conduct applies to you when you are acting in your capacity as a councillor which may include when:

- you misuse your position as a councillor
- Your actions would give the impression to a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of all the facts that you are acting as a councillor;

The Code applies to all forms of communication and interaction, including:

- at face-to-face meetings
- at online or telephone meetings
- in written communication
- in verbal communication
- in non-verbal communication
- in electronic and social media communication, posts, statements and comments.

You are also expected to uphold high standards of conduct and show leadership at all times when acting as a councillor.

Your Monitoring Officer has statutory responsibility for the implementation of the Code of Conduct, and you are encouraged to seek advice from your Monitoring

Officer on any matters that may relate to the Code of Conduct. Town and parish councillors are encouraged to seek advice from their Clerk, who may refer matters to the Monitoring Officer.

Standards of councillor conduct

This section sets out your obligations, which are the minimum standards of conduct required of you as a councillor. Should your conduct fall short of these standards, a complaint may be made against you, which may result in action being taken.

Guidance is included to help explain the reasons for the obligations and how they should be followed.

General Conduct

The general conduct guidance follows below:

1. Respect

As a councillor:

1.1 I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.

1.2 I treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the local authority with respect and respect the role they play.

Respect means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word. Debate and having different views are all part of a healthy democracy. As a councillor, you can express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views, ideas, opinions and policies in a robust but civil manner. You should not, however, subject individuals, groups of people or organisations to personal attack.

In your contact with the public, you should treat them politely and courteously. Rude and offensive behaviour lowers the public's expectations and confidence in councillors.

In return, you have a right to expect respectful behaviour from the public. If members of the public are being abusive, intimidatory or threatening you are entitled to stop any conversation or interaction in person or online and report them to the local authority, the relevant social media provider or the police. This also applies to fellow councillors, where action could then be taken under the Councillor Code of Conduct, and local authority employees, where concerns should be raised in line with the local authority's councillor-officer protocol.

2. Bullying, harassment and discrimination

As a councillor:

2.1 I do not bully any person.

2.2 I do not harass any person.

2.3 I promote equalities and do not discriminate unlawfully against any person.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) characterises bullying as offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour, an abuse or misuse of power through means that undermine, humiliate, denigrate or injure the recipient. Bullying might be a regular pattern of behaviour or a one-off incident, happen face-to-face, on social media, in emails or phone calls, happen in the workplace or at work social events and may not always be obvious or noticed by others.

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 defines harassment as conduct that causes alarm or distress or puts people in fear of violence and must involve such conduct on at least two occasions. It can include repeated attempts to impose unwanted communications and contact upon a person in a manner that could be expected to cause distress or fear in any reasonable person.

Unlawful discrimination is where someone is treated unfairly because of a protected characteristic. Protected characteristics are specific aspects of a person's identity defined by the Equality Act 2010. They are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The Equality Act 2010 places specific duties on local authorities. Councillors have a central role to play in ensuring that equality issues are integral to the local authority's performance and strategic aims, and that there is a strong vision and public commitment to equality across public services.

3. Impartiality of officers of the council

As a councillor:

3.1 I do not compromise, or attempt to compromise, the impartiality of anyone who works for, or on behalf of, the local authority.

Officers work for the local authority as a whole and must be politically neutral (unless they are political assistants). They should not be coerced or persuaded to act in a way that would undermine their neutrality. You can question officers in order to understand, for example, their reasons for proposing to act in a particular

way, or the content of a report that they have written. However, you must not try and force them to act differently, change their advice, or alter the content of that report, if doing so would prejudice their professional integrity.

4. Confidentiality and access to information

As a councillor:

4.1 I do not disclose information:

a) given to me in confidence by anyone

b) acquired by me which I believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, unless

i. I have received the consent of a person authorised to give it;

ii. I am required by law to do so;

iii. the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional legal advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or

iv. the disclosure is:

1. reasonable and in the public interest; and

2. made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the local authority; and

3. I have consulted the Monitoring Officer prior to its release.

4.2 I do not improperly use knowledge gained solely as a result of my role as a councillor for the advancement of myself, my friends, my family members, my employer or my business interests.

4.3 I do not prevent anyone from getting information that they are entitled to by law.

Local authorities must work openly and transparently, and their proceedings and printed materials are open to the public, except in certain legally defined circumstances. You should work on this basis, but there will be times when it is required by law that discussions, documents and other information relating to or held by the local authority must be treated in a confidential manner. Examples include personal data relating to individuals or information relating to ongoing negotiations.

5. Disrepute

As a councillor:

5.1 I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute.

As a Councillor, you are trusted to make decisions on behalf of your community and your actions and behaviour are subject to greater scrutiny than that of ordinary members of the public. You should be aware that your actions might have an adverse impact on you, other councillors and/or your local authority and may lower the public's confidence in your or your local authority's ability to discharge your/it's functions. For example, behaviour that is considered dishonest and/or deceitful can bring your local authority into disrepute.

You are able to hold the local authority and fellow councillors to account and are able to constructively challenge and express concern about decisions and processes undertaken by the council whilst continuing to adhere to other aspects of this Code of Conduct.

6. Use of position

As a councillor:

6.1 I do not use, or attempt to use, my position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of myself or anyone else.

Your position as a member of the local authority provides you with certain opportunities, responsibilities, and privileges, and you make choices all the time that will impact others. However, you should not take advantage of these opportunities to further your own or others' private interests or to disadvantage anyone unfairly.

7. Use of local authority resources and facilities

As a councillor:

7.1 I do not misuse council resources.

7.2 I will, when using the resources of the local or authorising their use by others:

**a) act in accordance with the local authority's requirements; and
b) ensure that such resources are not used for political purposes unless that use could reasonably be regarded as likely to facilitate, or be conducive to, the discharge of the functions of the local authority or of the office to which I have been elected or appointed.**

You may be provided with resources and facilities by the local authority to assist you in carrying out your duties as a councillor.

Examples include:

- office support
- stationery
- equipment such as phones, and computers

- transport
- access and use of local authority buildings and rooms.

These are given to you to help you carry out your role as a councillor more effectively and are not to be used for business or personal gain. They should be used in accordance with the purpose for which they have been provided and the local authority's own policies regarding their use.

8. Complying with the Code of Conduct

As a Councillor:

- 8.1 I undertake Code of Conduct training provided by my local authority.**
- 8.2 I cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and/or determination.**
- 8.3 I do not intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is likely to be involved with the administration of any investigation or proceedings.**
- 8.4 I comply with any sanction imposed on me following a finding that I have breached the Code of Conduct.**

It is extremely important for you as a councillor to demonstrate high standards, for you to have your actions open to scrutiny and for you not to undermine public trust in the local authority or its governance. If you do not understand or are concerned about the local authority's processes in handling a complaint you should raise this with your Monitoring Officer.

Protecting your reputation and the reputation of the local authority

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9. Interests

As a councillor:

9.1 I register and disclose my interests.

Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Monitoring Officer to establish and maintain a register of interests of members of the authority.

You need to register your interests so that the public, local authority employees and fellow councillors know which of your interests might give rise to a conflict of interest. The register is a public document that can be consulted when (or before) an issue arises. The register also protects you by allowing you to demonstrate openness and a willingness to be held accountable. You are personally responsible for deciding whether or not you should disclose an interest in a meeting, but it can be helpful for you to know early on if others think that a potential conflict might arise. It is also important that the public know about any interest that

might have to be disclosed by you or other councillors when making or taking part in decisions, so that decision making is seen by the public as open and honest. This helps to ensure that public confidence in the integrity of local governance is maintained.

You should note that failure to register or disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest as set out in **Table 1**, is a criminal offence under the Localism Act 2011.

Appendix B sets out the detailed provisions on registering and disclosing interests. If in doubt, you should always seek advice from your Monitoring Officer.

10. Gifts and hospitality

As a councillor:

10.1 I do not accept gifts or hospitality, irrespective of estimated value, which could give rise to real or substantive personal gain or a reasonable suspicion of influence on my part to show favour from persons seeking to acquire, develop or do business with the local authority or from persons who may apply to the local authority for any permission, licence or other significant advantage.

10.2 I register with the Monitoring Officer any gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50 within 28 days of its receipt.

10.3 I register with the Monitoring Officer any significant gift or hospitality that I have been offered but have refused to accept.

In order to protect your position and the reputation of the local authority, you should exercise caution in accepting any gifts or hospitality which are (or which you reasonably believe to be) offered to you because you are a councillor. The presumption should always be not to accept significant gifts or hospitality. However, there may be times when such a refusal may be difficult if it is seen as rudeness in which case you could accept it but must ensure it is publicly registered. However, you do not need to register gifts and hospitality which are not related to your role as a councillor, such as Christmas gifts from your friends and family. It is also important to note that it is appropriate to accept normal expenses and hospitality associated with your duties as a councillor. If you are unsure, do contact your Monitoring Officer for guidance.

Appendix A – The Seven Principles of Public Life

The principles are:

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must disclose and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Appendix B Registering Interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or your re-election or re-appointment to office you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)** which are as described in "The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012". You should also register details of your other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 2 (Other Registerable Interests)**.

"Disclosable Pecuniary Interest" means an interest of yourself, or of your partner if you are aware of your partner's interest, within the descriptions set out in Table 1 below.

"Partner" means a spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

1. You must ensure that your register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.

2. A 'sensitive interest' is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the councillor, or a person connected with the councillor, being subject to violence or intimidation.

3. Where you have a 'sensitive interest' you must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why you believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees they will withhold the interest from the public register.

Non participation in case of disclosable pecuniary interest

4. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in **Table 1**, you must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

5. Where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to one of your Other Registerable Interests (as set out in **Table 2**), you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Disclosure of Non-Registerable Interests

7. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in Table 1) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

8. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –

- your own financial interest or well-being;
- a financial interest or well-being of a relative, close associate; or
- a body included in those you need to disclose under Other Registerable Interests as set out in **Table 2**

you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied

9. Where a matter **affects** your financial interest or well-being:

- to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

10. Where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority and you have made an executive decision in relation to that business, you must make sure

that any written statement of that decision records the existence and nature of your interest.

Table 1: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

This table sets out the explanation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in the [Relevant Authorities \(Disclosable Pecuniary Interests\) Regulations 2012](#).

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	<p>Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.</p> <p>[Any unpaid directorship.]</p>
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council —</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed;</p> <p>(b) bond which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land and property	<p>Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council.</p> <p>‘Land’ excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income</p>

Subject	Description
Licenses	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)—
Corporate tenancies	(a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and b) either— i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class

- 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.
- 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2: Other Registerable Interests

You have a personal interest in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:

a) any body of which you are in general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority

b) any body

- i) exercising functions of a public nature
- ii) any body directed to charitable purposes or
- iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

Appendix C – the Committee on Standards in Public Life

The LGA has undertaken this review whilst the Government continues to consider the recommendations made by the Committee on Standards in Public Life in their report on **Local Government Ethical Standards**. If the Government chooses to implement any of the recommendations, this could require a change to this Code.

The recommendations cover:

- Recommendations for changes to the Localism Act 2011 to clarify in law when the Code of Conduct applies
- The introduction of sanctions
- An appeals process through the Local Government Ombudsman
- Changes to the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012
- Updates to the Local Government Transparency Code
- Changes to the role and responsibilities of the Independent Person
- That the criminal offences in the Localism Act 2011 relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests should be abolished

The Local Government Ethical Standards report also includes Best Practice recommendations. These are:

Best practice 1: Local authorities should include prohibitions on bullying and harassment in codes of conduct. These should include a definition of bullying and harassment, supplemented with a list of examples of the sort of behaviour covered by such a definition.

Best practice 2: Councils should include provisions in their code of conduct requiring councillors to comply with any formal standards investigation and prohibiting trivial or malicious allegations by councillors.

Best practice 3: Principal authorities should review their code of conduct each year and regularly seek, where possible, the views of the public, community organisations and neighbouring authorities.

Best practice 4: An authority's code should be readily accessible to both councillors and the public, in a prominent position on a council's website and available in council premises.

Best practice 5: Local authorities should update their gifts and hospitality register at least once per quarter, and publish it in an accessible format, such as CSV.

Best practice 6: Councils should publish a clear and straightforward public interest test against which allegations are filtered.

Best practice 7: Local authorities should have access to at least two Independent Persons.

Best practice 8: An Independent Person should be consulted as to whether to undertake a formal investigation on an allegation, and should be given the option to review and comment on allegations which the responsible officer is minded to dismiss as being without merit, vexatious, or trivial.

Best practice 9: Where a local authority makes a decision on an allegation of misconduct following a formal investigation, a decision notice should be published as soon as possible on its website, including a brief statement of facts, the provisions of the code engaged by the allegations, the view of the Independent Person, the reasoning of the decision-maker, and any sanction applied.

Best practice 10: A local authority should have straightforward and accessible guidance on its website on how to make a complaint under the code of conduct, the process for handling complaints, and estimated timescales for investigations and outcomes.

Best practice 11: Formal standards complaints about the conduct of a parish councillor towards a clerk should be made by the chair or by the parish council, rather than the clerk in all but exceptional circumstances.

Best practice 12: Monitoring Officers' roles should include providing advice, support and management of investigations and adjudications on alleged breaches to parish councils within the remit of the principal authority. They should be provided with adequate training, corporate support and resources to undertake this work.

Best practice 13: A local authority should have procedures in place to address any conflicts of interest when undertaking a standards investigation. Possible steps should include asking the Monitoring Officer from a different authority to undertake the investigation.

Best practice 14: Councils should report on separate bodies they have set up or which they own as part of their annual governance statement and give a full picture of their relationship with those bodies. Separate bodies created by local authorities should abide by the Nolan principle of openness and publish their board agendas and minutes and annual reports in an accessible place.

Best practice 15: Senior officers should meet regularly with political group leaders or group whips to discuss standards issues.

The LGA has committed to reviewing the Code on an annual basis to ensure it is still fit for purpose.



COUNCIL

6 September 2021

SUBJECT:	MEMBERSHIP OF REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AND REGULATORY LICENSING PANELS
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Council to appoint a Member to a vacant Committee place following the decision of the Independent Group to forgo that place on the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee and to disapply the requirement for political proportionality of Regulatory Licensing Panels.

It should be noted that a proposal to remove political balance requirements from a committee or sub-committee will not take effect if any Member of the Council present votes against it.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- (1) **The vacant position on the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee be:**
 - (a) **allocated to the Conservative Group; and**
 - (b) **the monitoring officer as proper officer be authorised to carry out the wishes of the Leader of that Group in allocating a Member to membership of the Committee with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the name of that Member**

- (2) **The terms of reference of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee be amended so as to provide that the sub-committees forming Licensing Panels (Regulatory) will be:**
 - (a) **exempt from political balance requirements; but**
 - (b) **not formed solely by members of one Group,**

so as to read at Part 3(b) of the Constitution:

11.4 Licensing Panels (Regulatory)

Sub-Committees of between three (3) and five (5) members of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee, *which shall consist of members of more than one political group but shall otherwise not be subject to political balance (Council minute [NN] 2021/22 refers)*, with responsibility for the Council's functions to deal with applications, determinations and reviews of licences or registrations, and any related matter, in respect of any licensed activity that is the responsibility of the Authority (other than under the Licensing Act 2003 or the Gambling Act 2005).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To fill a vacant position on the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee in accordance with the Political Balance Regulations and in order that the Committee may operate at its capacity.
- 1.2 To remove the requirement for political balance from sub-committees forming Regulatory Panels to allow greater flexibility and to ensure maximum involvement and utilisation of the Committee's membership in undertaking hearings into regulatory licensing matters.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Council could choose not to fill the vacancy which would leave the Committee with one less Member than the allocated number of places on the Committee. - The Chair and members of the Committee have stated that the maximum number of members are required to enable it to properly fulfil its duties and provide for regular and responsive Panel hearings.
- 2.2 The Council could appoint a different member or class of member to the vacant seat. - The discussion between the Groups has provided this as a route to provide the extra member of the committee requested
- 2.3 Council may choose not to remove the requirement for political balance of Regulatory Licensing Panels. - This would restrict the number of members or the means by which members may be chosen who can be drawn to form the panels.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Vacant Committee Place

- 3.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Council it was agreed to appoint Members to its Committees with the allocation of places as set out in an appendix to that report.
- 3.2 The Regulatory and General Purposes Committee is a committee of 15 places, politically balanced, and had been established accordingly with the following number of Political Group places:

Labour	7 seats
Conservative	5 seats
Liberal Democrat	1 seat
Green	1 seat
Independent	1 seat
- 3.3 The Licensing Act Committee is composed of the fifteen Members of the Council, who will be those same Members as are appointed to the Regulatory

and General Purposes Committee (whose appointments must be in accordance with the proportionality rules).

- 3.4 Once Council has agreed the size and make-up of Committees, the political balance requirements of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 results in the proper officer formally notifying the Group Leaders of the allocation by the Authority to that Group for the purpose of enabling a Group to reply to express its wishes on individual membership. It is for this reason the resolution at Council is worded in this way.
- 3.5 If a Group does not wish to take up a committee place, or has failed to express its wishes within a period of three weeks following the sending of the notice by the proper officer, the vacancy is referred back to Council and the authority may then make such appointment to that seat as they think fit. This also means that there is no ability for one Group to gift or grant their place on a politically balanced body to another Group; it is a decision of full Council to decide what to do with the then empty committee place
- 3.6 The Independent Group, having been asked for the name of the Member to take up their one place, has confirmed that they do not wish to take up their place on this committee. This means that the Council must now decide what to do with the vacant committee place.
- 3.7 This matter was discussed amongst the Group Leaders, who agreed that regulatory and licensing meetings should be taken up by those with the skills, available time to commit to panel hearings and interest in these matters. After discussion of possible candidates, the favoured option was that the vacancy be allocated to the Conservative Group, and as such are content for the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee and the Licensing Act Committee to comprise the following membership.

Labour	7 seats
Conservative	6 seats
Liberal Democrat	1 seat
Green	1 seat

Regulatory Licensing Panels

- 3.8 Regulatory Panel hearings are formed under the following terms of reference, set out at 11.4 of Part 3(B) of the Constitution, that:

Licensing Panels (Regulatory)

Sub-Committees of between three (3) and five (5) members of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee, politically balanced, with responsibility for the Council's functions to deal with applications,

determinations and reviews of licences or registrations, and any related matter, in respect of any licensed activity that is the responsibility of the Authority (other than under the Licensing Act 2003 or the Gambling Act 2005).

- 3.9 This change to the political balance of the parent Regulatory Committee will have an affect **on** the make-up of the Regulatory Panels. In addition, until this last municipal year the make-up of the individual panels has traditionally been treated as a flexible resource under the approach of each being a sub-committee of the whole committee, with delegated authority to the proper officer to determine who should attend on the day, and therefore who should remain absent, to meet varying commitments of members' diaries. This is not an ideal solution but rather an accommodation of necessary practice with the law as it was changed in 1989. The change in political balance and direct appointment of a member by full Council provides an opportunity to address this, therefore, and to adopt what is considered to be a preferred practice to remove the Regulatory Committee's Panels from political balance.
- 3.10 In doing so, this will allow the Council to regularise the situation whereby a Panel can be formed of those members of the Committee available and in a better situation to attend to consider the licence or regulatory matter required to be considered by a hearing before a Panel at the required time.
- 3.11 To retain a sense of balance, however, it is felt that the Panels should not be made up of members of just one political Group.
- 3.12 Delegated authority will be sought for the Director of Law and Governance to appoint Members to a sub-committee to form a Licensing or Regulatory Panel, in consultation with the Chair and Group spokespersons wherever practicable, to enable hearings to take place. In practice, this may be formed through a rota of Committee members for democratic services officers to call upon, based upon availability, skill set and/or other criteria agreed with the Committee, to enable individual meetings to be called to hold hearings into various licensing and regulatory matters as required.
- 3.13 It should be noted that it remains the case that no member of the Committee may participate in the debate or vote in a meeting of the Committee or a Panel until or unless that member has attended the prescribed licensing and regulatory training.
- 3.14 This situation does not have an effect on the Panels of the Licensing Act Committee. This is because the Licensing Act Committee is a separate statutory committee of the Authority under which legislation the Committee is not bound by political proportionality regulations and whose licensing panels are made up in a different albeit similar way to that described above.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND DELEGATED AUTHORITY

5.1 The process to deal with the vacancy on the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee and to remove political balance on Regulatory Licensing Panels are set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (LGHA) and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as referred to in the report above.

5.2 Section 17 of the LGHA permits an ordinary committee or sub-committee to not comply with political balance rules but only where approved by the Authority in such manner as may be prescribed by regulations made by the Secretary of State and without any Member of the Authority voting against them.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT; STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There is a risk that if Committee places aren't filled and the political balance of Regulatory Licensing Panels is not disapplied the burden placed on those other Members of a Committee becomes more onerous.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

8.1 The Group Leaders were consulted over the vacant position on the Committee as described in the report above.

8.2 The proposals concerning the formation of Regulatory Licensing Panels have been the subject of discussion with and amongst the Chair and Group Spokespersons of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

REPORT AUTHOR: Paul Martin
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Previous reports on the appointment of committees and the Council's Constitution.
Terms of Reference of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee
Local Government and Housing Act 1989
Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Regulatory and General Purposes Committee	17 June 2021
Council	26th May 2021

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COUNCIL

6 SEPTEMBER 2021

REPORT TITLE:	SIX MONTH ATTENDANCE RULE S85 (1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
REPORT OF:	THE DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a Member of a Local Authority to attend at least one meeting of that Authority within a six-month consecutive period, unless permission for the absence is granted by the Authority in advance, in order to avoid being disqualified as a Councillor. Without advance permission to be absent, loss of office is automatic and permission cannot be granted retrospectively.

The report requests that Councillor Andrew Corkhill is granted permission to be absent from Council meetings for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

The absence of Councillor Andy Corkhill from all Council and Committee Meetings be authorised and approved for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year, pursuant to Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a Member of a Local Authority to attend at least one meeting of that Authority within a six-month consecutive period, unless permission for the absence is granted by the Authority in advance, in order to avoid being disqualified as a Councillor. Councillor Andrew Corkhill has been unable to attend meetings due to ill health.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The proposal in this report is made to avoid Councillor Andrew Corkhill being disqualified from office for non-attendance during a period of ill health. Agreeing to the waiver over a different time period other than until the end of the 2021/22 Municipal Year is an option that Members may wish to consider.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 ('Vacation of office by failure to attend meetings') requires that, if a member of a local authority fails to attend any meeting of the authority throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance at a meeting, they shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority.
- 3.2 Attendance in an official capacity at a relevant meeting of the Council is defined as attendance at Cabinet, a Committee or a Sub-Committee of the Council or at any meeting of a joint Committee or other such body discharging functions of the Council or at any meeting as a representative of the Council is deemed to be a meeting of the Council.
- 3.3 On 20 July 2020 Council authorised the absence of all Members of the Council for the period that the provisions of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 were in force or until the Annual Meeting of Council 2021 due to the fact that some Council and Committee meetings had to be cancelled as a result of the Coronavirus emergency and it was recognised that several Members may be required to self-isolate, some for long periods, due to illness.
- 3.4 In May 2021 the regulations allowing meetings to take place virtually came to an end and meetings have reverted to taking place in person. However, due to the ongoing nature of the pandemic it should be recognised that some Members may be required to continue to take additional precautions to protect their health and this will, perhaps, exclude some Members from attending meetings that they might otherwise have attended.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 If the recommendation set out in this report is not approved Councillor Andrew Corkhill would become disqualified due to the six month non attendance rule if he is unable to attend a meeting before 5 November 2021. Approval of continuing absence is allowed under Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 If the Council does not approve the recommendation set out in this report some Members may become automatically disqualified. This will mean that some electors will be under-represented as there cannot be any by elections before May 2021.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The Leader of Cllr Corkhill's Political Group has consulted other Group Leaders on the proposal to approve a period of absence from meetings for Cllr Corkhill pursuant to section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Any Equality Implications are addressed in section 1.1 of the report and the recommendation.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no environment and climate change implications arising from this report.

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Local Government Act 1972

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council	20 July 2020

OFFICER DECISION FORM

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: NICOLA BUTTERWORTH

KEY DECISION YES

DIRECTORATE: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

SUBJECT: COVID Local Support Grant - extension No.2

1.0 DECISION:

- 1.1 That the Director of Neighbourhood Services agrees the indicative local allocation of the grant extension as outlined below:

Item	Proposed indicative spend
Supplement the Holiday Activities Fund (HAF)	£200,000
Food & resilience for families in need of additional support (summer holidays)	£300,000
COVID Local Support Summer Fund – small grants programme	£300,000
Welcome Back to School Food Support Packs	£123,750
Financial support with energy (fuel) and water bills debt	£125,000
Crisis support with emergency call-outs and boiler repairs/replacements	£20,000
Crisis support with white goods	£17,000
Contingency	£9,200.64
Administration costs (5%)	£57,630
	£1,152,580.64

2.0 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 2.1 The Grant will help the Council continue its intensive work, in partnership with local agencies, groups and organisations, to support those most vulnerable throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

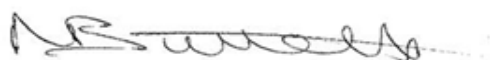
3.0 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

- 3.1 The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Deputy Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been completed. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

- 3.2 Under the Special Urgency provisions in the Council's Constitution (Part 4, Section 2, paragraph 13 (e)) the Mayor has agreed that the decision can be taken immediately, having not appeared on the Council's Forward Plan of key decisions.
- 3.3 Under the Urgency provision of the Constitution, Part 4 – Decision Review, Paragraph 9, the Chief Executive has agreed to this decision as a matter of urgency and that it not be subject to call-in, as any delay could seriously prejudice the Council's or public interest.

4.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

4.1 None.



Signed:

Officer: Nicola Butterworth

Title: Director of Neighbourhood Services

Date: 8/7/21

A list of background papers on this issue is held with: Caroline Laing

Contact Officer: Caroline Laing

Date: 8/7/21

Date of Publication:

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period:

Date 5th August 2021

REPORT TITLE:	A TOWN DEAL FOR BIRKENHEAD – ACCEPTANCE OF HEADS OF TERMS
REPORT OF:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION

REPORT SUMMARY

In September 2019 the Government invited the Council to enter into a ‘Town Deal’ agreement for Birkenhead, which would see investment of up to £25m, or for proposals with regional significance up to £50m, to boost productivity, skills and living standards.

At its meeting on 26th January 2021 the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee considered proposals regarding the submission of a Town Investment Plan for Birkenhead. The Committee delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee, and the Chair of the Town Deal Board, to agree the Town Deal Heads of Terms with Government.

On 15th July 2021 the Council received notification from the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government that its Town Investment Plan submission has been successful. The Council has been offered a Town Deal for Birkenhead up to a value of £25 million, subject to agreeing Heads of Terms and the development of businesses cases for the projects proposed (attached as Appendix 1 to this report).

The grant of £25million will be utilised to deliver the Town Investment Plan, which will support the delivery of growth and regeneration of Birkenhead.

The property is in the Birkenhead, Tranmere Ward and Seacombe wards and is a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Director of Regeneration and Place:

- (1) accepts the offer of a Town Deal for Birkenhead up to a value of £25 million, and the associated Head of Terms, as set out in the offer letter from the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government; and
- (2) agrees that this decision is urgent and therefore not subject to review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To enable the Director of Regeneration and Place to accept the offer of a Town Deal for Birkenhead up to a value of £25 million, and the associated Head of Terms, in order to support the delivery of growth and regeneration of Birkenhead and implement the Town Investment Plan.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Another option would be to decline the offer. This would mean that Birkenhead would not benefit from the grant funding offered and the Council and project proposers would not be able to deliver the projects and regeneration ambitions set out in the Town Investment Plan.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In September 2019 the Government announced a new 'Town Deal', an opportunity that invited 101 places to develop proposals as part of a £3.6bn Towns Fund. The Government invited the Council to enter into a 'Town Deal' agreement for Birkenhead, which would see investment of up to £25m, or for proposals with regional significance up to £50m, to boost productivity, skills and living standards.
- 3.2 At its meeting on 26th January 2021 the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee considered approved proposals regarding the submission of a Town Investment Plan for Birkenhead. The Committee delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the chair and spokespersons of the Economic Regeneration and Development Committee, and the Chair of the Town Deal Board, to agree the Town Deal Heads of Terms with Government.
- 3.3 On 15th July 2021 the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government offered the Council a Town Deal for Birkenhead up to a value of £25 million, subject to agreeing Heads of Terms and the development of business cases for the projects proposed. The Heads of Terms in summary record the fact that the Government will provide up to a total of £25 million from the Towns Fund, which will be used to enable Birkenhead to become a thriving urban community. The funding will be used to enable a range of projects to proceed that will contribute towards achieving this vision. These include:
- Dock Branch Park;
 - Transport Visitor Attraction;
 - Waterfront & Connectivity
 - Education Engagement Network;
 - Wellbeing & Opportunity Centre
 - Egerton Village
 - Egerton House
 - Start Yard;
 - Future Yard;
 - Argyle Street Creative;

- EXPO Village; and
- Sustainability Central

- 3.4 The Council will need to prioritise these projects within the funding envelope being offered. Funding for individual projects will be subject to successfully completing Phase 2 of the Towns Fund process. This includes detailed project development and business case assurance at local level.
- 3.5 The original financial ask included in the Town Investment Plan was for £45m. This is a sum which reflected the calibre of the 12 projects proposed and the regional significance and impact that they would collectively make. The offer of £25m is less than bid for but is still significant and will go a long way to delivering on the collective regeneration objectives for Birkenhead.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council has two months of accepting the offer to provide further information to the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government ('MHCLG') regarding the projects and how the Council and project proposers intend to meet certain conditions attached to them.
- 4.2 As the sum awarded is less than the sum offered this will mean reviewing the projects and agreeing the priorities of both the Town Deal Board and the Council, as well as the objectives of Town Deal programme itself. To determine this the Council's project team will review the original project proposals and the results and scoring of the original evaluation, along with any feedback given from MHCLG on the various projects put forward. Where possible alternative funding streams that might support project delivery will also be identified.
- 4.3 To help with project development and delivery MHCLG will be releasing early a payment of 5% of the total Heads of Terms offer. The payment will be made once the Council has finalised the project confirmation to the satisfaction of the MHCLG.
- 4.4 Of the 12 projects included in the Town Investment Plan, 3 are proposed by the Council. These include Dock Branch Park, public realm works at Argyle Street and the waterfront. The council is also a partner in the Education Engagement Network scheme. Should all of these schemes move forward following evaluation and business case approval, they will be funded by the Town Deal grant, Mass Transit funding and other external funding streams. The remaining 9 projects are privately led and will be funded via the grant and private sector funding.
- 4.5 Projects will be required to be developed and delivered prior to 2027. Town Deal funding will cover the cost of resourcing project development and delivery. Existing staff resources within the Regeneration and Place Directorate will also cover these activities.
- 4.6 Before any further grant monies are released the Council must work with Government to demonstrate the feasibility, viability and value for money of the projects. This will include a full business case for each of the projects.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Heads of Terms offer are not contractually binding document and are subject to various conditions being met. The Heads of Terms will act as a Memorandum of Understanding for the future development and delivery of Birkenhead's Town Investment Plan and project proposals. It sets out joint expectations as Birkenhead enters the business case development phase.
- 5.2 Following agreement of Heads of Terms, the Council will be required to enter into a grant funding agreement with MHCLG. As the accountable body for Town Deal funding, the Council will also be required to enter into funding agreements with the project proposers.
- 5.3 Advice from Legal Services will be required regarding the compliance of the projects within the Town Investment Plan within the UK's new international obligations on Subsidy Control. Any offer of financial assistance to project proposers will be subject to the new Subsidy Control regime which as of 1 January 2021 replaced the previous EU State Aid rules. Subsidies awarded must satisfy 6 core principles, referred to as the "General Principles" which are to be found in Article 3 of the recently concluded UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement ("TCA"). These core principles bear considerable resemblance to the sort of considerations already tested in EU State aid block exemptions. The new UK Subsidy Control regime is certainly no more restrictive than the current EU law framework.
- 5.4 The Council must also conduct project assurance in line with agreed routes for each individual project. Regular reporting will be undertaken, aligned with the Council's agreed assurance processes.
- 5.5 The MHCLG have stipulated that the acceptance of the Heads of Terms must be confirmed by the Council by 5 August 2021. If call-in were to apply to the decision in this matter it the offered grant funding would be jeopardised by any failure to confirm acceptance within the above timescale. The Chief Executive has been consulted and has agreed that the proposed decision is urgent.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no IT or significant staffing implications arising from this report. A number of projects will be required to be developed and delivered prior to 2027. It is anticipated that Town Deal funding will cover the cost of resourcing project development and delivery. Existing staff resources within the Regeneration and Place Directorate will also cover these activities.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Consideration has been given to potential risks and, where possible, steps have been put in place to minimise risk.
- 7.2 Failure to agree the Heads of Terms will result in the loss of the funding making the Town Investment Plan undeliverable and meaning that the ability to deliver on many of the Council's regeneration ambitions for Birkenhead would be lost.

- 7.3 A review of the risks and appropriate monitoring and compliance arrangements will be put in place in relation to any future funding agreement the Council should enter into.
- 7.4 Risk assessments have been undertaken for several of the projects and risk workshops have helped to mitigate risks where they can be identified. As part of the project development and assurance process of reviewing the businesses cases, risk assessments will be undertaken for all of the projects.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Director of Regeneration and Place has delegated authority to make this decision in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons of the Economic Regeneration and Development Committee, and the Chair of the Town Deal Board. All relevant parties have been consulted and are in agreement that the Head of Terms should be accepted.

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 The potential impact has been reviewed with regard to equality and links to the existing EIA conducted for Wirral's Growth Plan. No changes were made to the EIA as a result of this report.

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2014-0>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The recommendation has limited implications on the environment and climate as it relates to the Heads of Terms arrangements. However, there will be longer-term implications as a result of the projects.
- 10.2 MHCLG in its guidance on Towns Fund sets out that proposals must be guided by sustainability – economic, environmental, and social. The Government has committed to a legally binding target to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Clean growth represents a huge opportunity for the UK economy and is a core principle of the Towns Fund. As the projects are developed, they will further support the Governments ambitions for clean growth.
- 10.3 The Council's existing commitment ensures that redevelopment opportunities take account of the climate crisis and is identified as part of work on the Cool (2014-19) strategy.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

11.1 There is considerable scope for the various projects that will come forward as a result of this funding to have a positive impact on Community Wealth Building.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Kate Pierce**
Economic Development Lead
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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Offer letter from the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government dated 16 July 2021.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Government announcement of a new 'Town Deal'- September 2019

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Meeting of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee ' <i>Birkenhead Town Deal – Funding Request</i> '	26 th January 2021

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

Present: Councillor J Williamson (Chair)

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

75 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

76 APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

77 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Anita Leech declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 9, 'Agreement of Capital Grant included within Capital Programme (3G Pitch) by virtue of a family connection, and that she would leave the virtual meeting room during the item's consideration.

78 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 February, 2021, be approved and adopted as a correct record.

79 LEADER'S UPDATE

The Chair gave an update on the latest COVID-19 situation in the Borough. Wirral, in line with the national picture had suffered 2 waves of COVID-19 with periods of sustained and unprecedented pressure on health and care services. With the December 2020 and January 2021 surge being the worst of the pandemic to date.

To date in Wirral, there had been over 22,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 (although this would be an underestimate of the true spread of the disease as not all would have been tested), and tragically 939 deaths (up to 26/02/2021). The impacts of COVID-19 in Wirral had not been felt equally – the pandemic had both exposed and exacerbated longstanding inequalities between and within Wirral’s local communities.

The COVID-19 vaccination programme while a game changer was not a silver bullet. The information so far on the vaccines in use was that they were highly effective and encouraging high uptake of the vaccine should reduce hospitalisations and deaths - and the pressures on health and care services.

It will still be several months before the vaccine is rolled out to all adults; although rates locally are reducing, they remain higher than Wirral would like and higher than other regions across the country. The Council therefore needs to take a cautious approach and continue to work collectively to reduce community transmission and manage outbreaks in community settings. As has been seen previously, community transmission can increase very quickly (as it did in March, September and late December) unless a cautious approach is taken.

The Local Outbreak Management Plan had been updated to ensure Wirral’s outbreak responses and health and care system were prepared for further surges in COVID-19, the emergence of new COVID-19 variants, and a potential surge in other respiratory viruses in Autumn / Winter 2021-22.

Paul Sator, Chief Executive, thanked all staff, Head teachers, teachers and parents for the smooth return of children to schools, as the first milestone on the roadmap out of lockdown, but emphasised the need to remain cautious on the road to recovery. He also thanked all those staff involved in the testing and vaccination programme and with outbreak management and food distribution.

80 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

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

81 PAY POLICY 2021-2022

Tony Williams, Assistant Director: HR and Organisational Development, introduced a report on the Council’s Pay Policy. Its purpose was to provide transparency with regard to the Council’s approach to setting pay by identifying:

- The methods by which salaries of all employees were determined;

- The detail and level of the salary package of its most senior staff;
- The Head of Paid Service's responsibility for ensuring that the provisions set out in the statement were applied consistently throughout the Council and recommending any amendments to Full Council.

The Council was required by Section 38 of The Localism Act 2011 to prepare a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year.

The 2021/22 statement reflected key changes and updates that had occurred within the last financial year as follows, including a new Foundation Living Wage rate, announced by The Living Wage Foundation in November 2020, as £9.50 per hour, an increase of 20p. The Pay Policy Statement 2021-2022 had also been updated to reflect the constitutional changes made in line with the new Committee System of governance.

RECOMMENDED – To Council the approval of the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2021/22.

82 GENDER PAY GAP REPORT

Tony Williams, Assistant Director: HR and Organisational Development, introduced a report on the Gender Pay Gap. In line with the Equality Act 2010, the purpose of the report was to provide transparency with regard to the average difference between earnings of women and men.

The Council's median gender pay gap for 2019 was 10.9% which compared favourably to the national average of 15.5% for other public sector organisations. In 2020 Wirral's median gender pay gap had improved from 10.9% to 4.8%, whilst the mean gender pay gap also narrowed from 6.9% to 4.9%.

The gender profile was unchanged for the third consecutive year and there was no significant shift in the gender quartile profiles except in the upper quartile where there was an increase in the percentage of females from 56% in 2019 to 61% in 2020. This reversed the trend of the previous year which saw an increase in the percentage of males in the upper quartile from 42.8% to 44.5%.

Responding to comments from Members, Tony Williams stated that there were a whole myriad of different working patterns which contributed to the gender pay gap, including the higher percentage of females in part time, or reduced hours roles, with the vast majority of these roles being in Leisure Centres and libraries.

Resolved – That the publication of the Gender Pay Gap report be endorsed and noted.

83 **AGREEMENT OF CAPITAL GRANT INCLUDED WITHIN THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME (3G PITCH)**

Prior to consideration of this item, Councillor Anita Leech, left the virtual meeting room, having declared a personal interest (see minute 77 ante).

Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources, introduced a report regarding a contribution to the construction of a 3G pitch at the Tranmere Rovers Training Facility at Solar Campus, Leasowe.

In September 2019 the Council had entered into a Partnering Agreement with the Club that highlighted the Council's good historic relationships and ambition to work together for the benefit of the residents of the Borough. The Club was a key anchor institution within Wirral and provided many functions that supported the Council's 2025 plan. In 2018, with the knowledge of a deficit of 3G football pitches across Wirral, the Club and the Council had talked about working together to align an initiative to jointly fund the construction of a 3G football pitch at the Solar Campus site costing £799,779.

The 2019/20 capital programme approved by Council on 4 March, 2019 included a scheme and budget for the contribution to Tranmere Rovers Football Club for just under 50% of the construction of such a pitch at a maximum total of £375,000. This scheme was the continuation of Tranmere Rovers' plan to relocate its training facilities from Ingleborough Road to the Solar Campus.

Planning consent was given for the construction of the pitch at the Planning Committee on 8 September, 2020, subject to nine conditions that were currently being implemented via a working group of residents, officers and Members.

The grant would be funded from the Council's existing capital programme, with the relevant conditions laid out in the grant agreement. As the revenue impact of the Capital Programme had already been included in the 2019/20 budget approved in March 2019, and carried forward, there were no additional financial implications for the Council taxpayer as a result of awarding the grant.

Shaer Halewood responded to a number of comments from Members and informed the meeting that any future replacement costs would need to be discussed at a future date between the Council and the Club.

Members placed on record their thanks to Tranmere Rovers as a club for all their work they had done in the community through the pandemic.

Councillor Cleary referred to a specific condition (No.9) made by the Planning Committee in its approval of the development, which was not referred to in the

report, and the need to ensure this along with the other conditions was implemented, this condition stated that:

'Prior to first use of the proposed development hereby approved, full details of secure covered and lockable cycle parking and / or storage facilities shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. These facilities shall be provided in accordance with the approved details and made available for use prior to the first use of the development hereby permitted and shall be retained for use at all times thereafter.'

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Chris Spriggs, it was -

Resolved – That,

- (1) the request from Tranmere Rovers Football Club Limited for a maximum contribution of £375,000 toward the costs of construction of a 3G pitch at the Solar Campus in line with the relevant Community User conditions set out in the Appendix to the Director's report, be approved;**
- (2) it be agreed that the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to draw up and finalise a legal agreement between the Council and Tranmere Rovers Football Club Limited to reflect the above arrangements.**

84 **NORTH WEST MUTUAL BANK**

Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources, introduced a report which updated Members on the possibility of setting up a North West Mutual Bank which Wirral Council, in conjunction with two partner Councils, Liverpool and Preston, had been supporting.

The Council at its meeting on 5 March, 2019 had agreed a £5m commitment in the capital programme 2019 – 2024 as an investment in the North West Mutual Community Bank. The proposal to create a Mutual aligned with the Community Wealth Building Strategy and if successfully implemented would help to retain financial resources within the region, provide social benefits and employment opportunities benefits and help tackle financial exclusion.

Shaer Halewood responded to a number of comments from Members and stated that there was no formal agreement yet with regard to the share of investment between the three Councils, but that the Committee could agree to Wirral's share being up to a third as a maximum amount. It was hoped that once the proposals were further developed other investors, such as Pension Funds, would be sourced, which would reduce the Council's overall investment of up to £5m.

Members expressed their support for the proposal, particularly with regard to the social benefits which would flow from the proposal, including for those residents who were financially excluded and for small and medium businesses.

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

Resolved – That, subject to a satisfactory due diligence exercise review:

- (1) a commitment to jointly fund the costs / resources as outlined in paragraph 3.61 of the report and up to a maximum amount of £350,000, to take the North West Mutual to the banking licence application stage, subject to the outcome of the initial due diligence, be approved;**
- (2) a commitment to a further joint fund as specified in paragraph 3.63 of the report and up to a maximum of £200,000, to buy in to the use of intellectual property developed by other Mutuals, be approved;**
- (3) it be agreed to enter into a cost sharing arrangement with other Councils for the purpose of the above, up to a maximum amount of £185,000 if an equal three-way division of funding is applied; and**
- (4) a further report be brought to Policy and Resources Committee once the next stage is completed and prior to any investment decision with the North West Mutual.**

85 **CONSIDERATION OF GAINING REAL LIVING WAGE ACCREDITATION**

Keith Patterson, Head of Commercial Procurement, introduced a report which provided a further summary of the work being undertaken to explore gaining accreditation with the Living Wage Foundation, following a report to the former Cabinet on 27 July, 2020 (minute 114 refers).

The requirement to provide the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage was a statutory requirement and thus was already included in the Council's contracts. The Living Wage Foundation was an independent organisation that recognised the leadership of responsible employers who chose to pay a Real Living Wage based on the cost of living, not just the government minimum.

The report detailed the three key reasons why it was important to pay the Real Living Wage:

- Safeguarding workers from in-work poverty.
- Investing in the local economy.
- Demonstrating Civic Leadership.

It was estimated that the total cost to the Council of implementing the Real Living Wage was between £630,000 and £1.2m, (excluding care contracts) however individual contracts would be subject to discussion and would be managed according to procurement and contract management principles to deliver best value. A further report to the Committee would contain more information on those costs and the extent to which they could be mitigated.

Responding to comments from Members, Keith Patterson, stated that the set criteria for tender evaluations could not include whether or not contractors paid the Real Living Wage, though the question could be asked if they were prepared to pay the RLW, and tender documentation did emphasise that the Council was strongly in favour of the RLW and made it clear it was important to Wirral.

Philip McCourt, Director of Law and Governance, confirmed that there was nothing to stop the Council asking contractors whether or not they paid the RLW to build up a data profile, but tenders could not be scored on this criteria.

Members expressed the view that contractors should be expected to do the right thing in paying the RLW as it was a key factor in tackling low pay in the regional economy.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was -

Resolved – That,

- (1) the further activity undertaken in working towards accreditation to the Living Wage Foundation, be noted; and**
- (2) that a further report will be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee after further information is gathered in order to enable the Council to assess more accurately the costs and benefits of seeking accreditation from the Living Wage Foundation.**

86 **ANNUAL WORKFORCE MONITORING REPORT 2019/20**

Suzanne Moore, Head of Organisational Design and Development, introduced a report on the annual Workforce Equality Report for 2019/20. The Council had a legal duty under Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty April 2011 to produce and publish this annual report

As part of the summary action plan from the previous report, received by the former Employment and Appointments Committee on 3 March, 2020 (minute 26 refers) a targeted 'staff confidence' campaign was included to help narrow the gaps in data. This had now been undertaken and had seen an improvement in the level and detail of data collected which was detailed in the

report. The Council did respect employees' rights not to declare personal information and provided a 'prefer not to say' response in all categories.

Members welcomed the report which showed good progress and thanked the officers for all their work.

Members also expressed the view that such a report deserved a more detailed examination and suggested that governance arrangements could be reviewed with the possibility of re-establishing some form of Employment Sub-Committee.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was -

Resolved – That,

- (1) the publication of the annual Workforce Equality report to meet the Council's legal requirements under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) 2011, be approved; and**
- (2) the position in relation to workforce equality performance and the progress made by the Council in relation to producing, analysing and publishing workforce data, be noted.**

87 **2021/22 BUDGET MONITORING AND 22/23 BUDGET PROCESS**

Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources, introduced a report which described how the 2021/22 budget would be monitored through the Committee system during the year and also the process for setting the 2022/23 budget. This would enable the Policy and Services Committees (the committees) to take ownership of their specific budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny of officers on the performance and management of those budgets. For the first committees in the new municipal year, each committee would receive a budget book detailed by function to enable committees to have oversight of where income and expenditure occurred.

Committees would be responsible for ensuring that the budget was spent responsibly and remained within the relevant envelope, identifying savings where possible. Officers would be accountable for providing best advice to committees. Policy and Resources Committee would be responsible for ensuring and advising the Council that the entire budget remained in balance at all times or provided mitigating actions to bring the budget back in line, should a deficit be forecast. The report detailed the information which would be provided.

With regard to the process for setting the 2022/23 budget, this would commence immediately. 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 February 2021. This document was prepared by officers and shared virtually with Policy and Resources Committee Members, and now required committee oversight and approval. Committees would consider whether the proposals included in the MTFP for the 2022/23 budget, and beyond, were to be taken forward or whether they were to be replaced by alternative proposals that the committees recommended. Any alternative proposals would be required to be tested against the Council's objectives of the Wirral Plan to ensure that resources were aligned to priorities and could demonstrate beneficial outcomes and value for money.

Each committee would be responsible for seeking best advice to identify, develop and agree savings proposals during the summer to ensure a draft balanced budget could be considered by this Committee in October 2021, to enable budget consultation to start in a timely manner following the Policy and Resources Committee in November 2021.

In respect of a proposed working group to convene to consider the content of the MTFP and make recommendations into the committees at their first meetings, the Chair suggested that this should be for the new Policy and Resources Committee to address, once established after the May elections.

In respect of the zero-based budgeting exercise for one of the committees to undertake it was important for a committee to be identified and it was suggested that this could be agreed outside of the meeting, between the political groups and officers.

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

Resolved – That,

- (1) the process for monitoring the 2021/22 in-year budget, be agreed;**
- (2) the process for the 2022/23 budget setting process, be agreed;**
- (3) that a joint working group be convened as soon as practicable, the membership to be drawn from the Policy and Resources Committee and agreed by Group Leaders; and**
- (4) the process for the Zero-Based Budgeting exercise in 2021/22 and the first committee(s) to undertake the process, fully supported by officers to enable a framework to be developed for other committees to follow, be agreed.**

88 **WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

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

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

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

89 **TRANSFORMING CARE THERAPEUTIC SHORT BREAKS CAPITAL PROPOSAL**

Councillor Wendy Clements, as Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee, introduced a report on that Committee's recommendations, from its meeting on 11 March, in respect of the Transforming Care Therapeutic Short Breaks Capital proposal. The report recommended the acceptance of capital grant monies of up to £700,000 from NHS England to enable the purchase by the Council of a property to be used for the purpose of providing a facility for children and young people with learning difficulties, autism and presenting mental health difficulties along with the delivery of suitable services to such occupants.

Simone White, Director of Children, Families and Education elaborated upon the contents of the report and in response to comments from Members stated that the facility would have accommodation for up to three children, but even with two children resident would mean that the Council would break even compared to the current cost of externally commissioned placements.

Members welcomed the proposal and congratulated Simone on her recent appointment to the post of Director of Children, Families and Education.

On a motion by Councillor Clements, seconded by Councillor Tom Usher, it was -

Resolved – That,

- (1) the acceptance of capital grant monies of up to £700,000 from NHS England to enable the purchase by the Council of a property to be**

used for the purpose of providing a facility for children and young people with learning difficulties, autism and presenting mental health difficulties along with the delivery of suitable services to such occupants, be agreed;

- (2) the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to finalise the associated grant agreement;**
- (3) delegated authority be given to the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, the Director of Children, Families and Education and NHS England to purchase a property at market value suitable for the purposes outlined within the report; and**
- (4) delegated authority be given to the Director of Children, Families and Education to procure a registered care provider for the first nine months of the facility's operation.**

90 FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND

Councillor Anita Leech, as Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee, introduced a report on that Committee's recommendations, from its meeting on 4 March, in respect to the Town / High Street Fund: Future High Streets Fund. The report recommended authorisation being given to the Director of Regeneration and Place to consider and approve final signoff of the Future High Street Fund grant funding agreements for Birkenhead and New Ferry, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance. Also, to authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place to commence delivery of the Birkenhead and New Ferry Future High Street Fund programmes in line with the grant funding agreement and change control process.

Members expressed their support for the proposals and the enthusiasm with which all the staff concerned were dealing with these regeneration initiatives.

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

Resolved – That,

- (1) the content of the report and the announcement from Government regarding the Future High Street Fund award in relation to Birkenhead and the in-principle award in relation to New Ferry, be noted;**

- (2) a re-profiled application was submitted to Government on 3 February 2021 in respect of the New Ferry Future High Street Fund in-principle award, be noted;**
- (3) the Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to consider and approve final signoff of the Future High Street Fund grant funding agreements for Birkenhead and New Ferry, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance;**
- (4) the Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to commence delivery of the Birkenhead and New Ferry Future High Street Fund programmes in line with the grant funding agreement and change control process;**
- (5) the Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to progress with scoping out a design, costed model and fit out of the current preferred option for the temporary market, namely Unit 2 St Werburgh's Square and St Werburgh's Square itself, that will be used as a temporary holding position while the current Birkenhead Market site be made available for redevelopment; and**
- (6) it be noted that a further report will be brought forward to members for approval of the finalised proposal for the temporary market.**

91 **MARITIME KNOWLEDGE HUB**

Councillor Anita Leech, as Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee, introduced a report on that Committee's recommendations, from its meeting on 4 March, in respect to the Maritime Knowledge Hub. The report recommended authorisation being given to the Director of Regeneration and Place in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance and the Director of Resources, to finalise the Heads of Terms substantially in accordance with the draft Heads of Terms attached as an appendix to the report.

The report also recommended the finalising of agreements for the Council to enter into a conditional Forward Funding Agreement, Agreement for Lease and Lease, based on the finalised heads of terms, with Peel Land and Property (Intermediate) Ltd., and to accept the terms of the Grant Funding Agreement, subject to successful award, from Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and Ministry of Communities, Housing and Local Government in respect of the pre-test and trial Maritime Accelerator Project and to commence necessary procurement exercises to enable the delivery of the Accelerator.

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

Resolved – That,

- (1) the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance and the Director of Resources, be authorised to finalise the Heads of Terms substantially in accordance with the draft Heads of Terms attached as an appendix to the report.**
- (2) that the Full Business Case for Maritime Knowledge Hub, be approved;**
- (3) the Director of Law and Governance in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Place and the Director of Resources, be authorised to finalise agreements for the Council to enter into a conditional Forward Funding Agreement, Agreement for Lease and Lease, based on the finalised heads of terms, with Peel Land and Property (Intermediate) Ltd.;**
- (4) the Director of Regeneration and Place in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance and the Director of Resources, be authorised to accept the terms of the Grant Funding Agreement, subject to successful award, from Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and Ministry of Communities, Housing and Local Government in respect of the pre-test and trial Maritime Accelerator Project and to commence necessary procurement exercises to enable the delivery of the Accelerator.**

92 WIRRAL WATERS ENTERPRISE ZONE INVESTMENT FUND - MARITIME KNOWLEDGE HUB

Councillor Anita Leech, as Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee, introduced a report on that Committee's recommendations, from its meeting on 4 March, in respect to Wirral Waters - Wirral Waters Enterprise Zone Investment Fund - Maritime Knowledge Hub. The report recommended the acceptance of funding from the Wirral Waters Investment Fund to the Council to support the development of new high quality mixed use floorspace at the Maritime Knowledge Hub.

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

Resolved – That funding from the Wirral Waters Investment Fund to the Council to support the development of new high quality mixed use floorspace at the Maritime Knowledge Hub, be approved.

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

Councillor Anita Leech, as Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee, introduced a report on that Committee's recommendations, from its meeting on 4 March, in respect to Wirral Waters Enterprise Zone Investment Fund - Egerton Village. The report recommended the approval of a grant from the Wirral Waters Investment Fund to Peel Land and Property Investments (Intermediate) Limited to support the development of new high quality mixed use floorspace at Egerton Village. The report also sought authorisation for the Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Place to draw up and sign a conditional legal agreement between the Council and Peel Land and Property (Intermediate) Limited to reflect the grant arrangements.

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

Resolved – That,

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

94 **BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES: COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS PAPER**

Councillor Anita Leech, as Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee, introduced a report on that Committee's recommendations, from its meeting on 4 March, in respect to the Business Support Services: Commissioning Intentions Paper. The report recommended the endorsement of an extension of the Business Support Services contract to 30 September 2021, and approval of the final Business Support Services specification for delivery of a new service from October 2021 to October 2024, with an option to extend by one year to October 2025 based on satisfactory performance.

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

Resolved – That,

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

95 **WIRRAL WAYS TO WORK**

Councillor Anita Leech, as Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee, introduced a report on that Committee's recommendations, from its meeting on 4 March, in respect to Wirral Ways to Work. The report recommended authorisation be given to the Director of Law and Governance in consultation with the Director for Regeneration and Place to enter a contract extension and sign the supplier contract with Involve Northwest to continue delivery of the Wirral Ways to Work Worklessness Support Service. Also, to authorise an option for the Director of Regeneration and Place in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter a 3-month contract extension from July to September 2021.

In response to a Member's comment Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources, assured the Committee of the processes in place to keep track of all contracts which the Council had and that the Procurement Team engaged with all contractors 18 months before contracts were due to expire.

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

Resolved – That,

- (1) the Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Place, be authorised to enter a contract extension and sign the supplier contract with Involve Northwest to continue delivery of the Wirral Ways to Work Worklessness Support Service; and**

- (2) an option be authorised for the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, to enter a 3-month contract extension from July to September 2021 to cover off the risk of awaiting a grant funding agreement from Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and then proceed to a full extension once confirmation of EU funds is received, should this option need to be utilised.**

96 **NEW FERRY – IMPLEMENTING THE REGENERATION PLAN**

Councillor Anita Leech, as Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee, introduced a report on that Committee's recommendations, from its meeting on 4 March, in respect of the implementation of the New Ferry regeneration plan.

The report recommended the acceptance of the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order(s) ("the Order") under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Section 226(1)(a), and section 13 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 for the acquisition of land and new rights in respect of the area identified in the plan and table, in an appendix to the report, to enable the regeneration of New Ferry to be undertaken and the process for the Order to be subject to procedures laid down by the Acquisition of Land Act 1981. Also, that the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee be authorised to make all necessary further decisions that were not otherwise delegated to officers, in relation to the CPO and consequential on the CPO, including the selection process for and approval of a development partner the structure of that partnership arrangement whether through a land transaction or otherwise and any related land transactions and settlement of compensation and the engagement of appropriate advisors to advise on compensation for any business interests.

In response to Members comments, Alan Evans, Director of Regeneration and Place, acknowledged that to deliver on all the regeneration projects the Council would need the right skills in the right places and that he was looking to further recruit using a mixture of external funds and Council funds which were already identified.

On a motion by Councillor Anita Leech, seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, it was -

Resolved – That the following be approved:

- (1) the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order(s) ("the Order") under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Section 226(1)(a), and section 13 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 for the acquisition of land and new rights in respect of the area identified in the plan and table in an appendix attached to this**

report to enable the regeneration of New Ferry to be undertaken and the process for the Order shall be subject to following the procedures laid down by the Acquisition of Land Act 1981;

- (2) the draft skeleton Statement of Reasons attached as an appendix to the report, which (in addition to the information in the report) sets out the justification for making the Order;
- (3) the Director of Regeneration and Place in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance be granted delegated authority to:
 - (a) finalise the Statement of Reasons;
 - (b) draft the Order Map and Schedule before the making of the Order (if required);
 - (c) negotiate, agree terms and enter into agreements with interested parties including agreements for the withdrawal of blight notices and / or the withdrawal of objections to the Order and / or undertakings not to enforce the Order on specified terms, including (but not limited to) where appropriate seeking the exclusion of land or rights from the Order, making provision for the payment of compensation and / or relocation;
- (4) the Director of Law and Governance be granted delegated authority to:
 - (a) take all steps to secure the making, confirmation and implementation of the Order including the publication and service of all notices and the promotion of the Council's case at any public inquiry;
 - (b) in the event the Order is confirmed by the Secretary of State, to advertise and give notice of confirmation and thereafter to take all steps to implement the Order;
 - (c) take all steps in relation to any legal proceedings relating to the Order including defending or settling claims referred to the Upper Tribunal and / or applications to the courts and any appeals;
- (5) that where required to assist in the delivery of the New Ferry Preferred development option and may be appropriated for planning purposes pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972 to enable Section 203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 to be utilised to override any third-party rights of land or part thereof; and
- (6) that the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee be authorised to make all necessary further decisions that are not

otherwise delegated to officers, in relation to the Compulsory Purchase Order and consequential on the Compulsory Purchase Order, including the selection process for and approval of a development partner, the structure of that partnership arrangement whether through a land transaction or otherwise and any related land transactions and settlement of compensation and the engagement of appropriate advisors to advise on compensation for any business interests.

Following discussion on this item, the Chair referred to this being the last Policy and Resources Committee which Councillor Anita Leech, would be attending, as she was standing down at the next election and thanked her for all her hard work, especially since last September, as Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee. All the Group Leaders associated themselves with the Chair's words of thanks to Councillor Leech for all her work with the regeneration initiatives and on the positive progress with the Local Plan.

97 MINUTES OF THE SENIOR OFFICER AND APPOINTMENTS STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE

Resolved – That the minutes of the Senior Officer and Appointments Staffing Sub-Committee meetings held on of 13 January and 24 February, 2021, be noted.

98 EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

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

99 NORTH WEST MUTUAL BANK APPENDIX

Resolved – That the exempt appendix to the North West Mutual Bank report, be noted.

100 MARITIME KNOWLEDGE HUB EXEMPT APPENDICES

Resolved – That the exempt appendix to the Maritime Knowledge Hub report, be noted.

101 **WIRRAL WATERS ENTERPRISE ZONE INVESTMENT FUND - MARITIME KNOWLEDGE HUB EXEMPT APPENDIX**

Resolved – That the exempt appendix to the Wirral Waters Enterprise Zone Investment Fund - Maritime Knowledge Hub report, be noted.

102 **WIRRAL WATERS ENTERPRISE ZONE INVESTMENT FUND - EGERTON VILLAGE EXEMPT APPENDICES**

Resolved – That the exempt appendix to the Wirral Waters Enterprise Zone Investment Fund – Egerton Village report, be noted.

103 **BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES: COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS PAPER EXEMPT APPENDICES**

Resolved – That the exempt appendix to the Business Support Services: Commissioning Intentions Paper report, be noted.

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POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 24 March 2021

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	J Williamson (Chair)	
	Councillors	T Anderson	A Hodson
		C Carubia	J McManus
		P Cleary	Y Nolan
		W Clements	L Rennie
		P Gilchrist	C Spriggs
		JE Green	P Stuart
		EA Grey	T Usher
<u>Deputies:</u>	Councillors	J Robinson (In place of A Leech)	
		S Hayes (In place of M McLaughlin)	

104 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

105 APOLOGIES

The Chair announced that apologies had been received from Councillors Anita Leech and Moira McLaughlin and that Councillors Jean Robinson and Steve Hayes were deputising for them respectively.

106 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Julie McManus declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 5, 'Edsential CIC – Letter of Comfort' by virtue of her employment.

It was also noted that Councillors Jeff Green and Janette Williamson, in their roles as members of the Shareholder Board, and Councillor Wendy Clements, in her role as Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee, had received briefings on Edsential.

107 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

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

108 **EDSENTIAL CIC - LETTER OF COMFORT**

Philip McCourt, Director of Law and Governance, introduced a report on Edsential Community Interest Company, a company wholly owned equally by the Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council, which had experienced significant trading and financial difficulties as a consequence of the COVID 19 Pandemic. It had been in negotiation with officers of both the Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council with a view to obtaining additional financial support. In order for the auditors to sign off the company as a “going concern”, however, it needed to demonstrate that there was a reasonable expectation that the company had adequate resources to continue to be operational.

To this end, the shareholders, Wirral Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council, had been asked to provide a letter of comfort that they would provide a means to adequate funding to give assurance that the company would remain viable and have a realistic mechanism for recovering the recent and projected losses.

The core, underlying business (prior to Covid-19) had proven to be profitable and marginally cash generative. Subject to adequate revised business plans, consideration of the company’s resources and long term consequences of any short term support provided and the assessment of need at the close of lockdown and re-opening of Edsential’s activities, it was considered in the Council’s interest as a shareholder, together with Cheshire West and Chester Council, to provide such funding and the letter of comfort in advance of that detailed application.

Philip McCourt also referred to the Council’s current appointee to the board of directors of Edsential, Simone White, whose role within the Council had changed upon her promotion to Director of Children’s Services. It was considered, therefore, that her role was best taken up by another officer related to the delivery of education and youth provision and create a separation to respect the conflict of interest between company and Council.

In response to comments from Members, Philip McCourt confirmed that the purpose of the letter was about offering confidence that the company would be a going concern and was for funding and finance distinct from the £2m cashflow agreement over a five year period agreed by the Committee on 21 December, 2020 (minute 38 refers).

Members expressed support for the proposal as Edsential provided a valuable service to schools across the Borough.

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

Resolved – That,

(1) the Director of Law and Governance be authorised, in consultation with the Director of Resources, to:

(a) provide a letter of comfort to Edsential that financial support will be provided to the company over the forthcoming period, in the form of Covid related funding support and/or a commercial loan, to be offered in conjunction with Cheshire West & Chester Council and subject to approval by this Committee; and

(b) consider such a request for assistance from Edsential to this Council, which shall only be granted subject to the approval of this Committee and which consideration should include assessment of the request (due diligence), revised business plan(s) and any conditions considered appropriate to be applied at the point of offer;

(2) the Director of Law and Governance be authorised, in consultation with the Director of Children’s Services, to appoint a replacement officer as a director of Edsential.

109 ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS - PROPOSED GRANT AGREEMENT WITH LCR COMBINED AUTHORITY FOR THE COSTS OF THE ACQUISITION OF 92 GRANGE ROAD, BIRKENHEAD

The Chair stated that she had agreed to this item of urgent business, in view of the need for a decision before 31 March, 2021.

Philip McCourt, Director of Law and Governance, reported that the Council had embarked on an ambitious strategy to regenerate Birkenhead and on 21 December 2020 this Committee had agreed to the acquisition of the former House of Fraser building (92 Grange Road, Birkenhead) (minute 43 refers). Following the purchase of the property, the Council had been offered grant funding by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to enable it to recoup the purchase costs. The terms of the proposed grant provided for certain clawback provisions which were detailed in the report, and which in response to a Member’s comment he clarified for the Committee.

Alan Evans, Director of Regeneration and Place, referred to today’s launch of the Birkenhead Regeneration Framework and that this asset was a key gateway area, and would bring forward plans for the complete regeneration of the area. Responding to Members’ comments he stated that the Council was looking to work with Homes England in respect of the wider ‘left bank’ proposal. He was confident the deadlines were achievable with regard to full planning consent for residential housing on this site being submitted by 30 September, 2022. A number of options for a development partner would be

discussed and he would be bringing a report back to the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee as soon as possible.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Julie McManus, it was -

Resolved – That,

- (1) the Director of Law and Governance, be authorised, in consultation with the Director of Resources, to enter into a grant agreement with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to secure up to £2,109,000 of funding to re-imburse the Council’s costs for the acquisition of 92 Grange Road Birkenhead; and**
- (2) agree that given that the funding offer is conditional on formal acceptance by 31 March 2021, this decision is urgent and not subject to call in.**

110 **PROPOSAL TO ACQUIRE UNITS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING USE**

Councillor Julie McManus, as Chair of the Housing Committee, introduced a report on that Committee’s recommendations in respect of increasing the number of homes in Wirral’s social housing sector, through the use of existing resources available from:

- commuted sums for affordable housing secured through the planning system;
- adaptations Budget passported through the Better Care Fund; and
- potentially also securing funding from Homes England from the Government’s Affordable Housing Programme.

Members welcomed the report and in response to a Member’s comment Councillor Julie McManus stated that there was no need to open a Housing Revenue Account, as with the current 28 properties the Council had, an additional six would not take the Council above the 199 limit, which the Council was allowed.

Alan Evans, Director of Regeneration and Place confirmed the threshold in respect of the Housing Revenue Account and that the associated costs would not be triggered. The Housing Committee work programme did include the issue of the Housing Revenue Account and that Committee would also be looking at future management options of the Council’s other homes, currently managed by Magenta until September, 2021, along with the use of future S106 monies, income which was ringfenced for affordable housing in the Borough.

Philip McCourt, Director of Law and Governance, in response to a Member’s question, commented upon the delicate balance to be struck by the Chair in

controlling the debate and questions asked during the meeting on reports before the Committee.

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

Resolved – That,

- (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; and**
- (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.**

111 EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, it was -

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

112 PROPOSAL TO ACQUIRE UNITS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING USE EXEMPT APPENDIX

Resolved – That the exempt appendix to the Proposal to Acquire Units for Affordable Housing Use report, be noted.

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POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 9 June 2021

Present: Councillor J Williamson (Chair)

Councillors	T Anderson	J Robinson
	P Gilchrist	P Stuart
	P Cleary	H Cameron
	EA Grey	W Clements
	T Jones	JE Green
	J McManus	L Rennie
	Y Nolan	

Deputy: Councillor M McLaughlin (In place of S Hayes)

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Committee in this municipal year.

2 APOLOGIES

Councillor Moira McLaughlin confirmed the apologies of Councillor Steve Hayes and that she was deputising for him.

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No such declarations were made.

4 MINUTES

The Committee were asked to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the previous two meetings of the Committee.

In respect of minute 86 (17/3/21) 'Annual Workforce Monitoring Report 2019/20', Councillor Jeff Green raised the issue of the possible re-establishment of the Employment Sub-Committee (as referenced in the fourth paragraph of the minute).

Councillor Phil Gilchrist commented that, as an issue of governance arrangements, it was his understanding that this was to be looked at within the work programme of the Constitution and Standards Committee.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings held on 17 and 24 March, 2021, be approved and adopted as correct records.

5 LEADER'S UPDATE

The Chair gave what she said would be the last update on COVID-19 to come to this Committee, unless there were any drastic changes to the situation in the Borough. Since the lifting of some restrictions on 17 May, 2021 as per the national roadmap, Wirral had seen an increase in cases. For the week ending 5 June Wirral recorded 162 weekly cases, an increase of 86 cases (+113% increase) on the previous 7 days. The largest proportion of cases were in younger adults aged 30-39s

This rise in cases was expected as people mixed more and the more virulent Delta variant became the dominant virus in circulation.

There was some good news in that 76% of the eligible population had had 1 dose of the vaccine and 57.9% had had 2 doses. Wirral had also not seen a significant increase in patients being admitted to hospital. Vigilance in the race between the virus and the vaccine was required and the message remained, hands, face and space.

6 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

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

7 COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING UPDATE

Alan Evans, Director of Regeneration and Place, introduced a report which gave an update on Community Wealth Building.

A prosperous, inclusive economy where local people could get good jobs and achieve their aspirations was a key priority for the Council. Community Wealth Building was a key part of how this would be achieved and make a major contribution to the economic, social and health outcomes of the borough. The report gave an overview of activity to date, together with an overview of actions to accelerate this approach as part of Wirral's Strategic Recovery and forthcoming developments. He highlighted the Dock Branch project using and creating local jobs and apprenticeships and the use of Community Investment Bonds.

In response to Members' comments, he reported that an economic recovery plan would be taken to the Economic Regeneration and Development Committee looking at measures to kickstart the economy, particularly with

regard to retail, leisure and hospitality sectors. With regard to the Liverpool John Moores University research project, this was a work in progress and he would circulate an update on this to all Committee members. He referred to the work undertaken with the procurement team over the last two years since the Community Wealth Building Strategy was launched and in respect of the large construction contracts, doing what the Council could to ensure the use of local labour as much as possible.

With regard to the Keep it Local initiative, he agreed to supply more up to date information than the 2017/18 figures referred to in the report for contract spend and also promised to have this broken down by directorate and Committee. Partner organisations, such as in health had also been encouraged to roll out this initiative. Local businesses registered within the Borough were those which would be classified as local and not franchises of larger businesses.

Members expressed their support for the actions and developments outlined in the report and the Chair expressed her thanks to Rose Boylan for the report.

It was moved by Councillor Pat Cleary and seconded by the Chair, that an addition to the recommendations contained in the report, be made as follows:

‘Committee agrees that Community Wealth Building implications be added as a standard item to future officer reports across all of the Policy and Service Committees of the Council.’

The addition was agreed by assent, and it was therefore -

Resolved – That,

- (1) the progress made in driving Community Wealth Building in Wirral to date be noted and Committee endorses the approach going forward;**
- (2) Committee agrees that Community Wealth Building implications be added as a standard item to future officer reports across all of the Policy and Service Committees of the Council.**

8 USE OF COUNCIL BUILDINGS FOR CIVIC, COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

David Armstrong, Assistant Chief Executive, introduced a report which provided an update in respect of proposed arrangements for the safe operation of Council meetings for the administrative year 2021/22 giving due consideration to guidance and regulations arising from Covid-19.

In response to comments from Members, he stated that he would be happy to provide the Health and Safety guidance and Public Health England advice used in drafting the report, to Members. The report was purely about current arrangements for Committee meetings, both Wallasey and Birkenhead Town Halls were problematic buildings with regard to not having any air conditioning or ventilation equipment. Both buildings were being kept secure and technical appraisals for both buildings would be brought back to the Committee in a future report. The technical appraisals could take some time, but a work in progress update report would be brought back in the meantime. A Local Plan hearing could take place in the Floral Pavilion building conference suite if the Council was required to host such a meeting.

A Member suggested that Group Leaders could be apprised of the measures in place as to how the two town hall buildings were being kept secure.

A Member suggested the need for a clear analytical examination of accommodation requirements over the next few years, with new Council offices in Birkenhead due to be completed in two or three years' time.

Members expressed some differing views as to the need for a working group to look into the issues raised in the report and also on the future use of the Town Hall in Wallasey.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was -

Resolved (8:7) – That

- (1) the arrangements for the safe operation of Council and Committee meetings to continue at the Floral Pavilion for a six-month period from May 2021 be approved, with a potential review in September 2021.**
- (2) the Assistant Chief Executive report back to the Committee on:**
 - (a) a review of the outcome of the HM Government Roadmap Review and revised Covid Regulations and / or Guidance following publication;**
 - (b) the implications of the impact that the Roadmap Review may have on Council and Committee Meetings in the context of the Council's estate; and**
 - (c) consideration of the works and investment required to enable Wallasey and Birkenhead Town Halls to operate Council and Committee meetings going forward in a safe and compliant manner.**

9 APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vicki Shaw, Head of Legal Services, presented a report to the Committee which advised, in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions and the terms of the Constitution, on the appointment of Members to the four Sub-Committees of the Policy and Resources Committee for 2021/22, as follows:

- The Senior Officer Appointments and Staffing Sub-Committee
- The Local Plan Steering Sub-Committee (and its Working Group)
- The Finance and Procurement Sub-Committee
- The Shareholder Board

Two of the sub-committees, the Senior Officer Appointments and Staffing Sub-Committee and the Local Plan Steering Sub-Committee (and its Working Group) would not be appointed in accordance with the political balance rules, having been unanimously agreed by the Council in September and October, 2020 that they be exempt from the rules on proportionality.

Responding to a Member's comment on a proposed Employment Sub-Committee, as referred to in minute 4, Vicki Shaw stated that any proposed new sub-committee would be a matter for Constitution and Standards Committee to look at, as clarity would be required on the terms of reference and also on amending the current Constitution.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was -

Resolved – That this Committee,

- (1) (a) confirms that the Senior Officer Appointments and Staffing Sub-Committee be appointed for 2021-22 with the terms of reference as referred to in paragraph 3.1 of the Director's report and will consist of:**
- (i) the leader (Chair of Policy & Resources Committee), or in their absence the Deputy Leader (Vice-Chair), who shall chair the Sub-Committee;**
 - (ii) a member from each of the other Political Groups represented on the Policy & Resources Committee; and**
 - (iii) the Chair, or in their absence the Vice-Chair, of the Policy & Services Committee with terms of reference most closely associated with the post concerned (or if that committee concerned is deemed to be the Policy & Resources Committee then the Deputy Leader (Vice-Chair).**
- (b) appoint Members to serve on the Senior Officer Appointments and Staffing Sub-Committee in 2021-22, including the appointment of the Chair and named deputies.**

- (2) (a) confirms that the Local Plan Steering Sub-Committee be appointed for 2021-22 with the terms of reference identified with 5 Members of the Policy and Resources Committee, as well as Local Plan Working Group (terms of reference attached as Appendix 1).
- (b) appoint Members to serve on the Local Plan Sub-Committee in 2021-22, including the appointment of named deputies.
- (c) appoint Members to serve on the Local Plan Working Group in 2021-22, including the appointment of named deputies
- (3) (a) confirm that the Finance and Procurement Sub-Committee be appointed for 2021-22 with the terms of reference identified with 5 Members of the Policy and Resources Committee.
- (b) appoint Members to serve on the Finance and Procurement Sub-Committee in 2021-22, including the appointment of the Chair and named deputies.
- (4) (a) confirms that the Shareholder Board be appointed for 2021-22 with the terms of reference identified with 3 Members of the Policy and Resources Committee.
- (b) appoint Members to serve on the Shareholder Board in 2021-22, including the appointment of named deputies.
- (5) authorises the Monitoring Officer as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership and substitute membership of those sub-committees listed in recommendations (1) to (4) above and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members. (Sub-Committee membership attached as an appendix to these minutes).

10 CONTAIN OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT FUND UPDATE

Julie Webster, Director of Public Health, introduced a report which provided an update in relation to the Contain Outbreak Management Fund, specifically:

- An overview of this temporary fund and Wirral's awarded allocation up to 2021/22.
- The current position in relation to use of the fund to date, and the remainder to be allocated.

- An outline summary of emerging priorities and plans, supporting the ongoing COVID-19 response and population health recovery over the next twelve months.
- Recommendations relating to the development of future spending proposals for this fund, linked to other existing COVID-19 funding and the wider recovery and renewal priorities for Wirral.

Responding to Members' comments, she acknowledged the difficulties faced by some when asked to self-isolate and that work was ongoing, with the help of Community Connectors to support individuals who were finding it difficult. With regard to contact tracing she expressed full support for it being carried out locally and reassured the Committee that no care home residents were being discharged from hospitals without first having a negative COVID test.

Members expressed their thanks to the Director of Public Health and all her team for the amazing work which had they had undertaken over the past 15 months.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was -

Resolved – That,

- (1) this Committee notes the contents of the report, the progress made to date and supports the ongoing COVID-19 response;**
- (2) a Member Working Group be established to consist of eight Members (3:2:1:1:1) to give oversight to future spending proposals for this fund, linked to other existing COVID-19 funding and the wider recovery and renewal priorities for Wirral.**

11 **2021/22 BUDGET MONITORING AND 22/23 BUDGET PROCESS**

Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources, introduced a report on the 2021/22 budget monitoring and 2022/23 budget process.

The Committee was aware that the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) had 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 was that the Council would 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 was vitally important that the Council had robust processes in place to manage and monitor the in-year financial position, to ensure it was reporting a forecast balanced position to the end of the year and that the process for 2022/23 budget setting was underway early so that a budget could be agreed by full Council in March.

The report also outlined the processes and information to be provided for all Policy Committees to monitor their specific budgets and to ensure that the committee budgets remained within the relevant envelope and to take collective responsibility via the Policy and Resources Committee to ensure that the whole Council budget remained in balance at all times, by agreeing mitigating actions to bring the budget back in line, should a deficit be forecast.

The report reminded Members 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 (minute 87 refers). Each Committee, supported by officers, was accountable for identifying, developing and agreeing savings proposals during the summer to ensure a draft balanced budget could be considered by this 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 was recommended that a budget workshop 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 required officers to prepare.

The Chair expressed support for the approach but also the need for a reboot of the commercial strategy providing more income generation for the Council rather than a continual need to find savings and suggested an item on the work programme looking at the Council's appetite for risk with a commercial strategy.

Responding to comments from Members, Shaer Halewood, acknowledged that no single committee had come forward to take on the zero based budgeting approach, and that to minimise the risk of achieving the savings identified all committees could take this on, although there was no assurance that this could happen. After some discussion on the subject, it was suggested that the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee could be the pilot Committee to initially trial zero based budgeting with other committees potentially following on.

Responding to further comments, Shaer Halewood, stated that more detailed information for budget workshops with a breakdown of budget headings would be provided including on bad debt provision. Some of this information was not readily accessible due to the financial systems being based on directorates and not individual committees. Policy and Resources Committee would have oversight of all the Policy Committee proposals in October on which to take decisions as to what went out for consultation in November. Updates would be provided to this Committee before the October meeting.

With regard to the Capitalisation Directive, the MHCLG commissioned external review, due to start this month would conclude in the summer, and any recommendations would be taken forward for the Council's budget setting process for next year. There would be a report on capital receipts with a forecast income of £4.6m from assets for 2022/23 and these would form part of the budget workshop for Members to look at which assets they would be happy to dispose of to form part of next year's budget savings.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was -

Resolved – That,

- (1) Committee notes 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 due to the National Employers' pay award offer in paragraph 3.14 of the report;**
- (2) Committee notes that it may be possible to reduce the value of exceptional financial support in 2021/22 as a result of utilising some of the Contain Outbreak Management Funding for expenditure currently committed against the Tranche funding, but that this will be monitored during the year and an update provided to the Committee at the quarterly reporting;**
- (3) Committee convene a series of budget workshops to identify any alternative savings / income / reductions in pressures to ensure that the agreed budget savings for 2021/22 can be made as highlighted in paragraph 3.10 of the report;**
- (4) Committee agree for officers to work on the current proposals within this report at paragraph 3.25 for the 2022/23 budget, and tasks officers with developing 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;**
- (5) Committee convene a series of budget workshops to identify any alternative savings / income / reductions in pressures for 2022/23 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;**
- (6) Committee agrees to commence the Zero Based Budgeting project within the budget workshops, as highlighted in paragraph 3.19 of the report to contribute to the overall savings target of £170k in 2021/22, commencing with Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee undertaking the process, fully supported by officers to**

enable a framework to be developed for other Committees to follow.

12 WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

Vicki Shaw, Head of Legal Services, introduced a report which advised how this Committee, in co-operation with the other Policy and Service Committees, was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme.

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

The Chair suggested that an item on Income Generation be added with a report to come regularly to the Committee.

In response to a Member's comment on the item 'One Wirral Change Programme' due to come to the Committee in July, the Chief Executive agreed that he would ask his officers to look at how this could best be scheduled to enable a thorough examination of the issues and detail the report was likely to contain.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was -

Resolved – That the Policy & Resources Committee work programme for the 2021/22 municipal year, with the addition of Income Generation, be agreed.

13 MOTION - SUPPORT FOR BRITISH VALUES LOCALLY

The Committee considered a motion, 'Support for British Values Locally', which had been referred from 22 March, 2021 Council meeting.

The Chair informed the Committee that a report was being prepared for the next Constitution and Standards Committee meeting, which would be giving full consideration to reviewing the Flag Flying Policy in line with national guidance.

Resolved – That Committee notes a report on the matter was to be considered by the Constitution and Standards Committee.

14 MOTION - COMMUNITY INVESTMENT BONDS

The Committee considered a motion, 'Community Investment Bonds', which had been referred from 22 March, 2021 Council meeting.

Resolved – That this matter be included as part of the Work Programme with a report to a future meeting.

15 **MOTION - REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS**

The Committee considered a motion, 'Refugees and Asylum Seekers', which had been referred from 22 March, 2021 Council meeting.

Resolved – That this matter be included as part of the Work Programme with a report to a future meeting.

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MEMBERSHIP OF P & R SUB – COMMITTEES – 2021/22

SENIOR OFFICER APPOINTMENTS AND STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE

To Consist of:

- (1) The Leader (Chair), or in their absence Deputy Leader
- (2) a member of each of the Political groups represented on the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (3) the Chair, or in their absence the vice chair of the Policy and Services Committee with terms of reference most closely associated with the post concerned

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
1 Labour Janette Williamson (Chair)	Yvonne Nolan
1 Conservative Lesley Rennie	Tom Anderson
1 Liberal Democrat: Phil Gilchrist	Chris Carubia
1 Independent: Steve Hayes	Moira McLaughlin
1 Green: Pat Cleary	Chris Cooke
+ 1 Chair of appropriate Policy and Performance Committee Adult, Social Care and Public Health – Yvonne Nolan Children, YP & Education- Wendy Clements Economy, Regeneration and Development- Tony Jones Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport – Elizabeth Grey Housing – Julie McManus Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure – Helen Cameron	

**FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE
(5 P & R MEMBERS)**

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
2 Labour: Janette Williamson (Chair) Yvonne Nolan	Paul Stuart
2 Conservative: Tom Anderson Jeff Green	Lesley Rennie
1 Liberal Democrat: Phil Gilchrist	Chris Carubia

**LOCAL PLAN STEERING SUB-COMMITTEE
5 Members from P & R Committee**

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
1 Labour: Janette Williamson (Chair)	Yvonne Nolan
1 Conservative: Tom Anderson	Lesley Rennie
1 Liberal Democrat: Phil Gilchrist	Chris Carubia
1 Independent: Steve Hayes	Moira McLaughlin
1 Green Pat Cleary	Chris Cooke

Local Plan Working Group Members to consist of:

Councillors Tony Jones, Tom Anderson, Phil Gilchrist, Harry Gorman and Steve Hayes

SHAREHOLDER BOARD
(3 Members)

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
2 Labour: Janette Williamson (Chair) Yvonne Nolan	 Paul Stuart
1 Conservative: Jeff Green	 Helen Cameron

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POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 30 June 2021

Present: Councillor J Williamson (Chair)

Councillors T Anderson EA Grey
H Cameron T Jones
W Clements J McManus
P Cleary Y Nolan
P Gilchrist J Robinson
JE Green L Rennie

Deputies: Councillors K Greaney (In place of P Stuart)
M McLaughlin (In place of S Hayes)

16 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the webcast.

17 APOLOGIES

The Chair confirmed that Councillor Paul Stuart had sent his apologies and that Councillor Karl Greaney was deputising for him.

Councillor Moira McLaughlin confirmed the apologies of Councillor Steve Hayes and that she was deputising for him.

18 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Moira McLaughlin declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 6, 'Homeworking Allowance', due to two close family members working for the Council, and confirmed that she would leave the meeting whilst the item was under discussion.

19 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June, 2021, be approved and adopted as a correct record.

20 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

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

21 **HOMEWORKING ALLOWANCE**

Having previously declared a prejudicial interest, Councillor Moira McLaughlin vacated the room during consideration of this item (minute 18 refers).

Tony Williams, Assistant Director: HR and Organisational Development, introduced a report which set out the issues and implications relating to the implementation of a homeworking allowance and which also set out the detail and eligibility criteria should the Policy and Resources Committee agree to implement an allowance.

The Council had moved to a hybrid working model where significant numbers of staff would have the option to work at home regularly combined with some attendance at offices and site visits as required.

The Trade Unions had requested that the Council formally consider the implementation of a homeworking allowance for staff. It was appropriate that this request was considered by the Policy and Resources Committee.

There was no obligation for the Council as an employer to pay a homeworking allowance or meet any costs of homeworking that might be incurred by employees. As such, senior officers' position had been to maintain the position currently adopted, which was to signpost employees to apply to claim tax relief from HMRC. There was no cost to the Council for this and all employees could apply. Additionally, any staff who had concerns about the cost of homeworking could choose to work from a Council building.

An appendix to the report set out a proposed homeworking allowance policy, addressing the varying complexities in introducing such an allowance, including eligibility criteria.

The cost to the Council was difficult to predict precisely but for modelling purposes, a calculation based on 50% of employees at Band H or below who could work at home, claiming 3 days a week homeworking allowance for 46 weeks a year, would cost £80k per annum. This equated to around £165 per annum per employee.

Responding to comments from Members, Tony Williams stated that staff had not been surveyed as to the take up of the HMRC allowance and negotiations were still ongoing between employers and Trades Unions with regard to the current pay claim. The Council was able to reach local agreements which

might differ from what was agreed nationally and this wouldn't fall foul of any NJC national bargaining arrangements. There were a mix of local and national terms and conditions currently in place.

Members expressed opposing views as to whether an allowance should be paid or not. Some Members suggesting that the proposed allowance not be paid but that this could be reviewed after national pay negotiations had been resolved.

On a motion by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, seconded by Councillor Julie McManus, it was –

Resolved (8:6) – That a homeworking allowance be paid on the basis of the draft policy and eligibility criteria detailed in the report and appendix, subject to a review at a later date after national pay negotiations had been resolved.

22 **APPOINTMENT TO MERSEY FOREST STEERING GROUP 2021/22**

Philip McCourt, Director of Law and Governance introduced a report which requested the Committee to appoint a representative of the Council to serve on the Mersey Forest Steering Group in 2021/2022.

Membership of the Mersey Forest would support the Council to deliver the requirements of the Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Strategy. An expectation of the Council's Mersey Forest membership was to be represented and contribute to the Steering Group's work.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was -

Resolved – That Councillor Elizabeth Grey be appointed as the elected member to represent the Council on the Mersey Forest Steering Group.

23 **REVENUE OUTTURN FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-21**

Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources introduced a report which provided a summary of the year-end revenue position for the 2020/21 financial year as at the end of March 2021. As part of the budget monitoring cycle, the financial position of the Council had been reported to Members quarterly, the first from April to June 2020 was reported to the former Cabinet. The following three reports, from July to September 2020; October to December 2020 and this report, to the Policy and Resources Committee.

At the end of the year, the position had improved since the last report to committee with an adverse variance of £6.525m reported as the final position and the value that the Council would borrow under the Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) (also known as the capitalisation directive) approval. As the

lockdown restrictions started to relax, there was an opportunity for the Council to take stock and review whether the assumptions made during the year for demand and expenditure commitments had come to fruition. As nothing like this had been experienced before, there was no real way to accurately predict the value of funding and support required so best estimates had been used and had been firmed up as more of the situation became known.

Although many of the savings agreed at Budget Council in March 2020 had still not been achieved, offsetting alternative savings had been available as a result of the way the Council had been working under lockdown restrictions. With the majority of Council buildings remaining closed and the majority of staff working at home, savings had been made from utilities costs, staff mileage and supplies and services costs such as printing, stationery and face to face training events.

She reported that in total, in 2020/21, £205m funding had been provided to Wirral by the Government to support the emergency pandemic. An additional £10m of Tranche 5 funding had been notified as being received in 2021/22 which had been fully committed to Covid-19 pressures already identified in 2021/22. The year-end position represented an adverse variance of £6.525m which would be the subject of borrowing under EFS approval from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). It must be noted that this was a draft position as this was subject to External Audit sign-off of the accounts by the Council's auditor, Grant Thornton.

In response to comments from Members, Shaer Halewood explained the use of the term 'cross cutting initiatives' in the report, which were in respect of unachieved savings not able to be allocated across directorates due to the unprecedented Covid situation and the Council's response. She assured the Committee that there had been no double counting in respect of any of these savings. The term would not show again in the report on the 2021/22 financial year.

Members expressed their views about the various funding streams which the Government had provided to Wirral during the pandemic.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was –

A. Resolved – That this Committee,

- (1) agrees that the draft, unaudited outturn variance for 2020/21 is £6.525m as compared to the end of December forecast outturn variance of £8.9m;**
- (2) agrees that following the approval of 'not exceeding £9m' Exceptional Financial Support from MHCLG that the outturn of £6.525m is capitalised in line with the relevant guidance;**

- (3) notes the impact of funding and expenditure as a direct consequence of Covid-19, including the additional funding sources that have been received for 2020/21;**
- (4) notes the impact of funding and expenditure as a direct consequence of Covid-19, including the additional funding sources which have been identified, but as yet, not received.**

B. RECOMMENDED - To Council,

- (5) the 2020/21 budget of £46.574m in relation to Covid-19 funding for Council use and note the additional £22.963m of funds that is to be made available to the Council for onward relay to other organisations as passported funding. This recommendation follows on from the recommendation made by Policy & Resources Committee on 17th February 2021, following the recent notification of additional funding;**
- (6) that the debts in excess of £10,000 included within Appendix 2 be approved for write off against the Provision for Bad Debts.**

24 CAPITAL OUTTURN FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/21

Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources, introduced a report which detailed the Capital Out-turn for 2020/21, the resources used to fund the Programme and provided a review of the progress of the delivery of the agreed Capital Programme. The capital expenditure for the year amounted to £46.465m. This was funded from borrowing of £25.182m, Capital Grants of £20.311m, capital receipts of £0.784 m and other revenue/reserve contributions of £0.188m.

As a result of the £25.182m borrowed to finance the Capital Programme in 2020/21, the General Fund would be charged with its first repayment via the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) in 2021/22 of £0.815m. This would bring the total MRP charge for 2021/22 to £4.462m for borrowing associated with delivering the Capital Programme.

The re-profiling of schemes from 2020/21 to 2021/22 had seen the funding similarly re-profiled. This included the planned borrowing which had been deferred and had contributed towards the cost reductions in Treasury Management activities within the revenue budget. A permanent saving only occurred if schemes ceased, otherwise the full budget would be required in 2021/22 when the re-profiled expenditure was incurred. It must be noted too that this was a draft position as this was subject to External Audit sign-off of the accounts by the Council's auditor, Grant Thornton.

In response to Members' comments, Shaer Halewood stated that the appendices to the report listed all the capital programme schemes as approved at the start of the year, and that the quarter 1 financial monitoring report to come before committees in September would list where schemes were up to. She agreed that the way this was presented would be looked at as to how best the information could be shared with Members and to inform on the achievability of schemes. With regard to those schemes listed as proposed virements she agreed to provide a written response listing those which were still going ahead, where there had been slippage and those which were not, or which had been underspent. She also agreed to provide an update on proposed work at Riverside Primary School, Wallasey.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was –

RECOMMENDED – To Council,

- (1) that the additional year end re-profiling of £27.4m from 2020/21 to 2021/22 be noted;**
- (2) that the financing of the Programme for 2020/21 be noted;**
- (3) the approval of the virements referred to in Appendix 3 of the report;**
- (4) that the Programme for 2021/22 and beyond be kept under review to ensure it is realistic, deliverable and affordable.**

25 **WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Philip McCourt, Director of Law and Governance, introduced a report which advised how this Committee, in co-operation with the other Policy and Service Committees, was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme.

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

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Tony Jones, it was -

Resolved – That the Policy & Resources Committee work programme for the 2021/22 municipal year, be agreed.

26 **PROPOSED REMOVAL OF DELEGATION**

Prior to consideration of the next item, Councillor Tom Anderson raised a matter for proposed removal of delegation, in accordance with Article 7.3 of the Constitution, in respect of the decision taken on agenda item 6, 'Homeworking Allowance' (minute 21 refers).

Philip McCourt, Director of Law and Governance, confirmed that removal from delegation would require 40% of those Members present and voting to vote in favour of such removal, in this case being 6 Members. The matter would then be referred to a meeting of the full Council for consideration, if successful.

A vote was then taken, with 5 Members voting in favour of removing the Committee's delegated authority on the Homeworking Allowance decision. As there were insufficient votes to remove the committee's delegation, the matter was not referred to the Council.

27 **ACTIVE TRAVEL FUNDING - TRANCHE 1, TRANCHE 2 AND LOCAL AUTHORITY CAPABILITY FUNDING**

Alan Evans, Director of Regeneration and Place, introduced a report on the Economy Regeneration and Development Committee's recommendations, from its meeting on 4 March, in respect to the Active Travel Funding – Tranche 1, Tranche 2 and Local Authority Capability Funding.

A supplement to the agenda had been circulated with a correction to the recommendations made by the Committee, which numbered four and not three.

On 9 May 2020 the Secretary of State, Grant Shapps, had announced a £250 million Emergency Active Travel Fund. For Tranche 1 of the funding, and in line with DfT guidance, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority had identified the need to develop a programme of measures to reduce the dependency on car-based journeys and through segregation provide increased confidence to people wishing to cycle.

The matter was being referred to Policy & Resources Committee because in accordance with the Council's Constitution any amendment to the Capital Programme requested by a Committee or officer in excess of £100,000 was reserved to Policy and Resources Committee.

The Economy Regeneration and Development Committee was recommending authorisation of the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Director of Resources, to approve the grant funding allocated to Wirral Council by Liverpool City Region Combined Authority for the Active Travel Fund Tranche 1 and 2 Programmes and the Local Authority Active Travel Capability Fund Programme.

In response to a Member's comment, Philip McCourt, Director of Law and Governance, confirmed that in taking account of the Economy Regeneration and Development Committee's recommendations, the Policy and Resources Committee should not consider itself bound by that Committee's recommendations or otherwise fetter its discretion and could come to its own decision.

Concern was expressed by a number of Members on the lack of clarity over the responsibilities and terms of reference of both the Economy Regeneration and Development and Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committees with regard to Active Travel schemes. Members also suggested other areas where cross cutting responsibilities across committees could be looked at by the Constitution and Standards Committee, which could also be causing some confusion.

It was moved by Councillor Tom Anderson and seconded by Councillor Jeff Green, that –

“The recommendations be referred back to the Economy Regeneration and Development Committee with a view to adding walking schemes in to Active Travel programmes for the benefit of the Borough.”

The motion was put and lost (5:10)

On a motion by Councillor Elizabeth Grey, seconded by Councillor Tony Jones, it was -

Resolved (unanimously) – That,

- (1) the Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to accept the grant funding of £1,153,380 allocated to Wirral Council by Liverpool City Region Combined Authority for the Active Travel Fund Tranche 1 and 2 Programmes and accept the Local Authority Active Travel Capability Fund Programme indicative allocation of £286,000;**
- (2) the proposed Active Travel Fund Tranche 1 and 2 Programmes and the Active Travel Capability Fund Programme (“the Programmes”) as set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the report, be approved;**
- (3) the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and the Chairs and Spokespersons of the Economy, Regeneration and Development and the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committees, be authorised to amend the Programmes if required having due regard to any issues that may arise during design or consultation stages of projects;**

- (4) Committee notes that the above authority and approvals are subject to the schemes at the Crescent, and proposed cycle way through Wallasey and New Brighton, being deferred until a consultation process has taken place;**
- (5) Committee notes the significant overlap between the terms of reference of the Economy Regeneration and Development Committee and the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee and requests that these committees work jointly with Economy Regeneration and Development Committee leading on active travel issues which affect major regeneration master plan projects and the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee to lead on all other transport, active travel and road safety strategy and schemes. Officers are asked to liaise with the Chairs of both committees on all transport planning to ensure that the work programmes are always agreed;**
- (6) Committee asks that the Constitution and Standards Committee consider whether existing provision within the Council's Constitution with respect to the planning for and implementation of active travel schemes are sufficiently clear and appropriate and if necessary to make recommendations to Council on any necessary changes to the Constitution.**

28 COVID SAFE OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

The Chair had agreed to consideration of this item as a matter of urgent business by reason of the special circumstances of the changing picture of public health advice concerning the spread of the Delta variant of Covid-19.

Philip McCourt, Director of Law and Governance, introduced a report in respect of the expected lifting of coronavirus restrictions in line with the Government's roadmap and that the legal requirements on non-opening of venues to the public would come to an end. This was in the context of a rapidly changing and worsening of case numbers as the Delta variant of Covid-19 spread.

In addition to compliance with likely changing Government and public health guidance, additional requirements were likely to be placed upon the Council in terms of deployment of resources to respond to public health events, business continuity and commerciality that would have a direct and immediate effect on the operation of Council venues and facilities.

Support was therefore sought in relation to continued communication of public health advice and to speedy decision making in response to any such requirements.

With regard to the proposals in the report, Philip McCourt highlighted the following generic criteria which would support officers taking individual decisions in relation to venues, as follows:

- A. Covid-19 Guidance Compliance (health and safety);
- B. Ability to function and resource availability (business continuity); and/or
- C. Financial considerations (investment and commerciality).

Julie Webster, Director of Public Health gave an update to the committee on the current numbers of cases of COVID-19 in the Borough, with 229 cases recorded in one day on 28 June, a substantial increase since 17 May. At the beginning of May cases were 5 or 6 per day. The rise in case numbers was, however, fortunately not this time translating into a significant rise in hospitalisations. She also gave an update with regard to the number of school pupils self-isolating, 3,300, currently, approximately 6% of the schools population and 250 schools staff, approximately 5% of all school staff.

In response to comments from Members, Julie Webster confirmed the breakdown in respect of schools numbers for primary and secondary pupils and that with regard to free school meals, this should be notified to those families with children self-isolating through the COVID support hub and she would follow this up.

Responding to further comment, Philip McCourt stated that with revised guidance expected shortly, decisions would then be taken with regard to any expenditure required on facilities to reopen. If social distancing meant that a venue wouldn't be economic to open then discussions could be held with the Director of Resources and colleagues at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government about how funding could be used and reprioritised.

The Chair commented upon the need not to allow commercial considerations to override any public health advice.

On a motion by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, seconded by the Chair it was -

Resolved – That,

- (1) Committee endorse authority for the Chief Executive or a Director to suspend, vary or cease operation of a Council venue or facilities as a response to Coronavirus related events, including compliance with Government and public health advice, prioritisation of resource availability and economic impact.**

- (2) Where there is to be a variation proposed as a result of prioritisation or economic considerations then any decision shall be in consultation with the Chair and Group Leaders.**
- (3) That this decision be subject to review and an update report be submitted to the Committee's meeting of 1st December, 2021 at the latest, failing which the decision shall cease to be of effect.**

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POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 28 July 2021

Present: Councillor J Williamson (Chair)

Councillors	T Anderson	T Jones
	H Cameron	Y Nolan
	P Cleary	L Rennie
	JE Green	J Robinson
	EA Grey	P Stuart
	S Hayes	

Deputies: Councillors C Carubia (In place of P Gilchrist)
K Greaney (In place of J McManus)
M Jordan (In place of W Clements)

29 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the webcast.

30 APOLOGIES

The Chair confirmed the apologies of Councillors Wendy Clements, Phil Gilchrist and Julie McManus, with Councillors Mary Jordan, Chris Carubia and Karl Greaney deputising for them respectively.

31 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Tony Jones declared a prejudicial interest in agenda items 11 and 15, 'Wirral Growth Company: Birkenhead Phase 1 Site Development Plan', by virtue of him being a member of the Wirral Joint Venture Board and confirmed that he would leave the meeting whilst the items were under discussion.

32 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 June, 2021, be approved and adopted as a correct record.

33 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

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

34 **THE WIRRAL PLAN 2021-2026**

Carly Brown, Assistant Director – Strategy and Partnerships, introduced a report on The Wirral Plan 2021-26. The Wirral Plan was a key policy document for the Borough, which drove the high level priorities, ambition, and key deliverables for the organisation over a 5-year period from 2021 to 2026. The Plan reflected what people had told the Council was important to them and would be used to help all staff understand their role in helping to deliver the Council's corporate priorities.

The refreshed Plan 2021-26 had been developed to build on the five thematic priorities from the previous Plan whilst also taking account of the changed social, economic, and political landscape brought about by COVID-19 which was having a significant impact on Wirral residents and businesses.

There was a need for a series of delivery plans against each of the Council plan priorities. Delivery plans were being developed which would define how the in-year priorities would be achieved. Delivery plans would need to align with the achievement of in-year budget efficiencies and be cognisant of emerging budget planning for 2022/23. It was proposed that draft delivery plans were reviewed by policy and service committees through dedicated sessions and budget workshops during the summer.

A Member commented upon the Plan being a document to be fine tuned throughout the year and welcomed the opportunity for Policy and Service Committees to review the delivery plans aligned with the Plan, whilst expressing some concern with some changes in respect of environment and transport, as the themes of biodiversity and active travel were critical in the original plan.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was -

A. RECOMMENDED –

(1) That the Wirral Plan, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be referred to Council in September.

B. Resolved – That,

- (2) further engagement and discussion with relevant Committees takes place to shape the underpinning delivery plans and work programmes required to implement the Wirral Plan; and**
- (3) the approach for the development of delivery planning and corporate change programme to support implementation, be approved.**

35 COMMUNITY BONDS

Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources, introduced a report which provided an overview of community bonds and their uses, and how Warrington and West Berkshire Councils had used them to fund capital spend. The report assessed their use in Wirral and possible next steps.

Community Bonds/Community Municipal Investments were a form of debt/loan-based crowdfunding. Community Bonds were issued by a council corporate body, with residents and general public investors providing capital on the basis of receiving a financial return. The majority of community bonds were typically linked in some form to environmental or social criteria and provided tangible benefit to the local community beyond just financial.

Community Bond issues were generally related to a specific project. In 2020, West Berkshire and Warrington Councils issued Community Bonds to fund solar projects in their Boroughs. They each issued bonds to the value of £1m and worked with the crowdfunding platform Abundance to administer the bonds.

Community Bonds would support the inclusive economy strand of the Wirral Plan. Ordinarily, the interest that the Council paid on borrowing would be paid back to the lenders, typically outside of the borough. Community Bonds opened up the opportunity for local residents to become investors in the Council, keeping both the investment capital and the interest payments in the local area.

There was also the potential to support the sustainable environment strand of the Wirral Plan if the Council decided to use community bonds to fund a project that tackled the climate emergency, as Warrington and West Berkshire had done.

Community bonds had a higher social value than mainstream borrowing. Social value could be in the form of increased community engagement, as well as directing the cost of borrowing (interest payments) back into the local area. The report noted that Community Bonds were a more expensive means of borrowing, and at the moment, the social value attached to the bonds did not justify the extra costs. This was unsupported by Councillor Pat Cleary as there was no evidence available of this.

Shaer Halewood responded to a number of comments from Members and suggested that it could be an administratively heavy scheme to implement at the start and that more work could be undertaken to develop some guidance on it with some information gained from Warrington and West Berkshire Councils, with a view to a possible start on 1 April, 2022, if the Committee wished for it to go ahead.

On motion by Councillor Tom Anderson, seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie, it was -

Resolved – That,

- (1) it be agreed that guidance is developed to help assess if Community Municipal Bonds are a suitable funding stream for future capital bid projects, and;**
- (2) before a recommendation is made to Council that Community Bonds be added to the Treasury Management Strategy as an alternative form of debt financing, a further report be brought before this Committee once officers have had the opportunity to fully scope the risks and issues involved.**

36 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources, introduced a report on the Authority's treasury management activity which was underpinned by CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management ("the Code"), which required the Authority to approve treasury management semi-annual and annual reports.

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

As projected in the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report, there was an overspend on Treasury activities which was attributable to 2020/21 budget savings that were not achieved due to implementation delays emanating from COVID response activity and significant changes in interest rates on investments. This overspend was incorporated into the Revenue Outturn report.

The level of Capital Financing debt held on the balance sheet, including the Merseyside Residuary Body debt managed by the Council on behalf of the constituent authorities, was £166 million at 31 March 2021. This was a reduction of £3 million since 1 April 2020 and reflected policies to minimise and delay borrowing costs which adversely impacted upon the revenue budget.

The Council had complied with the Treasury Management Indicators as set out in the agreed Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/21.

In response to Members' comments, Pete Molyneux, Senior Finance Manager, gave an explanation as to those 'unrated' components of the Council's investment portfolio. Shaer Halewood, agreed to provide more detail in respect of the investment portfolio and the names of organisations and sums involved.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was -

RECOMMENDED - To Council, that the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2020/21 be agreed.

37 **WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Philip McCourt, Director of Law and Governance, introduced a report which advised how this Committee, in co-operation with the other Policy and Service Committees, was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme.

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

A Member suggested that with regard to a number of assets to be disposed of over the next 12 months, a report could be brought back to the Committee on a possible percentage of the capital receipts being reinvested in to some form of community fund to benefit the wards where assets were disposed of.

In response to a Member's comment on the One Wirral Change Programme, Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources, stated that the Delivery Plan for the Wirral Plan would merge into one Change Programme.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was -

Resolved – That the Policy & Resources Committee work programme for the 2021/22 municipal year, be agreed, with the addition of a report on Asset Disposals as above.

38 **REFERRAL FROM CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE - PREVENTION POLICY**

Simone White, Director of Children's Services, introduced a report on the Children, Young People and Education Committee's recommendations, from its meeting on 15 June, 2021 in respect of prevention approach.

Prevention was a cross-cutting theme of significance in Children's Services, Adult Social Care and Health, and Public Health. It was therefore essential that there was cross-Council agreement to prioritise preventative activity and to outline the expectations and delivery methodology for preventative approaches.

The report to the Children, Young People and Education Committee had provided an overview of the prevention approach recommended for adoption by the Council, including a Prevention Policy Statement and Prevention Framework. In addition, the report detailed the Breaking the Cycle programme, which sought to demonstrate how a collaboration of preventative activity could maximise opportunity and lead to better outcomes for people, services, and organisations.

The matter was being referred to the Policy and Resources as it was a cross-cutting policy that impacted on Adult Social Care and Public Health as well as Children, Young People and Education.

Simone White responded to a number of comments from Members and stated that with regard to support for children's mental health and wellbeing, her department and partner organisations were working on the creation of a single point of contact for such services.

The Chair and Members commended the detailed report and policy documents and expressed thanks to Elizabeth Hartley, Assistant Director, Early Help and Prevention.

A suggestion was made to receive regular updates on the policy.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was -

Resolved – That,

(1) the Prevention Policy Statement and Prevention Framework, be approved;

(2) the Breaking the Cycle programme approach, be approved.

39 **REFERRAL FROM ECONOMY REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - WIRRAL GROWTH COMPANY: BIRKENHEAD PHASE 1 FINAL SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Having previously declared a prejudicial interest, Councillor Tony Jones vacated the room during consideration of this item (minute 31 refers).

Sally Shah, Assistant Director- Chief Regeneration Officer, introduced a report on the Economy Regeneration and Development Committee's recommendations, from its meeting on 26 July, 2021 in respect of Wirral Growth Company: Birkenhead Phase 1: Final Site Development Plan (SDP). A supplement to the agenda had been circulated with the minute of the Economy and Regeneration Committee.

The implementation of the SDP would directly support the regeneration of Birkenhead which had been a long-term priority for the Council. It supported the Council's ambitions around sustainable development and the generation of a prosperous inclusive economy where people could get good jobs and achieve their aspirations regardless of their background or where they lived.

Specifically, the delivery of Phase 1 of the plan would result in the construction of circa 150,000 sq.ft (13,900 sq.m) of Grade 'A' office accommodation in two buildings referred to as A1 and A2 with associated quality public realm. The larger of the two buildings A1 measuring 89,591 sq.ft (8,323 sq.m) would be occupied by Council employees while the second building A2 measuring 58,176 sq.ft (5,405 sq.m) would be let on the open market to commercial occupiers.

Through taking the head lease on the first two office buildings and relocating up to 800 administrative staff into the Birkenhead Commercial District the Council would intervene to unlock and drive forward the regeneration of Birkenhead Town Centre.

This matter was being referred to Policy and Resources Committee because in accordance with the Council's Constitution any issue regarding land and property including major acquisition and disposals, which included reserved decision making concerning any purchase, sale or transfer of a value in excess of, or likely to exceed, £100,000; was reserved to the Policy and Resources Committee.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was -

Resolved – That the Formal Site Development Plan for Birkenhead Commercial District Phase 1, be approved.

40 **MINUTES OF THE SHAREHOLDER BOARD**

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

Resolved – That the minutes of the Shareholder Board held on 1 July, 2021, be noted.

41 **MINUTES OF THE SENIOR OFFICER AND APPOINTMENTS STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE**

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Tony Jones, it was -

Resolved – That the minutes of the Senior Officer and Appointments Staffing Sub-Committee meeting held on of 13 July, 2021, be noted.

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

On a motion by Councillor Janette Williamson, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was -

Resolved – That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

43 **WIRRAL GROWTH COMPANY: BIRKENHEAD PHASE 1 FINAL SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN - EXEMPT APPENDICES**

Having previously declared a prejudicial interest, Councillor Tony Jones vacated the room during consideration of this item (minute 31 refers).

Resolved – That the exempt appendices to the Wirral Growth Company: Birkenhead Phase 1 Final Site Development Plan, be noted.

44 **HOYLAKE GOLF RESORT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT - URGENT ITEM**

The Chair had agreed to consideration of a referral item from the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee of 26 July, 2021, as a matter of urgent business to enable this Committee to make a decision on the report of the Director of Law and Governance in relation to the Hoylake Golf Resort Development Agreement.

Philip McCourt, Director of Law and Governance, introduced a report on the matter, which also provided commentary from the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee.

Following a lengthy and considered debate, and after an adjournment of 20 minutes, it was then, on a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan,

Resolved (8:7) – That the recommendations within the report be approved.

Councillor Tom Anderson then proposed that a vote be taken on removing this matter from the Committee's delegation, in accordance with Article 7.3 of the Constitution.

Philip McCourt confirmed that removal from delegation would require 40% of those Members present and voting to vote in favour of such removal, in this case being 6 Members. The matter would then be referred to a meeting of the full Council for consideration, if successful.

With six Members voting in favour of removal, the matter then became a referral to Council for a decision, the resolution above having in effect been rescinded.

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ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Monday, 7 June 2021

Present: Councillor Y Nolan (Chair)

Councillors	I Camphor	M Jordan
	K Cannon	M McLaughlin
	T Cottier	S Mountney
	S Frost	C O'Hagan
	P Gilchrist	J Walsh

1 APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

2 MEMBER DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

The following declarations were made:

Councillor Clare O'Hagan	Personal interest by virtue of her employment in the NHS.
Councillor Tony Cottier	Personal interest as a director of a construction company contracted by the NHS.
Councillor Mary Jordan	Personal interest by virtue of her employment for the NHS, her son's employment for the NHS and her involvement as a trustee for 'incubabies'.
Councillor Ivan Camphor	Personal interest by virtue of the being a General Practitioner at Heatherlands Medical Centre, Medical Secretary for Mid-Mersey Local Medical Committee, General Practitioner Committee Representative for Cheshire and Mid Mersey, British Medical Association Chair of the Committee on

	Community Care and his wife's employment in the NHS.
Councillor Moira McLaughlin	Personal interest by virtue of her family's employment in the NHS and Wirral Council's Children's Services.
Councillor Yvonne Nolan	Personal interest by virtue of her son's employment at a local testing centre.

3 MINUTES

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2021 be agreed.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair outlined that Mr David Jones had indicated he wished to make a statement in relation to Wirral Evolutions Ltd, but that he would be invited to make his statement following the conclusion of that item.

The Chair further reported that notice had been given of a petition to be presented. The petition was presented by Mr George Lamb, who at the invitation of the Chair introduced the petition which had 1,030 signatories and sought to keep the Wirral Evolutions ran Highcroft Day Centre open.

The Chair thanked Mr Lamb for presenting the petition to the Committee and reaffirmed that the Committee was receiving a progress report from Wirral Evolutions and not making a decision on the closure of day centres.

5 WIRRAL EVOLUTIONS LTD: PROGRESS UPDATE AGAINST APPROVED SAVING PROPOSAL

Jean Stephens, Managing Director of Wirral Evolutions presented the report which provided the Committee with the first quarterly report detailing the progress against Wirral Evolution's saving proposals and plans to modernise the Company's operating model to ensure the delivery of service was within the contract value of £5.015m for 2021/22.

The report detailed how the Company had based its decision to modernise on its mission, vision and values outlined in its 5-year business strategy. This contained two key elements, firstly organisational restructure to enable improved personalised outcomes for the people with a learning disability to reach their full potential, and secondly consolidation of locations to work towards providing an improved community integrated offer for people with a learning disability, supporting more independent life skills. It was intended that the outcomes of the plan would enable greater personalised outcomes,

smaller ratios based on levels of support needs, greater social value and benefit to service users and a leaner and modern outward focused workforce structure.

The Committee was advised that the formal organisational restructure workforce consultation was launched on 22 March 2021 and concluded on 19 May 2021 and weekly engagement meetings had taken place with Trade Unions and Wirral Council Human Resources. The consultation with service users, parents and carers commenced on 24 May 2021, and Zoom sessions had taken place with 105 parents and carers and 92 online surveys had been submitted, with personalised conversations to have taken place with all service users by 13 June 2021. The emerging themes from the consultation process were reported to the Committee, with issues such as transport to new locations, level of staffing, level of service and the opportunity for transition all being raised. It was reported that the feedback would be collated and discussed with service users and that Wirral Evolutions was committed to enabling the best outcomes for those service users.

Members queried the rationale around the withdrawal of the Highcroft centre and sought clarification on what the community integrated services were.

Councillor Phil Gilchrist proposed the following:

“Having received the presentation and concerns raised by petitioners, committee welcomes the assurances that Wirral Evolutions has given to date, but requests that they produce more detail on the outcome of the consultation for the meeting in July, and in so doing Committee would like to hear how the consolidation, economies of scale and community hubs will be of genuine benefit to the users of the services, and how staff skills will be retained, and how service users view the future prospects.”

Councillor Yvonne Nolan raised concern at the timeline and proposed an amendment Councillor Phil Gilchrist’s suggested motion, replacing “July” with “September”.

Councillor Sam Frost proposed a further addition of the following wording to the suggested motion:

“Wirral Evolutions is also requested to extend the consultation to wider members of the community and provide further detail on the community groups it was seeking to make links with, and their response.”

The revised motion was moved as an alternative to the recommendations in the report by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, seconded by the Chair and agreed by assent, and it was therefore:

Resolved – That

Having received the presentation and concerns raised by petitioners, the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee welcomes the assurances that Wirral Evolutions have given to date, but requests that more detail be produced on the outcome of the consultation for its meeting on 8 September 2021. The Committee would also like to hear how the consolidation, economies of scale and community hubs will be of genuine benefit to the users of the services, as well as how staff skills will be retained, and how service users view the future prospects. Wirral Evolutions is also requested to extend the consultation to wider members of the community and provide further detail on the community groups it was seeking to make links with, and their response.”

6 **STATEMENT**

Following the conclusion of the Wirral Evolutions Ltd item the Chair invited David Jones to address the committee. Mr Jones spoke regarding the organisational restructure of Wirral Evolutions Ltd, outlining concerns regarding the consultation process, salary and contracted hours reductions for staff and urging that the service be brought back under Council control.

The Chair thanked Mr Jones for his statement.

7 **ADULT CARE AND HEALTH COMMISSIONING ACTIVITY 2021**

Jayne Marshall, Community Care Lead Commissioner, introduced the report of the Director of Care and Health which was to notify the Committee of the commissioning activity for Quarter 2 of 2021, and seek approval of the re-tendering of a number of existing services and new service provision.

The detail of the existing services to be re-commissioned was outlined to the committee, including the Mobile Nights Service, Early Intervention and Prevention and Carers Services, Wirral Advocacy Hub and Cardigan House. It was reported that the Beach Accessible Wheelchairs service was a new service request, following Council expressing an ambition to introduce the service.

Concerns were raised by some members around the level of detail in the report given the significant cost of the contracts. Members were advised that all but one of the contracts were existing services funded from existing budgets.

It was proposed by Councillor Simon Mountney, seconded by Councillor Ivan Camphor, that the item be deferred until the July meeting and that more detail on the services be provided.

The motion was put and lost (3:8).

It was moved by Councillor Kate Cannon, seconded by Councillor Tony Cottier that the recommendations in the report be agreed.

The motion was put and carried (8:1) (2 abstentions).

Resolved (8:1) (2 abstentions) – That:

1. authorisation be given to the Director of Care and Health to proceed with the procurement for:
 - Mobile Night Service (5-year contract)
 - Beach Accessible wheelchairs (2-year contract)
 - Early Intervention and Prevention services (3-year contract)
 - Wirral Advocacy Hub (3-year contract)
 - Cardigan House (2-year contract)
2. Delegated authority be given to the Director of Care and Health to award the tender to the successful bidders following the tender process.

8 INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL SERVICE COMMISSION

Julie Webster, Director of Public Health introduced the report which sought the Committee's agreement to progress the proposed commissioning intentions for Community Infection Prevention and Control Services.

Members were reminded how the Covid-19 pandemic and response had highlighted the vital importance of infection prevention and control and the specialist support required to ensure that high standards of infection prevention and control could be implemented and maintained. The current contract was delivered by Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust and was due to end on 31 March 2022, therefore authority was sought to commence the re-commissioning of the service. The details of the service were outlined to the Committee, which included providing a proactive service to ensure there were the tools and information available to maintain high standards in all community settings.

The significant work that had to be undertaken in nursing homes to ensure high levels of infection prevention and control was acknowledged and it was proposed that an overview of that work would be useful for members in the future.

Resolved – That

- 1) the Director of Public Health be authorised to re-commission the Wirral Community Infection Prevention and Control Service totalling up to £2,450,000 (£350,000 per annum) for an initial five-year contract (1

April 2022 – 31 March 2027) with the option of two one-year extensions.

- 2) delegated authority be given to the Director of Public Health to award the tender to the successful bidder following the tender process.

9 **DISCHARGE TO ASSESS (D2A) AND REABLEMENT SERVICES'**

Jason Oxley, Assistant Director for Care, Health and Commissioning for People introduced the report of the Director of Care and Health, which outlined a proposal to transfer the Discharge to Assess bed-based service provision from the current range of services in the independent care home sector, to a single site service operated by the NHS.

The Committee was advised that Discharge to Assess was a pathway model for people who were clinically ready for discharge from hospital and who no longer required an acute hospital bed, but who may still require care services including short-term, funded support. The ethos was to discharge people to remain in their own home wherever possible. However, some people required a period of extended short-term support, assessment and therapy within a bed-based Discharge to Assess service before they could return to their home or to their onward care arrangements. The report outlined that a review had been undertaken of the average length of stay and future capacity and demand requirements, and it was felt that a single site offer operated by the NHS would be more effective and give greater opportunity for patients to return home sooner.

Members had concerns over the reduction in available beds as part of the proposals. The Assistant Director for Care, Health and Commissioning for People advised the Committee that 30 additional independent care home beds would be available for 6 months over the winter period to provide additional support during the transitional period, and that the commissioners had good monitoring of pressure triggers and would be responsive to any issues.

It was moved by Councillor Phil Gilchrist and seconded by Councillor Mary Jordan, that an addition to the recommendation contained in the report, be made as follows:

'In the event of capacity stresses arising in the proposed arrangements, officers be requested to report back to the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee to advise on the steps being taken to address this.'

The addition was agreed by assent, and it was therefore –

Resolved – That

- 1) the current D2A independent care home contracts held by the Council due to expire on 30 September 2021 be supported.
- 2) the progression of proposals for D2A bed-based services to be commissioned by the NHS as a single site NHS offer from 1 September 2021 be supported.
- 3) the proposal for up to an additional 30 community independent care home beds to be commissioned for a period of 6 months (ending on 31 March 2022) to support the transition from the current model and to support with the additional demand on the care and health system expected due to winter pressures be supported.
- 4) a further report be presented to a future Committee with detail of the D2A service arrangements.
- 5) In the event of capacity stresses arising in the proposed arrangements, officers be requested to report back to the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee to advise on the steps being taken to address this.

10 **FEE SETTING FOR 2021/22 (OUTCOME OF PROVIDER FEE SETTING ENGAGEMENT)**

Jayne Marshall, Community Care Lead Commissioner introduced the report of the Director of Care and Health which outlined the outcome of the annual engagement exercise with the Local Community Care Market for fee rates to be paid to care providers for 2021/2022, which included Residential and Nursing, Supported Living, Extra Care, Care and Support at Home and Direct Payments.

The report set out the duty on the Local Authority to promote diversity and quality in the care and support provider market to produce a sustainable and diverse range of care and support providers to deliver good quality and cost-effective services. As part of this, the Council must set what fees it pays to care home providers in an open, fair and transparent way, which takes into account the providers' costs, efficiencies and planned outcomes for people using services. The Committee was advised that the fee setting had taken into account the legitimate current and future costs, as well as incentivising providers to pay the Real Living Wage.

Resolved – That

- 1) approval be given to the rates that apply to services commissioned by Wirral Council and jointly commissioned services between Wirral Council and NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), in relation to Residential and Nursing, Supported Living, Extra Care, Care

and Support at home and Direct Payments, as detailed in the report.

- 2) approval be given to the backdating of the rates to apply from 1 April 2021.

11 **NATIONAL DRUG TREATMENT AND RECOVERY GRANT FUNDING**

Julie Webster, Director of Public Health, introduced the report which provided an overview of the Government's national grant funding programme for drug treatment and recovery, and outlined the proposals on how best to utilise the funding to reduce drug related deaths, offending and reduce the prevalence of drug use.

It was reported that there were significant issues with illegal drug misuse and associated health problems in Wirral and that in January the government had announced £148m funding package to help tackle this issue nationally. Committee was informed that Wirral Council had been awarded £1.4m as part of the programme, which needed to be spent within the 2021/22 financial year. The report further outlined the partnership approach that would be undertaken as part of the proposals alongside colleagues from a range of sectors such as police, justice service and housing.

Members welcomed the approach and urged the Director of Public Health to ensure that schools were involved in the partnership approach as one of the key partners for prevention.

Resolved – That

- 1) the acceptance of the £1.4m national Drug Treatment and Recovery Grant funding be agreed.
- 2) the proposals for spending the £1.4m Drug Treatment and Recovery Grant funding as set out in Appendix 2 be agreed.

12 **PROPOSALS FOR INTEGRATED CARE PARTNERSHIPS**

Graham Hodgkinson, Director of Care and Health introduced the report which provided an update on the proposed strategic changes in the NHS and outlined the implications for the Council of such emerging arrangements.

It was reported that the Committee had received an update on the proposals for Integrated Care Partnerships at its last meeting following the publication of the government's White Paper 'Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all', and since then the proposals had been included within the Queen's Speech. The report set out the implications of the changes for the Local Authority, which would take the leadership role in the local 'place' making arrangements. The Integrated Care Partnership would be

made up of Wirral Integrated Commissioning, Wirral Provider Collaborative and Place leadership, where the Health and Wellbeing Board would play a critical role in driving local arrangements.

A discussion ensued on where commissioning of services would sit within the system, where it was reported that early indications were that the majority of commissioning would be done at 'Place' level.

Resolved – That

- 1) the Queen's Speech announcing the forthcoming Health and Care Bill, intended to make it easier for different parts of the health and care system to work together and to support place-based joint working between the NHS, local government, community health services, and other partners be noted.
- 2) the Local Government Association's efforts to secure with Government their commitment that existing local partnerships and democratic structures should be based on local government place be supported, and the importance of the Council's role as that place-level leader be recognised.
- 3) the Health and Wellbeing Board's role in leading the development of place based partnership necessary to deliver improved outcomes in population health and tackling health inequality and notes the progress currently being made be endorsed.

13 **APPOINTMENT TO STATUTORY COMMITTEE AND MEMBER CHAMPION FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE**

Vicki Shaw, Head of Legal Services introduced the report which sought the appointment of members to serve on the Discharge from Guardianship by Wirral Council under the Mental Health Act 1983 Panel, and to appoint a Member Champion for Domestic Abuse.

Resolved – That

- 1) the Monitoring Officer as proper officer be authorised to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Statutory and Advisory Committees detailed within the report and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.
- 2) Councillor Yvonne Nolan be appointed the Member Champion for Domestic Abuse.

14 **2021/22 BUDGET MONITORING AND 2022/23 BUDGET PROCESS**

Graham Hodgkinson, Director of Care and Health, introduced the report of the Director of Resources which outlined the processes for monitoring the 2021/22 budget and for commencing the budget setting process for 2022/23.

It was reported that following the capitalisation directive of up to £10.7m the Council had received from Ministry for Housing, Local Government and Communities, one of the conditions of that offer was that the Council needed 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 was important that the Council had 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 2022/23 budget setting was underway early so that an agreed budget could be agreed by Council in March 2022.

A query was raised around the effectiveness of zero-based budgeting, where it was outlined that Adult Social Care and Public Health had undertaken a zero-based budgeting exercise the previous financial year, which meant that the budget for the current financial year was based on that zero-based budgeting exercise and therefore accurately reflected actual spend.

Resolved – That

- 1) 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 be noted.
- 2) agreement be given to the inclusion of the current proposals within the report from the Medium Term Financial Plan from 2022/23 – 2025/26 and that the Director of Adult Care and Health develops them into full business cases, where appropriate, be included in the 2022/23 budget proposals to Policy and Resources Committee at its October meeting for approval.
- 3) a series of budget workshops be convened 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) the Zero-Based Budgeting project be commenced within the budget workshops to contribute to the overall savings target of £170k in 2021/22.

Mark Goulding, Senior Finance Business Partner introduced the report of the Director of Care and Health, which set out the financial monitoring information for the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee.

The report provided members with an overview of budget performance for the area, and detailed the year-end revenue position of £1.1m favourable, and year-end capital position of £0.8m favourable. It was reported that the favourable position included £0.6m joint funded income correction relating to two historic invoices, alongside extra funding received for the Covid-19 response from government and Clinical Commissioning Group funding for hospital discharges and deflections. It was reported that Adult Care and Health budget had experienced substantial pressures in 2021/21 which would have led to a significant overspend had it not been for the CCG and Covid-19 grant support.

Further information was sought on the progress of Assistive Technology installations which had been delayed due to the pandemic.

Resolved – That

the year-end revenue outturn position of £1.1m favourable and the £0.8m favourable position of the capital programme, as reported at quarter 4 (Apr-Mar) of 2020-21 be noted.

16 **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Jason Oxley, Assistant Director for Care, Health and Commissioning for People introduced the report of the Director of Care and Health, providing an update on performance in relation to Adult Social Care and Health.

Key elements of the performance report were highlighted, including the situation with residential and nursing care homes where there were increasing vacancy rates which now stood at 18.9%. It was reported that there were a small number of care homes closed to admissions as a result of Covid-19. The Committee's attention was also brought to the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) notifiable incidents as outlined in the report, the reporting process for which was still under development following a request from members for that information. It was further highlighted that the statistics for reablement showed that the main reason for ending of care packages was that people had achieved their aims.

The Committee welcomed the figures on reasons for end of care packages and sought further information in future reports on the CQC's notifiable incidents pre-covid, as well as further detail on national or Liverpool City Region averages on performance data for comparison.

Resolved – That

the report be noted.

17 **TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES THROUGH REGENERATION:
HEALTH & EMPLOYMENT**

Julie Webster, Director of Public Health introduced the report which outlined the Council's collaborative investment to address health related worklessness and improve social, economic and health outcomes.

It was reported that good employment protects health and that there were lots of challenges with health issues associated with unemployment. The pandemic had highlighted the need to focus on work to support people to enter the job market with good quality jobs, therefore the report outlined the work that had taken place to address these issues.

The report included data around unemployment and Universal Credit claimants, which showed that there were 31,352 people in Wirral claiming Universal Credit, of which 11,131 were in employment. Members raised concerns over the significant number of people in work claiming Universal Credit and highlighted that employment wasn't lifting people out of poverty. Further points were made in relation to housing standards and lower attainment for children living in deprived communities and it was suggested that an anti-poverty strategy could be developed.

Resolved – That

the report be noted.

18 **COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE**

Julie Webster, Director of Public Health introduced the report which provided the Committee with an update on surveillance data and key areas of development in relation to Wirral's Covid-19 response and delivery of the Local Outbreak Management Plan.

It was reported that the 7 day incidence rate had significantly increased from 15 cases on 20 May to 153 cases on 4 June, which translated to an increase from 4.6 cases per 100,000 to 47.2 cases per 100,000. There had been a significant increase in cases in the young age groups, particularly 10-19 and 30-39, but it was reported that there hadn't yet been a big increase in hospital admissions, with two patients in Arrowe Park with Covid-19 illnesses as at 4 June.

Further outbreaks were being reported in school and hospitality settings, who were working hard to put measures in place. There had also been some outbreaks in care homes, but often these were as a result of the increased

testing programme as opposed to due to people having symptoms or becoming ill which was testament to the vaccination programme. The Director of Public Health further outlined that any further relaxation of the roadmap would increase case rates therefore residents were encouraged to continue to practice the core principles of hands, face and space.

Members highlighted the links between deprivation and concerns around reporting as unwell due to concerns of support and pay, alongside the links between Houses of Multiple Occupancies and the spread of the virus.

Resolved – That

the contents of the report, the progress made to date and to support the ongoing COVID-19 response be noted.

19 **WORK PROGRAMME**

Vicki Shaw, Head of Legal Services introduced the report of the Director of Care and Health which provided the committee with an opportunity to plan and review its work across the municipal year.

Resolved – That

- 1) the work programme be noted.
- 2) the budget workshops be added to the work programme.

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

Resolved – That

- 1) under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.
- 2) further to Minute No.11, the content of the exempt appendix circulated with the agenda, be noted.

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ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Thursday, 29 July 2021

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	Y Nolan (Chair)	
	Councillors	M Jordan M McLaughlin	C O'Hagan Jason Walsh
<u>In attendance:</u>	Councillors	D Mitchell A Wright P Martin S Jones C Jones	(for P Gilchrist) (for S Mountney) (for K Cannon) (for T Cottier) (for S Frost)
<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	I Camphor, K Cannon S Frost	T Cottier S Mountney P Gilchrist

21 APOLOGIES

The following apologies for absence were received:

Councillors: K Cannon, S Frost, T Cottier, S Mountney and P Gilchrist

22 MINUTES

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2021 be agreed.

23 MEMBER DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

The following declarations were made:

Councillor C Jones	Personal interest by virtue of her employment in the NHS
Councillor C O'Hagan	Personal interest by virtue of her employment in the NHS
Councillor M McLaughlin	Personal interest by virtue of her

	family's employment in the NHS and Wirral Council's Children's Services
Councillor M Jordan	Personal interest by virtue of her employment in the NHS, her son's employment on the NHS and her involvement as a trustee for 'incubabies'
Councillor Y Nolan	Personal interest by virtue of her position as Governor of Clatterbridge Cancer Centre
Councillor J Walsh	Personal interest by virtue of his family members employment in the NHS.

24 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No questions, statements of petitions were received.

25 **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING MONTH 2 (APRIL-MAY) 2021-22**

Graham Hodgkinson, Director of Care and Health, introduced the report which set out the financial monitoring information for the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee.

The report provided Members with an overview of budget performance for the area. It was reported that work on quarter 1 reporting for financial year 2021-22 commenced on 1 July 2021 and due to reporting constraints to public committee meetings it had not been possible to provide a full quarter 1 update at this point. Members were advised that as of month 2 (May), the financial outturn for 2021-22 was a small favourable position of £0.35m against a total net budget of £113.1m. Members were advised that this represents minor improvement on some budget lines but no significant variances.

The report informed that the forecast anticipates continued uptake by providers of the Real Living Wage fee rates as agreed at Committee on 7 June 2021, and full achievement of the £4.5m saving target against community care.

Appendix 1 to the report provided a breakdown of the revenue budget for the Adult Care and Health Directorate for 2021/22

The Committee welcomed the update and commented on the positive situation at present.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

26 **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Simon Garner, Health and Care Commissioning Lead introduced the report of the Director of Care and Health providing an update on performance in relation to Adult Social Care and Health.

Key elements of the performance report were highlighted including residential and nursing care over time demonstrating a stable position and the actual numbers of people receiving services has remained similar.

Members were reminded of the extra care provision in Wirral that opened two weeks prior to this committee, thus having a positive impact.

The Health and Care Commissioning Lead advised that there is currently a 20% capacity in care homes in Wirral, a figure that is slightly higher than in neighbouring authorities. It was further reported that 66.67% of Wirral care homes had been rated good by the Care Quality Commission, with 28.46% requiring improvement and 2.44% requiring improvement.

In response to a question by a Member, the Committee were advised that there has been an impact of care home staff needing to self isolate and the situation is being monitored alongside guidance of colleagues in public health. The Committee were also informed that after completing an exercise, it had become apparent that the 20% vacancy rate had been a result of the Covid 19 Pandemic and typically prior to the pandemic, care homes have carried between a 12 and 15% vacancy rate, but covid has increased this.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

27 **INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM AND INTEGRATED CARE PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENTS - UPDATE**

A Report by the Director of Care and Health set out the policy context for the development of Integrated Care Systems (ICS) in the NHS in England, specifically highlighting the work to create a Cheshire and Merseyside ICS. The report also set out the emerging guidance around developing Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) in “ place” and specifically in Wirral.

The report set out the policy context as follows:

- **26 November 2020** - NHS England/ Improvement (NHSE/I) published integrating Care: Next steps to building strong and effective integrated care systems across England, subsequently referred to as Integrating Care: Next steps

- **11 Feb 2021** – The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published the White Paper Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all. On the same day NHSE/I issued four documents encouraging Her Majesty’s Government to introduce legislation, at the earliest opportunity to place Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) “ on a clear statutory footing, but with minimum national legislative provision and prescription, and a maximum local operational flexibility”.
- **25 March 2021** – NHS England and NHS Improvement published the NHS Operational Planning and Implementation Guidance for 2021/22, setting out that:
 - There will be one statutory ICS NHS body and one statutory ICS health and care partnership per ICS from April 2022. •
 - Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) functions will be subsumed into the ICS NHS body and some NHS England and NHS Improvement direct commissioning functions will be transferred or delegated to ICSs.
 - CCG staff below board level who are directly affected will have an employment commitment and local NHS administrative running costs will not be cut as a consequence of the organisational changes.
 - Through strong place-based partnerships, NHS organisations will continue to forge deep relationships with local government and communities to join up health and social care and tackle the wider social and economic determinants of health. To enable this, ICS boundaries will align with upper-tier Local Authority boundaries by April 2022, unless otherwise agreed by exception. Joint working with local government will be further supported by the health and care partnership at ICS level.
 - The development of primary and community services and implementation of population health management will be led at place level, with Primary Care Networks as the building blocks of local healthcare integration.
 - Every acute (non-specialist) and mental health NHS trust and Foundation Trust (FT) will be part of at least one provider collaborative, allowing them to integrate services appropriately with local partners at place and to strengthen the resilience, efficiency and quality of services delivered at-scale, including across multiple ICSs.
 - Clinical and professional leadership will be enhanced, connecting the primary care voice that has been a strong feature of Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and CCGs, to clinical and professional leadership

from community, acute and mental health providers, Public Health, and social care teams.

The report further advised that the intention of the Government to bring forward a Health and Care Bill to implement the proposals in the White Paper was announced in the Queen's Speech on 11 May 2021 and the main elements of the bill are:

- Driving integration of health and care through the delivery of an Integrated Care System in every part of the country.
- Ensuring NHS England, in a new combined form, is accountable to Government, Parliament and taxpayers while maintaining the NHS's clinical and day-to-day operational independence.
- Banning junk food adverts pre-9pm watershed on TV and a total ban online.
- Putting the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch on a statutory footing to deliver a fully independent national body to investigate healthcare incidents, with the right powers to investigate the most serious patient safety risks to support system learning.

The report then set out how Integrated Care Systems will be developed with reference to guidance published by the NHSE/I on 16 June 2021 setting out future ambitions for:

- the functions of the ICS Partnership to align the ambitions, purpose, and strategies of partners across each system.
- the functions of the ICS NHS body, including planning to meet population health needs, allocating resources, ensuring that services are in place to deliver against ambitions, facilitating the transformation of services, co-ordinating and improving people and culture development, and overseeing delivery of improved outcomes for their population.
- the governance and management arrangements that each ICS NHS body will need to establish to carry out those functions including the flexibility to operate in a way that reflects the local context through place-based partnerships and provider collaboratives.
- the opportunity for partner organisations to work together as part of ICSs to agree and jointly deliver shared ambitions.
- key elements of good practice that will be essential to the success of ICSs, including strong clinical and professional leadership, deep and embedded engagement with people and communities, and streamlined arrangements for maintaining accountability and oversight.
- the key features of the financial framework that will underpin the future ambitions of systems, including the freedom and mechanisms to use resource flexibly to better meet identified needs and to manage financial resources at system level.

- the roadmap to implement new arrangements for ICS NHS bodies by April 2022 to establish new organisations, appoint leadership teams to new statutory organisations and to ensure that people affected by change are offered a smooth transition that allows them to maintain focus on their critical role in supporting recovery from the pandemic.

It was further reported that the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System (ICS) had established a Development Advisory Group (DAG) to support the implementation timetable and guidance. The Chief Executive and the Director for Adult Care and Health, Wirral Council and the Chief Officer, NHS Wirral CCG are part of the DAG. Members were advised that there is also representation from Wirral in other ICS governance arrangements such as the Partnership Board and joint committee of Cheshire and Merseyside Clinical Commissioning Groups.

The report set out an implementation timetable that the ICS is working to that is subject to the Health and Care Bill becoming an Act of Parliament.

Members were advised that In regard to developing Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs) in each place, the Cheshire and Merseyside ICS had set out seven expected core features of an ICP:

- ICP Governance – clearly defined formal arrangements for place partners to meet and work together to deliver outcomes set by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and ICS.
- ICP nominated ‘Place Lead’ with remit for integrated working who will connect with the ICS.
- Shared vision and plan for reducing inequalities and improving outcomes of local people approved by the HWB (underpinned by local population health and socio economic intelligence).
- Agreed ICP development plan.
- Defined footprints (e.g. neighbourhoods) for delivery of integrated care, clinically led by PCNs working with social care, community, mental health, Public Health, and other community groups.
- Programme of ongoing public and wider stakeholder engagement at place
- Integrated approach to commissioning between health and Local Authority (such as shared posts, joint teams, and pooled budgets) to underpin and support the work of the ICP. The seven expected core features are described in more detail in Appendix 2. 3.3.9 Work has commenced in Wirral to create an Integrated Care Partnership involving the Local Authority, NHS and wider partners in health and care. The work is being guided by six core principles:

- Organise services around the person to improve outcomes.
- Maintain personal independence by providing services closest to home.
- Reduce health inequalities across the Wirral population.
- Provide seamless and integrated services to patients, clients, and communities, regardless of organisational boundaries.
- Maximise the “Wirral £” by the delivery of improvements in productivity and efficiency through integration.
- Strengthen the focus on wellbeing, including a greater focus on prevention and Public Health.

There are four key work streams in the development of an ICP for Wirral. These are:

- Integrated governance, including Health and Wellbeing Board development.
- Developing provider collaboration.
- Developing integrated commissioning.
- Communications and engagement.

In response to comments from Members in regards to the complexities of the ICS developments it was suggested that an all member workshop be arranged to best inform all members of the Council of developments.

Resolved That:-

- (1) The report be noted;**
- (2) further written reports on the progress of the development of the Integrated Care System and Integrated Care Partnerships at future meetings be received; and**
- (3) an all member workshop be held to best inform members of the Council of developments.**

28 WIRRAL HEALTH AND CARE COMMISSIONING SINGLE BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22

A report by the Director of Care and Health introduced the DRAFT Wirral Health and Care Commissioning (WHCC) Single Business Plan for 2021/22,

as set out in appendix 1 of the report, and the key priorities and workstreams that underpin it, and which will contribute towards delivering better outcomes for Wirral Residents.

The report informed that the purpose of the WHCC is to jointly commission all age health and care services for residents in Wirral, which have a positive impact on the life course of an individual. Members were advised that the key to this is the transformation of service delivery which is expected to improve the experience of people and to reduce the need for long term care and hospital care by:

- Improving the health and wellbeing outcomes for the people of Wirral,
- Reducing health inequalities; and
- Delivering sustainable services, both through the workforce and financially.

Members were advised that the Single Business Plan identifies the key focus of work over 2021/22 toward delivering these aims. The report further advised that the work will be structured around the four key themes of Children and Families; Ageing Well; Emotional Health and Wellbeing; Healthy Communities and each of the themes are described in the business plan.

In response to comments from Members, The Director of Health and Care advised that the WHCC Business Plan supports commitments to working in integrated care and that there is work ongoing with air quality groups and the plan is linked into regeneration work.

A comment made by a Member drew attention to a lack of information regarding the impact of environmental factors such as access to green space as a means to improve mental wellbeing. It was asked that this could be included in future reports to Committee on the matter.

In response to a question by a Member it was reported that the impacts of long covid are emerging and there is forward planning through the means of joint working with the Council and NHS. There is funding available to the NHS for provision to treat people with long covid. It was suggested that this information be presented to Committee at a later date.

Resolved – That the report be noted with the request that environmental factors be included within future reports along with the impact of long covid as it emerges.

29 **CARERS SERVICES AND CARERS STRATEGY REVIEW**

A report of the Director of Care and Health, presented by Jayne Marshall, Lead Commissioner – Community Care Market), updated Members on the current offer to carers, requested support for the establishment of a Carers

Partnership Board (CAPB) and proposed a review of the Council's Carer's Strategy.

The report advised that Under the Care Act 2014, there is a statutory duty to identify, support and assess carers and for carers to be treated with parity of esteem alongside the vulnerable people whom they are providing care for. There is a requirement to provide support to prevent or delay the needs of the carer, and the person they care for from increasing. It was reported that according to the Census 2011 there are 40,340 Carers in Wirral and it is expected that this figure will increase when the 2021 Census figures are released. Members were advised that the estimated economical value of the contribution made by Wirral carers is £851 million per year.

Members were informed that through the Covid-19 pandemic, the activities of the carers support have been limited due to Covid-19 restrictions and where possible support has been provided through virtual, electronic and tele communications.

The report set out details of the Early Intervention and Prevention and Carers (Young Adults Carers)- EIAP and Carers contract and advised that in 2017, Wirral Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Public Health and NHS Wirral CCG brought together a range of separate contracts that were being delivered by a variety of voluntary, community and faith sector organisations (VCF). It was advised that the intention was for the services to be delivered through a single delivery vehicle (SDV) to improve the pathway for support for vulnerable people and carers, and to offer a seamless, joined up service. Members were informed that the contract was awarded to Wirral Health and Wellbeing CIC, the partners for the delivery of the contract are:

- Wirral information and Resource for Equality and Diversity (Wired)
- Age UK Wirral
- Wirral MIND
- Barnardo's Wirral
- Health Junction

The report informed that an advantage to the SDV was to develop closer working across the sector and to improve the identification of carers in Wirral. It was acknowledged that Carers can be any age, gender and the level of care they provide varies depending on the condition of the person they care for. Details of the services offered were listed within the report.

The report further detailed: short break bed provision, Carers Partnership Board, Wirral Strategy for Carers, Carers Strategic developments locally; Wirral Council's Working Carers Policy; Carers Emergency Contact Scheme; Carers Covid- 19 vaccinations; PPE for Carers; Improved identification of carers; digital resource for carers; unpaid carers project; carers grant review and Carers Policy network

In response to a question by a Member in relation to dementia carers, it was advised that there are courses and helplines available to help carers who care for individuals with dementia.

Resolved – That

- (1) the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee support the development of a new Carers Strategy for Wirral for 2022 and to receive a further report back to a future committee; and**
- (2) the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee support the relaunch of a Carers Advisory Partnership Board to deliver the carers agenda subject to a review of the Terms of Reference.**

30 **THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY FOR WIRRAL - UPDATE REPORT**

A report by the Director of Neighbourhood Services, presented by Andrew McCartan, AD – Leisure, Libraries and Engagement provided the committee with an update on the development of the future Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Wirral Leisure Services (formerly Leisure Strategy).

The report advised that In November 2020, the Council's Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee (TCCL) approved the new outline Sport and Physical Activity Strategy, which gave approval for officers to commence engagement with residents, communities, and other stakeholders to design and deliver a fit-for-purpose and sustainable service and included the strategy within the Committee's ongoing work programme.

The report informed that the key focus of the strategy was to set out the priorities for sport and leisure facilities, services and activities and sought to redress the balance between being a provider of facilities and tackling inequality through preventative, outreach, and early intervention work. Members heard how there is not statutory requirement to have a Sport and Physical Activity Strategy, but it is seen as good practice to outline the council's plan for leisure services for the period 2020-2025 based on the evidence base and emerging Covid-19 landscape.

The report set out the Government's position regarding sport and detailed Sport England's ten year strategy introduced in January 2021. Members were

advised that the strategy aimed to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

The report detailed the progress in Wirral and advised that following Committee approval, the Director of Neighbourhoods agreed that Sport England could commission Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) to undertake a diagnostic assessment of the Sport England Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance for Wirral Council. The report informed that Sport England produced its Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance to assist local authorities to take a strategic approach to maximise the contribution that sport and physical activity makes within a given local area, and to ensure that any local investment is as effective as possible and sustainable in the long term. The report identified the following findings:

- (1) The Council is in the process of developing/refining a coherent set of outcomes in relation to sport & physical activity's contribution to health and well-being and the reduction of health inequalities underpinned by good levels of cross directorate buy-in. This emerging position appears to be gathering momentum.
- (2) The Council's insight (in certain areas of the Council) is well developed, particularly in respect of its built and outdoor facilities evidence base. The development of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (2020) had added further momentum to this process. Its community-level research into the needs and wants of residents, and specifically what interventions may influence a change in behaviour will require further attention (as identified in the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy), both in respect of its facility offer and wider outreach plans.
- (3) Confirmation that the Council is moving away from its former silo-based approach to a much more collaborative cross-departmental approach to delivering services.
- (4) There was recognition that Senior Officers and Council Elected Members are determined to reduce health inequalities and this ambition is widely supported. It was however identified as imperative the Council continues to communicate well and achieves community buy-in prior to the development of a detailed delivery plan.
- (5) The Council needs to act decisively to put in place a long-term transformational plan for the Borough accompanied by a clear approach in respect of resourcing the associated work and facilitating its progress through its own decision-making process. The SOPG and Built Facilities Strategy evidence base validates an investment strategy for indoor facilities to address the fundamental strategic challenge of an ageing, inefficient indoor sport and physical activity stock.

The report identified four strategic priorities and explained how a public consultation had begun to understand the motivations, needs and wants of local residents in regard to being physically active. Members heard how results of the public consultation would be presented to members for consideration at a future committee.

Members welcomed the report and requested that additional information be provided in relation to inactivity figures and cancer rehabilitation programmes available.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

31 **COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE**

A report by the Director of Public Health, presented by Elsbeth Anwar, AD-Public Health provided the Committee with an update on surveillance data and key areas of development in relation to Wirral's Covid-19 response and delivery of the Local Outbreak Management Plan.

Members were advised that the Borough remain to have a widespread community transmission of covid-19 cases, but there has been a decrease in numbers from the week before. The Assistant Director informed that 83.1% of the eligible population in Wirral have now have their first dose of the vaccination and there has been a variation in the uptake of the vaccine. The vaccine has weakened between transmission and deaths but hospital admissions remain high.

Members welcomed the report and commented about the positive feedback that had been received by local residents of the support from public health.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

32 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

Vicki Shaw, Head of Legal Services introduced the report of the Director of Care and Health which provided the committee with an opportunity to plan and review its work across the municipal year.

Resolved – That the work programme be noted.

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, 11 March 2021

Present: Councillor W Clements (Chair)

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

35 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed Members of the Children's, Young People and Education Committee, Officers and viewing members of the public to the virtual meeting. An update was sought from Paul Boyce, Director of Children, Families and Education on the return of schools.

It was reported that children had returned to school earlier in the week and early indications were that the return had been successful with good attendance reported throughout the borough. Secondary schools and colleges had undertaken lateral flow testing prior to opening, and out of the 6000 student and 700 staff who had been tested, none had returned positive results. It was further reported that the Council had continued to support the safe return of children to school, with additional support in place for children in vulnerable families and the provision of additional digital devices where required. Parents were urged to continue to maintain social distancing, wear face coverings and avoid gatherings at the school gate.

The Chair thanked the Director for Children, Families and Education for his update and informed the Committee that the following day would be Paul's last day in post. The Committee expressed its thanks to Paul for his leadership during his tenure as Director for Children, Families and Education, during which Wirral had received recognition from the Department for Education, and wished him all the best for the future.

36 APOLOGIES

A roll call of Councillors was undertaken by the Head of Legal Services. No apologies for absence were received.

37 MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary interests in connection with any item(s) on the agenda and, if so, declare and state what they were.

The following declarations were made:

Councillor Wendy Clements	Personal interest in respect of item 8, 'Early Years Sufficiency and Covid-19 Response' by virtue of her employment in a charitable early years setting.
Councillor Jean Robinson	Personal interest in respect of item 8, 'Early Years Sufficiency and Covid-19 Response' by virtue of her employment in early years.
Councillor Sarah Spoor	Personal interest by virtue of her membership of Parent Carer Participation Wirral, and her employment in a Liverpool City Region school.

38 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2021 be agreed.

39 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

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

40 **WSCP SAFER ADOLESCENCE STRATEGY**

Anthony Kirk, Head of Service Contextual Safeguarding introduced the report of the Director for Children, Families and Education, which provided an overview of the Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) Safer Adolescence Strategy 2021-23.

The report set out the objectives of developing the strategy, which included:

- Promoting a more strategic preventative approach to adolescent safety by raising awareness of associated vulnerabilities;
- Enhancing the collective understanding of what is meant 'extra-familial harm', or 'risk outside the home';

- Embedding a shared set of partnership principles and values for working with adolescents; and
- Developing a Wirral contextual safeguarding framework.

The strategy further detailed the approach of contextual safeguarding, with a three levelled approach in terms of child level, location and groups level and a third level of themes and trends causing risk or harm or increasing vulnerability. Members welcomed the wide consultation and input from young people in shaping and developing the strategy, which included feedback from groups such as the Youth Voice Group, Junior and Youth Arts Group and Children in Care Council.

It was reported that there had been a similar level of contact during lockdown restriction, but the harm themes for adolescents had changed with a reduction around criminal exploitation and changes in anti-social behaviour patterns due to the restrictions on multi-household gatherings. It was further reported that there had been an increase in violence involving younger people during periods of lockdown easing. Further assurances were given around the national standards of transition to adulthood and the local measures to prevent children being held and charged as adults.

Resolved – That

- 1) the Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership Safer Adolescence Strategy 2021-23 be supported.**
- 2) the approach and ongoing development work within the Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership be noted.**

41 WIRRAL PUPIL PLACE PLANNING STRATEGY 2021-2026

Simone White, Assistant Director for Children’s Services introduced the report of the Director for Children, Families and Education which detailed the proposed introduction of a Wirral Pupil Place Planning Strategy 2021-2026 to set out a transparent and equitable approach for pupil place planning.

It was reported that the Council had a statutory responsibility to ensure there were sufficient school places available for children and young people in the right locations and at the right time to meet demand, as well as to identify how to remedy any excess or insufficiency in the provision of school places. The Pupil Place Planning Strategy 2021-2026 set out a methodology for forecasting pupil places, proposed a phased approach for reviewing school places across the five years and provided a detailed appraisal and governance framework to guide the review planning of school places.

A key set of principles would underpin the review process as part of the strategy to provide consistency and result in positive outcomes for future provision. The principles included a commitment to:

- Using detailed and meaningful insight and data to allow accurate and robust forecasting;
- Taking a collaborative approach and a commitment to work with all schools and stakeholders in ensuring they are consulted and involved;
- Maintaining a focus on inclusion so that children with different needs are offered high-quality education which meets their need; and
- Ensuring that children's educational outcomes and attainment are at the forefront of decision-making.

Members discussed the school place planning areas detailed within the strategy, and the impact housing development could have on how these were shaped. It was acknowledged that the strategy was a working document that could change over time.

Resolved – That

- 1) the Wirral Pupil Place Planning Strategy be endorsed.**
- 2) the Director of Children, Families and Education be requested to inform the wider membership of the Council of the Pupil Place Planning Strategy.**

42 **EARLY YEARS SUFFICIENCY AND COVID19 RESPONSE**

Carol Fenlon, Head of Early Childhood Services introduced the report of the Director for Children, Families and Education, which provided an overview of Wirral's Childcare market sufficiency for the period of April 2019 – March 2020, in addition to the response to Covid-19 including securing childcare places specifically for vulnerable and keyworker children.

It was reported that the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment was a statutory duty which provided analysis on whether there was sufficient childcare to meet the needs of families presently and in the future. The Wirral Childcare Sufficiency Assessment identified that there was a decreasing birth rate and that on average early years settings were 80% full with most settings having vacancies for all ages. Planning for future sustainability of childcare places after Covid-19 was a priority for Early Childhood Services, with business recovery online training being made available for providers.

The report further detailed the sufficiency of early years places during the pandemic. The Committee was advised that 216 of the 384 settings closed following the announcements of lockdown restrictions in March 2020, of which many were childminder services closing due to lack of demand or through providers having to shield following advice from Public Health England. It was

further reported that were positive signs of recovery across 2,3- and 4-year-old offer following the commencement of the autumn 2020 term, but there were still fluctuations in take up of early years place due to increased working from home or furlough arrangements.

Members welcomed the work undertaken to support early years settings during the pandemic.

Resolved – That

- 1) publication of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 19/20 be endorsed.**
- 2) Wirral’s Childcare Providers’ Covid-19 response in continuing to offer Early Years Childcare and Education through unprecedented times be noted.**

43 TRANSFORMING CARE THERAPEUTIC SHORT BREAKS

Anne-Marie Carney, Children’s Commissioning Manager introduced the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education, which outlined a Transforming Care Therapeutic Short Breaks Capital proposal and context on a capital bid process which was underway with NHS England for a grant to be used for children and young people experiencing levels of crisis or difficulty and presenting with behaviours of concern.

It was outlined that following a successful expression of interest stage, a full project proposal had been submitted to NHS England seeking capital fund to provide a facility for up to three young people at risk of attendance at Accident and Emergency, in need of assessment and treatment for mental health issues or in need of a placement away from their normal residence. It was noted that there was no similar provision currently in Wirral. The proposal included the appointment of a care provider for a 9-month period whilst a full tendering process was undertaken, and the Committee was advised that the option to support the facility in-house had been considered but it was felt that it was not achievable to recruit the necessary clinical oversight required for such a facility in a suitable timeframe.

The proposal included the facility for up to three young people and a member queried whether it was anticipated that long term admissions may result in a limited availability of spaces. In response, it was confirmed that modelling had been undertaken based on the existing tier 4 hospital admissions and that demand for places was usually limited to 2 or 3 beds at a time, consequently it was felt that the provision was sufficient for current demand. It was however anticipated that the demand for such places would increase in the future, therefore the Council would continue to explore further funding opportunities to create additional similar provision.

The Committee further considered the ongoing cost of the provision where it was confirmed that the anticipated annual cost based on 100% occupancy was £0.753m compared to the current cost of £0.878m for three externally commissioned placements. Further annual contributions from NHS England Transforming Care of £0.173m for two year helped to mitigate the risk of the occupancy being below 100%.

Resolved – That Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to:

- 1. accept the capital grant monies of up to £700,000 from NHS England to enable the purchase by the Council of a property to be used for the purpose of providing a facility for children and young people with Learning Difficulties, Autism and presenting mental health difficulties along with the delivery of suitable services to such occupants;**
- 2. delegate authority to the Director of Law and Governance to finalise the associated grant agreement;**
- 3. delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, the Director of Children, Families and Education and NHS England to purchase a property at market value suitable for the purposes outlined within the report; and**
- 4. delegate authority to the Director of Children, Families and Education to procure a registered care provider for the first nine months of the facility’s operation.**

44 **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING QUARTER 3**

Steven Prytherch, Senior Finance Business Partner, introduced the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education which set out the budget performance for Children, Young People and Education and the projected year-end revenue position as reported at Q3 2020/21.

It was reported that the overall financial forecast for Children, Young People and Education showed a full year favourable position of £0.433m, which was a significant change to the forecast at the previous quarter of an adverse position of £2.058m. The Committee was advised that national assumptions for additional demand for Children’s Social Care were reflected in the previous quarter forecast, but that the increased demand had not materialised, and the subsequent forecast had therefore been reduced by £0.771m. Furthermore, the increased costs associated with children requiring transport to ensure social distancing had been fully funded by Covid-19 grants, which alongside slippage cause by delays to implementation of contracts for modernisation

and Early Help and Prevention Services had resulted in the change in position since the previous quarter.

Further detail was provided on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget to increase transparency on how it was being spent. The expenditure was forecast to be in line with the budget, but there were significant pressures on the high needs block due to increases in demand and complexity. This had resulted in anticipated underspends earmarked for DSG reserves not materialising and instead the extra use of DSG reserves having to take place. It was queried how the reserves would be replenished, and members were informed that further funding for the high needs block would help to correct the position, alongside a DSG management plan that had been put in place to bring expenditure back in line with funding and recover the deficit.

Members sought further detail on the replenishment of the DSG reserve to be included in the budget monitoring management plan.

Resolved – That the projected year end revenue forecast position of £0.433m favourable and the capital position of £1.89m favourable, as reported at quarter 3 of 2020/21 be noted.

45 **WORK PROGRAMME**

Vicki Shaw, Head of Legal Services introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance, which outlined the proposed Children, Young People and Education Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2021/21 municipal year.

Members welcomed the performance monitoring data that would be available for future meetings and proposed a further item be considered at a future meeting on child mental health.

Resolved – That the proposed work programme for the remainder of the 2021/21 municipal year be noted.

46 **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL APPEAL PANEL**

Vicki Shaw, Head of Legal Services introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which sought the Children, Young People and Education Committee's approval of the appointment of additional members to the Independent Appeal Panel and Independent Review Panel to consider Admission Appeals and Exclusion Reviews.

The Committee was advised that in advance of school place offers being circulated to parents for September 2021, a recruitment process had taken place to increase the pool of individuals able to sit on the Admission Appeal

Panel, and approval was sought to appoint those recruited to the Panel. The relevant qualifications of the prospective members were included in the confidential appendix.

Resolved – That the appointment of the following members to the Independent Appeal Panel and Independent Review Panel be approved:

- **Mr Peter Mawdsley**
- **Mr Colin Harwood;**
- **Mrs Ruth Winterton;**
- **Mr Matthew Lloyd Evans;**
- **Mr David Buckley;**
- **Mrs Paula Dixon;**
- **Mr Phil Sheridan ; and**
- **Mrs Lynn Ireland.**

47 EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved – That

- 1) under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 2 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test had been applied and favoured exclusion.**
- 2) further to Minute No.46, the content of the exempt appendix circulated with the agenda, be noted.**

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 15 June 2021

Present: Councillor W Clements (Chair)

Councillors M Booth C Cooke
D Brennan AER Jones (In
K Cannon place of S Frost)
C Carubia Cherry Povall
H Collinson P Stuart
A Wright

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed Members, Officers and members of the public to the first meeting of the Children, Young People and Education Committee of the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Samantha Frost and Julie Johnson (Co-opted Member).

3 MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members were asked to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary interests in connection with any item(s) on the agenda and, if so, declare and state what they were.

The following declarations were made:

Councillor Cherry Povall	Personal interest as member of the Wirral Fostering Panel.
Councillor Paul Stuart	Personal interest by virtue of he and his wife being Local Authority foster carers.
Councillor Helen Collinson	Personal interest as Chair of Governors at St Peter's and by virtue of employment for an alternative provision service for children excluded from school.
Councillor Adrian Jones	Personal interest as a governor of Oldershaw School and his daughters

	employment as a teacher.
Councillor Chris Carubia	Personal interest as Chair of Governors at a Primary School.
Councillor Chris Cooke	Personal interest as a Governor of a Primary School.
Councillor Wendy Clements	Personal interest as a Governor of Greasby Junior School.

4 MINUTES

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2021 be agreed.

5 PUBLIC AND MEMBERS QUESTIONS

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

6 PREVENTION

Elizabeth Hartley, Assistant Director: Early Help and Prevention introduced the report of the Director for Children, Families and Education, which provided the Committee with an overview of the prevention approach recommended for adoption, including a Prevention Policy Statement and Prevention Framework. In addition, the report detailed the Breaking the Cycle programme, which sought to demonstrate how a collaboration of preventative activity could maximise opportunity and lead to better outcomes for people, services, and organisations.

It was reported that the Prevention Policy Statement was intended to make a clear commitment from the Council to early intervention and prevention, whilst the framework provided structure and guidance on taking preventative approaches, defining the different levels of prevention and setting out 6 foundations for preventative approaches, these were:

- Strategic Leadership
- Place-based Approach
- Strengths-based Approach
- Equity
- Whole-system Approach
- Co-production

The intention was to create a suite of preventative programmes, one of which was the Breaking the Cycle programme which was presented to the Committee. The programme intended to bring together a range of

interventions working towards similar outcomes, and would work with people dealing with deprivation factors associated with deprivation such as drug abuse and risk of homelessness to give them priority access to catalyst projects, and eventually would be used to ask wider agencies to work differently with this cohort of people to provide support in a more suitable way.

Members expressed significant support for the approach and sought further clarity on the source of the funding. The Assistant Director: Early Help and Intervention informed the Committee that the Council had been successful in funding bids over a number of years, and that this workstream pulled together those different strands of work to maximise their effectiveness.

Resolved – That Policy and Resources be recommended to:

- 1) Approve the Prevention Policy Statement and Prevention Framework.**
- 2) Endorse the Breaking the Cycle programme approach.**

7 YOUTH OFFER

Elizabeth Hartley, Assistant Director: Early Help and Prevention introduced the report of the Director for Children, Families and Education providing the Committee with an overview of proposals to implement an equitable, consistent, branded, neighbourhood youth offer for universal, open access provision.

Members were reminded that in Summer 2019 a review of youth provision in Wirral took place, including a consultation in which approximately 3,000 young people took part. A report went to Cabinet in February 2020 where four proposals were approved, the fifth proposal relating to the delivery of youth clubs being deferred for further development, and the report before the Committee presented the revised arrangements for youth clubs for approval.

The report detailed the current youth offer and outlined the strengths of the offer which would be retained in the new model including a mixed economy of provision and a qualified and experienced workforce. The report also detailed the weaknesses of the current that the new offer would need to overcome including an inequitable offer across the borough, impact of staff absence on delivery and lack of consistent brand and quality assurance. Details of the proposed new offer were presented to the committee, which would use the neighbourhood model to provide a consistent offer, developing a service brand and set of standards with young people, using a quality assurance framework to ensure consistency, and introducing a set of key performance indicators for collective impact.

The committee considered several elements within the offer including the Hive outreach work and the role of the Neighbourhood Youth Workers. It was queried whether the offer had been tested with young people to see if would meet their needs, and it was confirmed that the Young People's Action Group had been engaged during the development of the proposals and were supportive of the approach.

Resolved – That delegated authority be given to the Director of Children's Services to carry out actions for the delivery of a universal, open access youth provision as set out in Paragraph 3.6, 3.16, 3.18 and Appendix 2 to the report.

8 CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

Anne-Marie Carney, Children's Commissioning Manager introduced the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education, which sought agreement in principle to invest up to £1m by way of a loan to the organisation identified in the exempt appendix to the report to develop children's residential accommodation in Wirral.

The Committee was reminded that in March 2019 the Children Looked After Sufficiency Strategy was adopted which prioritised the increase in placement provision within Wirral. The need to do so was driven by a number of factors which the report outlined, these included:

- Rising numbers of Children Looked After
- Escalating costs as demand exceeded supply
- Mixed quality of current provision
- Inward-facing market reducing the Council's ability to procure local placements for children
- Lack of sufficiency within the market
- Increase in private provision and use of growth acquisition models across the sector

The different options considered to tackle this were outlined to the Committee. It was acknowledged that doing nothing was not an option due to the unsustainability of the current market. Other options included commissioning an external provider to provide services in Council-owned property, which was discounted due to lack of appropriate accommodation and lack of interest from providers to deliver a service without the associated asset, and a further option was to enter into a joint venture with a service provider, which was also discounted due to it being a technical and time-consuming process which was not warranted given the level of investment proposed. The report detailed other options that had also been considered and discounted.

The proposal put to the Committee was to agree in principle to invest up to £1m by way of a loan on commercial terms to the organisation identified in the

exempt appendix, who had set out an ambitious proposal to set up a new social enterprise that would create a new ethical, sustainable network of residential care homes that significantly improved the life chances of children living in care. The loan would be used to support the organisation to provide initial rental allocation or purchase property, enable recruitment and secure access onto the North West Flexible Purchasing Scheme.

Members welcomed the approach but queried the need to agree to the approach in principle prior to due diligence being undertaken. Officers advised that the item was before Committee for agreement in principle to ensure that members were agreeable to the approach before officers undertook further work, and to give the provider in discussion with the Council assurances that they would receive funding, should they become the chosen provider. Members further queried whether it was necessary for the recommendation in the report to tie the Council to one specific provider.

It was moved by Councillor Kate Cannon and seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart, that recommendation 1 in the report be amended to read:

‘That agreement be given in principle to invest up to £1m by way of a loan on commercial terms to enable the development of children’s homes within Wirral for children looked after.’

The motion was put and carried unanimously. It was therefore –

Resolved – That

- 1) agreement be given in principle to invest up to £1m by way of a loan on commercial terms to enable the development of children’s homes within Wirral for children looked after.**
- 2) the Director of Children, Families and Education be requested to bring a further report to Committee after due diligence had been completed in respect of the proposals set out in the report.**

9 SEND SERVICE UPDATE

James Backhouse, Assistant Director of Education introduced the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education which provided an update on the Special Education Needs and Disabilities services that supported young people in education.

The Committee was reminded that at its meeting in December 2020, it approved the SEND Strategy 2020-2024 and the subsequent SEND Improvement Plan aimed at addressed concerns with the service. The report detailed actions that were being taken as part of that plan, these included:

- Recruitment of staff in the SEND assessment team to ensure completion of Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) assessments within the statutory 20-week timeframe.
- A review of provision for young people requiring Special School placements for September 2021, with additional capacity being agreed to sustain the additional demand.
- Short-term placements and additional long-term recruitment processes taking place to address the staff shortages being faced nationally in Educational Psychology, which were resulting in challenges in delivering assessments within the relevant time frame.

Members raised several concerns including the number of EHCP assessments taking place outside of the statutory timescales and sought further information on the outcomes of tribunals relating to children with SEND. A further discussion was had around the number of children requiring EHCPs and whether there was any benchmarking data that could be provided to committee. Further clarity was sought on the short-term solutions to address the capacity challenges in the Education Psychology team, where officers confirmed that locum support had been recruited and greater links had been made with the university for additional trainees.

It was moved by Councillor Wendy Clements, seconded by Councillor Kate Cannon, that –

“Having received the service update, the Children, Young People and Education Committee expresses its deep concern regarding the current position of the SEND service and the impact that this has upon families and children. The Committee requests a further update in three months on progress towards completing Education Health and Care Plan assessments within the statutory timeframe, seeking evidence of progress in this vital and statutory service for those Wirral families who need it.”

The motion was put and carried unanimously. It was therefore –

Resolved – That having received the service update, the Children, Young People and Education Committee expresses its deep concern regarding the current position of the SEND service and the impact that this has upon families and children. The Committee requests a further update in three months on progress towards completing Education Health and Care Plan assessments within the statutory timeframe, seeking evidence of progress in this vital and statutory service for those Wirral families who need it.

Vicki Shaw, Head of Legal Services introduced the report which enabled the committee to appoint members and named deputies to serve on statutory and advisory committees and working parties for 2021/22 Municipal Year.

It was reported that Cllr Chris Cooke had indicated a wish to be a member of the Corporate Parenting Panel and therefore the committee would need to agree to increase the membership from 5 to 7 to ensure it remained politically proportionate.

It was proposed by Councillor Wendy Clements, seconded by Councillor Kate Cannon that the membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel be increased to 7. The motion was put and carried unanimously. It was therefore –

Resolved – That

- 1) the Monitoring Officer as proper officer be authorised to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Statutory and Advisory Committees listed in the report and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.**
- 2) the current constitution and membership of the School Appeals Panel be noted.**
- 3) the membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel be increased to 7 members.**

11 2021/22 BUDGET MONITORING AND 22/23 BUDGET PROCESS

Simone White, Director of Children, Families and Education introduced the report of the Director of Resources which outlined the processes for monitoring the 2021/22 budget and for commencing the budget setting process for 2022/23.

It was reported that following the capitalisation directive of up to £10.7m the Council had received from Ministry for Housing, Local Government and Communities, one of the conditions of that offer was that the Council needed 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 was important that the Council had 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 2022/23 budget setting was underway early so that an agreed budget could be agreed by Council in March 2022.

Members acknowledged that the Policy and Resources Committee had resolved to pilot zero based budgeting in Adult Social Care and Public Health, but it was queried whether there was scope to undertake the preliminary zero-based budgeting without taking part in the pilot. It was confirmed that the principles of zero-based budgeting would be adopted to ensure that funding was taken away from areas where there were savings to be made and directed to areas with cost pressures.

Resolved – That

- 1) 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 be noted.**
- 2) the current proposals within this report from the Medium Term Financial Plan from 2022/23 – 2025/26 and the Director of Children be agreed for the Families and Education 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) a series of budget workshops be convened 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.**

12 CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING QUARTER 4 (APRIL - MARCH 2021)

Steven Prytherch, Senior Finance Business Partner, introduced the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education which set out the budget performance for Children, Young People and Education and the projected year-end revenue position as reported at Q4 2020/21, which was reported as a favourable position of £1.476m and a favourable capital position of £2.8m.

The report detailed the reasons for the position, where it was outlined that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic had resulted in one-off actions and funding which had positively impacted on the position. It was further reported that within the Dedicated Schools Grant there was an adverse variance in the High Needs Block of £1.373m due to additional demand in both volume and complexity, but that the favourable position in the early years budget due to reduction in attendance had offset the shortfall in the Dedicated Schools Block. The report further detailed the favourable position in the Capital Budget, where it was explained that it was due to a delay in school improvements due to Covid-19 and the underspend would be rolled over into the next financial year when work could proceed.

Members considered the various underspends and overspends within the overall budget. It was acknowledged that some of the underspends were due to the humanitarian efforts to support families during the pandemic which it was felt highlighted the importance and positive outcomes of a preventative approach.

Resolved – That the projected year-end revenue forecast position of £1.476m favourable and the capital position of £2.8m favourable, as reported at quarter 4 (April-March) of 2020-21 be noted.

13 **CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

Simone White, Director of Children, Families and Education introduced the report, which set out a revised performance monitoring and reporting framework for the Committee. The new approach had been designed in consultation with the Chair and Group Spokes, aiming to deliver an open, honest and transparent performance framework that would allow Committee Members to effectively challenge performance and support decision-making.

It was reported that the focus was on reporting performance information relating to child social care, but that there was a need to understand other parts of the system to ensure that members could have a wider oversight on all performance information affecting children and families. It was hoped that the new PowerBI technology would allow members to be able to look at the headlines at both Wirral and ward level, and then drill down into the underlying data. Therefore, the report was intended as an interim report to introduce the new system to members.

Members discussed a wide range of data including that relating to Independent Reviewing Officers Caseloads and Escalations alongside turnover of social service staff. Further information on national benchmarking of performance data and missing episodes were requested.

Resolved – That

- 1) the report be noted and the work completed to date as well as the next steps involved in developing a robust performance monitoring framework that encompasses all aspects of Children's Services be acknowledged.**
- 2) the proposed clusters of performance indicators in Appendix A be agreed.**
- 3) the delivery of Performance Management Workshops during the summer where elected Members would receive training on the Council's business intelligence system including how to access**

and navigate around real-time data reports be agreed.

4) the content of the databook in Appendix C be noted.

14 FOSTERING AND ADOPTION ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT. REPORTING PERIOD 1 APRIL 2020 – 31ST MARCH 2021

Nabeel Chaudhry, Head of Integrated Provision introduce the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education which provided an overview of fostering and adoption performance during the financial year of 2020 – 2021 and how this linked to the Council’s children looked after ‘sufficiency duties’.

Members were advised that a key priority for Children’s Services was for Children Looked After to be living in family-based settings, most notably foster placements. At the end of the reporting period (31st March 2021), 59% of children were living in local authority ‘in-house’ foster placements. Overall, 71% of children were living in foster placements taking into account 12% of those in placed with private fostering agencies. The Committee was further advised of the success in recruiting 12 new fostering households, alongside the successful marketing campaign in late 2020 which resulted in an increase in enquiries resulting in approvals of new foster carers. Overall, during the reporting period, 25 children had been adopted and a further 23 were placed with prospective adoptive families.

Members welcomed the figures and sought further information on the reasons why foster carers stopped providing care. The level of training provided was raised, where it was confirmed that each carer had an individual training and personal development plan which compliance with was a key requirement of them being a carer.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

15 WORK PROGRAMME

Vicki Shaw, Head of Legal Services introduced the report which provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

Members acknowledged that work had already been undertaken on the healthy weight agenda and suggested it be removed from the work programme. It was further suggested that a report on the impact of the pandemic on job prospects for school leavers be added to the work programme.

Resolved – That

- 1) the proposed work programme be noted.
- 2) the Healthy Weight item be removed from the work programme.
- 3) the working group for the provision of food and activities in school holidays during the Covid-19 pandemic be re-established.
- 4) Councillors Cherry Povall, Chris Carubia and Moira McLaughlin be appointed to remain on the working group for the provision of food and activities in school holidays during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 5) the Monitoring Officer as proper officer be authorise to carry out the wishes of the Labour Group leader in allocating a Labour member to the working group for the provision of food and activities in school holidays during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

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

17 **CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME**

Resolved – That the content of the exempt appendix be noted.

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ECONOMY REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 8 June 2021

Present: Councillor T Jones (Chair)

Councillors K Greaney D Mitchell
G Wood P Martin
D Burgess-Joyce E Gleaves
A Gardner A Hodson
C Povall T Smith

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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

2 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Tony Jones declared another interest as a Board Member of the Wirral Growth Company in relation to the Birkenhead Temporary Market item (Minute 7) although he reminded Members that the item has been requested to be withdrawn by officers

4 MINUTES

Resolved - that the minutes of the meeting of the Economic, Regeneration and Development Committee held on 4 March 2021 be agreed as a true record.

5 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

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

6 ACTIVE TRAVEL FUNDING

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

Chief Regeneration Officer Sally Shah presented the report and highlighted that delegated authority was requested as there was no finalised programme to date and formal consultation had not yet taken place. She explained that Tranche 1 funding was awarded as part of the Covid response and two schemes had progressed but difficulties in supply of building materials had developed and a delay had been required. Tranche 2 was in the form of a proposed programme and consultation was to take place with Members in the relevant Wards and then with the public. The initial list of proposed schemes was attached to the report and had been informed by the criteria for the funding and by previous consultations with Wirral.

Members discussed the consultation methods and were concerned at some schemes appearing on the list in the report and suggested that two of these - the Crescent and proposed cycle way through Wallasey and New Brighton – be formally deferred until consultation took place.

Resolved (by assent) – That Policy and Resources Committee:

- (1) Authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place to accept the grant funding of £1,153,380 allocated to Wirral Council by Liverpool City Region Combined Authority for the Active Travel Fund Tranche 1 and 2 Programmes and accept the Local Authority Active Travel Capability Fund Programme indicative allocation of £286,000**
- (2) Approve the proposed Active Travel Fund Tranche 1 and 2 Programmes and the Active Travel Capability Fund Programme (“the Programmes”) as set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of this report.**
- (3) Authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and the Chair and Spokespersons of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee to amend the Programmes if required having due regard to any issues that may arise during design or consultation stages of projects.**
- (4) Note that the above authority and approvals are subject to the schemes at the Crescent and proposed cycle way through Wallasey and New Brighton being deferred until a consultation process has taken place.**

7 BIRKENHEAD TEMPORARY MARKET

The Chair announced that the Director of Regeneration and Place has requested permission to withdraw this report to allow further consultation and examination of options to take place.

Members discussed the progress of the scheme.

Resolved – that the Birkenhead Temporary Market item be withdrawn and deferred to a future meeting.

8 2021/22 BUDGET MONITORING AND 22/23 BUDGET PROCESS

Councillor Tony Jones declared an interest in this item as a Board Member of the Wirral Growth Company.

The Director of Regeneration and Place Alan Evans presented this report which highlighted the processes for monitoring the 2021/22 budget and the budget setting process for 2022/23. The Committee was accountable for ensuring that the committee budget remained within the relevant envelope and was to take collective responsibility via the Policy and Resources Committee to ensure that the whole Council budget remained in balance at all times, by agreeing mitigating actions to bring the budget back in line, should a deficit be forecast.

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). This document was prepared by Officers and required committee oversight and approval, and whether any proposals within it should be taken forward into business cases and brought to workshops and a further report to Committee.

In answer to Members questions, it was emphasised that any income which was deferred because of delayed schemes would not be lost but would be realised in a different financial year.

Resolved (by assent) - That

- (1) 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 be noted.**
- (2) the current proposals within this report from the Medium Term Financial Plan from 2022/23 – 2025/26 and the Director of Regeneration and Place be included 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) a series of budget workshops be convened 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) the Zero-Based Budgeting project within the budget workshops be commenced to contribute to the overall savings target of £170k in 2021/22.**

9 **2020/21 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT**

Senior Finance Business Partner Karen Page introduced this report which provided a summary of the year-end revenue outturn and capital position for the Committee as at the end of March 2021 for the 2020/21 financial year.

The Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic continued to present financial risk due to uncertainty and fluidity in the external environment, and due to movement of staff to deliver the emergency response which had delayed work on schemes.

The overall financial position for the Council remained challenging, and a number of actions were instigated during the year to mitigate the overall position including limiting spending to essential areas of service delivery only, with Corporate Directors supported to mitigate the risk of overspending.

For the Committee, there was an adverse position of £0.514 million, but this was partly mitigated by revenue.

Resolved - That

(1) the adverse year-end outturn of £0.514m be noted.

(2) the impact of funding and expenditure as a direct consequence of Covid-19 be noted.

(3) the Capital Programme Report be noted.

10 **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO ACTIVE TRAVEL WORKING GROUP**

Lead Principal Lawyer Matthew Neal presented this report which was to enable the Committee to review the continuing need for advisory groups and to appoint Members to serve on those that are to be retained in 2021/2022.

The report followed on from a report in March 2021 when the Active Travel Members Working Group had been established comprising 8 Members. There was also an Active Travel Forum which was outward facing and open to any individual with an interest. The Group was to interact with the Forum and route recommendations to this Committee for consideration.

Members queried the benefits of any recommended active travel schemes if they conflicted with economic schemes but were reminded that the Committee would make a final decision, taking account any recommendations from the Active Travel Working Group. It was noted that there was some cross-over with the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee regarding active travel schemes.

Councillor Tony Jones proposed amendments that the membership be drawn from this Committee and the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee; that the Chair be appointed Chair of the Active Travel Working

Group; and that authority be delegated to the Director of Law and Governance to make consequential amendments to the terms of reference of the Active Travel Working Group.

This was seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

The amendments were agreed by assent.

Resolved –

- (1) that the membership of the Active Travel Working Group be drawn from the Chair and Spokespersons of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee and that additionally the Chair and Spokespersons of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee be invited to become members of the Group;**
- (2) That the Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee be appointed as Chair of the Active Travel Working Group; and That authority be delegated to the Director of Law and Governance to make consequential amendments to the terms of reference of the Active Travel Working Group.**

11 ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

Resolved –

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

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ECONOMY REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, 26 July 2021

Present: Councillor T Jones (Chair)

Councillors K Greaney A Gardner
P Martin A Hodson
T Smith C Povall
G Wood D Mitchell
D Burgess-Joyce E Gleaves

12 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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

13 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

14 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Tony Jones declared a prejudicial interest in items 6,7 and 10 (items connected with Wirral Growth Company) as a board member of the Wirral Growth Company and would leave the meeting for those items.

15 MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting of the Economic, Regeneration and Development Committee held on 8 June 2021 be agreed as a true record.

16 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

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

17 WIRRAL GROWTH COMPANY: BIRKENHEAD PHASE 1 FINAL SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Councillor Tony Jones, having declared a pecuniary interest in this item, left the meeting.

Councillor Andrew Hodson, as Vice-Chair, took the position of Chair.

Chief Regeneration Officer Sally Shah introduced this item which sought Member endorsement to the formal Site Development Plan (SDP) for Phase 1 of Birkenhead Town Centre. The plan had been developed by the Wirral Growth Company (WGC) as part of the Partnership Agreement that the Council and MUSE Developments entered into on 19th March 2019. The draft indicative SDP was contained in the Partnership Business Plan and approved by Cabinet on 24th February 2020. WGC obtained planning permission for Phase 1 of the scheme, a funder had been identified and the proposed SDP was approved by the Wirral Growth Company Board at its meeting on 1st July 2021.

The Phase 1 development consisted of two office buildings in Birkenhead and an associated electricity substation. The larger building would be occupied by Wirral Council and the second would be let on the open market. Both buildings would be built to high environmental standards.

Members discussed the risks, including whether there was demand for lettings, and were reassured that the lettings market was monitored regularly and there was a strong likelihood of pre-lets for the second building. The lack of existing transport infrastructure was also questioned, but it was explained that this development would kick start investment in other projects including infrastructure in the phased development and that funding had been secured through Future High Streets Fund for transport improvements.

Resolved – that Policy and Resources Committee approves the Formal Site Development Plan for Birkenhead Commercial District Phase 1.

18 **WIRRAL GROWTH COMPANY - GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

Councillor Tony Jones, having declared a pecuniary interest in this item, remained outside of the meeting.

Councillor Andrew Hodson, as Vice-Chair, took the position of Chair.

Phil McCourt, the Director of Law and Governance, introduced this report which recommended the arrangements by which the Council was represented on the Policy Board of the Wirral Growth Company Limited Liability Partnership. There were four appointments to be made to the Policy Board, two of which had been occupied by officers, those being the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Resources.

Member debated the implications of having four officer appointments so that all Members could be involved in discussion rather than having to declare an interest and leaving a meeting during any such discussion. This would allow Members to fully scrutinise decisions made. Members felt that it was a

decision which should be passed to the Policy and Resources Committee to make whilst discussions took place within groups and with Political Group Leaders.

Resolved –

That Policy and Resources Committee are requested to:

- (1) approve that the officers holding the post for the time being of Assistant Director Finance and Investment and the Director of Children Families and Education continue to be the Council's officer appointments to the Board of the Wirral Growth Company Limited Liability Partnership and that those persons (and their successors) remain so appointed until they resign, are removed by subsequent decision or until they cease to hold such post as officer of the Council; and**
- (2) consider whether Members should be appointed to the Board and discussions take place in the meantime within the political groups and with group leaders.**

19 WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

Councillor Tony Jones returned to the position of Chair.

The Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. This work programme was to align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which are within the remit of the Committee.

Resolved –

That the content of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee work programme which is proposed in this report for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year be approved.

20 EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

21 **WIRRAL GROWTH COMPANY: BIRKENHEAD PHASE 1 FINAL SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN EXEMPT APPENDICES**

Councillor Tony Jones, having declared a pecuniary interest in this item, left the meeting.

Councillor Andrew Hodson, as Vice-Chair, took the position of Chair.

The Appendices to this report contained exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. It was in the public interest to exclude the press and public during consideration of these items under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as they contained commercially sensitive information.

Resolved –

That the exempt appendices, to the Wirral Growth Company: Birkenhead Phase 1 Site Development Plan, be noted.

22 **HOYLAKE GOLF RESORT, DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT**

Councillor Tony Jones returned to the position of Chair.

This report contains exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. It was in the public interest to exclude the press and public under:

Paragraph 1 'Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information); and

Paragraph 5 'Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.'

Members were given details regarding a legal issue and a potential solution. Members asked questions regarding the position, the background issues for the issues involved and the possibilities for resolution.

Resolved –

That the Hoylake Golf Resort Development Agreement item be referred as urgent business to Policy and Resources Committee meeting on Wednesday 28 July for consideration.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 16 March 2021

Present: Councillor EA Grey (Chair)

Councillors	C Cooke	T Norbury
	B Berry	I Williams
	H Cameron	A Wright
	S Foulkes	A Brame (In place of A Corkhill)
	C Muspratt	

32 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

33 APOLOGIES

Councillor Andy Corkhill had submitted apologies for absence.

34 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

35 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee held on 1 February 2021 be approved and adopted as a correct record.

36 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

One question had been received, for the Chair.

Question from Sue Noyce - Although it would be reassuring to know that environmental concerns are instrumental in shaping every aspect of every policy decision taken in Wirral it is clear this is not yet the case. While issues such as cutting green spaces only to encourage wild flower regeneration and not to make places 'tidy', tree regeneration rather than planting, no 'pruning' of bushes with chainsaws, consulting with local conservation groups and explaining these decisions to the public are all important. Local conservation experts consider the spread of rhododendron to be the most pressing issue facing Wirral habitats currently. Could you please advise us of what measures, if any, the council is already taking to check the spread of this

invasive species and what actions may be under consideration to take place in the near future?

Response from Councillor Liz Grey - I want to clarify a few points that you made, we are engaged in significant rewilding of green spaces, our tree strategy makes very clear of plans to use natural regeneration, not just tree planting in our pledge to double tree cover by 2030. I agree that consultation and engagement is important. I ask that officers liaise with councillors and residents over our rewilding and regeneration projects in all areas that are not sensitive or are non-protected sites. I agree that rhododendron spread is a problem in some areas.

Our Wirral Parks and Countryside Officers work with many Friends of Parks groups, volunteer groups and other stakeholders. They also work with and take advice from Natural England who undertake condition assessments of the nationally protected sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) and Wirral Wildlife (Cheshire Wildlife Local Group) who undertake ecological surveys and advise the local authority on the condition of the locally designated Local Wildlife Sites.

Using this information, plans are produced to assist and inform of individual park management policies and may make specific reference to Rhododendron. In the Grange Hill Management Plan for example the following is noted: Rhododendron occurs in places and should be controlled to prevent further encroachment. Where conditions are suitable, Rhododendron can out-compete most native plants. It can grow to many times the height of a person, allowing very little light to penetrate through its thick leaf canopy. This can eliminate other native plants which are unable to grow due to insufficient light. This in turn can lead to the loss of associated native animals.

Some sites have specific conservation objectives which may be part of a Countryside Stewardship Agreement with Natural England. At Brotherton Park and Dibbinsdale Local Nature Reserve the 5-year Conservation Management Plan included the following: Rhododendron management began in 2012, it has been cut and left to grow as small bushes while other species move in. This is to maintain the stability of the escarpment before the rhododendron is stump treated or removed. At Eastham Country Park Rhododendron is mentioned where it occurs within the old Victorian Pleasure Gardens: However certain species, namely laurel and rhododendron, are able to spread fast and often outcompete much of the native flora so the ranger alongside volunteers regularly cuts back and removes these species to prevent spreading to the rest of the woodland.

The above are references to some work that takes place within Wirral's parks regarding Rhododendron. It's important to note that Rhododendron species are not listed as an invasive non-native species of special concern by the Government and therefore in places (such as the old Victorian Pleasure Gardens at Eastham) it is managed as an ornamental plant. If Rhododendron

is identified as a specific problem on a site we would include it in the site management/action plan and if people have concerns about Rhododendrons growing at a specific site we would, of course, be happy to survey the area and action as appropriate.

The last 12 months have required Government to reassess grants and other financial support for conservation projects. Where possible though we will continue to look at Countryside Stewardship and other grants to assist with control of Rhododendron on our nationally protected sites and continue to manage our Local Wildlife Sites, parks and countryside areas with the valued support from our Friends groups and other volunteers.

37 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS**

One statement had been received from Gail Jenkinson regarding a substantial number of road safety measures that have been raised by the residents of Greasby, Frankby & Irby.

When we've been campaigning around Greasby from Frankby and Irby, the biggest thing that comes up is road safety obviously depending on where the person lives it is different issues but nevertheless it's road safety. In 2019 we took a informal survey just along a few roads in Greasby including what we call the Way Road which is East Way, West Way, Broadway, Greenway and also the RAF estate we asked three simple questions which were: do you think that the speed limit around schools should be reduced to 20 miles an hour? Almost universally the answer was yes except for those people who thought it should be lower. Do you think the residential roads in Greasby should be reduced to 20 miles an hour? Broadly in favour about 60%. Do you think all roads in Greasby? And the answer for that was round about 25% in favour but bearing in mind we didn't talk to anybody who lived on Greasby Road, Arrow Road, Mill Lane just because of time because of the election and a pandemic got in the way of carrying on the survey. Nevertheless we have still found a number of issues relating to road safety because of course as with most of the Wirral when the houses were built for the residents to live in they did not anticipate so many cars or even cars could go so fast or cars that will be going backwards and forwards all day.

Indulge me a little whilst I go down memory lane, as a child we used to sit on one of the residential walls on Greasby Road when the new number plates came out and we would wait minutes before cars would come along never mind waiting for a car to come along with a new number plate. When these houses were built there was no anticipation of this amount of traffic and also places like Brookdale School had its 50th anniversary a few years ago I think that was built in 1962 and Greasby Juniors, Greasby Infants were around before then. The churches were also placed before then Our Lady of Pity has been there for a long time which is on a bend on Mill Lane so what we are

asking please is if road safety measures could be put in place. I've sent a letter to Councillor Grey itemising them all and I don't think it's useful for me to go through all of them here because it would just be dreadfully dull but nevertheless there are quite a few junction's we generally have a lot of speeding on residential roads notably round the Way roads the main roads like Irby Road subject to a lot of speeding, Hill Bark Road since the invention of SAT NAV a lot of heavy lorries are being directed down Hill Bark Road which is clearly unsuitable and we have farm traffic going up and down but inevitably farm traffic is very slow it is familiar with the road but large lorries going at the speed limit along Hill Bark Road are just dangerous for start they cover more than half the road so can collide with oncoming traffic, there is a danger to oncoming traffic. Pump Lane with the speed limits being as they are people tend to speed through them and also anticipate as they're going out agreed to be ramping up their speed, the RAF estate itself should have a 20 mile per hour limit but the sides have long since disappeared, Reverend Lester who is the vicar at Our Lady of Pity church he has confirmed and a number of his congregation have said to us, which is coming out of the church on a Sunday is very difficult particularly because the congregations are more elderly so coming out of the church across the road on Mill Lane on a bend by Barker Lane is just very difficult and quite dangerous and possibly the biggest site of accidents is the junction, so Greasby village shops where you come down through the village there is a crossroads actually but it's not marked as a crossroads you can come out of McDonald Drive turn left into Greasby Road or go straight to Arrowe Road and the amount of parked cars there particularly when cars are speeding down through the village which they do as downhill there have been a number of accidents and while we know that our funds are limited and you go mostly where there are more fatalities there have been so many accidents there were people have been injured for months and it's affected their lives that we would ask particularly that you look around there but in addition to that is the schools I know you have been looking at that but we really need our schools to be safer, myself I live right near Brookedale School and the amount of cars speeding down there in the morning because the late is ridiculous 40 mile an hour on a residential Road just because they're late it's wrong so if I could ask the committee considered all these points and the rest of the points that have made in my letter is a single major concern for residents Greasby, Frankby and Irby and I would appreciate your attention thank you.

Councillor Grey thanked Gail for her statement and mentioned that she had been out collecting road safety concerns for residents with Gail and others in this area and other areas. The experience had informed her as she was going into the Road Safety Working Group and the recommendations were being voted on later in this Committee meeting.

38 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

There were no questions by Members.

39 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY POLICY

The report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services presented the Council's Environment and Climate Emergency Policy (attached as Appendix 1 of the report), following the work undertaken by Committee's delegated task & finish group.

The proposed Policy was ambitious and proposed that the Council aimed to achieve 'net carbon neutrality by 2030.' The development of the Council's Environment and Climate Emergency Policy had been supported by third party climate change experts, 'Local Partnerships,' who had confirmed that the Council achieving net carbon neutrality in 10 years was an ambitious but achievable target.

The Environment and Climate Emergency Policy provided the basis for the Council's journey to becoming carbon emissions neutral within the decade. It recognised that all aspects of the Council's function, ways of working, decision making, and service delivery would change to address the environment and climate emergency.

Mike Cockburn, Head of the Environment and Climate Emergency Service, introduced the report and informed Members that there was a dedicated climate emergency budget and there would be a future report with a financial plan, as well as reports at key milestones and key achievements.

Members asked questions which brought out additional details such as:

- That the annual tree planting target (20,000 a year for ten years) had slipped for 2020 but would catch up with schemes such as offering trees to garden waste subscribers, working with schools and recruiting a Tree Landscape Manager.
- Engagement with residents about planting would be undertaken by the new Manager.
- Pollarding would be avoided where possible.
- Larger trees which had to be felled were to be replaced by several new trees but not necessarily in the same location if this was inappropriate.
- There was a plan to have a simplified 'dashboard' of headline statistics for ease of viewing.

Resolved - That

- (1) the work of the Members' Task & Finish Group in developing recommendations for the Council's Environment & Climate Emergency Policy be noted.**
- (2) the Council's Environment & Climate Emergency Policy be approved.**

40 LITTER AND DOG FOULING UPDATE

The report of Director of Neighbourhood Services provided an update to Members regarding litter collection and treatment in Wirral and summarised the proposed Dog Fouling Strategy, following a request at Committee on 22 October 2020 for an update regarding litter in Wirral and what happened once it had been collected. Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions at the end of March 2020 Wirral had seen a 53% increase in street cleansing waste collected. Online reports of dog fouling had also increased by 23%. The Council was to follow set stages to tackle hot spot locations of dog fouling and litter, including Intelligence-led decision making, enabling, education, engagement and enforcement. All collected litter and street cleansing was sent with Wirral's household waste to the energy from waste facility in Teesside, where it was burned to generate heat and electricity. None of the litter was separated for recycling, due to high levels of contamination (non-recyclable materials, food and liquids).

Mike Cockburn, Head of the Environment and Climate Emergency Service, presented the report and gave additional details such as that residual household waste had increased due to home working. Footfall had increased in coastal locations which was challenging the volume of litter bins there, although there was an increase in volunteering litter-pickers such as Wirral Wombles. Regarding dog fouling there would be an audit of bins as some were in the wrong place, and an expansion of the dispensing boards for waste bags. A Communications campaign was planned as well as engagement with user groups and individuals.

Members asked questions with drew out additional details including:

- Residual waste may have to be restricted to incentivize recycling.
- Wirral would need to work with Liverpool City Region to make food recycling work.
- There was new legislation expected from Government which would make food recycling statutory.
- Members appreciated the work of the litter-picking volunteers.

Resolved - That

- (1) the report be noted.**
- (2) the new staged approach to litter and dog fouling be supported. The information gathered will be used to develop the dog fouling strategy.**

41 'GEAR CHANGE' DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT PLAN FOR CYCLING AND WALKING

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place presented 'Gear Change', the Department of Transport's Cycling and Walking Plan for England and the associated cycle infrastructure design guidance contained in Local

Transport Note 1/20. The Plan and guidance promoted the consideration of active travel in all infrastructure schemes, coherently across different schemes and to a high standard in order to access Government funding.

Simon O'Brien, the Liverpool City Region Cycling and Walking Commissioner, presented the report and answered questions, noting that:

- that consultation was important as schemes may be disruptive although they would have benefits in health and wellbeing.
- The Plan should enable shorter journeys to be undertaken safely which should encourage more active travel.
- Car infrastructure had been the focus for over 40 years yet journeys were not necessarily faster.

Resolved -

That the publication of the Department for Transport Cycling and Walking Strategy 'Gear Change' and the associated cycle infrastructure design guidance contained in Local Transport Note 1/20 be noted.

42 **COMBINED AUTHORITY TRANSPORT PLAN (INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLOCK) PROGRAMME 2021/22**

The report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services sought approval for the Council's Combined Authority Transport Plan Integrated Transport Block programme for 2021/22 (subject to the finalisation of discussions with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority) and to allocate it to priorities and projects as outlined in the report, focussing on schemes having the most effect for people across the borough within available resources.

Simon Fox, the Assistant Director for Highways and Infrastructure, presented the report, reminding Members that this was an annual report setting out how we proposed to utilise funding from Liverpool City Region.

Resolved - That

- (1) **the Director of Neighbourhood Services be authorised to accept the grant funding allocated to Wirral Council by Liverpool City Region Combined Authority for the 2021/22 Combined Authority Transport Plan;**
- (2) **the proposed Combined Authority Transport Plan Integrated Transport Block programme for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix A to this report be approved; and**
- (3) **the Director of Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee be authorised to amend the programme having regard for available resources and risk-based prioritisation of schemes.**

43 **HIGHWAY STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2021-22**

The report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services sought approval for the proposed programme of surfacing work and footway works so that supplier engagement and detailed design could commence, enabling the works to be completed in 2021/22.

Simon Fox, the Assistant Director for Highways and Infrastructure, informed Members that this was an annual report to set out how it was proposed to use Wirral Council's share of funding money from the Liverpool City Region. The latest funding amount was expected to be lower by £30 million but more funding may be received throughout the year.

Resolved - That

- (1) the programme of works for Carriageway Improvements – Classified Roads 2021-22 as set out in Appendix 1 of this report be approved;**
- (2) the programme of works for Carriageway Improvements – Unclassified Roads 2021-22 as set out in Appendix 2 of this report be approved;**
- (3) the programme of works for Footway Improvements 2021-22 as set out in Appendix 3 of this report be approved, and**
- (4) the Director of Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Chair and Party Spokespersons of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, be authorised to amend the delivery of the programmes having regard for available resources and risk-based prioritisation of locations selected for treatment.**

44 **HIGHWAYS SERVICE DELIVERY 2021 TO 2026**

The report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services recommended that the delivery of highway services in Wirral be continued on an 'inhouse plus top-up' delivery model basis, with key contracts for the supply of civil engineering and structural maintenance works provision being re-procured.

Simon Fox, the Assistant Director for Highways and Infrastructure, presented the report, noting that it included a list of current and proposed top up contracts.

Resolved - That

- (1) the continuation of the Council's highway service delivery on an in-house plus top-up model basis, as outlined in section 2.0 of this report be endorsed;**
- (2) the contract and procurement strategy set out in section 4.0 of this report be approved, and**
- (3) the Director of Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Chair and Party Spokespersons of the Environment, Climate**

Emergency and Transport Committee, to amend the number and scope of support service contracts set out in Appendix 1 to the report, as may be necessary to maintain effective statutory service provision be authorised.

45 **ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP - FINAL REPORT**

The report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services followed a Motion agreed at Council on the 21 October 2020 on 'reducing road casualties'. It tasked the Committee to review and refresh earlier work that had been undertaken on the introduction of 20mph speed limits on all residential roads across the Borough with a view to making progress with their introduction.

A Road Safety Working Group had met several times, hearing from campaigners and the Council's road safety team, had discussed the issues and came up with recommendations.

Simon Fox, the Assistant Director for Highways and Infrastructure, presented the report and informed Members that road accident injuries had reduced over 20 years in real terms and relative to other areas but there was a desire to reduce them further.

Members debated the issue of 20mph areas. Councillor Tony Cox moved a Motion that the resolution be approved subject to
'recommendation bullet points 5 and 6 in the report be removed and replaced by 'the Committee resolves that 20 mph zones be considered in known accident hotspots. This is to be data driven and officers are to return to this Committee and report back on identifying potential roads'.'

Councillor Allan Brame then moved a motion to approve the recommendations in the report subject to replacing resolution (3) with:
'Furthermore, the Committee recognises that a lower speed limit will help reduce the actual and perceived danger on the streets, and take a step towards reclaiming the streets as a social place where neighbours interact with each other and encourage more children to walk or cycle to school. Slower traffic speeds can enable the elderly to travel independently and safely. Accordingly, officers are requested to prepare a scheme to make Wirral a 20 mph Borough. Residential roads should be designated as 20 mph limit areas, with signage and road markings alone, except in isolated cases where traffic calming measures might be necessary.'

This was seconded by Councillor Chris Cooke.

Members debated the motions and noted that potential damage more than doubled between 20 mph and 30 mph.

Councillor Alison Wright then seconded Councillor Cox's Motion.

Councillor Brame's Motion which was seconded first was then voted on with 7 for and 4 against.

Resolved (7:4) - That

- (1) the final report of the road safety working group be considered;**
- (2) the recommendations of the Road safety Working Group Final Report attached as appendix 1 to the report be approved; and**
- (3) Furthermore, the Committee recognises that a lower speed limit will help reduce the actual and perceived danger on the streets and take a step towards reclaiming the streets as a social place where neighbours interact with each other and encourage more children to walk or cycle to school. Slower traffic speeds can enable the elderly to travel independently and safely. Accordingly, officers are requested to prepare a scheme to make Wirral a 20 mph Borough. Residential roads should be designated as 20 mph limit areas, with signage and road markings alone, except in isolated cases where traffic calming measures might be necessary.**

Since Councillor Tony Cox's motion would have negated the resolution, Councillor Tony Cox's fell.

46 **HOYLAKE BEACH WORKING GROUP - FINAL REPORT**

The report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services provided an update on one of the recommendations from the meeting of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee of 3rd December 2020 to 'Produce a Communications Strategy for the development of the beach management plan for Hoylake in consultation with a politically proportionate working group'. Members of the working group attended a meeting to discuss and make recommendations on a communications strategy for the development of the beach management plan for Hoylake. The report was a summary of that meeting which was held on 22 February 2021.

Members questioned several aspects of the issues and whether a weighting should be given to the views of local residents in any consultation. The anticipated 2023 end of the study was also queried although it was explained that this was determined by full growing seasons to get a sufficient data.

Councillor Alison Wright proposed an amendment that

'It is proposed that a 2 fifths area of the amenity beach be raked to provide a controlled environment in order to deliver data as to the benefits, or disadvantages, of both raking and allowing foliage to grow.'

This was seconded by Councillor Tony Cox and debated.

The Chair read out the following statement from RSPB:

‘The protection and restoration of natural ecosystems, including coastal habitats such as dunes and saltmarsh, is important not only as a means to provide shelter and food for a raft of rare and endangered species, but these areas can also play a vital role in flood resilience and carbon storage. The naturalised section at Hoylake Beach has proven to be a success for nature attracting species such as snow bunting. It will also be playing its part in mitigating the effects of climate change. It is estimated that coastal habitats represent up to 6.8 million tonnes of carbon captured and stored per year globally; while healthy saltmarshes can sequester almost 10 times as much carbon as terrestrial forests over the same area.

We also know these nature rich areas are valued by local communities. In May, a survey conducted by YouGov on behalf of the RSPB sought the views of adults in the UK on the role of nature in our communities during the Coronavirus crisis. 86% of respondents in North West England agreed that living close to spaces that are rich in wildlife and nature is an advantage during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak; 91% agreed increasing the amount of accessible nature-rich green space will help to improve people's general health, well-being and happiness.

It is clear that the naturalised area of Hoylake Beach now plays an important role in supporting the local ecosystem, and we therefore urge the council to continue their sustainable management of the foreshore, with no further removal of vegetation, raking, or glyphosate spraying. Naturalisation of sections of beach have been successfully applied elsewhere in the region; for example, Southport beach where Sefton council allowed sections to ‘green over’, promoting and defending the position with residents. We are in the midst of ecological, climate, and health crises, and now more than ever we need the support of local government to protect and enhance nature rich green spaces such as Hoylake Beach.’

The amendment was voted on with five for and six against so was declared lost. The Chair then proposed the original recommendations. This was seconded by Councillor Tony Norbury.

Resolved (7:4) - That

- (1) the report and its contents be noted,**
- (2) the recommendations contained within Hoylake Beach Working group final report which is attached to this report as appendix 1 be noted.**

HOYLAKE BEACH MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services provided an update on the recommendations from the meeting of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee of 3rd December 2020 to:

- Procure an independent study as a scientific evidence base upon which to develop future management options for Hoylake beach.
- Produce a Communications Strategy for the development of the beach management plan for Hoylake in consultation with a politically proportionate Working Group.
- Produce a specification for a request for assent of non-vegetation management activities. The future management of Hoylake beach strategically aligns with both the Sustainable Environment and Safe and Pleasant Communities themes of the Wirral Plan 2025.

Colin Clayton, the Assistant Director for Parks and Environment, presented the report with Neil Thomas, the Senior Manager for Flood and Coastal Risk Management. He noted that the budget was from the Climate Emergency Fund, that the report reflected the outlook from working group, and that consultation would only take place once the scientific study was completed and the knowledge base established.

Members questioned aspects of the issue which drew out additional information including:

- That the drain outlets were cleared by the highways team following the noting of an issue in regular inspections.
- Much data was available on beach, sediment and aerial photography, but the ecological data was required before decisions could be made.

The Chair, Councillor Liz Grey, proposed an amendment to accept recommendations 1 and 2 and slightly amend 3 to include

‘To approve the submission to Natural England of a plan to manage wind blown sand at Hoylake beach and associated highway network and a corresponding Habitats Regulations Assessment, in consultation with the Coastal Advisory Group of regional beach management and ecology. This Group of experts has already been established and officers have met with them previously. They are prepared to give Wirral Council expert advice, free of charge and could save Council taxpayers' money, possibly reducing the need for expensive consultants in future.’

This was seconded by Councillor Chris Cooke.

Resolved (6:4) - That

- (1) the procurement brief and specification for an ecological and geomorphological study, as set out in Appendix A to this report, be approved and to agree to the procurement of a study as a**

- scientific evidence base upon which to develop future management options for Hoylake beach.
- (2) the draft Communications and Engagement Strategy for the development of the Hoylake Beach Management Plan as set out in Appendix B to this report be agreed.
 - (3) the specification for the continuation of non-vegetation management activities at Hoylake beach, as set out in Appendix C to this report be approved, and the submission to Natural England of a plan to manage wind blown sand at Hoylake beach and associated highway network and a corresponding Habitats Regulations Assessment, in consultation with the Coastal Advisory Group of regional beach management and ecology be approved. This Group of experts has already been established and officers have met with them previously. They are prepared to give Wirral Council expert advice, free of charge and could save Council taxpayers' money, possibly reducing the need for expensive consultants in future.

48 **2020/21 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER THREE**

The report of the Director of Neighbourhoods provided a summary of the projected year-end revenue and capital position as at the end of Quarter 3 (December 2020) of the 2020/21 financial year. The Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic continued to present financial risk due to uncertainty and fluidity in the external environment. The overall financial position for the Council remained challenging, and a number of actions were 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.

Sarah Cox, Senior Finance Business Partner, presented the report and noted that the yearend forecast was £3.184 million adverse due to loss of garden waste and car parking income, though some of that would be mitigated by claiming back the maximum (about 75%) from Government.

Resolved - That

- (1) the adverse year-end forecast position presented at Quarter 3 of £3.183m be noted.
- (2) the impact of funding and expenditure as a direct consequence of Covid-19 be noted, including the additional funding sources which have been identified, but as yet, not received.
- (3) the year-end forecast capital position for Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee presented at Quarter 3 be noted.

49 **WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. This work programme was to align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which are within the remit of the Committee.

The Chair, Councillor Liz Grey, proposed an amendment to say that
'Members note and agree the proposed work programme and request that the Active Travel items listed here are retained in this Committee along with the Active Travel Strategy and that, noting the significant overlap with the terms of reference of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee, we work jointly on active travel issues which affect economy, regeneration and development.'

The was seconded by Councillor Tony Norbury.

**Resolved(unanimously) - That
Members note and agree the proposed work programme and request that the Active Travel items listed here are retained in this committee along with the Active Travel Strategy and that, noting the significant overlap with the terms of reference of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee, we work jointly on active travel issues which affect economy, regeneration and development.**

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Monday, 14 June 2021

Present: Councillor EA Grey (Chair)

Councillors H Collinson M Collins
S Foulkes S Mountney
C O'Hagan L Rowlands
I Williams C Cooke
B Berry A Brame (In place
of A Corkhill)

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair opened the meeting and reminded everyone that the meeting was being webcast and a copy is retained on the Council's website.

2 APOLOGIES

Councillor Andy Corkhill had given apologies for absence and had been substituted by Councillor Allan Brame.

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

4 MINUTES

The Chair proposed an amendment to the minutes and requested that in the Hoylake Beach management update (minute 47) resolution (3), the words 'the specification for the continuation of non-vegetation management activities at Hoylake beach, as set out in Appendix C to this report be approved, and' be removed as they were intended to be removed and replaced by an amendment made at the meeting so leaving them in was an error and misleading.

This was seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes.

Resolved (by assent) – That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee held on 16 March 2021 be approved and adopted as a correct record subject to the words 'the specification for the continuation of non-vegetation management activities at Hoylake beach, as set out in Appendix C to this report be approved, and' in the Hoylake Beach management update (minute 47) resolution (3) being removed.

5 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were two questions from the public.

Question from Charlotte Smith:

Access to Hoylake Beach via the slipways is severely restricted by the build-up of grass, weeds, dandelions and watercress. This is particularly noticeable at King Gap entrance to Hoylake Beach and the old lifeboat slipway with excess sand blocking safe access to the beach. Wirral Council is in breach of the Equality Act 2010 (Section 149, schedule 12) by not providing safe access to the beach for disabled people, myself included. Will the Environmental Chair commit to legal obligations by clearing all slipways to allow safe access immediately within the next month?

Answer from Councillor Liz Grey:

Thank you for your observations regarding Kings Gap Slipway and the slipway at Alderley Road. For information the slipways do not form part of the adopted highway and therefore do not have the same maintenance standards as exist for the highway. The slipways act as an interface between the natural and man-made environment and users are made aware of the hazards present through the adjacent signage. This is the standard approach taken at all locations on the Wirral coast. The slipways are all inspected regularly, the most recent inspection on 2nd June 2021 identified that whilst sand and some vegetation growth at Kings Gap Slipway was observed, the conditions on the slipway were similar to those that would be encountered on the foreshore. I do agree with you that disabled access should be a priority and we as a Council voted to aim for Blue Flag status on our beaches. This will require us to ensure that we have good quality disabled access and I'm sure this will inform our plans when we reach that stage of the engagement and consultation process.

Officers have assessed your allegation and in their view they do not believe that the Council has breached the Equality Act 2010. The build up of sand will continue to be reviewed during future inspections however we are currently unable to remove or move any sand on the foreshore as we no longer have permission from Natural England to do this. A new application for assent, with supporting Habitat Regulations Assessment, is being prepared for submission to Natural England. We need to do this as Hoylake beach forms part of North Wirral Foreshore Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Basically we need permission to move sand.

Supplementary Question

Will the chair agree to designate a section of Hoylake Beach made available for local events to be exempted from SSI restrictions to continue on the beach such as the Tug of War, Bonfire Night and the Volley Ball team and organisers can make the area safe for recreational use. Natural England has stated after all that an Amenity Beach can be raked.

Supplementary answer

I'm glad you refer to the Natural England report and their references to an amenity beach and I would urge all interested parties to read that Natural England report especially the references to an amenity beach which you do seem to have interpreted differently from most other people.

Natural England is the Government's statutory nature conservation adviser and is responsible for enforcing laws that protect wildlife and the natural environment which includes North Wirral Foreshore Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) covering Hoylake Beach. As such Wirral Council has no powers to exempt areas of the SSSI from the regulations that cover it. Permission must be sought from Wirral Council for any activities which have the capacity to harm the SSSI and before the Council grants permission they must in turn obtain consent from Natural England having assessed any request in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species regulations 2010.

The second question was from asked by the Chair on behalf of **Gillian Homeri** who could not attend.

Question from Gillian Homeri:

Could you please confirm that when deciding the future if Hoylake Beach, this Council will stick to the science and the evidence and not be swayed by negative campaigning and bombardment from those who wish to ignore the facts and mislead the public? Can you promise to abide by the advice of Natural England and do what's right by the people of Wirral in an environment and climate emergency and protect both nature and residents from the threats they face.

Answer from Councillor Liz Grey:

Hoylake beach is changing naturally and it is becoming increasingly difficult for it to be effectively managed in a way that would gain assent from Natural England. The Council, as landowner, also has a statutory duty to further the conservation and enhancement of the SSSI. Through the work we are doing and with the findings of the independent Ecology and Geomorphology study later in the year – combined with public consultation – we will find the most effective solution, taking into account advice already received from Natural England and the regulations in place to protect the SSSI, to manage Hoylake beach in the long-term.

6 STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS

One petition had been received from Alex Lomas regarding traffic safety in Alfred Road, Oxton.

I'm here representing the families and residents of Alfred Road in Oxton.

Over the past two years we've seen the number of cars, vans and even HGVs using our residential street as a thoroughfare increase tenfold to avoid the lights on Oxton Road. A major catalyst we believe was the building of the Lidl supermarket which is situated on the cross road of Balls Road and Oxton Road. The street has become home to a growing number of families over the past few years. It changed from predominantly being flats before. Those families have children at toddler age and school children age and we strongly believe that if we don't act soon there could be disastrous consequences as the speeding traffic travelling down the road is in our opinion at a critical point and needs to be addressed. Following a number of near misses and numerous damaged vehicles on the street I decided that it was time that I reached out to the residents and we set up a petition and of a street of approximately 24 houses I think it speaks in volumes that there is over 46 supporters that everyone had the same growing concerns. We'd love for our street to be considered for a pilot for the low traffic neighbourhood or Play Street Scheme. A simple bollard at one end would cost very little but would transform our street and the lives of the families and the children. I've seen this happen in many other parts of the country but unfortunately in Wirral it seems it is very slow for it to happen and I'd like to ask could we please have a bollard?

The Chair reaffirmed that the Committee took road safety very seriously and would ensure that he got a full response.

7 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

There were no questions by Members.

8 CAR PARKING CHARGES OPTIONS REPORT

The Director of Neighbourhoods, Nikki Butterworth, introduced this report which consider alternative options for parking charges in 2021/22 and beyond. At the Budget Policy and Resources Committee on Wednesday 17th February 2021, budget proposals included a further £1 million to be achieved through 'additional and increased parking charges and whole scale car parking review'. During this Committee Members resolved that further work be undertaken by the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee in respect of car parking charges to develop and implement proposals in line with the agreed Budget and for the Policy and Resources Committee to be updated accordingly. Full Council, at its meeting of 1 March, unanimously agreed the saving of £1m from additional and increased parking charges and whole scale car parking review as part of the 2021/22 annual budget.

Members debated whether there was sufficient information in the report to enable them to come to a decision. They noted that it was a challenging target and any change would upset some residents and could increase parking in

residential areas to avoid charges, but the alternative saving options included reductions in staffing, golf courses, refuse collection and leisure centres. There was a specific requirement from Government to comply with budget plans in order to gain funding to offset Covid-19 income losses.

Councillor Chris Cooke made a proposal for agreeing options 1, 3 and 4 which were:

1. Introduce charges into off-street car parks that are currently Free i.e.; Bromborough, Bebington, Irby, Hoylake, New Brighton etc.
3. Introduce parking charges into coastal locations e.g. New Brighton, West Kirby, Leasowe, Hoylake.
4. Standardised Charges. to implement a new and standardised tariff structure across all existing and any new charging locations, both on and off-street.

And also to standardise charges across the Borough.

Councillor Liz Grey seconded the proposal.

Resolved (6:4 with one abstention):

That this Committee

- (1) agrees to adopt car parking charging options 1,3 and 4 and to standardise charges at: £1 for up to one hour, £2 for up to two hours, £3 for up to three hours, £4 for up to four hours and £5 for over four hours or all day parking; and**
- (2) delegates authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to implement the decision of this Committee and the parking charges options selected as soon as is reasonably practicable.**

9 CARBON BUDGETS: 2019/20 BASELINE TO 2027/28

The Head of Environment and Climate Emergency, Mike Cockburn, introduced this report which detailed proposals for reinstating the Carbon Budget and proposed annual emissions limits (the Carbon Budgets) to allow the Council to measure its progress towards carbon net zero by 2030 as included in the Environment and Climate Emergency Policy.

Members were reassured that the target was difficult but was regarded as achievable by the external expert. The pandemic had helped in 2020 but future performance would require changes in many aspects of Council work such as building use, fleet operations, staff journeys, energy source.

Resolved – That

- (1) the proposed Carbon Budgets from 2020/21 to 2027/28 be approved;**
- (2) the Annual Carbon Budget Performance Reports are tabled in June each year.**

10 **CARBON BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020/21**

The Head of Environment and Climate Emergency, Mike Cockburn, introduced this report which was the first annual Carbon Budget Performance Report and covered the 2020/21 financial year. It showed actual emissions compared against the 2020/21 Carbon Budget Target. This allowed the Council to measure progress towards its target of carbon net zero by 2030 as included in the Environment and Climate Emergency Policy. The Carbon Budget Target for 2020/21 was 10,349 tonnes CO₂e and actual emissions were 9,424 tonnes CO₂e. The reduction in emissions was achieved because of reduced use of Council assets due to the pandemic. Emissions associated with use of electrical energy had also reduced because of continuing 'decarbonisation' of national grid electricity.

Resolved –

That Carbon Budget Performance Report 2020/21 be noted.

11 **PROGRESS UPDATE ON BIODIVERSITY ACTIONS**

The Director of Neighbourhoods introduced this report. The Committee had approved the Council's Environment & Climate Emergency Policy at its previous meeting in March and since then officers had been developing the arrangements to progress the Policy's objectives and commitments. This report provided the Committee with an update on progress being made with the biodiversity, the biological variety and variability of life, aspect of the Policy. The report focused on 2 of the Council's biodiversity commitments within the policy, the 'Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Strategy,' which was launched in July 2020 and 'Transforming our Open Spaces and Enhancing Biodiversity,' including the current position with the development of the Council's pollinator plan for roadside verges and parks green spaces and the new approach to grounds maintenance with a blend of reduced grass cutting and cessation of maintenance regimes being implemented during 2021-2022.

Members had noted messages of approval from residents about the policy and actions but had particular concerns, notably the rewilding of residential areas near river banks which made movement difficult and appeared to be attracting pests.

The Chair thanked officers who had undergone a complete change in how their work was judged, from aiming at neatness to encouraging insects and wild flora.

Councillor Bruce Berry proposed an additional resolution that 'this Environment, Climate Change and Transport Committee requests officers to revisit the rewilding policy with a view to reintroducing maintenance programs in residential areas and in particular areas close to river banks such as the Arrowe Brook and the River Birkett both of which have seen an increase in

rodent activity and dogs plagued by ticks from the long grass since the cessation of grass cutting. We also seek assurance that long grass once cut is collected and removed off site.'

This was seconded by Councillor Michael Collins.

In response to questions officers confirmed that there would be a budget implication for this and there was no machine to collect and remove grass cuttings off site but they could revisit the issues as part of the review.

The proposal was put to the vote with four for, six against and one abstention so was declared lost.

Councillor Liz Grey proposed an additional recommendation:

“(3) Learning from the work in this report, Committee requests regular engagement and consultation in Communities through their elected representatives.”

This was seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes.

Resolved (10:1) - That

- (1) the contents of the report on the progress being made against the Council’s biodiversity commitments be noted.**
- (2) note the development of the Council’s Pollinator Plan and request that the Director presents the Plan to Committee for approval this autumn.**
- (3) learning from the work in this report, Committee requests regular engagement and consultation in Communities through their elected representatives.**

12 2021/22 BUDGET MONITORING AND 22/23 BUDGET PROCESS

The Director of Resources presented this report which highlighted the processes for monitoring the 2021/22 budget and the budget setting process for 2022/23. The Committee was accountable for ensuring that the committee budget remained within the relevant envelope and was to take collective responsibility via the Policy and Resources Committee to ensure that the whole Council budget remained in balance at all times, by agreeing mitigating actions to bring the budget back in line, should a deficit be forecast.

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). This document was prepared by Officers and required committee oversight and approval, with proposals being taken to workshops and then in further report to Committee.

Resolved - That

- (1) 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 be noted.**
- (2) the current proposals within this report from the Medium-Term Financial Plan from 2022/23 – 2025/26 be included and the Director of Neighbourhoods 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) a series of budget workshops be convened 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.**

13 CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING QUARTER 4

The Director of Resources introduced this report which provided Members with an overview of budget performance for the Committee's area of activity. The financial information detailed the year-end revenue and capital outturn position, as reported at quarter 4 (Apr-Mar) 2020/21.

The revenue position was a £4.3 million overspend mainly due to the loss of car parking income. Also, major capital schemes had been paused so the Council couldn't charge capital salaries to them, and officers were diverted from their oral duties to help deal with the emergency response to the pandemic. The total was a portion of the total council overspend going to Policy and Resources Committee on 30 June. There had been some grant support centrally from Government but not all income had been eligible, so of £16 million losses around £11 million was compensated.

Resolved –

That the year-end revenue outturn position of £4.345m adverse and the performance of the capital programme, as reported at quarter 4 (Apr-Mar) of 2020/21 be noted.

14 APPOINTMENT OF PANELS, STATUTORY / ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES 2021/2022

The Head of Legal Services presented this report which was to enable the Committee to review the need for various panels, statutory / advisory committees and working parties, and to arrange for the appointment of Members to them.

Resolved –

That the Monitoring Officer as proper officer be authorised to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Active Travel Forum and the Wirral Climate Change Group to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.

15 **APPOINTMENTS TO WIRRAL FLOOD & WATER MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP**

The Head of Legal Services presented this report which was to enable the Committee to appoint members and possibly named deputies to the Wirral Flood and Water Partnership for 2021/2022.

Resolved –

That the Monitoring Officer as proper officer be authorised to carry out the wishes of the political group leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Wirral Flood and Water Partnership and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.

16 **WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. This work programme was to align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which are within the remit of the Committee.

Councillors suggested the following updates to the Programme:

- Tree contract qualitative presentation following the awarding of the contract in 2020, to include criteria for decisions to remove trees, processes and volumes.
- update on road safety strategy and road safety recommendations made by the Road Safety Working Group
- 'No Mow May' review
- Recycling and upcycling updates
- Active travel items to return subject to discussions with the Chair of Economic, Regeneration and Development Committee
- update on the collaboration between the Council and litter pickers

Resolved –

That the work programme for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year be noted with the suggested items added.

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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.

TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 16 June 2021

Present: Councillor H Cameron (Chair)

Councillors	B Kenny	J Johnson
	C Spriggs	S Williams
	KJ Williams	A Brame
	G Wood	P Gilchrist
	M Booth	P Cleary

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded viewers and attendees that the meeting was webcast and a copy was retained on the Councils website.

2 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Spriggs declared a personal interest in Minute 6 (Libraries Consultation Update) as a board member of Get It Loud In Libraries.

4 MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting of the Tourism, Communities Culture and Leisure Committee held on 3 March 2021 be approved and adopted as a correct record.

5 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

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

6 LIBRARIES CONSULTATION UPDATE

Councillor Spriggs declared a personal interest in as a board member of Get It Loud In Libraries.

The Director of Neighbourhoods introduced this report which provided an update on the work undertaken to deliver a public and stakeholder wide consultation on the draft Library Strategy and proposed new library model. Consultations had already taken place with Government and staff and there was a proposed public consultation on the 'have your say' online platform for 6-8 weeks, with a stakeholder mapping exercise. There would be offline consultation methods too.

Members questioned issues with particular libraries and officers took comments away for consideration and response.

Resolved: That:

- (1) the action being undertaken to deliver the public consultation on the draft Library Strategy and proposed new model be noted and the proposed date of June 28 2021 for start of the public consultation be approved.**
- (2) the proposed date for the Director to bring a report to Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee 17 November 2021 to present a Final Libraries Strategy with recommendations, and accompanying findings and outcomes of the public consultation be approved.**

7 INCOME GENERATION OPPORTUNITIES RELATING TO THE FUTURE OPERATION OF THE FLORAL PAVILION THEATRE AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

Dave Mackenzie, the Commercial Manager from the Floral Pavilion, presented this report which provided an information on the development of income generating opportunities across a number of sites including the Floral Pavilion Theatre & Conference Centre, Wirral Sailing Centre, West Kirby (WSC) and other sites where catering is provided as part of the Wirral Council offer.

Members questioned the development of the catering service at the Williamson Art Gallery and were informed that existing staff were used to run it and it did make a profit but the facilities were limited which limited the range on offer.

Resolved: That

- (1) the contents of this report be noted; and**

- (2) the development and implementation of future medium and long-term income proposals set out in this report be supported.**

8 EUROPA POOLS – OPTIONS FOR 2021 PROVISION OF LEISURE FUN POOL

The Assistant Director for Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement, Andy McCartan, introduced this report which provided information and options regarding the reinstatement of the Leisure Pool provision at the Europa Pools facility in Birkenhead for the 2021 school Summer holiday period. The Leisure Pool facility had been closed since March 2020 as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic and closure of the fun pool had been considered as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan. The Committee had asked to keep the option to reopen for Summer based on the release of restrictions on 21 June but that has been pushed back by a month. A mezzanine floor had been fitted which allowed for dry events to take place, and the lane swimming pool was open as activity could be controlled and so it did not represent a health risk.

In answer to Members questions it was clarified that there was a cost involved in refilling the pool and staffing.

The Director of Public Health, Julie Webster, informed Members that the North West region was the epicentre of 'delta variant' cases with a 59% increase in the previous week, in a younger age group including children. She advised not to open for the numbers of customers needed to make it viable.

Members expressed concerns at children having missed out socially during the pandemic and there was demand if it were reopened. If it were not reopened there could be events such as inflatables at the Guinea Gap swimming pool. Members were also aware that if restrictions were removed on 19 July a full reopening could take place although they noted that the local situation may still carry risk of the virus spreading.

Councillor Allan Brame proposed reopening subject to no further restrictions imposed by the Govt. This was seconded by Councillor Christine Spriggs.

Resolved (6:5)- That

- (1)** the information and options presented in the 'Europa Pools – options for 2021 provision of leisure fun pool' report be noted; and
- (2)** the Director of Neighbourhood Services be instructed to undertake and facilitate the necessary steps for the reopening of the Leisure Pool for the 2021 school Summer holiday period 19/07/21 – 05/09/21 (inclusive) subject to there being no covid restrictions imposed by the Government during that period.

9 CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING QUARTER 4

The Director of Resources introduced this report which provided Members with an overview of budget performance for the Committee's area of activity. The financial information details the year-end revenue and capital outturn position, as reported at quarter 4 (Apr-Mar) 2020/21. The accounts remained subject to final audit.

There had been a £7.2 million overspend on revenue for number of reasons including an overspend in community patrol. There had also been favourable factors including savings from not hosting events which helped offset loss of income from golf, libraries and leisure centres. There had been some Government compensation for loss of income which amounted to around 75% of losses in eligible income.

Resolved -

That the year-end revenue outturn position of £7.256m adverse and the performance of the capital programme, as reported at quarter 4 (Apr-Mar) of 2020/21 be noted.

10 2021/22 BUDGET MONITORING AND 22/23 BUDGET PROCESS

The Director of Resources presented this report which highlighted the processes for monitoring the 2021/22 budget and the budget setting process for 2022/23. The Committee was accountable for ensuring that the Committee budget remained within the relevant envelope and was to take collective responsibility via the Policy and Resources Committee to ensure that the whole Council budget remained in balance at all times, by agreeing mitigating actions to bring the budget back in line, should a deficit be forecast.

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). This document was prepared by Officers and required committee oversight and approval, with proposals being taken to workshops and then in further report to Committee.

Members noted that the planned zero based budgeting system would be trialled by the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee before being undertaken by all Committees. Councillor Helen Cameron proposed that resolution 4 be amended to reflect that. This was seconded by Councillor Christine Spriggs.

Resolved - That

- (1) 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 be noted.**

- (2) the current proposals within this report from the Medium-Term Financial Plan from 2022/23 – 2025/26 be included and the Director of Neighbourhoods 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) a series of budget workshops be convened 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) it be noted that the Zero Based Budgeting project would be piloted by the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee.**

11 APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY / ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES 2021/2022

The Chair introduced this report which was to enable the Committee to review the continuing need for various advisory committees and to appoint Members and named deputies to serve on those that are to be retained in 2021/2022. The Chair reported to Members that she had been advised by officers that the report was to be referred to the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee for consideration since it more naturally fell within that Committee's terms of reference which included responsibility for parks, open spaces, countryside management and the Council's duties as coastal protection authority.

Members were concerned at the loss of influence in the Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee because of the importance of the Park to tourism, culture and heritage, and that the Environment Committee would not meet until September 2021.

The Chair proposed that this Committee retain responsibility for appointments to Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Gillian Wood.

Resolved – That

- (1) Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee retain responsibility for the appointment of the Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee and the Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to the Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.**

(2) a report on the continuance and composition of the Hilbre Island Nature Reserve Management Committee be referred to the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee for consideration since it more naturally falls within that Committee's terms of reference which include responsibility for the Council's duties as coastal protection authority. Pending consideration of this matter by that Committee the membership of the Management Committee shall remain as presently constituted in respect of those persons who are Members of the Council; any vacancies to be appointed by the Monitoring Officer who shall carry out the wishes of the Group Leader of the former Member.

12 HERITAGE CHAMPION

At Annual Council on 28th September 2020 elected Members endorsed the new Constitution which had included the appointment of Member Champions in order that the Council could benefit from the experience, knowledge and interests of Members, in particular thematic areas including Heritage.

Councillor Christine Spriggs nominated Councillor Jerry Williams. This was seconded by Councillor Helen Cameron.

Resolved –

That Councillor Jerry Williams be appointed as Heritage Champion for 2021/2022.

13 WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. This work programme was to align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which are within the remit of the Committee.

Members made suggestions for additional to the Work Programme.

Resolved -

That the work programme for the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year be agreed subject to the addition of:

- 1. the Culture Plan for 2021 be shared to include the anniversary of Birkenhead Park and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.**
- 2. The Williamson Art Gallery and Museum to revisit efficiency savings and events.**

TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 27 July 2021

Present: Councillor H Cameron (Chair)

Councillors B Kenny S Williams
C Spriggs A Brame
G Wood P Gilchrist
M Booth P Cleary
J Johnson J Bird (In place of
KJ Williams)

14 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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

15 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

16 MINUTES

Resolved -

That the minutes of the meeting of the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee held on 16 June 2021 be approved and adopted as a correct record.

17 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

One public question had been received from New Brighton Coastal Community Team (NBCCT) who were unable to attend.

The question was read out by the Chair.

Question

The NBCCT would wish to draw to the Committee's attention the unsanitary conditions in New Brighton which have been a result of limited provision of good quality public toilets. This has been an issue for us prior to Covid, however Covid has made the situation worse. We are striving to present New Brighton as a place of welcome and well being, but this issue detracts from our work.

We have been in correspondence with the Senior Environmental Health Manager and he has very clearly explained the limitations on the toilet cleaning team.

We also appreciate that Marine Point toilets are not the responsibility of the Council

On the 1st July we received correspondence from the Council requesting comments in the siting of temporary toilets. However only 2 options were given Vale Park and Marine Park. Replies had to be returned by 2nd July.

Could we please be advised how many temporary toilets are envisaged and where will they be located.

As the school holidays are already underway, we would suggest temporary toilets also in Fort Perch Rock Car Park. Contrary to opinion FPR car park is not tidal.

We would also ask if any of the forthcoming plans for New Brighton include the provision of more basic human amenities/public toilets.

Answer

Due to a number of Anti Social behaviour issues experienced last summer, the operational decision was taken, not to provide any additional temporary toilets but rather to utilise any available funding to provide additional enhanced cleaning regimes to the existing Council owned and operated public toilets in the area. The extensive public toilet provision at the Floral Pavilion is also available, free to use and accessible facilities are also in situ. Other private businesses in the area – such as Morrisons also provide a free to use public toilet provision.

18 **COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY**

Nikki Butterworth, Director of Neighbourhood Services, introduced this report regarding the Community Safety Strategy which was a statutory responsibility for Councils. The report introduced the Community Safety Strategy 2021-2026 which had been co-produced following significant consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.

Members debated types of crime reported to them or of concern to them, such as domestic violence, anti-social behaviour, hate crime and road safety, and wished for a greater frequency of reporting than annually. Paul Morrison, Neighbourhood Safety Officer, and Police Superintendent Martin Earle answered Members questions.

Resolved - That

- (1) the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (Community Safety Strategy) be noted and its submission to the Council Meeting for final approval be endorsed.**

- (2) **the Assistant Director Neighbourhoods, Safety and Transport be requested to provide regular updates (twice a year) to the Committee on the progress made in respect to the delivery of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (Community Safety Strategy).**

19 **SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY UPDATE**

Nikki Butterworth, Director of Neighbourhood Services, presented this report which was an update on the development of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Wirral Leisure Services (formerly Leisure Strategy), which had been written following engagement with residents, communities, and other stakeholders. The key focus of the Strategy was to set out the priorities for sport and leisure facilities, services and activities and seeks to redress the balance between being a provider of facilities and tackling inequality through preventative, outreach, and early intervention work. It was not a statutory requirement to have a sport and physical activity strategy, but it was seen as good practice to outline the Council's plans for leisure services for the period 2020-2025 based on the evidence base and emerging Covid-19 landscape.

Members expressed concern at the stated levels of inactivity and requested additional details about the demographics behind that and any correlation with other elements of the strategy.

Resolved – That:

- (1) **the progress made in the development of the outline Sport and Physical Activity Strategy be noted.**
- (2) **the further development of the Strategy be presented to Committee in Autumn.**

20 **FUTURE OF GOLF PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Andy McCartan, the Assistant Director for Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement, introduced this report which provided an update on municipal golf in Wirral. The focus of the report was to highlight the challenges and opportunities relating to Wirral's golf service and seeks approval to explore future options for all sites. The key aim was for municipal golf in Wirral to positively contribute to the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), the developing Sports and Physical Activity Strategy, and key health priorities and outcomes. Any options were to aim to partially or fully mitigate the current golf net subsidy of around £270,000 whilst providing an improved and quality golf offer in Wirral.

Members expressed their wish that the facilities capitalise on the Open Golf Championship which was taking place on the Wirral in 2023 and to receive a report on this at a future meeting.

Several Members were interested in being part of a proposed Working Group to consider the future of the municipal golf courses which all required investment. Members noted the proposal for a development of a broader sports village near Arrowe Park but were concerned that the location was hard to reach and was not in an area which would benefit greatly from investment.

Resolved – That:

- (1) the work being progressed on the Arrowe Park Sports Village feasibility study with FMG Consulting Ltd. be noted**
- (2) the work and outcomes of the full drainage assessment undertaken by consultant STRI (sports turf agronomists) be noted.**
- (3) a member working group be established to develop options for the future of municipal golf. Outcomes and recommendations to be presented back to this committee in November 2021.**
- (4) the Director of Neighbourhood Services be requested to undertake a full review of the current pricing and membership structure relating to golf to enable recommendations for a new membership/’pay and play’ structure for the 2022/23 financial year to be presented back to the committee in November 2021.**

21 WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. This work programme was to align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which are within the remit of the Committee.

Members noted the addition of reports referred to in other items of the meeting.

Resolved -

That the work programme for the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year be agreed subject to the addition of:

- 1. Reports each six months on the progress made in respect to the delivery of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (Community Safety Strategy)**
- 2. A report detailing proposals to capitalise on the Open Golf Championship which will take place on the Wirral in 2023.**

AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 9 March 2021

Present:

Councillor	K Hodson (Chair)	
Councillors	S Whittingham	AER Jones
	J Bird	T Cox
	K Cannon	I Lewis
	K Greaney	S Kelly
	D Burgess-Joyce	

23 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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

24 APOLOGIES

No apologies had been received for this meeting.

25 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Karl Greaney declared a personal interest in relation to item 5 by virtue of his position as a school governor.

Councillor Jo Bird declared a personal interest in relation to item 5 by virtue of her partners as a school governor.

Councillor S Whittingham declared a personal interest in relation to item 5 by virtue of his position as a school governor.

Councillor A Jones declared a personal interest in relation to item 5 by virtue of his position as a school governor.

26 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2021 be approved.

SCHOOL BUDGETS & SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

Shaer Halewood, Director of Resources introduced the report which outlined the factors which led to Woodchurch Road Primary School reporting a deficit of £442,901 by the end of the 2018/19 financial year and what was in place to prevent a similar situation occurring in other schools. The report also considered the arrangements in place within the Council to manage school budgets including licensed deficits in its schools and to manage Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with schools.

Members were advised that as of 31 December 2018, the projected budget deficit for the school for the year – ending 31 March 2019, as reported to the school's Finance Committee on 6 March 2019, was £32,754. Members then heard how the actual budget deficit at year end was £442, 901.

The report outlined to Members that the primary reason for the sudden change in reported deficit was that, to the Council's knowledge since 2014/15, debtor and payment in advance accruals at the year end had been inflated. A result of this had been a falsely reported increase in the level of income and reducing the level of expenditure in the current year, thus concealing the true financial position in school financial reports. Members heard how this practice, and therefore the true financial position became evident in March 2019.

Members were assured how, as a result of issues arising at Woodchurch Road Primary, additional control measures had been put in place that will mitigate the future risk of the primary issue that led to the budget deficit occurring again. Members heard how the school had acted quickly to strengthen controls once the true deficit became apparent in March 2019. Actions taken included:

- purchasing the Premium Bursar service from the Council's LMS Finance team;
- reviewing all relevant procedures in school and introducing additional person checks where appropriate;
- attending Finance training provided by the Council's LMS Finance team;
- promptly actioning audit recommendations;
- introducing additional checks for the review and sign-off of accruals.

It was further reported that some changes have also been made by the Council's LMS Finance team to budget monitoring and budget setting reports to improve reporting and more clearly identify the in-year saving / deficit position.

Members had been advised at the previous meeting of the Audit and Risk Management Committee that a report had been suggested to be put to the

Children, Young People and Education Committee. Members then heard that upon agenda setting with lead officers and the Chair and Spokespersons for the Committee, it was advised that a workshop would be best placed to inform Members and would be arranged in due course.

In response to a question by a Member, the Committee heard how Finance Officers are continuing to be proactive with schools and that there is a programme in place to assist schools with their governance arrangements.

In response to a further question, Members were advised that the standard Service Level Agreement that Woodchurch Road Primary School had purchased from the Council had been basic and the Council's Local Management for Schools service (LMS) had not been obliged to check transactions under the terms of the SLA. Members heard that additional controls have now been put in place in order to mitigate risk of a similar occurrence as reported earlier.

In response to a question by a Member the Committee heard that whilst other concerns had been raised surrounding additional school, but the matters are not of the same nature.

Members were assured that a full review of the school would take place in the future to ensure that a similar situation does not occur.

On a motion by Councillor S Whittingham and seconded by Councillor S Kelly it was

“Wirral Council continue to work with the school in a constructive way to minimise job losses and the effect on children.

The motion was put and unanimously agreed

Resolved – That

- 1. the report be noted and;**
- 2. Wirral Council continue to work with the school in a constructive way to minimise job losses and the effect on children.**

28 **INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE**

Mark Niblock, Chief Internal Auditor, introduced the report that summarised the work of the Internal Audit Service for the period 1 January to 28 February 2021. The report identified the significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on scheduled audit work and included an analysis of planned work for the remainder of 2020/21.

The report identified to Members some of the impacts of the pandemic on the normal work of the team including the increased demands outside of the norm to address additional risks presented and the impact of this on routine planned work. The report focused on the following:

- The ongoing impact of Covid19 on the Internal Audit Plan 20/21
- Internal Audit Activity for the Jan – Feb 21 reporting period
- Planned Internal Audit work for the remainder of the year
- Any item of note arising from audit work undertaken the require action.

Members were advised of the significant impact of the Pandemic with many services across the Council unable to continue to deliver normally ad many activities suspended. Members then heard how consequently, and as reported previously many internal audits have had to be suspended with the team deliberately refocussing its activity towards supporting the corporate response to the pandemic, utilising its considerable expertise in governance, controls and risk.

The Chief Internal Auditor reminded Members that the revised Internal Audit Plan was endorsed by the Audit and Risk Management Committee in November 2020 and included targeted audit work aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of controls in operation. Members heard how each audit would culminate in a detailed report for senior management and would identify any areas requiring attention/action and outcomes including progress updates be reported to this Committee.

Of particular interest, Members heard how a piece of work had been undertaken to appraise controls over the operation of payment to the Wirral Growth Company and findings are currently being collated. Members were advised that this audit report is currently being drafted and contains a number of actions to improve systems in operation in the following areas: evidence trails for approvals; access to payment records and reconciliation of balance of partner costs.

Members then heard how there had also been some work undertaken with Merseyside Pension Fund in order to analyse and identify the impact of covid in relation to risk management, VAT compliance and Benefits. Members then heard how work on cyber security is now coming to a conclusion with the overall conclusion that there are some good controls in place but arrangements would be regularly reviewed particularly with reference to the new working landscape.

Members of the Committee were informed that there are currently no outstanding items of note/ action that require escalation by this Committee

In response to a question by a Member the Committee heard how there were seven recommendations that had come from an extended follow up audit of the Treasury Management system. The review identified that of the original seven recommendations, four had been fully implemented and three were still outstanding which had resulted in moderate organisational risk. Members heard how progress with implementing the outstanding recommendations had been delayed due to the impact of Covid 19 on the Treasury Management function but assurances had been obtained that action will be taken and a new target date has been agreed. Members were advised that a follow – up audit will be scheduled within the Audit Plan 2021/22.

In response to a further question, the Chief Internal Auditor advised that in relation to the Audit work that had recently been completed to evaluate and appraise controls in operation over the Wirral Growth Company Payment systems, Members would be informed of progress at the meeting for the Audit and Risk Management Committee in June 2021.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

29 CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

A Report by the Director of Resources provided an update on the Council's risk management arrangements and areas of risk management focus over the coming year.

Members were advised that given the short reporting period between this meeting and the last update to the Committee there had been limited change in the position as previously presented. Members heard how work is progressing in many areas, however, the third national lockdown and preparations for the relaxing of measures had led to some interruptions and distractions with some developments and activity being delayed.

It was reported that a meeting of the Member Risk Sub-Group was held on 9 February with the Chair and Spokespersons of the Committee. Members heard how the meeting had consisted of a short training and development session on the basics of risk management and the framework used across the Council, followed by a discussion on the list of Corporate Risks and other areas of concern and interests. Members were advised that further meetings would be arranged for the new municipal year and that suggested subjects for discussion are the consideration of the risk appetite for the organisation, the balance of high impact/ low likelihood risks as well as options for a “ deep dive” into specific risks to gain an understanding and assurance of the processes and practices in place.

Members were advised that discussions had been ongoing in February to agree the Council priorities and key activities for the year ahead. The Committee then heard how consideration is also being given to the reporting lines for escalation of issues and risks and they were advised that the Organisational Performance Group will act as a conduit for directorates to share information and escalate issues/risks as well as areas for collaboration to the Senior Leadership Team.

A list of corporate risks was appended to the report and members were advised that a number of corporate risks need to be considered following significant activity over recent months including. Members heard how an updated list of corporate risks with scores and planned actions will be presented to the next committee.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

30 **INTERNAL AUDIT COUNTER FRAUD REPORT**

A report by the Chief Internal Auditor updated the Audit and Risk Management Committee on the activities of the Counter- Fraud Team within Internal Audit and provided details of the outcome of a recent review of the Council's overall Counter Fraud and Corruption arrangements.

Detailed within the report were the main areas of fraud within the public sector and Members were advised that Local Authorities face a significant fraud challenge and fraud costs local government an estimated £2.1bn a year. The report informed the Committee that the current COVID-19 pandemic has increased risks to the local authority. In particular, Members heard how remote working reduces the level of management oversight; more money had been spent to maintain services and support those in need; unscrupulous fraudsters have targeted local authorities and service users.

Members were advised that the team oversees and co-ordinates the Council's involvement in the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) which the Council is required by law to participate in. The report advised that this is a national exercise using data matching audit techniques and that council- wide data sets are uploaded to the Cabinet Office website, which are then matched with data within and between participating bodies to identify potential frauds, overpayment, and errors.

Members heard how the Chief Internal Auditor was pleased to report that there had been a high degree of compliance with the CIPFA " Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption"

In response to a question by a Member the Chief Internal Auditor advised the Committee that Councillors can assist the Audit Department by raising

awareness and alerting members of the public to threats and risks and to provide advice about where to go and obtain advice and guidance and how to report it.

In response to a further question, Members heard how the Covid Act and procurement processes being relaxed has had an ability to undertake planned audit work, however, the Team had managed to integrate themselves into governance processes and were proactive in helping officers to build systems that had controls built into them.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

31 INFORMATION GOVERNANCE UPDATE

A report by the Director of Law and Governance provided an update on the work being done to sustain and deliver effective information management relating to information governance across the Council, reducing the risk of reputational damage and monetary penalties.

It was reported that the Council's information governance arrangements were reviewed in advance of the General Protection Regulation (GDPR) which came fully into force in May 2018. Members were reminded that GDPR was the first real change to data protection legislation in the past 20 years and this also led to the Data Protection Act 2018 being enacted.

Members were advised that following the review of Information Governance and Data Protection arrangements it was established that two key risks warranted inclusion on the Corporate Risk Register as follows:

- CRR23 – Cyber Security, the risk description states that “ IT security is insufficient to deter, detect and prevent unauthorised access to IT systems, resulting in loss of data and disruption to Council Services”.
- CRR24 – Information Management which states that “Failure of the Council to comply with relevant data and information management legislation which may lead to loss or breach of personal data creating security or reputational damage”.

Members were informed that in light of COVID 19 there had been a push to work more with NHS and public health England to move data legally. There had been many data sharing agreements drawn up and advice given.

The Chair identified that during 2020 there was a drop in the number of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and heard that the Department had been proactively published information of interest to the public by reviewing patterns of the nature of FOI requests.

In response to a question by a Member, the Information Governance Manager informed the Committee that in the future figures could be presented within the report in relation to cases that had been referred to the regulator, the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) and what the ICO had found so that lessons learnt can be identified. Furthermore, figures pertaining to time limits of FOI request completion would also be included in the report in the future.

In response to a further question by a Member, the Committee heard how in relation to the ongoing global pandemic the rate of response to FOI's has not been affected, with the exception of the short period over the Christmas Shutdown when response rate dipped slightly. Members were advised that the ICO are satisfied with the Council's response rate.

Members were then advised that there have been steps to mitigate risks of home working such as online training for staff, guidance on use of Teams, advice on how to adapt working environment.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

32 **ARMC INDEPENDENT MEMBER**

A Report by the Chief Internal Auditor updated Members on progress that is being made by Officers to appoint an independent non-elected Member to the Audit and Risk Management Committee in compliance with the Committee's Terms of Reference and actions identified in the recent Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Independent Review into the Oversight of Local Audit and the Transparency of Local Authority Financial Reporting (Redmond review)

In response to a question from a Member, the Chief Internal Auditor advised that the position would be unpaid and that he had worked closely with colleagues in HR and Democratic Services in place with reference to obligations under the Equalities Act. In addition, conversations are being had regarding a form of payment in terms of a reasonable expense to the ARMC Independent Member.

in HR and DS get a job spec in place, taking from equalities advice

MN – In line with other

Talking to colleagues about form of payment – we are looking into that and can provide with further updates

Resolved – That the report be noted.

EXTERNAL AUDITORS ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2019-20

A Report by the Director of Resourced advised Members that the Council's external auditors (Grant Thornton) completed the Council's main audit 2019-20 Accounts in January 2021 and that the findings were reported to the Committee in the form of the Audit Findings Report in January.

Members were advised that the auditors are also under a duty to provide a shorter summary of the key issues/ findings from their audit for consideration by a wider audience across the Council, Pension Fund and its key stakeholders.

Mark Stocks, External Auditor addressed the Committee to inform that Grant Thornton had now produced its Annual Audit Letter that was appended to the report. The letter contained a summary of the relevant findings in a form which is more readily accessible to members of the public. Members heard how the letter would be made available alongside the Accounts on the Council's website.

Members were advised by the External Auditor that the Council is in a difficult financial position, however progress is being made. Most notably with reference to the council's reserves, the position has improved. Members heard how a Capitalisation Grant had been approved so that the Council is in a balanced position by the end of the financial year.

In response to a question by a Member, the Committee heard how there is an onerous contract in relation to PFI liability as a result of the closure of the former Kingsway Academy School, the Council still has a contractual obligation to make the PFI unitary payments to the PFI Partner, Wirral Schools' Services Ltd. In relation to this matter, the External Auditor advised that he was not aware of any other Wirral Schools in this position.

In response to a further question, Members heard how other Councils and Bodies throughout Northern regions of England had experienced similar difficulties in relation to COVID-19, however, many other Councils in the area have not been in the position to need to apply for a Capitalisation Grant

Resolved – That the Audit and Risk Management Committee approve the Annual Audit Letter and approves onward publication on the Council website

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AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, 5 July 2021

Present:

Councillor	K Hodson (Chair)	
Councillors	S Whittingham	J Johnson
	K Cannon	S Mountney
	AER Jones	T Smith
	I Lewis	D Brennan
	S Kelly	Jason Walsh

1 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor David Brennan declared a personal interest in relation to item 8 by virtue of his pension with Merseyside Pension Fund.

2 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2021, be approved.

3 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

No questions, statements or petitions were submitted.

4 INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE

Mark Niblock, Chief Internal Auditor, introduced the report that summarised the work of the Internal Audit Service for the period 1 March to 31 May 2021. The report identified the significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on scheduled audit work and included an analysis of planned work for the remainder of 2020/21.

The report identified to Members some of the impacts of the pandemic on the normal work of the team including the increased demands outside of the norm to address additional risks presented and the impact of this on routine planned work. The report focused on the following:

- The ongoing impact of Covid-19 on the Internal Audit Plan;
- The Internal Audit Activity for the March to May reporting period;

- The planned Internal Audit work for the remainder of the year.

The report provided further detail on some of the workstreams including work on evaluating the effectiveness of the Council's arrangements to combat enhanced cyber threats during the pandemic as well as evaluating the effectiveness of the physical and environmental controls in the Treasury Building Data Centre. The Committee was also advised that work was ongoing to evaluate the action points from the Liverpool City Council Best Value Inspection Report, with the learning to be presented to SLT and then back to the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Members sought further clarification on both the hardware and software controls in place, and it was suggested that colleagues responsible for Cyber Security be invited to a future meeting. Further assurances were also sought on the risks associated with the Audit Plan not being fully compliant with the Public Sector Internal Auditing Standards, where the Committee was advised that there was an acceptance nationally that Councils would not be able to operate to normal standards whilst responding to Covid-19, but work was underway at Wirral to return to business as usual as soon as possible.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

5 CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITORS ANNUAL REPORT AND OPINION 2020-21

Mark Niblock, Chief Internal Auditor introduced the report which provided a summary of the work undertaken by the Audit service throughout 2020/21 as well as an overall opinion from the Chief Internal Auditor as to the effectiveness of the Council's control environment.

The report was produced to comply with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, and the opinion identified within the report reflected the work undertaken during the 2020/21 year and due to Covid-19, the overall opinion had relied upon a variety of supporting information and evidence that would not usually be the case, including an assessment and evaluation of the Council's response to the pandemic and various governance and control operations implemented as a result.

It was noted that there was a planned upgrade to the financial systems as well as data cleansing, and assurances were sought that associated risks would be mitigated and that external auditors would still have access to all the necessary data.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

6 CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Mark Niblock, Chief Internal Auditor introduced the report of the Director of Resources that provided an update on the Council's risk management arrangements and areas of risk management focus over the upcoming year.

The report detailed the work of Zurich Municipal to look at the risk appetite across Wirral Council in line with the Government's Orange Book – Management of Risk, Principles and Concepts, the findings of which would be presented to the Committee. It also detailed the work of a Member Sub-Group to provide more time to review the Corporate Risk Register and associated risk mitigation, as well as further detail on the work to develop and refresh directorate risk registers to align with the draft Wirral Plan 2021-2026.

It was queried whether Policy and Services Committees should include mitigation of risks associated with their area on their work programmes, where it was confirmed that there was already close working relationships between the Chief Internal Auditor and Policy and Services Committees Chair and Spokes to identify risks, but that these arrangements could be developed further. Further clarity was sought on the risks associated with the capitalisation directive, and members were advised this was still being considered by the Director of Resources and an updated Risk Register would be circulated to members in due course.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

7 EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN WIRRAL COUNCIL 2020-21

Naomi Povey, Grant Thornton UK LLP introduced the report of the Director of Resources, which provided the Committee with the External Audit Plan, undertaken by Grant Thornton UK LLP as the Council's appointed independent external auditors and as part of the statutory audit of Wirral Council.

The report detailed the key matters for the external audit report, where it was acknowledged that the Council was facing significant financial challenges, therefore the focus of the Value for Money work was on the financial sustainability of the Council. A further area of focus was the group of companies that the Council had established, where the deficit position of Edsential was noted. The report also listed the significant risks that required special audit consideration and procedures, the main risk being the recognition of the additional Covid-19 grant income and expenditure. Members' attention was also brought to the progress made against prior year audit recommendations, and the external auditors' assessment of these.

Members discussed the costs associated with undertaking the external audit and it was confirmed that the cost had increased due to the increased work required to gain assurance as part of the financial pressures the Council was facing including the capitalisation directive.

Resolved – That

- 1) it be agreed that the arrangements set out within the Audit Plan meet the Committee’s expectations in providing independent scrutiny.**
- 2) the report be noted.**

8 EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN MERSEYSIDE PENSION FUND 2020-21

Stuart Basnett, Grant Thornton UK LLC introduced the report of the Director of Resources which outlined Grant Thornton’s external audit plan for Merseyside Pension Fund for 2020-21 which had been undertaken as part of their statutory audit and presented to the Pensions Committee in June 2021.

It was reported that the process for undertaking the audit for the Pension Fund was comparable to that of the Council, therefore the significant risks relating to the Pension Fund were outlined including fraud in revenue and expenditure recognition, valuation of level 3 investments and valuation of directly held property. It was further reported that additional work had been undertaken to mitigate the risk of the valuation of directly held property including liaising with the Fund’s property valuator as well as engaging an independent valuator to gain assurance on the appropriateness of the valuations. The audit site visits had taken place earlier in the year remotely, and the final accounts were due to be completed later in the week with the findings to be reported back to the September committee.

Resolved – That

- 1) the report be noted.**
- 2) it be agreed that the proposed Audit Plan and the arrangements set out meet the Committee’s expectations with regard to providing independent scrutiny.**

9 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Iain Miles, Internal Audit Manager introduced the report of the Director of Resources which presented the Annual Governance Statement to Committee for consideration, detailing the outcome of the annual review of the effectiveness of the Council’s governance framework including the system of internal control. The Annual Governance Statement reflected the key governance issues up to the date of the approval of the annual statement of accounts, and therefore a final version would be reported to the Committee in November 2021 for approval alongside the final version of the financial statement.

The Committee was advised that the statement covered the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 and therefore any significant governance issues identified occurred during that period. The statement reports the outcome of the annual review of the governance framework, the key elements of which included:

- The completion of Governance Assurance Statements by each of the Council's Senior Leadership Team.
- Individual discussions with each member of SLT to gauge their views on progress and areas for improvement in respect of each of the seven principles in the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework for good governance.
- Review of Internal Audit work completed in the year.
- Consideration of any significant internal or external reviews of governance, including reviews by external audit and other review agencies and inspectorates as applicable.

As a result, the main content of the statement included a summary of the significant action taken during 2020/21 in respect of the four significant governance issues identified in last year's statement, alongside a summary of the actions planned 2021/22 to address the three significant governance issues identified from the current year's annual governance review.

Members acknowledged the key role the Audit and Risk Management Committee would play in managing financial risks in 2021-22 and reiterated the additional measures that could be put in place for committees to manage their risks.

Resolved – That

- 1) the draft Annual Governance Statement, including the actions planned in 2021/22 to address the three significant issues identified from this year's annual governance review be approved.**
- 2) the signing of the draft statement prior to publication by 31 July 2021 be delegated to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council.**

10 **PROCUREMENT UPDATE**

Keith Patterson, Head of Commercial Procurement introduced the report of the Director of Resources, which informed the Committee of the range and number of contracts awarded which have been subject to the Contracts Procedure Rules Rule 17, Waiving the Rules (Rule 12) and Extension/Variation (Rule 13). The Head of Commercial Procurement read out a statement on behalf of the Director of Resources, which outlined the progress and commitment to reducing the number of exception requests and

retrospective Purchase Orders, and updated the committee on the steps taken including all stats being shared with Directors on a monthly basis who are asked to ensure compliance within the directorate, alongside the data being reported and challenged at several senior officer meetings and the appointment of a new member of staff responsible for ensuring compliance across the Council.

The report detailed two main themes which were contracts information and the 'NO PO NO PAY' policy progress, and members were advised that during the period 1 October 2020 to 21 March 2021 there had been 22 extensions, 37 variations and 30 exceptions awarded. In terms of the NO PO NO PAY policy, it was reported that the value of retrospective Purchase Orders had reduced from 33% to 26% and additional measures in place to reduce that further were taking effect. Freestanding invoices had reduced in value by 65% since the last report, with only 825 invoices remaining out of 9,000 reported in November 2019 and work underway to action those still outstanding.

Members queried the number of contracts for Civica and Capita, where it was confirmed officers were mindful and already in discussions around how many contracts the Council were currently in with large organisations. Members raised concerns around the number of contract extensions and variations and sought further information on the narrative behind these. Assurances were given around the robustness of the process for approving contract extensions or variations, but the Committee were advised that further detail would be included in future reports. Members discussed the potential need for these issues to be escalated to the Audit and Risk Management Committee, where it was proposed that the Committee could be used as an escalation point for any issues arising from meetings between the Chief Executive and Directors regarding budgetary compliance.

Resolved – That

- 1) the report be noted.**
- 2) the Director of Resources be requested to present further information relating to contract overspends to the Audit and Risk Management Committee Chair and Group Spokespersons.**

11 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000(RIPA)

Colin Hughes, Solicitor introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided the outcome of an inspection on 21 May 2021 by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner and detailed the recommendations of the inspection relating to data retention and security, which Committee approval was being sought to include within the Policy and Procedure Guidance on the Council's use of covert surveillance.

The Committee was advised that the inspection was considering the Council's use of powers granted by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to use covert surveillance to report criminals. The inspectors were reportedly satisfied with the training that was provided to officers which took place annually. It was reported that since December 2018, there had been three authorisations for covert surveillance granted by the Council and approved by the Magistrates Courts, including 2 instances for sale of tobacco to underaged people and 1 instance of fly tipping. The inspector was satisfied that the proper guidance had been given.

Resolved – That

- 1) the contents of the report of the e Inspector appointed by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner on the use of covert surveillance by the Council be noted and the recommendations be adopted.**
- 2) the Policy and Procedure Document contained in Appendix 3 on the use of powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) as amended by the additional Section 12 on Data Security and Retention be approved.**

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CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 23 June 2021

Present: Councillor P Gilchrist (Chair)

Councillors C Cooke S Williams
T Cox J Williamson
C Jones P Hayes
S Foulkes AER Jones (In
K Greaney place of P Stuart)
S Hayes (In place
of M McLaughlin)

In attendance: Independent Persons

Professor R Jones
J McCosh

1 **NOMINATION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Phil McCourt, Director of Law and Governance welcomed members of the Constitution and Standards Committee to the meeting and sought nominations for the role of Chair of the Committee for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

It was moved by Councillor Paul Hayes, seconded by Councillor Steve Williams that Councillor Tony Cox be appointed Chair.

It was also moved by Councillor Chris Cooke, seconded by Councillor Janette Williamson that Councillor Phil Gilchrist be appointed Chair.

The Director of Law and Governance put it to the vote, where there were 3 votes for Councillor Tony Cox and 7 votes for Councillor Phil Gilchrist. It was therefore –

Resolved – That Councillor Phil Gilchrist be appointed as Chair of the Constitution and Standards Committee for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

Councillor Phil Gilchrist in the Chair

The Chair invited nominations for the role of Vice Chair of the Constitution and Standards Committee for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

It was moved by Councillor Janette Williamson and seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes that Councillor Paul Stuart be appointed Vice-Chair.

No other nominations were received.

Resolved – That Councillor Paul Stuart be appointed as Vice Chair of the Constitution and Standards Committee for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Moira McLaughlin, Councillor Paul Stuart and Graham Kerr (Independent Member).

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

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

No declarations were made.

4 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2021 be agreed.

5 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

The Chair informed the Constitution and Standards Committee that no petitions, public questions, Member questions, or requests to make a statement had been received.

6 **PROPOSED MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT 2021**

Phil McCourt, Director of Law and Governance introduced the report which set out a proposed revised Members' Code of Conduct. The Committee was reminded that following the introduction of the Localism Act in 2012, councils were free to adopt their own Code of Conduct as long as they accorded with the Nolan Principles. A review had since taken place which concluded that many Councils' codes did not comply with best practice, and therefore it was recommended that the Local Government Association produce a model code for councils to adopt.

Members were advised that following the last meeting where the draft model code was considered, councils across the Liverpool City Region had considered the model code and provided minimal comments which the Local Government Association had accepted, therefore the code was before members for consideration. It was anticipated that a full suite of guidance would be circulated to supplement the code.

Members acknowledged the requirement for an annual review of the Code of Conduct.

Resolved – That Council be recommended to adopt the Members’ Code of Conduct as attached at Appendix A.

7 CHANGE IN GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS: UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION

Steve Fox, Head of Democratic and Member Services introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which gave an update in respect to the implementation of the change in governance arrangements following the adoption of a new Constitution by the Council at the Annual Meeting held on the 28th September 2020. The report included updates on the implementation of the committee programme, training and constitution review and work programming.

The Committee was reminded that committee meetings had now transitioned from virtual to in-person, held at the Floral Pavilion in line with the venue’s own risk assessment as well as a bespoke committee meeting risk assessment which had been shared with members and officers attending. It was reported that meetings so far had been successful and the staff at the Floral Pavilion were thanked for their support.

An update was provided on the training programme for members and officers, with resources within Democratic Member Services having been restructured to offer more support to members. The member induction programme had mainly been delivered virtually which allowed for the training to be more easily captured and as a result a library of training resources had been made available to members. A further update was provided in relation to issues yet to be considered by the Committee, including a review of the Petition Scheme and a discussion on Media Guidelines, alongside a recommendation from Council for the Independent Remuneration Panel to consider a range of issues as detailed in the report, the outcomes of which would be reported back to the Committee in Autumn 2021.

Members considered the size of the Governance Working Group as well as the role of the Member Support Steering Group moving forward where members were advised that the Steering Group would consider a range of issues including:

- Ongoing programme of member training and best use of the member learning and development budget.
- Review of the new member induction.
- Overview of the member Portal.
- Review of the ICT offer to members

It was proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, seconded by Councillor Tony Cox that the Governance Working Group continue to be one member from each group.

The motion was put and agreed by assent.

A further discussion ensued on the wellbeing of elected members and the stresses and strains imposed on Councillors as part of their role. Members highlighted the difficulty in managing a work life balance and felt that there were fewer structures in place to support Councillors as they were not employees, and that member welfare needed to be included in the Council's governance structure.

It was moved by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes, that –

“the Committee places on record its thanks to officers and staff for the arrangements made to continue the democratic process.”

The motion was put and agreed by assent. It was therefore –

Resolved – That

- 1) membership of the Governance Working Group be 1 member from each political group.**
- 2) the Monitoring Officer as proper officer be authorised to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to the Governance Working Group and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.**
- 3) the Director of Law and Governance be requested to convene meetings of the Independent Remuneration Panel to consider the issues raised in section 3.3 of the report with a view to submitting an outcomes report to this Committee in Autumn 2021.**
- 4) the Committee places on record its thanks to officers and staff for the arrangements made to continue the democratic process.**

8 FLAG FLYING PROTOCOL

Steve Fox, Head of Democratic and Member Services introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided an overview of the current Flag Flying Protocol as adopted by the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee in October 2016, and an opportunity to review the

protocol in light of further guidance from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on flying of the Union Flag.

The Committee was advised that it was sensible to periodically review its protocols and that the report had been produced in response to government guidance on the flying of the Union Flag. Members discussed the flying of the Union Flag and felt that it was not a good use of the Committee's time to review the protocol.

It was proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, seconded by Councillor Janette Williamson that –

“the Committee sees no immediate need to review the protocol adopted in 2016 and will consider any further government guidance issued at an appropriate time.”

The motion was put and agreed by assent, it was therefore –

Resolved – That the Committee sees no immediate need to review the protocol adopted in 2016 and will consider any further government guidance issued at an appropriate time.

9 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR ESTABLISHING WORKING GROUPS

Steve Fox, Head of Democratic and Member Services introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance, which presented the Committee with suggested guiding principles that the Council's Committees should consider when establishing Working or Task & Finish Groups.

The Committee was advised that the document had been developed to address some of the concerns already expressed by members during the meeting around the demands placed on Councillors to attend meetings. It was reported that since the commencement of the committee system, 60 Task and Finish Group meetings had taken place which whilst commendable, placed extra demands on officers and members in an already busy committee calendar. Therefore, the document had been designed to supplement the information contained within the constitution and provide a useful tool for members and officers to use when considering whether to establish a Working Group.

Some members raised concerns over the number of Working Groups and felt that they should be kept to a minimum to ensure that as much business was undertaken in a public arena. It was further raised that on occasions members required a space to speak freely which Working Groups provided. A further discussion was had regarding the advised limit of two working groups per Committee at any one time, which following the discussion members felt was an appropriate number.

Resolved – That

- 1) **the Guiding Principles for Establishing a Working Group or Task and Finish Group be noted.**
- 2) **the Guiding Principles for Establishing a Working Group or Task and Finish Group be circulated to all Policy Committee Chairs & Group Spokespersons and Senior Officers to assist them when determining if they wish to establish such Groups.**

10 **APPOINTMENT OF PANELS, STATUTORY/ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES 2021/2022**

Phil McCourt, Director of Law and Governance introduced the report, which enabled the Committee to appoint members and named deputies to serve on the statutory and advisory committees and panels that were to be retained in 2021/22.

It was moved by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes, that an addition to the role of Member Support Steering Group be added as follows –

“Provide an overview of support to members in fulfilling their roles and duties as Councillors.”

The motion was put and agreed by assent. It was therefore –

Resolved – That

- 1) **the Monitoring Officer as proper officer be authorised to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Statutory and Advisory Committees listed in the report and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.**
- 2) **‘Provide an overview of support to members in fulfilling their roles and duties as Councillors’ be added to the role of the Member Support Steering Group.**

LICENSING ACT COMMITTEE

Thursday, 17 June 2021

Present: Councillor A Hodson (Chair)

Councillors J Bird C O'Hagan
D Burgess-Joyce C Spriggs
M Collins I Williams
E Gleaves KJ Williams
C Jones S Williams
S Jones A Wright
D Mitchell

1 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No such declarations were made.

2 MINUTES

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2020 be approved.

3 MINUTES OF THE LICENSING PANEL

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Panel held on 11 December 2020, 12 February 2021, 21 April 2021, 28 April 2021 and 29 April 2021 be approved.

4 APPOINTMENT OF THE LICENSING PANEL

The Committee was requested to appoint the Licensing Panels for the ensuing year. In 2020/21, each Licensing Panel had been comprised of three Members drawn from the pool of fifteen Committee Members in accordance with the provisions set out in the Licensing Act 2003. The Chair was appointed on the day of each meeting.

The Licensing Manager advised that Members are unable to consider applications in their own Ward.

It was confirmed by the Chair that all Members had attended relevant training in order for them to be able to undertake their functions under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005.

Resolved –

- (1) That Licensing Panels be appointed with the term of membership to be continued until amended or otherwise changed by this Committee and until such time as a new Licensing Act Committee is appointed.**
- (2) That each Licensing Panel meeting with the terms of reference outlined in the Council's Constitution be comprised of three Members drawn from the Members of this Committee.**

PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 29 June 2021

Present: Councillor J Robinson (Chair)

Councillors J Johnson B Berry
D Brennan I Camphor
T Cottier A Wright
P Martin D Mitchell
Joe Walsh S Hayes

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed members, officers and members of the public viewing the webcast to the first meeting of the Partnerships Committee of the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

2 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Ivan Camphor declared a personal interest by virtue of being a General Practitioner at Heatherlands Medical Centre, Medical Secretary for Mid-Mersey Local Medical Committee, General Practitioner Committee Representative for Cheshire and Mid Mersey, British Medical Association Chair of the Committee on Community Care and Executive Trustee of Age UK Mid Mersey.

4 MINUTES

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2021 be agreed.

5 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

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

At the request of the Chair, the Committee agreed to rearrange the order of business

6 CHESHIRE AND WIRRAL PARTNERSHIP QUALITY ACCOUNTS

Jo Watts, Associate Director of Operations for Specialist Mental Health at Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust introduced the report, which provided the Partnerships Committee with an overview of the quality of services provided by the Trust and afforded the Committee the opportunity to comment on the accounts, a record of which would be incorporated into the final accounts.

A presentation was delivered to the Committee providing a high-level overview of what had been achieved in the previous year, and it was advised that the full quality accounts would be circulated to members once they had been approved by the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership (CWP) Board. The presentation detailed CWP's activity during the Covid-19 pandemic, with 87% of planned appointments being delivered and those requiring rearrangement being done so collaboratively where necessary. The Trust had delivered the vaccination programme in Wirral whilst also working to support people with mental health issues, including launching a crisis line in April 2020 and working with partners to support acute services to deal with the additional demand in these services.

Beyond the Covid-19 response, it was reported that the trust had also developed a number of successful pilots including enhancing veteran awareness, whilst also retaining the outstanding rating for care and developing an internal book of best practice which would be shared with members. The Committee was advised that quality improvement priorities would continue to focus on patient safety, using outcome measures and transformation programmes.

Members welcomed the presentation and presented several questions, including around support to adults and children requiring mental health and ADHD services. It was noted that the crisis line had been used 93,000 times and the Committee was advised a recruitment drive was underway for psychologists and further work was ongoing to develop a peer support network and forge greater links with local universities. CWP were encouraged to link in with Primary Care Networks.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

7 STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NHS

Paul Edwards, Director of Primary Care and Corporate Affairs at NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group introduced the report of the Chief Officer, which set out the proposed changes to the NHS in legislation and guidance for the introduction of an Integrated Care System. The report set out the background to the proposed changes, detailing the publication of the White Paper by the Department of Health and Social Care in 11th February 2021,

with the intention of the Government to bring forward a Health and Care Bill to implement the proposals in that White Paper being confirmed in the Queen's Speech in May 2021, and more recently an Integrated Care System design framework having been published.

The Committee was advised on the implications of the proposals for Wirral residents and Wirral Council itself. It was reported that the intention of central Government was to develop a model to promote partnership working reduce bureaucracy, which would involve there being a single Integrated Care System for the Cheshire and Merseyside footprint, replacing all Clinical Commissioning Groups. There would be 9 'places' within the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System based on Council boundaries of which Wirral would be one, and the guidance was consistent in that the majority of decision making would take place at a 'place' level, unless it made sense for decisions to be taken holistically at Integrated Care System level. Members were further advised that the Health and Wellbeing Board would play a key role in the governance of the Integrated Care Partnership at Wirral 'place' level, and that the proposals were subject to the passing of the Health and Care Bill.

The Committee sought further clarification and assurance on where decision would take place at a regional and place level, and discussed which services that would be dealt with at Integrated Care System level such as the ambulance service and those that would be dealt with at a place level such as mental health services. It was also highlighted that Cheshire and Merseyside was the largest proposed Integrated Care System and Members queried the implications of this.

It was proposed by Councillor Jean Robinson, seconded by Councillor Joe Walsh, that a separate one-item agenda meeting be scheduled to further consider the development of an Integrated Care System with different evidence and expertise to be presented at the meeting. The motion was put and agreed by assent. It was therefore –

Resolved – That

- 1) a separate one-item agenda meeting be scheduled to further consider the development of an Integrated Care System with different evidence and expertise to be presented at the meeting.**
- 2) the report be noted.**

8 RECONFIGURATION OF SPINAL SURGERY SERVICES IN CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE

Sue Borrington, Head of Planned Care at NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group introduced the report which provided an overview of the proposal for

reconfiguration of Spinal Services for Cheshire and Merseyside. It was reported that the service was commissioned by NHS England, who had led the review following concerns from within the four sites currently operating the service, which found that there were unexplained variations across the providers and opportunities for greater financial efficiencies and sustainability.

The proposal was to reduce the four locations to just one location being the Walton Centre, which would offer a single referral pathway for emergency spinal surgery, access to 24/7 MRI scans, co-location with a major trauma centre and concentration of specialist expertise. The Committee was advised that various engagement had taken place at service level as advised by NHS England, and that the proposals had been led by a clinical committee who had ensured the recommendations were in line with the findings of the review and National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance. It was further reported that it would be limited in terms of how Wirral patients would perceive the change, but that they would benefit from the reduction in variations and the concentration of specialists.

The Committee queried the reduction in the number of beds as part of the proposals, where assurances were provided that the reduction was due to not needing as many surgical beds and that there would be no reduction in services. A number of further questions were asked by members including around how the services would be commissioned in the future and the level of engagement including which organisations were consulted such as general practices and the ambulance service.

Resolved – That

- 1) the report and the proposal for reconfiguration to a Single Service be noted.**
- 2) that due to the minimal impact on Wirral patients, it be agreed that the proposal does not represent a substantial variation in the way the service is delivered and that the proposal development process, including the approach to patient engagement, is commensurate with the scale of the proposed change.**

9 RNLI UPDATE

Mark Cambourne, Assistant Director for Neighbourhoods, Safety & Transport introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance, which provided the background to the presentation that the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) had been invited to give to the Partnerships Committee. It was reported that workshops had been undertaken with Councillors regarding the forthcoming Community Safety Strategy, where it was fed back that coastal and inland water safety should be more prominent within the strategy. The Council currently commissioned RNLI to provide the Coastal and Inland Water

Safety services, but the RNLI also had a national role as a volunteer organisation.

Peter Rooney, Area Life Saving Manager at RNLI then introduced his presentation to Committee. The presentation detailed the RNLI's purpose, vision and values, as well as its staffing arrangements which were predominantly volunteers with lifeguard services operating from six locations across Wirral in the Summer with three lifeboat stations. The presentation further detailed the national water safety statistics, with 621 people drowning in the UK in 2020, 43% of which were when people did not intend to enter the water. Locally, in Merseyside around half of drownings involved drink or drugs which was much higher than the national average. The Committee was advised that it was anticipated that Summer 2021 would be exceptionally busy due to more people holidaying at home, therefore there was a Summer engagement campaign underway to tackle this.

The Committee discussed the dangers locally including Leasowe Bay and access to Hillbre Island from Hoylake and West Kirby. The Coast Review process was queried where it was reported that an interim review had taken place two years previous and had resulted in a hovercraft being located in Hoylake. Members were advised that the performance of this would be tracked and measured through the Community Safety Partnership.

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Johnson and seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, that RNLI be invited to report back to the Partnerships Committee at the end of the season to present their ideas and recommendations. The motion was put and agreed by assent. It was therefore

—

Resolved – That

- 1) RNLI be invited to report back to the Partnerships Committee at the end of the season to present their ideas and recommendations.**
- 2) The report and presentation be noted.**

10 **BETTER CARE FUND WORKSHOP REPORT**

The Chair introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided outcomes from a Better Care Fund Workshop that had taken place in the 2020/21 Municipal Year and sought the views of those members who were members of the Committee in the previous year.

It was felt that the report encompassed all of the comments made by members in the workshop, and that the Committee would be well placed to scrutinise the priorities identified and review them at some point during the municipal year. The Chair queried why Children's services were not included,

where it was confirmed that the workshop was on the Better Care Fund solely and that Children's Services formed part of the wider pooled fund.

It was proposed by Councillor Jean Robinson, seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell as an alternative to the recommendations within the report, that the report be noted and a report be presented back to the Committee at a future date on the outcomes referred to within the report, including a review of the priorities of the pooled fund. The motion was put and agreed by assent. It was therefore –

Resolved – That the report be noted and a report be presented back to the Committee at a future date on the outcomes referred to within the report, including a review of the priorities of the pooled fund.

11 JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY

Vicki Shaw, Head of Legal Services introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which sought appointments to the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, in accordance with the protocol established as the framework for the operation of joint health scrutiny arrangements across the local authorities of Cheshire and Merseyside.

It was proposed by Councillor Jean Robinson, seconded by Councillor Jenny Johnson, that Councillor Jean Robinson and Councillor Ivan Camphor be appointed to the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, and that a further Labour Member be appointed at a future date. The motion was put and agreed by assent, it was therefore –

Resolved – That

- 1) Councillor Jean Robinson and Councillor Ivan Camphor be appointed to the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee in accordance with political balance requirements to allow participation in joint health scrutiny of any developments or variation to health services which the authority decides represents a substantial development or variation.**
- 2) the Monitoring Officer as proper officer be authorised to carry out the wishes of the Labour Group Leader in allocating a further Labour member to the Joint Health Scrutiny with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.**

12 WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Chair of the Committee introduced the report which provided the committee with an opportunity to plan and review its work across the municipal year. The Chair informed the Committee that the existing work programme had been inherited from the previous municipal year and following

discussions with the Group Spokespersons, it was felt that the Committee would be best placed focusing on items covered by the legislation within its Terms of Reference.

It was proposed by Councillor Jean Robinson, seconded by Councillor Jenny Johnson, that the items on the existing work programme be removed with the exception of the Better Care Fund and Voluntary/Third Sector.

Members suggested further items for consideration including potential Voluntary/Third Sector organisations to invite which would be discussed at agenda setting meetings. Other suggestions included a further update on the Integrated Care System developments including inviting independent attendees such as the Wirral local medical secretary, as well as a further update from the Clinical Commissioning Group on the services they commission, and an update from the Police and Crime Commissioner and Merseyside Police.

The motion to remove the existing items from the work programme except for the Better Care Fund and Voluntary/Third Sector, and to include updates from the Clinical Commissioning Group, Police and Crime Commissioner and Merseyside Police and a further standalone update on the Integrated Care System was put and agreed unanimously. It was therefore –

Resolved – That

- 1) the items on the existing work programme be removed with the exception of the Voluntary/Third Sector and the Better Care Fund.**
- 2) updates from the Clinical Commissioning Group, Police and Crime Commissioner and Merseyside Police and a further standalone update on the Integrated Care System be added to the work programme.**

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PENSIONS COMMITTEE

Monday, 29 March 2021

Present:

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

43 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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

44 APOLOGIES

A roll call of Councillors was undertaken on behalf of the Head of Legal Services. No apologies had been received.

45 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

The following declarations were made:

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

46 MINUTES

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2021 be agreed.

47 **LGPS UPDATE**

The Head of Pensions Administration, Yvonne Murphy, introduced a report that updated Members on the Treasury announcement of 12 February, to issue a direction to disapply the 'Restriction of Public Sector Exit Payments Regulations 2020 (£95k cap) with immediate effect. Subsequently, on 25 February the Treasury had formally revoked the regulations with effect from 19 March 2021.

In addition, the report raised awareness of the publication of the final report from the Scheme Advisory Board on the Good Governance review and overriding legislation that would impact on the administration of the LGPS.

Further to updates provided at the last committee meeting on the £95k Exit Cap, HM Treasury (HMT) had published the Exit Payment Cap Directions 2021, on 12 February, accessible from the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-public-sector-exit-payments/mandatory-hm-treasury-directions>

The Directions had disapplied regulations 3, 9 and 12 of the Restriction of Public Sector Exit Payment Regulations 2020 with immediate effect on the basis that the Government had concluded that the Cap may have had unintended consequences. This meant the exit cap did not apply to exits that took place on or after 12 February 2021.

HMT had also issued guidance which set out their expectation that employers who had capped exit payments since 4 November 2020 should revisit those cases and pay the additional sums that would have been payable had the cap not applied.

The Head of Pension Administration also highlighted that on 11 February, HMT had launched a consultation on the implementation of increasing the minimum pension age from 55 to 57 in April 2028. This was the age at which individuals could access their pension benefits without incurring an unauthorised tax charge.

Government had previously signalled its commitment to increase the minimum pension age to 57 in 2028 in its response to the Freedom and Choice in Pensions consultation in July 2014. The Government's justification was to reflect increases to life expectancy since the minimum pension age was last increased from 50 to 55 in 2010, so that tax efficient pension savings were only used to provide income and security in later life.

The consultation confirmed that the proposals did not apply to those who were members of the firefighters, police and armed forces public service pension schemes. The consultation would close on 22 April 2021 and MPF would provide a response to this consultation which would be shared members of the Pension Committee.

Resolved - That the governance, resource and operational implications emerging from impending changes to the regulations and industry developments be noted.

48 **MPF BUDGET 2021/22**

Donna Smith, Head of Finance & Risk, presented a report that requested that Members approve the budget for the financial year 2021/22.

The budget for 2021/22 was attached as appendix 1 to the report.

The headline figures were that, during the financial year 2021/22, it was estimated that MPF would pay £368m in pensions and receive £172m in contributions from employers and employees. The Fund had a value of £9.8bn at 31 December 2020. The proposed administration costs of £25.5m including £17.4m of investment management charges to external managers represented a cost of £182.44 per member of the scheme or 0.26% of assets under management. Taken separately the external investment management costs were approximately £124.01 per member or 0.18% of assets under management.

The budget for 2021/22 was higher at £25.5m than £23.0 in 2020/21 primarily due to higher investment management fees, principally, as a consequence of outperformance by external investment managers during the pandemic induced market volatility.

The Fund was undertaking a number of initiatives to increase efficiencies and deliver savings, particularly from investments, over the medium term.

Resolved – That;

- 1 the budget for 2021/22 be approved. (Subject to review of charges from the administering authority for support services).**
- 2 a further report on the outturn for 2020/21 with finalised estimates in particular for departmental & central support charges and any known changes in supplies and services for 2021/22 be presented to Members of Pensions Committee at a future meeting.**

49 **OVERPAYMENT OF PENSIONS POLICY**

The Head of Pension Administration, Yvonne Murphy, presented a report that informed Members of the introduction of an 'Overpayment of Pensions Policy' formalising the operational and decision-making processes in dealing with the overpayment of pensions.

Appendix 1 to the report contained the draft Overpayment of Pensions Policy.

The policy outlined the circumstances where the recovery of monies was pursued, along with the considerations as to the commercial viability of recovery, the reasons for write-off and actions undertaken to mitigate the loss to the taxpayer.

The policy confirmed that the Fund adopted the HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) statutory “de minimums limit” of £250, which allowed for the non-recovery of a payment up to £250 gross made in error “because of circumstances that were beyond the control of the pension scheme making the payment”.

The Pension Board had considered the draft policy and, after making a number of revisions to the document, had deemed the policy (Appendix One) as suitable for presentation to Pensions Committee for its approval; on the basis it was equitable to scheme members, the scheme itself and the taxpayer.

Following discussion with Members it was agreed that paragraph 3.4 be amended to replace the £1000 limit for reporting to reference the minimum approval limit documented in the Wirral Council Constitution.

Resolved – That the draft ‘Overpayment of Pensions Policy’ which formalises the Fund’s current operational practice, including the application of HMRC’s statutory £250 “de minimums limit”, be approved subject to the amendment that the reporting limit for write off of irrecoverable debt within the policy be linked to the minimum approval limit documented in the Wirral Council Constitution.

50 **NON-RECOVERY OF PENSION OVERPAYMENTS**

The Head of Pensions Administration, Yvonne Murphy, presented a report that requested approval to write off a sum of £48,750.30, in respect of pension overpayments that had arisen. Legal Services had recommended write off as they were deemed irrecoverable or were now Statute Barred.

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

It was noted that paragraph 3.3 of the report that ‘the delegated authority of the Director of Resources to write-off debt is limited to £1,000 in any one case’ was correct as the recommendation for write-off from legal services and subsequent reporting to Members predates the change to the Council’s Constitution.

Councillor Steve Foulkes suggested that Officers ensure that the operational process for life certification be clarified with pensioner members on notification of their change of residence to overseas.

Resolved - That the sum of £48,750.30 be approved for write-off.

51 **PROPERTY PORTFOLIO RENT ARREARS AND WRITE OFFS**

The Head of Finance and Risk, Donna Smith, presented a report that requested that Members agree to the write off of £592,846.07 of unrecoverable rent arrears from the Fund’s property portfolio. The annual property rental income for 2019/20 was £30.9 million.

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

Resolved – That the write-off of uncollectable property rental income of £592,846.07 be approved.

52 **MINUTES OF WORKING PARTY MEETINGS**

Resolved - That the minutes of the Working Party be approved.

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

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

Resolved – That in accordance with section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business, on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The public interest test had been applied and favoured exclusion.

54 **NON RECOVERY OF PENSION OVERPAYMENTS EXEMPT APPENDIX**

The appendix to the report on Non Recovery of Pension Overpayments was exempt by virtue of paragraph 3.

55 **PROPERTY PORTFOLIO RENT ARREARS AND WRITE OFFS EXEMPT APPENDIX**

The appendix to the report on Property Portfolio Rent Arrears and Write Offs was exempt by virtue of paragraph 3.

56 **CATALYST FUND – LOCAL INVESTMENTS UPDATE**

The Director of Pensions, Peter Wallach, presented a report that provided members with an update on MPF's local Investment Programme.

1. Background and local investment strategy.
2. Updates on current investments and exits.
3. Pipeline and indirect investment indirect investment strategy.

The appendix to the report was exempt by virtue of paragraph 3.

Resolved – That the report and progress being made in the deployment of capital in local investments be noted.

57 **MINUTES OF WORKING PARTY MEETINGS EXEMPT REPORT**

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

PENSIONS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 22 June 2021

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	P Cleary (Chair)	
	Councillors	AER Jones J Bird C Carubia H Collinson D Burgess Joyce (dep for Cllr C Povall)	T Cox JE Green B Kenny L Rowlands
	Councillors	Mrs J Aston, Knowsley Council M Bond, St Helens Council	
<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	C Povall P Lappin R Bannister	

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed Members of the Pensions Committee and viewing members of the public to the meeting. The Chair welcomed new members to the Committee and thanked outgoing members, Councillors George Davies, Steve Foulkes, Andrew Gardner and Tony Jones for their contributions.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Mr R Bannister, Councillors P Lappin and C Povall.

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

The following declarations were made:

Councillor Jo Bird		Pecuniary interest by virtue of her partner being a member of Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Helen Collinson	Helen	Pecuniary interest by virtue of being a deferred member of Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Les Rowlands	Les	Pecuniary interest by virtue of his wife being a member of Merseyside Pension Fund.

4 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2021 be agreed.

5 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

A question received in advance of the meeting was presented to the Committee and responded to as follows.

Q: The people of Palestine have been living under occupation and denied their human rights for more than 50 years. 1.9 million Palestinians are cut off from the outside world by a blockade of Gaza and 4 million live under an Israeli government occupation that continues to build illegal settlements that segregates them behind a wall. There are many companies that are profiting from this illegal breach of human rights.

Does the Merseyside pension fund invest in any such companies and if so how much does it invest?

A: The Fund takes its responsibilities as an asset owner seriously and Human Rights are a fundamental element of those responsibilities. Our policy of Responsible Investment (RI) reflects the view that environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) factors can materially affect investment performance.

Accordingly, we take ESG issues seriously and place importance on active ownership in managing and shaping ESG matters. We principally do this through collaborative working whether that is with other local government pension schemes through the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF), or with our Northern LGPS partner funds (Greater Manchester & West Yorkshire). We also appoint a third party, currently Pensions & Investment Research Consultants (PIRC), who assist us in fulfilling our fiduciary responsibility as a long-term investor.

Where we become aware that companies may be involved in breaches of international law or complicit in human rights abuses, we seek to engage with companies in order to gather information and evidence. Our objective is to see that companies are acting in accordance with their responsibilities to respect human rights, as detailed by the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

In relation to your question, we have been advised that the Fund is invested in some companies featuring in a database, created by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, of business enterprises involved with or operating in the Occupied Territories.

The Fund's present holdings and values are:

Companies on 'U.N. list' currently held by Merseyside Pension Fund	Approx. current value of shareholding (includes direct & indirect exposure via externally-managed funds)
ALSTOM EUR7.0	£923,648

Bank Hapoalim B.M.	£59,045
Booking Holdings Inc.	£785,510
Expedia Group Inc.	£211,044
General Mills Inc.	£409,072
Mizrahi Tefahot Bank Ltd.	£15,688
Motorola Solutions Inc.	£337,766

TOTAL across seven companies is currently valued at £2,741,773

In the main, these are large, international companies with wide-ranging interests. Consistent with our policy, we are engaging with them to understand how they are addressing the reputational implications of their activities. Useful further understanding and context of the issues has been gained. LAPFF has also met with the UN Special Rapporteur to discuss the companies linked to the Occupied Territories. The advice received remains that we need to give the engagement process time, but that we also give companies a clear sense of human rights expectations and why they are considered to fall short.

The Chair of the Committee noted that the response to the question raised would also be sent to the member of the public in writing. Through the NLGPS the Chair of the Pension Committee had specifically raised the issue with the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign and asked for the Policy to be enhanced. A supplemental question was then raised;

Q: Does the Pensions Committee agree with me that it is a priority to investigate the issue and consider special proposals at its meeting to divest investment from companies assisting in the violation of Palestine?

A: We take Human Rights very seriously particularly in conflict areas. The Policy is under review, but I would advise that the policy has to operate within the legal framework that is set down by Government and we operate in the legal framework. The Policy will return to Committee no later than November 2021 when the Pension Committee will discuss, debate and review that Policy and satisfy itself that the Policy is robust enough to deal with the issues you have raised.

6 AUDIT PLAN

Mr Stuart Basnett, Audit Manager, Grant Thornton UK attended the meeting and presented the External Audit Plan for Merseyside Local Government Pension Scheme Year ended 31 March 2021. Mr Basnett reported upon the key issues contained in the report and responded to Members questions and it was;

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Jeff Green:

Resolved – That;

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

2. the Audit Plan be noted.

7 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21 - MANAGEMENT QUESTIONS

Members gave consideration to a report of the Director of Pensions that requested that members review and endorse the management responses to questions posed by the Fund's external auditors, Grant Thornton.

Donna Smith, Head of Finance and Risk, introduced the report and informed Members that Grant Thornton, as part of their audit of the Fund's Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 had asked management to respond to a series of questions.

Fund officers had completed the questionnaire prepared by Grant Thornton and presented it to Members, to support Members responsibilities in relation to the financial reporting process. This would inform the auditors risk assessment, where the auditor was required to make inquiries of Pensions Committee under auditing standards.

The questionnaire provided members with an understanding of management processes and the Fund's oversight of the following areas:

- General Enquiries of Management
- Fraud
- Laws and Regulations
- Related Parties
- Accounting Estimates

The completed questionnaire was attached as an appendix to the report. The Head of Finance and Risk responded to members questions and moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Jeff Green, it was;

Resolved – that the management responses to questions posed by the Fund's external auditors Grant Thornton, having been reviewed by the Pensions Committee, be endorsed.

8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME UPDATE

Members gave consideration to a report of the Director of Pensions that informed Members on the publication of a Written Ministerial Statement on McCloud and the remedy for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), along with recent developments on ongoing national issues and overriding legislation that would impact on the administration of the LGPS. The response to the consultation 'Increasing the Normal Minimum Pension Age: Consultation on Implementation' was attached as an appendix to the report.

Yvonne Murphy, Head of Pension Administration, highlighted the key points in the report and responded to Members questions. To provide some context for new Committee Members, the Head of Pensions explained the background to the report, that the 'Court of Appeals' ruling in December 2018 had confirmed that the transitional protections provided for members of the Judges' and Firefighters' pension schemes when the public sector pension reforms were implemented in 2014 and 2015, were age discriminatory. This was because eligibility for these protections had

been based on an age criterion. Similarly, age-restricted transitional protections had also provided across the other public service pension schemes including the LGPS and last year the government had announced that it would seek to remedy the position. On 16 July 2020, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) had released the much-anticipated consultation on the McCloud remedy for the LGPS in England and Wales and could be accessed from the following link:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/901173/Condoc - amendments to LGPS underpin - FOR PUBLICATION.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/901173/Condoc_-_amendments_to_LGPS_underpin_-_FOR_PUBLICATION.pdf)

The consultation had closed on 8 October 2020 and a response to the consultation was expected later this year. The recent written statement could be accessed from the following link:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-05-13/hcws26>

The report informed that the statement confirmed the key changes that the Government would make to the LGPS regulations to remove the unlawful age discrimination. The regulations would be retrospective to 1 April 2014 and it was expected that MHCLG would issue a full response to the consultation later this year.

A Public Service Pensions Bill would introduce amendments to incorporate the McCloud judgment into public service pension schemes, and subsequently MHCLG would publish draft regulations later this year implementing the remedial McCloud provisions in readiness for the effective date of 1 April 2023.

In preparation for the enactment of the legislation, Fund Officers had undertaken a project to identify qualifying members who were in scope for underpin protection and were verifying the data held in relation to hour changes and breaks in service received for membership accrual post 1 April 2014.

In relation to the Consultation on Increasing the minimum pension age from 55 to 57 in April 2028, Members were informed that Merseyside Pension Fund had responded to the recent consultation on the national increase of the minimum pension age from age 55 to 57. A copy of the response was attached as Appendix A to the report.

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Les Rowlands, it was;

Resolved – That the operational implications emerging from impending changes to the regulations and industry developments be noted.

9 BUDGET OUTTURN 20/21 AND FINAL BUDGET 21/22

Members gave consideration to a report of the Director of Pensions that requested Members to note and approve:

- The out-turn for the financial year 2020/21.
- The finalised budget for the financial year 2021/22.

Donna Smith, Head of Finance and Risk, reported that the actual out-turn for 2020/21 was £21.5m, lower than the original budget approved 3 February 2020 of £23.0m and lower than the projected out-turn of £22.0m as reported at Pensions Committee on 29 March 2021. The underspend was largely due to planned projects and areas of work being deferred to 2021/22 as a result of the pandemic, and the assumptions used for staffing. The finalised out-turn was included in appendix 1 of the report.

The 2021/22 budget reported in March had been reviewed and remained the same as reported and approved in March, the finalised 2021/22 budget was £25.5m.

It was reported that the budget for 2021/22 was higher at £25.5m than £23.0 in 2020/21 primarily due to higher investment management fees, principally, as a consequence of outperformance by external investment managers during the pandemic induced market volatility.

The Head of Finance and Risk responded to Members questions and moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Jeff Green, it was;

Resolved – That;

1 the out-turn for 2020/21 be noted.

2 the finalised budget for 2021/22 be approved.

10 **MEMBER LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

The Director of Pensions presented a report that reminded Members of the requirement to ensure that all involved in the governance of public sector funds can evidence that they have the knowledge, skills and commitment to carry out their role effectively. Details of the Fund's provision of opportunities for learning & development in the forthcoming year were set out in appendix 1 to the report. The Director also noted that Members would be made aware of other events as they arrived. The Fundamentals course was recommended for all new (and existing members if wished) and it was possible to mix and match modules.

The Chair of the Committee encouraged Members to consider the range of training opportunities outlined and:

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Adrian Jones, it was;

Resolved - That the report be noted and the proposed learning and development plan for 2021 be approved.

11 **TASKFORCE FOR CLIMATE RELATED FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTING**

The Director of Pensions introduced a report that provided Members with information on the Fund's current arrangements in relation to Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD) requirements. The appendix to the report provided an extract from the Fund's annual report in relation to TCFD reporting. It was anticipated that mandatory reporting requirements would be more stringent.

It was reported that one of the provisions in the recently enacted UK Pensions Schemes Act 2021 was requirement for trustees to ensure there was effective governance of schemes with respect to the effects of climate change, and to publish information relating to the effects of climate change on the scheme. This provided the legal framework for requiring trustees to make disclosures in line with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). This applied only to pension funds in the private sector. It was expected that MHCLG would consult on TCFD for the LGPS later on this year with reporting required in annual reports from March 2023.

The report informed that addressing the systemic challenges of climate risk had been at the forefront of the Fund's responsible investment work. The Financial Stability Board's (FSB) Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD) provided a global framework to translate non-financial information into financial metrics. The Fund had included a TCFD statement in its previous two annual reports and intended to continue with that practice with this year's report which was in preparation.

The TCFD had structured its recommendations around four pillars: Governance, Strategy, Risk Management and Metrics. The report set out some of the priority actions suggested for asset owners in the near term that included:

Governance: review governance arrangements to ensure there was effective board level oversight and internal management processes were in place to effectively manage the climate-related risks and opportunities.

Strategy: begin the process of analysing portfolio resilience to climate-related scenarios, including a 2 degree or less outcome.

Risk management: assess the potential financial materiality of climate-related risks on the investment portfolio and evaluate the actions that needed to be taken to mitigate these risks, as well as capturing new opportunities.

Metrics: measure GHG emissions where data was available or could be reasonably estimated, for each fund or investment strategy.

Engagement: engage with companies and external fund managers, to encourage greater transparency and alignment with the TCFD recommendations.

Disclose: publicly disclose all of the above actions and outcomes in annual reports and the climate risk in PRI's reporting framework.

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Chris Carubia, it was;

Resolved – That the report be noted.

12 PENSION BOARD MINUTES

The Director of Pensions introduced a report that provided members with the minutes of the previous meeting of the Local Pension Board. The Chair noted that he had attended this meeting and commented that the Pensions Committee was fortunate in

terms of the quality of the Local Pensions Board. The Director of Pensions reported that the contract of the Independent Chair had also been extended by four years.

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Chris Carubia, it was;

Resolved - That the minutes of the Local Pension Board held on 31 March 2021 be noted.

13 **NORTHERN LGPS UPDATE**

The Director of Pensions introduced a report that provided Members with an update on pooling arrangements in respect of Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) and the Northern LGPS. Minutes of the previous Northern LGPS Joint Committee meeting were attached as an appendix to the report.

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Les Rowlands, it was;

Resolved – That the report be noted.

14 **WORKING PARTY MINUTES**

A report of the Director of Pensions provided Members with the minutes of meetings of Working Parties held since the previous meeting. The Chair encouraged Members of the Pensions Committee to attend IMWP and WP meetings and it was noted that invitations would be circulated.

Moved by the Chair and formally seconded by Councillor Chris Carubia, it was;

Resolved – That the minutes of the Working Party be approved.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 18 March 2021

Present:

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

32 MINUTES

The Director of Law and Governance submitted the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021 for approval.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021 be approved.

33 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor A Gardner declared a personal interest in respect of Item 3 – APP/20/00891: Land at Chicken Corner Farm, Raby Mere Road, Raby – by virtue of being acquainted with the applicant's agent (minute 36 refers).

34 ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

35 OUT/20/01800: RONAN, 4 SANDFIELD PARK, HESWALL, CH60 9HX - OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO DETACHED DWELLINGS

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

The Lead Petitioner addressed the Committee.

The Applicant's Agent addressed the Committee.

It was moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor S Frost that the application be approved subject to the following conditions.

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

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

The development hereby permitted shall be commenced either before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission or before the expiration of two years from the date of approval of the last of the reserved matters to be approved, whichever is the later.

NO DEVELOPMENT SHALL COMMENCE ON SITE UNTIL details of the following reserved matters have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority within three years from the date of this permission.

(a) The external appearance of the development;

(b) The landscaping of the site; and

The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plan received by the local planning authority on 09 December and 25 January 2020 and listed as follows:

A102 Rev B – Proposed Massing Elevations

A101 Rev C – Proposed Site Plan and Context Elevation

A100 Rev A – Existing Site Plan

No development hereby approved shall take place (including ground works and vegetation clearance) until a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEcMP) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The CEcMP shall include, but not limited to the following:

- a) Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction activities**
- b) A pre-commencement check for terrestrial mammals, including a Badger walk-over survey of the site and 30m of adjacent land (access permitting);**
- c) Identification of “biodiversity protection works” / Reason Avoidance Measures (RAMs) including but not limited to:**
 - i. The working area, together with any storage areas, being kept clear of debris, and any stored materials being kept off the ground on pallets to prevent amphibians from seeking shelter or protection within them.**
 - ii. Any open excavations (e.g. foundations / footings / service trenches etc) being covered with plywood sheeting (or similar) at the end of each working day. The edges of these sheets being covered with a thick layer of topsoil or similar) to prevent amphibians from seeking shelter beneath them.**

- iii. Any excavation being in-filled and made good to ground level with compacted stone or similar at the earliest opportunity, so as to remove any hazard to amphibians.
- iv. Any open pipes being temporarily capped at the end of each working day to prevent any animals gaining access.
- v. Any holes or trenches left open overnight being either be covered at the end of each working day and/or include a means of escape (sloped banks or ramps) in case any badger should fall in.
- vi. All building materials being stored so that badgers cannot access them.
- vii. The use of chemicals (such as herbicides & fertilisers) being avoided wherever possible. Should any chemicals be used and stored on site these should be kept in secure compounds away from access by animals.
- viii. Any obvious badger paths to be left clear of obstruction.
- ix. All the property boundaries allow for the free movement of wildlife both during & after construction.
- x. Protective fencing being erected surrounding the construction site during the building work to prevent badgers from entering the site
- d) Practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts during construction (may be provided as a set of method statements)
- e) The locations and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features (e.g. should only take place between 8am and 6pm daylight working hours and starting one hour after sunrise and ceasing one hour after sunset)
- f) Responsible persons and lines of communication
- g) The role and responsibilities on site of an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) or similar person
- h) Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs
- i) Ongoing monitoring, including compliance checks by a competent person(s) during construction and immediately post-completion of construction works

Should badgers or any protected species be at risk at any point a licence may be required from Natural England to proceed lawfully.

The approved CEcMP shall be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period strictly in accordance with the approved details

No development hereby approved shall be occupied until a scheme for hard and soft landscaping of the site and including the means of enclosure and the materials to be used for hard surfacing have been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall include, but not be limited to:

- a) A plan showing existing vegetation to be retained and safeguarded during construction which shall be consistent with the Construction Ecological Management Plan.
- b) Details of the species, heights and age of the new replacement trees to be planted.

- c) Detailed planting / sowing specifications including species, size, density spacing, cultivation protection (fencing, staking, guards) and methods of weed control
- d) Details of surfacing, boundary treatments and landscaping structures including design, location, size, colour, materials and openings

Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved scheme and in accordance with the landscape implementation plan. If at any time in the five years following planting any tree, shrub or hedge shall for any reason die, be removed or felled it shall be replaced with another tree, shrub or hedge of the same species during the next planting season to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.

No development hereby approved shall be occupied until details of external lighting shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The details shall clearly demonstrate that lighting will not cause excessive light pollution or disturb or prevent protected species using key corridors, forage habitat features or accessing roost sites.

The details shall include, but not limited to, the following:

- a) A drawing showing sensitive areas and/or dark corridor safeguarding areas
- b) Description, design or specification of external lighting to be installed including shields, cowls or blinds where appropriate.
- c) A description of the luminosity of lights and their light colour
- d) A drawing(s) showing the location and where appropriate the elevation of the light fixings.
- e) Methods to control lighting control (e.g timer operation, passive infrared sensor (PIR)).

All external lighting shall be installed in accordance with the specifications and locations set out in the approved details. These shall be maintained thereafter in accordance with these details. Under no circumstances shall any other external lighting be installed.

No development hereby approved shall be occupied until details scheme for biodiversity enhancement, such as:

- a) incorporation of permanent bird boxes;
- b) nesting opportunities for birds;
- c) hedgehog highways (13cm x 13cm holes) within the bottom of any fences in order to allow for movement of species between the new gardens.
- d) hedgehog hibernacula/log pile;
- e) bat boxes; and
- f) invertebrate boxes

have been submitted to and agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

No tree felling, scrub clearance, vegetation management, ground clearance or building works is to take place during the period 1 March to 31 August inclusive. If it

is necessary to undertake works during the bird breeding season then all trees, scrub and vegetation are to be checked first by an appropriately experienced ecologist to ensure no breeding birds are present. If present, details of how they will be protected are required to be submitted for approval.

No surface water and/or land drainage shall connect directly or indirectly with the public sewerage network.

No building hereby permitted shall be occupied until details of cycle parking provision are submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The approved details must be implemented, retained thereafter and be kept free of obstruction and available for the parking of cycles only.

- 36 **APP/20/00891: LAND AT CHICKEN CORNER FARM, RABY MERE ROAD, RABY, CH63 4JQ - DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF EXISTING COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES (USE CLASSES B1, B2, B8, D2 AND SUI GENERIS) AND THE ERECTION OF SIX DWELLINGS (USE CLASS C3) WITH ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING VEHICULAR ACCESS AND FORMATION OF PARKING AND SITE LANDSCAPING**

Councillor A Gardner declared a personal interest in this matter (minute 33 refers).

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

The Applicant's Agent addressed the Committee.

Ward Councillor Cherry Povall addressed the Committee.

It was moved by Councillor S Frost and seconded by Councillor M Jordan that the application be refused.

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

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

In visual terms the proposal would have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt than the existing development due to the height and massing of the submitted scheme. The proposal is therefore inappropriate development in the Green Belt, and as such conflicts with Policy GB2 of the Wirral UDP, and the NPPF, which seeks to safeguard the Green Belt from inappropriate development and impacts on openness.

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PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 15 April 2021

Present:

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

37 MINUTES

The Director of Law and Governance submitted the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2021 for approval.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2021 be approved.

38 MINUTES' SILENCE

The Chair made reference to the national mourning of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and also the anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster and requested the Committee to observe a minutes' silence in remembrance.

39 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No such declarations were made.

40 APP/21/00268: 5-7 BROADWAY, HIGHER BEBINGTON CH63 5ND - EXTENSION ONTO FRONTAGE OF NON-STANDARD CONSTRUCTION FOR STANDING AND SEATING AREA OF RESTAURANT TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER SPACING BETWEEN CLIENTELEFSFA

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

It was moved by Councillor S Foulkes and seconded by Councillor K Hodson that the application be approved subject to the following conditions.

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

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

The building hereby permitted shall be removed and the land restored to its

former condition on or before 12 months from the date of this decision in accordance with a scheme of work(s) to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 23 February 2021.

The premises shall not be used except between the hours of :- 1100 hours and 2300 hours Mondays to Saturdays and 1100 hours and 2200 hours Sundays and Bank Holidays without the written consent of the Local Planning Authority.

Before any above ground construction commences, samples of the facing and window materials to be used in the external construction of this development shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved materials shall then be used in the construction of the development.

- 41 **APP/20/01846: 110 RAEBURN AVENUE, EASTHAM CH62 8AX - SINGLE STOREY REAR/SIDE EXTENSION. AMENDED PLANS RECEIVED REDUCING THE DEPTH OF THE EXTENSION ON THE BOUNDARY WITH 112 RAEBURN AVENUE**

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

It was moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor S Foulkes that the application be approved subject to the following conditions.

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

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

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

The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 16 February 2021 and listed as follows: 5453-1.

- 42 **VOTE OF THANKS**

As it was the last meeting of the municipal year the Chair gave thanks to officers and paid tribute to the Solicitor, Cecilia Rathe and wished her well for her forthcoming retirement.

Members of the Committee reiterated their thanks and also thanked the Chair and Vice-Chair.

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PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 10 June 2021

Present:

Councillor	S Kelly (Chair)	
Councillors	S Foulkes	M Jordan
	K Hodson	A Gardner
	S Frost	B Berry
	B Kenny	H Gorman
	P Stuart	AER Jones

1 MINUTES

The Director of Law and Governance submitted the minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 21 for approval.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2021 be approved.

2 MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Director of Law and Governance submitted the minutes of the Strategic Applications Sub Committee meeting held on 29 April 2021.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2021 be approved.

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor A Gardner declared a prejudicial interest in respect of item 5 by virtue of having previously carried out a building survey on the property for the applicant and would withdraw from the Chamber during the discussion and debate on that item.

4 APP/20/01919: BURTONS FOODS, PASTURE ROAD, MORETON, CH46 8SE - CONSTRUCTION OF TWO DWELLING HOUSES (USE CLASS C3) WITH ASSOCIATED CAR PARKING, LANDSCAPE BOUNDARY TREATMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

Resolved that the application be withdrawn, to enable the matter to be determined as a delegated officer decision, as the ward councillor who had asked for the matter to be considered by Committee was content with the proposals after receiving assurances.

5 **APP/21/00016: 20 BEACON DRIVE, NEWTON, CH48 7ED - ERECTION OF TWO STOREY EXTENSIONS (TO THE FRONT, REAR AND SIDE); EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING DORMERS ALONGSIDE THE INTRODUCTION OF X1 NEW FRONT DORMER; ERECTION OF X2 BALCONIES TO THE REAR ELEVATION**

Having previously declared a prejudicial interest in connection to this item, Councillor A Gardner left the room during consideration.

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

A Ward Councillor addressed the Committee.

It was moved by Councillor S Kelly and seconded by Councillor S Foulkes that the application be approved

The motion was put and carried (10:0)

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

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

The roof area of single storey rear extension hereby permitted shall not be used as a balcony roof garden or similar amenity area without the grant of further specific permission from the local planning authority.

6 **APP/21/00229 : 1 OLDFIELD DRIVE, HESWALL, CH60 6SS - DEMOLITION OF EXISTING DWELLINGHOUSE AND DEVELOPMENT OF A THREE STOREY APARTMENT BUILDING, COMPRISING OF 5 NO. APARTMENTS, WITH ASSOCIATED HARD AND SOFT LANDSCAPING.**

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

The Agent for the Applicant addressed the Committee

On a motion by Councillor K Hodson and seconded by Councillor B Berry that the application be refused upon the following grounds:

“The proposed development due to its increase in width, height and scale is considered to have a detrimental impact on the character of the surrounding area

and is therefore contrary to criterion (i) and (ii) of saved policy HS4 of the Unitary Development Plan and paragraph 131 of the National Policy Planning Framework.”

The motion was put and lost (4:7)

It was then moved by Councillor S Kelly and seconded by Councillor S Foulkes that the application be approved.

The motion was put and carried (7:4)

Resolved (7:4) – That the application be approved with the following conditions:

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2008 (or any subsequent Order or statutory provision re-enacting or revoking the provisions of that Order), no window or dormer window shall be added to the property unless expressly authorised.

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

The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 5th February 2021 and listed as follows:

**20- 172-100/A, received 8th February 2021;
20- 172-120/B, received 8th February 2021;
20- 172-121/C, received 15th March 2021;
20- 172-122/C, received 15th March 2021;
20- 172-123/A, received 15th March 2021;
20- 172-150/C, received 15th March 2021;
20- 172-151/C, received 15th March 2021;
20- 172-152/B, received 19th March 2021;
20- 172-110/G, received 17th May 2021;
20- 172-111/E, received 17th May 2021;
20- 172-112/D, received 17th May 2021; and
20- 172-124, received 25th March 2021.**

As well as:

**Bat Survey Report (Mulberry, 24th March 2021);
Arboricultural Implications Assessment (Mulberry/ TRE 10D, 23rd March 2021); and
Arboricultural Method Statement (Mulberry/TRE 10D, 23rd March 2021)**

No above ground works shall take place prior to details of all materials to be used in the external construction (facings, roof, openings etc) of this development have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The

development shall be carried out in accordance with approved details.

With the exception of the south-east facing glazed panes within the angled v-shaped openings, all openings (including rooflights) within the south facing rear elevation of the hereby approved apartment block, shall not be glazed otherwise than with obscured glass which obscuration level is no less than Level 3 of Pilkington Glass scale (or equivalent) and fixed shut up to a height of 1.7m from the internal finished floor level, and thereafter be permanently retained as such.

Tree Protection Barriers:

Prior to the commencement of site clearance, demolition, storage of plant (non-tree related), materials, machinery, including site huts and WCs, Tree Protection Barriers shall be installed immediately following tree works and Barriers shall conform to the specification within the method statement. The Tree Protection Barriers and Ground Protection shall not be removed, breached or altered without prior written authorisation from the local planning authority or client arboriculturist, but shall remain in a functional condition throughout the entire development, until all development related machinery and materials have been removed from site. If such protection measures are damaged beyond effective functioning, then works that may compromise the protection of trees shall cease until the protection can be repaired or replaced with a specification that shall provide a similar degree of protection.

The tree protection measures shall not be dismantled until all construction related machinery and materials have been removed from site and not without written authorisation from the local planning authority or client arboriculturist. Once authorisation has been given the protection measures can be removed by hand and transported off site. During which time, no machinery or vehicles shall enter the area previously protected. No excavations, storage of materials, soil stripping, the raising or lowering of levels or the laying of hard surfacing without prior approval of the arboricultural consultant and / or the local planning authority. Any issues regarding tree protection should be agreed and implemented prior to commencement of development.

Prohibited Activities:

The following activities must not be carried out under any circumstances:

- a, No fires to be lit within 20 metres of existing trees and shrubs to be retained.
- b, Storage of removed topsoil should be located outside of the Root Protection Areas of retained trees and away from those parts of the site allocated for soft landscaping.
- c, No equipment, signage, fencing, tree protection barriers, materials, components, vehicles or structures shall be attached to or supported by a retained tree.
- d, No builders debris or other materials to be stored within the Root Protection Areas.
- e, No mixing of cement, associate additives, chemicals, fuels, tar and other oil based liquids and powders shall occur within 10 metres of any tree Root Protection Area. A

dedicated washout area shall be used and located not within 10 metres of any Root Protection

f, No alterations or variations to the approved works or tree protection schemes shall be carried out without the prior written approval of the LPA.

g, No excavations, trenches, stripping, cultivation with a rotavator or changes in surface level to occur within the Root Protection Area, unless authorised.

Arboricultural Site supervision:

The Arboricultural Method Statement (Ref: TRE/1OD) and plan (1ODH/MS/01) submitted in support of the application shall be adhered to in full.

Retaining trees:

No retained tree shall be cut down, uprooted, destroyed, pruned, cut or damaged in any manner during the development phase and thereafter within 5 years from the date of occupation of the building for its permitted use, other than in accordance with the approved plans and particulars or as may be permitted by prior approval in writing from the local planning authority.

Tree Planting:

Prior to completion or first occupation of the development hereby approved, whichever is the sooner; full details of all proposed tree planting shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This will include planting and maintenance specifications, including cross-section drawings, use of guards or other protective measures and confirmation of location, species and sizes, nursery stock type, supplier and defect period. All tree planting shall be carried out in accordance with those details and at those times.

Any trees that are found to be dead, dying, severely damaged or diseased within five years of the completion of the building works OR five years of the carrying out of the landscaping scheme (whichever is later), shall be replaced in the next planting season by specimens of similar size and species in the first suitable planting season.

Prior to the commencement of the development, including any works of demolition, a Construction Method Statement for the construction of the development hereby approved shall have been submitted to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The construction works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

No tree, shrub or hedgerow felling, or any vegetation management and/or cutting operations should take place during the period 1st March to 31st August inclusive. If it is necessary to undertake works during the bird breeding season then trees and vegetation are to be checked first by an appropriately experienced ecologist to ensure no breeding birds are present. If present, details of how they will be protected

are required to be submitted for approval.

Prior to first occupation of the hereby approved development, details of bird boxes to include number, type and location on an appropriately scaled plan as well as timing of installation shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Authority. Thereafter, their implementation shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (or any Order revising, revoking or re-enacting that Order with or without modification) no window shall be added to the property without the prior written approval of the Local Planning Authority.

No external lighting shall be installed until details of the proposed lighting scheme to include a type, location and illuminance level has been submitted to and approved by the Local Authority, thereafter development should be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Please refer to the Bat Conservation Trust website
<https://www.bats.org.uk/news/2018/09/new-guidance-on-bats-and-lighting>

The habitats on site are suitable for hedgehog which is a Priority Species and UDP Policy NC7 applies. The following reasonable avoidance measures should be put in place to ensure that there are no adverse effects on them:

- A pre-commencement check for hedgehog;
- All trenches and excavations should have a means of escape (e.g. a ramp);
- Any exposed open pipe systems should be capped to prevent mammals gaining access; and
- Appropriate storage of materials to ensure that mammals do not use them

There are habitats on site suitable for use by amphibians. The following reasonable avoidance measures should be put in place to ensure that there are no adverse effects on them:

- Existing vegetation on the site will be gradually cut and removed to encourage any amphibians present to move away from the affected areas;
- The working area, together with any storage areas, will be kept clear of debris, and any stored materials will be kept off the ground on pallets so as to prevent amphibians from seeking shelter or protection within them; and
- Any open excavations (e.g. foundations / footings / service trenches etc) will be covered with plywood sheeting (or similar) at the end of each working day. The

edges of these sheets will be covered with a thick layer of topsoil or similar) to prevent amphibians from seeking shelter beneath them. Any excavation must be in-filled and made good to ground level with compacted stone or similar at the earliest opportunity, so as to remove any hazard to amphibians.

The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied until a detailed scheme for landscaping has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall comprise of a plan and specification and demonstrate:

- i) The materials to be used for hard and soft surfacing;
- ii) A planting scheme which includes native species congruent with the surrounding landscape;
- iii) Compensatory tree planting to replace those specimens removed as part of the development to include the location, number, species and size of trees to be planted;
- iv) Any earthworks required;
- v) The location and design of fences, gates, walls, railings or other means of enclosure; and
- vi) The timing of implementation of the scheme.

Thereafter the landscaping scheme shall be carried out as approved.

No development shall take place until the applicant has submitted a written scheme of investigation for archaeological work for approval in writing by the local planning authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.

The applicant and/or developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to an archaeologist or archaeological organisation nominated by or acceptable to the Local Planning Authority and shall allow them to observe the excavations as they are carried out and to record items of archaeological interest and finds.

No development shall commence until a drainage scheme for the site has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The scheme shall provide for the disposal of foul, surface and land water, and include an assessment of the potential to dispose of surface and land water by sustainable means. Thereafter the scheme shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details prior to the occupation of the development and no further foul water, surface water and land drainage shall be allowed to connect directly or indirectly with the public sewerage system.

PRIOR TO FIRST OCCUPATION of the dwellings hereby approved, full details of secure, lockable and covered cycle parking and/or storage facilities for at least 6 bicycles shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. These facilities shall be provided in accordance with the approved details and made available for use prior to the first use of the development hereby permitted and shall be retained for use at all times thereafter.

PRIOR TO THE FIRST OCCUPATION OF THE DWELLINGS arrangements for the storage and disposal of refuse, including recycling facilities, and vehicle access thereto, shall be made within the curtilage of the site, in accordance with details to be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved details shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

7 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO STRATEGIC APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

A report by the Director of Law and Governance recommended that the Planning Committee establish a Strategic Applications Sub Committee as per instructions within the Council's Constitution.

Members were informed that the membership of the Sub Committee may comprise between 6 and 9 members.

On a motion by S Kelly and seconded by K Hodson it was:

Resolved (10:0) that :

- (1) The terms of reference of the Strategic Applications Sub-Committee, as referred to in paragraph 3.1. of the report be noted;**
- (2) the size of the Strategic Applications Sub Committee be made up of 7 members: 3 Labour, 2 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Green Member and;**
- (3) the Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership and substitute membership of the Strategic Applications Sub Committee and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.**

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 15 July 2021

Present:

Councillors	S Foulkes	M Jordan
	K Hodson	B Berry
	S Frost	H Gorman
	B Kenny	AER Jones
	P Stuart	

Deputies:

Councillors	D Mitchell (In place of S Kelly)
	A Wright (In place of A Gardner)

Vice Chair in the Chair

8 MINUTES

The Director of Law and Governance submitted the minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2021 for approval.

Councillor S Foulkes pointed out that there was a typographical error regarding the spelling of Councillor A Gardner's name in minute 5.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2021 be approved subject to one typographical correction.

9 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor S Foulkes declared a personal interest in Item 3 – APP/20/00998: Irvine House, 54-56 Park Road South, Birkenhead - by virtue of having, in the past, been a member of the Friends of Birkenhead Park (minute 10 refers).

10 **APP/20/00998: IRVINE HOUSE, 54-56 PARK ROAD SOUTH, BIRKENHEAD - VARIATION OF CONDITION 2 (APPROVED PLANS) OF PLANNING PERMISSION APP/16/00732 (CONVERSION OF SOCIAL CLUB TO 11 APARTMENTS AND THE ERECTION OF 7 DWELLINGS AND 21 APARTMENTS) TO ALLOW THE FORMATION OF SECOND FLOOR EXTERNAL TERRACES AND ALTERATIONS TO EXTERNAL APPEARANCE OF THE NEW-BUILD APARTMENTS TO INCLUDE AN INCREASE IN EAVES AND RIDGE HEIGHT; THE UNDERBUILDING OF CANTILEVERED FIRST FLOOR AND ALTERATIONS TO THE EXTERNAL APPEARANCE OF THE NEW BUILD DWELLINGS; AND AMENDMENTS TO SITE LAYOUT**

Councillor S Foulkes declared a personal interest in this matter by virtue of having, in the past, been a member of the Friends of Birkenhead Park (minute 9 refers). He remained in the meeting for the debate and consideration of the matter.

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

For medical reasons, the Lead Petitioner was unable to attend the meeting. Mr M Neal, Legal Advisor to the Committee, therefore read out to the Committee the Lead Petitioner's written representation.

The Applicant's Agent addressed the Committee.

It was moved by Councillor K Hodson and seconded by Councillor S Frost that the application be approved subject to the following conditions and an additional condition in respect of replacement tree planting.

The motion was put and carried (11:0).

Resolved (11:0) – That the application be approved with the additional condition below and the following conditions:

Notwithstanding the landscaping set out on Drawing DW/SD/SK/JSL/BSTS r_7, prior to commencement of the new build units, a scheme for replacement tree planting for trees T25, T26, T27 and T33, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved scheme shall be in accordance with the Wirral Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy and shall be carried out in full no later than the first planting season following first occupation of the new build units. Any trees which die or become diseased within 5 years of occupation shall be replaced with a comparable specimen. To ensure adequate tree replacement having regards to the Wirral Unitary Development Plan.

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

The permission has been implemented and therefore this condition has been complied with.

The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 18/11/2020 and listed as follows:

**2018 150 101 04
2018 150 103 03
2018 150 102 03
2018 150 104 03
2018 150 105 02
2018 150 201 03
2018 150 204 04
2018 150 202 04
2018 150 210 01
2018 150 208 01**

2018 150 209 01
2018 150 204 05
2018 150 001 06

Landscape layout received on 2/6/21 and listed as ; DW/SD/SK/JSL/BSTS_r7.

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

Details of condition approved under reference DIS/19/00467

Prior to the first occupation of the dwellings arrangements for the storage and disposal of refuse, and vehicle access thereto, shall be made within the curtilage of the site, in accordance with details to be submitted to and agreed in writing by the local planning authority. The approved details shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the local planning authority.

Details of condition approved under reference DIS/19/00467

Notwithstanding the submitted details, construction of the development authorised by this permission shall not commence until details of the vehicular access from the development site onto park road south have been submitted to and agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. The occupation of any part of the development shall not begin until those works have been completed in accordance with the Local Planning Authority's approval and have been certified in writing as complete by or on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. For the avoidance of doubt the works to the access shall include sufficient set back of the proposed gate to allow a vehicle to wait off the highway whilst the gates are opened and the relocation of the adjacent bus stop as necessary.

Details of condition approved under reference DIS/19/00467

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

Details of condition approved under DIS/19/00467

Prior to commencement of development a method statement having regards to Rhododendron and Japanese knotweed shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority detailing:

- A plan showing the extent of the plants
- What methods will be used to prevent the plant spreading further, including demarcation, and
- What methods of control will be used, including details of monitoring

Once the work has been carried out within the agreed timescale as set out in the method statement a validation report shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority confirming the remediation treatment has been carried out and that the site has been free of the invasive species for 12 consecutive months for approval in writing by the Local Planning Authority

In accordance with section 5.2 of the ecological report, prior to first occupation of the approved scheme hereby approved details and locations of additional nest boxes within the site shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. The agreed scheme shall be implemented in full prior to completion of the development and retained as such thereafter.

Details of condition approved under DIS/19/01335

NO WORKS OR DEVELOPMENT SHALL TAKE PLACE UNTIL a scheme for the protection of the retained trees- The Tree protection plan (section 5.5, BS 5837:2012, Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations) has been agreed in writing with the LPA. This scheme shall include [include those that are pertinent]:

- A. a schedule of tree works for all the retained trees in paragraphs (a) and (b) above, specifying pruning and other remedial or preventative work, whether for physiological, hazard abatement, aesthetic or operational reasons. All tree works shall be carried out in accordance with BS3998, 2010, Tree work-Recommendations.
- B. written proof of the credentials of the arboricultural contractor authorised to carry out the scheduled tree works.

An arboricultural method statement (section 6 BS 5837) containing;

- C. the details and positions (shown on the plan at paragraph (a) above) of the Tree Protection Barriers (section 6.2 of BS5837), identified separately where required for different phases of construction work (e.g. demolition, construction, hard landscaping). The Tree Protection Barriers must be erected prior to each construction phase commencing and remain in place, and undamaged for the duration of that phase. No works shall take place on the next phase until the Tree Protection Barriers are repositioned for that phase.
- D. the details and positions (shown on the plan at paragraph (a) above) of

the Ground Protection Zones (para 6.2.3 of BS5837).

E. the details and positions (shown on the plan at paragraph (a) above) of the Construction Exclusion Zones (section 6 of BS5837).

F. the details and positions (shown on the plan at paragraph (a) above) of the underground service runs (para 5.5.6 of BS5837).

G. the details of any changes in levels or the position of any proposed excavations within 5 metres of the Root Protection Area (para. 5.5.6 of BS5837) of any retained tree, including those on neighbouring or nearby ground.

H. the details of the working methods to be employed with the demolition of buildings, structures and surfacing within or adjacent to the RPAs of retained trees (section 7 BS 5837).

I. the details of the working methods to be employed for the installation of drives and paths within the RPAs of retained trees in accordance with the principles of "No-Dig" construction (section 7.4 BS 5837)

J. the details of the working methods to be employed with regard to the access for and use of heavy, large, difficult to manoeuvre plant (including cranes and their loads, dredging machinery, concrete pumps, piling rigs, etc) on site.

K. the details of the working methods to be employed with regard to site logistics and storage, including an allowance for slopes, water courses and enclosures, with particular regard to ground compaction and phytotoxicity.

L. the details of the method to be employed for the stationing, use and removal of site cabins within any RPA (para. 6.2.2.3 of BS5837).

M. the details of tree protection measures for site works, landscaping operations and management (section 8 of BS5837).

N. the timing of the various phases of the works or development in the context of the tree protection measures.

Details of condition approved under reference DIS/19/00467

Prior to the commencement of site clearance, demolition, storage of plant (non-tree related), materials, machinery, including site huts and WCs, Tree Protection Barriers shall be installed immediately following tree works and Barriers shall conform to the specification within the method statement. The Tree Protection Barriers and Ground Protection shall not be removed, breached or altered without prior written authorisation from the local planning authority or client arboriculturist, but shall remain in a functional condition throughout the entire development, until all development related machinery and materials have been removed from site. If such protection measures are damaged beyond effective functioning then works that may compromise the protection of trees shall cease until the protection can be repaired or replaced with a specification that shall provide a similar degree of protection. The tree protection measures shall not be dismantled until all construction related machinery and materials have been removed from site and not without

written authorisation from the local planning authority or client arboriculturist. Once authorisation has been given the protection measures can be removed by hand and transported off site. During which time, no machinery or vehicles shall enter the area previously protected. No excavations, storage of materials, soil stripping, the raising or lowering of levels or the laying of hard surfacing without prior approval of the arboricultural consultant and / or the local planning authority. Any issues regarding tree protection should be agreed and implemented prior to commencement of development.

Details of condition approved under reference DIS/19/00467

The following activities must not be carried out under any circumstances:

- a. No fires to be lit within 20 metres of existing trees and shrubs to be retained.
- b. Storage of removed topsoil should be located outside of the Root Protection Areas of retained trees and away from those parts of the site allocated for soft landscaping.
- c. No equipment, signage, fencing, tree protection barriers, materials, components, vehicles or structures shall be attached to or supported by a retained tree.
- d. No builders debris or other materials to be stored within the Root Protection Areas.
- e. No mixing of cement, associate additives, chemicals, fuels, tar and other oil based liquids and powders shall occur within 10 metres of any tree Root Protection Area. A dedicated washout area shall be a used and located not within 10 metres of any Root Protection
- f. No alterations or variations to the approved works or tree protection schemes shall be carried out without the prior written approval of the LPA.
- g. No excavations, trenches, stripping, cultivation with a rotavator or changes in surface level to occur within the Root Protection Area, unless authorised.

The area(s) so designated within the site shall be suitably landscaped in accordance with a scheme to be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority before any works commence on site, the landscape work to be completed during the first available planting season following completion of the development hereby approved and shall be maintained thereafter to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.

The detailed landscaping plans shall include:

- (i) details of boundary treatments and hard surfaces
- (ii) the location, size and species of all trees to be planted
- (iii) the location, size, species and density of all shrub and ground cover planting
- (iv) a schedule of implementation

Details of condition approved under reference DIS/19/00467

Detailed drawings shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority before any work is commenced to indicate the finished site and ground floor levels intended at the completion of the development in relation to the existing site levels and the levels of the adjoining land and the development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the details so approved.

Details of condition approved under reference DIS/19/00467 and DIS/19/01335

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (or any subsequent Order or statutory provision revoking or re-enacting the provisions of that Order), no garages, outbuildings or other extensions to a dwelling shall be erected unless expressly authorised.

Surface water sustainable drainage works, comprising all components of the surface water drainage system, shall be carried out in accordance with the details contained within the submitted Drainage Strategy and Flood Risk Assessment (Revision B SWF Consultants ESWA Social Club, Birkenhead Drainage Strategy and Flood Risk Assessment) and further information supplied - Drainage Calculations & Simulations Results, Drainage Layout (CL7745/01 Rev P3 Dated 10.01.2017) and SuDS Maintenance Plan approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, in conjunction with the Lead Local Flood Authority.

The surface water sustainable drainage scheme shall be fully constructed prior to occupation and subsequently in accordance with the timing / phasing arrangements embodied within the approved Drainage Strategy, or within any other period as may subsequently be agreed, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority.

No development shall commence until full details of a scheme for a surface water sustainable drainage system to serve the site, and method of implementation including arrangements to secure funding and maintenance for the lifetime of the development through an appropriate legally binding agreement have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with Lead Local Flood Authority. The approved scheme shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details and timetable. Thereafter the surface water sustainable drainage system shall be managed and maintained in accordance with the approved scheme.

Details of condition approved under reference DIS/19/00467

No development shall take place until full details of all rainwater goods and soil pipes on the site, which shall include a sectional profile and a material have been submitted and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved scheme shall be implemented in full prior to first occupation and be retained as such thereafter.

Details of condition approved under reference DIS/18/01567

Before work commences on the roof on the former ESWA club details and a sample of the slates shall be submitted for written approval by the local planning authority. The approved slates shall be implemented before occupation of 54-56 Park Road South and retained as such thereafter.

Details of condition approved under reference DIS/18/01567

Development shall not commence until full details of the windows and external doors throughout the development site have been submitted for written approval by the local planning authority prior to the commencement of works. These shall include cross sectional drawings at 1:1 and elevational details at 1:5 scale (or similar). The development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details and retained as such thereafter.

Details of condition approved under reference DIS/18/01567

Any external brick repairs and alterations on the former ESWA club shall be undertaken using a matching brick to the existing in material, size, colour and texture. A sample of any new brick to be used shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the local planning authority before work commences and the agreed brick implemented in the construction of the development and retained as such thereafter.

Details of condition approved under reference DIS/19/00246

Before any construction commences, samples of the facing/roofing/window materials to be used in the external construction of this development shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved materials shall then be used in the construction of the development.

Details of condition approved under reference DIS/18/01567

All existing sliding sash windows on the former ESWA club (54-56 Park Road South) shall be accurately repaired and/or renewed to a sectional profile and material to be agreed by the Local Planning Authority. The agreed scheme shall be implemented in full during the construction of the scheme and remain thereafter.

Details of condition approved under reference DIS/18/01567

Development shall not commence until full details including colour and cross section drawings (scale 1:2 or 1:15) of the railings have all been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and retained thereafter.

Details of condition approved under reference DIS/19/00467

Notwithstanding the landscaping set out on Drawing DW/SD/SK/JSL/BSTS r_7, prior to commencement of the new build units, a scheme for replacement tree planting for trees T25, T26, T27 and T33, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the

Local Planning Authority. The approved scheme shall be in accordance with the Wirral Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy and shall be carried out in full no later than the first planting season following first occupation of the new build units. Any trees which die or become diseased within 5 years of occupation shall be replaced with a comparable specimen.

- 11 APP/20/01084: REDCOURT, 7 DEVONSHIRE PLACE, OXTON CH43 1TX - CHANGE OF USE FROM SCHOOL TO RESIDENTIAL FOR THE PROPOSAL OF THE REFURBISHMENT OF REDCOURT, A GRADE II LISTED VACANT SCHOOL BUILDING INTO 15 NO. 1 AND 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS. ADJACENT TO REDCOURT, IT IS PROPOSED TO BUILD A 3/4 STOREY STAND ALONE APARTMENT BLOCK, COMPRISING 30 NO. 1 AND 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS. BOTH APARTMENT BLOCKS WILL HAVE SEPARATE VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FROM DEVONSHIRE PLACE, CAR PARKING, CYCLE STORAGE, BIN STORAGE AND GENEROUS PRIVATE AMENITY SPACE IS PROVIDED.

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

The Lead Petitioner addressed the Committee

Ward Councillor Allan Brame addressed the Committee.

A motion to refuse the application was moved by Councillor D Mitchell for the following reason but having not been seconded was not put to the vote.

The proposed development (New build block B), due to its width, height and scale, is considered to have a detrimental impact on the character of the surrounding area including the setting of a grade II listed building and is therefore contrary to criterion (i) and (ii) of saved policy HS4 (Criteria for New Housing Development) and criterion (i) of saved policy CH1 (Development Affecting Listed Buildings and Structures) of the Unitary Development Plan and sections 12 and 16 of the National Policy Planning Framework.

It was further moved by Councillor S Foulkes and seconded by Councillor K Hodson that the application be approved subject to the following conditions.

The motion was put and carried (9:1:1 abstention).

Resolved (9:1:1 abstention) – That the application be approved subject to a Section 106 Agreement to secure 20% affordable housing and with the following conditions:

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

The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 25 May 2021 and listed as follows: 20007-112-A; 20007-113-K; 20007-110-D; 20007-111-D; 20007-101-J; 20007-102-D; 20007-106-C; 20007-120; 20007-121; 01.0 A; 02.0 B; 06.0 B;

05.0 B; 03.0 B; 11.0 A; 10.0 B; and received on 2 June 2021 and listed as follows: D177.001 B & D177.002 B.

Before any construction commences with respect to the new build element of the scheme, samples of the facing materials to be used in the external construction of this development shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved materials shall then be used in the construction of the development.

Before work commences on the different window treatments types R, S1, R1, N, N1 & N2 as indicated within the Window Strategy (dated 17.03.21), additional detailed cross section drawings (scale 1:2 or 1:5 or similar) shall be cross referenced to the Window schedule in Appendix A and shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved drawings shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

Before work commences on types 1, 2, 3 and 5 ceiling treatment as indicated on Drawing No. 20007-120 (dated 17.03.21), detailed cross section drawings (scale 1:2 or 1:5 or similar) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved drawings shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

As recommended in the Phase II Site Investigation Report accompanying the application, no development shall take place until a suitable remediation scheme has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme must include the proposed remediation objectives and remediation criteria, and a description and programme of the works to be undertaken including the verification plan. As a minimum, the scheme must ensure that the site will not qualify as contaminated land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in relation to its intended use. The approved remediation scheme shall be implemented and a verification report submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, prior to the development (or relevant phase of development) being brought into use.

In the event that contamination is found at any time when carrying out the approved development that was not previously identified it must be reported immediately to the Local Planning Authority. Development on the part of the site affected must be halted and a risk assessment carried out and submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Where unacceptable risks are found remediation and verification schemes shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. These shall be implemented prior to the development (or relevant phase of development) being brought into use.

All School Road Markings and associated traffic signs and posts associated with the development site must be removed and replaced with No waiting at any time (double

yellow line) restrictions at both entrance points. Details of the scheme together with a programme for the completion of the works must be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. No part of the development shall be brought into use until the required highway improvement works have been carried out in accordance with the approved details.

No tree felling, scrub clearance, vegetation management, ground clearance and/or building works are to take place during the period 1 March to 31 August inclusive. If it is necessary to undertake works during the bird breeding season then buildings, trees, scrub, and vegetation are to be checked first by an appropriately experienced ecologist to ensure no breeding birds are present. If present, details of how they will be protected are required to be submitted for approval.

The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied until details of bat boxes to include number, type and location on an appropriately scaled plan as well as timing of installation, has been provided for approval and implemented in accordance with those details.

Prior to installation of the bat boxes, details of location and type shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the local planning authority, in connection with the mitigation submitted within section 4 of the Bat Emergence Survey Reports (details below) they shall be installed following completion of works and prior to first occupancy.

Common Pipistrelle bats were present, therefore appropriate habitat compensation for this would be two bat boxes erected on the site. Mitigation will include:

- Two x 2F Schwegler Crevice Bat Boxes (or similar) to be erected onto the exterior of the newly converted building following completion of the works. These will be erected more than 3 metres above ground, facing south, south-west or south-east.

Prior to commencement of works to the listed building, the Local Planning Authority must be provided with a copy of a licence issued by Natural England pursuant to Regulation 55 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) authorising the specified development to go ahead or until the local planning authority has been provided with confirmation in writing that the site has been registered under the mitigation class licence to allow low impact work on bat roosts (CL21) and the structures provided as mitigation should be retained as bat roosts in Perpetuity.

An information leaflet shall be included in all sales packs for the proposed dwellings, informing residents of the presence and importance of European sites and how residents can help protect them, including a 'responsible user code.' A copy of the leaflet must be provided to the Council for review and approval prior to first occupation of any part of the development site.

No development shall take place until the applicant has submitted a written

programme of archaeological building investigation and recording for approval in writing by the local planning authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved programme.

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

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

Detailed drawings shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority before any work is commenced to the new building to indicate the finished site and ground floor levels intended at the completion of the development in relation to the existing site levels and the levels of the adjoining land and the development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the details so approved.

On insertion the windows hereby approved at ground, first and second floor to the most southern facing elevation which are secondary windows to the flats within the new building shall be fitted with fixed and obscure glazing up to a height of 1.7m from the finished first floor internal floor level and shall be permanently retained in that condition thereafter.

Prior to the first occupation of the development arrangements for the storage and disposal of refuse, including recycling facilities, and vehicle access thereto, shall be made within the curtilage of the site, in accordance with details to be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved details shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

Prior to first occupation of the flats, details of secure covered cycle parking and/or storage facilities must be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. These facilities shall be provided in accordance with the approved details and made available for use prior to the first use of the development hereby permitted and shall be retained for use at all times thereafter.

Before work commences to the listed building in relation to the ceiling treatment; for type 4 ceiling treatment as indicated on Drawing No. 20007-120 (dated 17.03.21), further investigation is required to confirm that no ornate ceiling exists; documentation and photographic evidence. For avoidance of doubt a detailed cross section drawings (scale 1:2 or 1:5 or similar) shall be

submitted confirming type 4 ceiling treatment. Evidence and drawings shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved drawings shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

Before the new fire doors identified on Drawing No. 20007-121(dated 17.03.21) are installed, further vertical and horizontal cross sections drawings (scale 1:2 or 1:5 or similar) of the architrave surround and door shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved drawings shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

No development shall commence until detailed plans and particulars of the sustainable drainage system, in the form of a 'Confirmed / Final' Sustainable Drainage Strategy, (based on the 'Below Ground Drainage Outline Drainage Strategy' drawing reference S2 / 220-127 / RSM / AJP / XX / 00 / DR / C / 3010 / rev P02 dated 21 July 2020 / The Alan Johnston Partnership), for the management and disposal of surface water from the site has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority.

The surface water discharge rate from the site will be restricted to no more than 5 l/s and details of the 'Confirmed / Final' Sustainable Drainage Strategy must meet the requirements specified in the Terms of Condition and meet all requirements, including submission requirements, of Wirral Council's 'Sustainable Drainage Technical Guidance.'

A Construction Phase Surface Water Management Plan and a timetable for completion (including details of any phasing if applicable) must be submitted prior to commencement.

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

The approved drainage scheme shall be fully constructed prior to occupation in accordance with the approved details, phasing and timetable embodied within the approved final Sustainable Drainage Strategy, or within any other period as may subsequently be agreed, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority. 'As built'

drainage design / layout drawings and a final Operation and Maintenance Plan, confirming asset details and maintenance arrangements, shall be submitted to the Lead Local Flood Authority, in accordance with any approved phasing, prior to occupation.

- 12 **LBC/20/01085: 7 DEVONSHIRE PLACE, OXTON CH43 1TX - THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS SEEK TO OBTAIN PLANNING PERMISSION AND LISTED BUILDING CONSENT FOR THE CHANGE OF USE FROM A SCHOOL TO RESIDENTIAL FOR THE PROPOSAL OF THE REFURBISHMENT OF REDCOURT, A GRADE II LISTED VACANT SCHOOL BUILDING, INTO 15NO. 1 AND 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS. ADJACENT TO REDCOURT, IT IS PROPOSED TO BUILD A 3/4 STOREY STAND ALONE APARTMENT BLOCK, COMPRISING 30NO. 1 AND 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS. BOTH APARTMENT BLOCKS WILL HAVE SEPARATE VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FROM DEVONSHIRE PLACE, CAR PARKING, CYCLE STORAGE, BIN STORAGE AND GENEROUS PRIVATE AMENITY SPACE IS PROVIDED**

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

It was moved by Councillor S Foulkes and seconded by Councillor K Hodson that the application be approved subject to the following conditions.

The motion was put and carried (11:0).

Resolved (11:0) – That the application be approved with the following conditions:

The works for which Listed Building Consent is hereby granted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this consent.

Before work commences on the different window treatments types R, S1, R1, N, N1 & N2 as indicated within the Window Strategy (dated 17.03.21), additional detailed cross section drawings (scale 1:2 or 1:5 or similar) shall be cross referenced to the Window schedule in Appendix A and shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved drawings shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

Before work commences on the implementation of suspended ceilings, a schedule of windows or any significant historic fabric per apartment along with specifications on how they will be accommodated with the suspended ceiling, detailed drawings and cross section drawings shall be submitted for written approval by the local planning authority and remain thereafter. For the avoidance of doubt, the details drawings of the suspended ceilings shall include cross sectional drawings (scale 1:5 scale or similar) and incorporate the acoustics, thermal insulation and fire resistance details, along with fixture specifications. The development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved drawings and details.

The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 25 May 2021 and listed as follows;

01.0 A, 02.0 B, 03.0 B, 05.0 B, 06.0 B, 10.0 B, 11.0 B, 20007-120 & 20007- 121

Before work commences on types 1, 2, 3 and 5 ceiling treatment as indicated on Drawing No. 20007-120 (dated 17.03.21), detailed cross section drawings (scale 1:2 or 1:5 or similar) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved drawings shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

Before work commences for type 4 ceiling treatment as indicated on Drawing No. 20007-120 (dated 17.03.21), further investigation is required to confirm that no ornate ceiling exists; documentation and photographic evidence. For avoidance of doubt a detailed cross section drawings (scale 1:2 or 1:5 or similar) shall be submitted confirming type 4 ceiling treatment. Evidence and drawings shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved drawings shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

Before the new fire doors identified on Drawing No. 20007-121(dated 17.03.21)are implemented further vertical and horizontal cross sections drawings (scale 1:2 or 1:5 or similar) of the architrave surround and door shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved drawings shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

No development shall take place until the applicant has submitted a written programme of archaeological building investigation and recording for approval in writing by the local planning authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved programme.

13 **APP/21/00544: 3 HEATH CLOSE, WEST KIRBY CH48 3JL - SINGLE STOREY REAR AND FRONT EXTENSIONS WITH REAR DORMER AT ROOF LEVEL**

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

It was moved by Councillor S Foulkes and seconded by Councillor K Hodson that the application be approved subject to the following conditions.

The motion was put and carried (11:0).

Resolved (11:0) – That the application be approved with the following conditions:

The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 3

years from the date of this permission.

The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on May 13th 2021 and listed as follows: HCL ADJ XX SL DR A 03 REV A dated 18.03.21.

14 DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE UPDATE - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Director for Regeneration and Place submitted a report updating Members on the performance of the Development Management Service with regard to determining planning applications.

The report outlined performance against government targets in terms of the speed of processing all applications.

The Assistant Director, Chief Planner reported that in 2020/21, despite the extreme difficulties faced by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Service had comfortably surpassed the requirements for all targets in Major, Minor and Other categories of applications and that 85% of Major applications and 85% of Minor applications had been determined within 13 weeks or within the extended period agreed between the Council and the applicant.

It was further reported that the percentage of Major applications which had been determined within 13 weeks or within the extended period agreed between the Council and the applicant was 100% for the first quarter of 2021/22 and in 2020/21, 85% of Minor applications had been determined within 8 weeks or within the extended period agreed between the Council and the applicant.

In 2020/21, 93% of other applications had been determined within 8 weeks or within the extended period agreed between the Council and 89% in the first quarter of 2021/22. Performance on Householder applications (which are included in the other category and which form the largest single type of applications submitted to the Council for determination) was 95% in 2020/21 and 90% for the first quarter of 2021/22.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

15 DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE UPDATE - PLANNING APPEALS

The Director for Regeneration and Place submitted a report to update Members on the performance of the Development Management Service regarding planning appeals, including the percentage of the Council's decisions overturned (on appeal) by the Planning Inspectorate.

The Assistant Director, Chief Planner reported that the national average for the number of appeals allowed is around 33% per year. Within 2020/21 11 appeals had been allowed from 35 decisions and within the first quarter no appeals had been allowed from 11 decisions, therefore all appeals determined had been dismissed.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

16 **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE UPDATE - ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020**

The Director for Regeneration and Place submitted a report to update Members on the performance of the Development Management Service with regard to its planning enforcement activity for the period 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021 and also for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021.

Members were advised that the performance of the enforcement service would be reported to the Planning Committee on a quarterly basis in future.

The Assistant Director, Chief Planner reported that 68 new cases had been opened between 1 January 2021 and 31 March 2021 and that during this period 62 cases had reached a key milestone 56% of these had been reached within 13 weeks. During this period 49 cases had been closed.

It was further reported that 139 new cases had been opened between 1 April 2021 and 30 June 2021, 120 of these reached a key milestone and 86% had been reached within 13 weeks. During this period 118 cases had been closed.

The report outlined some examples of key successes achieved during the two quarters which included Land at the corner of Alfred Road and Wheatland Lane, Seacombe, 61 Ashville Road, Birkenhead, 91 Eastham Village Road, Eastham, Arlington Court and 1 Belford Drive, Moreton.

Members were advised that the pandemic had placed extra pressures on the team due to restrictions put in place, staff sickness and homeworking however the Department was in the process of undertaking further recruitment.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

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PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 12 August 2021

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	S Kelly (Chair)	
	Councillors	K Hodson S Frost B Kenny M Jordan	A Gardner B Berry H Gorman AER Jones
<u>Deputy:</u>	Councillor	I Williams (In place of S Foulkes)	
<u>Apologies:</u>	Councillors	S Foulkes P Stuart	

17 MINUTES

The Director of Law and Governance submitted the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2021 for approval.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2021 be approved.

18 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No such declarations were made.

19 ORDER OF BUSINESS

With the consent of the Committee, the Chair varied the order of business.

20 APP/20/01888: THE STIRRUP, ARROWE PARK ROAD, WOODCHURCH, CH49 5PB - CONSTRUCTION OF NEW APARTMENT BUILDING FOR RETIREMENT LIVING/EXTRA CARE, COMPRISING OF 46 NO. FLATS WITH ASSOCIATED FACILITIES

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

An objector to the application addressed the Committee.

The Agent for the Applicant addressed the Committee.

Ward Councillor, Jean Robinson addressed the Committee with objections to the application.

It was moved by Councillor B Kenny and seconded by Councillor S Frost that the application be approved.

The motion was put and lost (4:6).

It was then moved by Councillor S Kelly and seconded by Councillor K Hodson that the application be refused for the following reason:

“The proposed development would result in a scale and form of development that fails to relate sufficiently to the existing built form adjacent to and surrounding the site that does not provide a consistent and coherent setting for the space or street that it defines. The height and mass of the development adjacent to Arrowe Park Road would result in creating an overbearing development that gives rise to a detrimental impact on the character of the area. The proposed development is therefore considered to be contrary to Policy HS4 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan and the principles of the National Planning Policy Framework.”

The motion was put and carried (6:4).

Resolved (6:4) – That the application be refused for the following reason:

The proposed development would result in a scale and form of development that fails to relate sufficiently to the existing built form adjacent to and surrounding the site that does not provide a consistent and coherent setting for the space or street that it defines. The height and mass of the development adjacent to Arrowe Park Road would result in creating an overbearing development that gives rise to a detrimental impact on the character of the area. The proposed development is therefore considered to be contrary to Policy HS4 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan and the principles of the National Planning Policy Framework.

21 **APP/21/00571: THE BARN (ATTACHED TO FARM VIEW), LANDICAN LANE, LANDICAN CH49 5LJ - BARN CONVERSION TO FORM DWELLING. EXTENSION TO REAR ELEVATION TO FORM PORCH**

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

Ward Councillor Mike Collins was unable to attend the meeting as he was away. Mr M Neal, Legal Advisor to the Committee, therefore read out to the Committee his statement requesting that the application be refused.

The applicant's Agent addressed the Committee.

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

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

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

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

The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 25 March 2021.

Before any construction commences, samples of the materials to be used in the external construction of this development shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved materials shall then be used in the construction of the development.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2008 (or any Order revoking or re-enacting that Order) no external alterations or extensions shall be carried out to the building(s) hereby approved.

No tree felling, scrub clearance, or building works is to take place during the period 1 March to 31 August inclusive. If it is necessary to undertake works during the bird breeding season then all buildings, trees, scrub and vegetation are to be checked first by an appropriately experienced ecologist to ensure no breeding birds are present. If present, details of how they will be protected are required to be submitted for approval.

The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied until details of bird boxes to include number, type and location on an appropriately scaled plan as well as timing of installation, has been provided for approval and implemented in accordance with those details.

No development shall take place until the applicant has submitted a written scheme of investigation for archaeological work for approval in writing by the local planning authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.

Works will not commence until the local planning authority has been provided with a copy of a licence issued by Natural England pursuant to Regulation 55 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) authorising the specified development to go ahead or until the local planning authority has been provided with confirmation that the site has been registered under the mitigation class licence to allow low impact work on bat roosts (CL21).

Pre commencement and during development, mitigation to be instated must match that as described in Dusk Survey Results (Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd, 2020), namely implementation of a Schwegler 2F bat box (or suitable equivalent) as a receptor roost and creation of new roosting provision in the form of two access points at the roof verge/wall plate along with the local use of bitumen 1F underfelt. A scheme of supervision will be required whereby all identified potential roost features are dismantled under the supervision of a suitably qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW). One Schwegler 2F bat box (or suitable equivalent) and one Schwegler

2FN bat box (or suitable equivalent) will be erected on a suitable tree in proximity to the survey area; if this is not possible, a pole-mounted box is required prior to commencement of development. This box will act as a receptor should bats have to be captured and relocated to it during the work schedule. The structures provided as mitigation should be retained as bat roosts in perpetuity.

PRIOR TO OCCUPATION, details of all soft and hard landscaping including the surface material for the proposed car parking area shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. The approved scheme shall be implemented prior to occupation in full to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.

- 22 **APP/21/00210: EMMAUS BIBLE SCHOOL, CARLETT EVANGELICAL CHURCH, CARLETT BOULEVARD, EASTHAM CH62 8BZ - CHANGE OF USE FROM CLASS E(G) OFFICE USE (FORMELY B1(A)) TO A MIXED E(G)(I)/E(E) USE TO FORM EYE CLINIC AND SEPARATE OFFICE SPACE. EXTERNAL WORKS INCLUDE ERECTION OF SINGLE-STOREY PORCH EXTENSION TO FORM NEW ENTRANCE TO CLINIC WHILST NEW ENTRANCE TO EXISTING OFFICES WILL BE FORMED TO SIDE ELEVATION; ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING OPENINGS; AND A NEW 2M HIGH ENTRY GATE AND FENCE TO FRONT AND SIDE BOUNDARIES.**

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

It was moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor K Hodson that the application be approved subject to the following conditions.

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

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

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

The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 23 July 21 and listed as follows: 121-04 B-01 Rev B.

The clinic hereby approved shall only be open to customers between the hours of Monday - Friday 08:30 -17:30.

The cycle storage facilities shown on the approved plans shall be provided in accordance with the approved details and made available for use prior to the clinic/offices hereby permitted first coming into use and shall be retained for use at all times thereafter.

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REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 23 March 2021

Present:

Councillor A Hodson (Chair)

Councillors	AER Jones	T Norbury
	M Collins	L Rowlands
	C Cooke	J Stapleton
	G Davies	I Williams
	K Greaney	KJ Williams
	C Jones	S Williams
	D Mitchell	

13 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No such declarations were made.

14 MINUTES

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee held on 19 January 2021 be approved.

15 MINUTES OF THE REGULATORY PANEL

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Regulatory Panel held on 11 November, 26 November and 16 December 2020 and 29 January 2021 be approved.

16 DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT - STATUTORY TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE STANDARDS

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report advising Members of the Committee of the publication of the Department for Transport Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards document which was attached as an appendix to the report and sought Members' approval of proposed actions in response to its recommendations.

The Licensing Manager reported that the standards within the document had been developed to address the safeguarding of the public, in particular children and vulnerable adults. It was emphasised within the document that the importance of considering these standards cannot be overstated. The recommendations set out in the document were the result of detailed discussion with the trade, regulators and safety campaign groups.

Members were informed that it is a requirement that all licensing authorities should publish their consideration of the measures contained in the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards, and the policies and delivery plans that stem from these. The Department for Transport (DfT) had undertaken to monitor the effectiveness of the Standards in achieving the protection of children and vulnerable adults (and by extension all passengers).

The Licensing Manager advised Members that she had reviewed the Licensing Authority's current conditions and criteria for licensing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers and Vehicles as well as Private Hire Operators against the DfT's Standards and the result of this review was set out in Table A attached in Appendix 2 to the report. Alongside each of the DfT's recommendations a summary was provided of the Licensing Authority's current position and any proposed action in response to the DfT's recommendation. Members were further informed that where possible an estimated timescale to complete the proposed action had been given.

A number of recommendations contained within the document which were not currently in place and therefore required to be addressed were outlined within the report. The purpose of the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards was to offer greater consistency across the country particularly on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. It was reported that whilst some of the proposed actions would take time to deliver, as set out within Table A in Appendix 2 of the report, due to the need to consult with interested parties, there were others which could be implemented without the need for consultation, subject to the approval of Members of this Committee.

The Licensing Manager advised that should Members approve the revised Convictions Policy as set out in Appendix 3 of the report, the revised Convictions Policy would replace the current policy with immediate effect. Members of the Committee were also being asked to approve the following amendments to the current licensing criteria and conditions where they do not match the DfT's Standards, namely:

- The time period for notification of any investigation into offences by licence-holders to be amended to 48 hours;
- Oral and written English Language proficiency tests to be a requirement for applicants for Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver Licences;

- Authorisation be given to the Licensing Manager to refer individuals to the Disclosing and Barring Service (DBS) for consideration to be added to the barred lists in certain circumstances; and
- Mandatory annual DBS checks be a requirement for Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicle Proprietors and Operators who do not hold a Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Driver licence. If the applicant is a limited company this will apply to all individuals listed in an executive position on the Companies House Public Register.

Members were advised that if approved, it was proposed that the revised criteria or amended conditions would have effect, in respect of new applicants, 28 days from the date of approval and in respect of current licence holders, 28 days after the notification of approval.

Members of the Committee were also requested to authorise the Licensing Manager to undertake consultation in respect of the following recommendations contained within the Statutory Taxis and Private Hire Vehicle Standards document, namely;

- Mandatory subscription to the DBS Update service;
- Twice yearly DBS checks for licensed drivers; and
- The introduction of CCTV in licensed vehicles.

Derek Cummins, Unite the Union, addressed the Committee and requested clarification on what would constitute a hand-held device.

The Licensing Manager confirmed that it would not be for the Licensing Authority to determine what constitutes a hand-held device. The reference for the Licensing Authority would be the conviction of the offence itself.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked the Licensing Manager for her hard work in providing the detailed report.

Further to questions from Members of the Committee in respect of extra pressure on resources and staffing, the Licensing Manager advised that resources would be kept under review to ensure the public were protected effectively.

On a motion by Councillor M Collins and seconded by Councillor D Mitchell, it was -

Resolved –

- (1) **That the proposed actions as set out within Table A attached in Appendix 2 of the report which provided a response to the recommendations contained within the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards document be approved.**

- (2) That the proposed revisions to the Council's Statement of Policy and Guidelines relating to the relevance of convictions when considering applications for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licences attached in Appendix 3 of the report be approved.
- (3) That the Licensing Manager be authorised to amend current conditions and criteria in accordance with the recommendations set out in the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards document and undertake consultation on the adoption of the following:
- Mandatory subscription to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Update service;
 - Twice yearly Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for licensed drivers; and
 - The introduction of CCTV in licensed vehicles.

17 REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE OPERATOR LICENCE CONDITIONS

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report for Members of the Committee to consider revised Private Hire Operator Licence Conditions.

The Licensing Manager reported that a review of the current Private Hire Operator Licence Conditions had been undertaken to provide effective protection for members of the public. The review had had regard to the Department for Transport's Statutory Taxis and Private Hire Vehicle Standards. The review had also taken into account changes in technology since the development of the current conditions.

Members were advised that the amendments that had been made particularly related to booking records, the recording of complaints and requirements relating to staff employed by the Operator.

The Licensing Manager informed Members that the draft document had been subject to consultation with licensed Private Hire Operators and that a summary of feedback from this consultation was attached in Table A in Appendix 2 of the report. Members were further informed that the proposed conditions had also been shared with other Licensing Authorities in the City Region to seek to achieve consistency across the City Region.

On a motion by Councillor L Rowlands and seconded by Councillor G Davies it was –

Resolved – That the revised Private Hire Operator Licence Conditions attached as Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

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REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Thursday, 17 June 2021

Present: Councillor A Hodson (Chair)

Councillors C Jones C O'Hagan
D Mitchell C Spriggs
J Bird I Williams
D Burgess-Joyce KJ Williams
M Collins S Williams
E Gleaves A Wright
S Jones

1 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Sharon Jones declared a personal interest by virtue of her partner being a Private Hire Driver.

2 MINUTES

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2021 be approved.

3 MINUTES OF THE REGULATORY PANEL

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Regulatory Panel held on 5 March and 16 April 2021 be approved.

4 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE REGULATORY PANEL AND THE CHARITABLE TRUSTS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report in respect of the appointment of Members to the Regulatory Panel and the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee.

It was reported that the Terms of Reference of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee as contained in the Council's Constitution required this Committee to appoint five of its members, politically balanced, to the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee which has responsibility for discharging the

Council's functions as corporate trustee of E F Callister Youth Club and Wirral Mayor's Charity.

It was further reported that the Terms of Reference also allowed for the convening of Sub-Committees (Licensing Panels – Regulatory) of between three and five Members of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee, politically balanced, with the responsibility for the Council's functions to deal with applications, determinations and reviews of licences or registrations and any related matter, in respect of any licensed activity that is the responsibility of the Authority (other than under the Licensing Act 2003 or the Gambling Act 2005).

Members were advised that Panels of three or four Members had been considered but had been judged to be restrictive in terms of achieving sufficient political balance for decision making purposes, therefore a Panel of five Members would be more representative. The allocation of five seats on both the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee and Licensing Panels (Regulatory) would be 2 Labour, 2 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat and it would be for the political groups to decide who they wished to nominate to the places on the Regulatory Panel and the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee allocated to their group.

Members expressed concerns that they had on occasions been required to withdraw from the Regulatory Panel due to an unexpected conflict of interest and that if the Panel had to be politically balanced, the remaining Members would be unable to consider the application before them. Members highlighted the fact that there was cross-party agreement that they would act in a non-political manner when considering applications and therefore requested that the Director of Law and Governance consider how Regulatory Panels could operate without political proportionality.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Mike Collins it was –

Resolved –

- (1) That the Terms of Reference of the Regulatory Panel and the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee, as referred to in paragraphs 1.1 and 1.3 of this report be noted.**
- (2) That the Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.**

- (3) That the Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be delegated authority, in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons, to convene Licensing Panels (Regulatory) as and when required for the purposes of carrying out the Council's functions to deal with applications, determinations and reviews of licences or registrations, and any related matter, in respect of any licensed activity that is the responsibility of the Authority (other than under the Licensing Act 2003 or the Gambling Act 2005).**
- (4) That the Director of Law and Governance be requested to consider how Regulatory Panels could operate without political proportionality.**

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Council – 01 September 2021

Motions

The following motions have been submitted in accordance with the notice required by Standing Order 13.1 and are listed in accordance with Standing Order 13.2.

1. PLANNING SYSTEM REFORM

Proposed by Councillor Steve Foulkes

Seconded by Councillor Brian Kenny

Wirral Council notes that the Government has published highly controversial proposals to reform the Planning system. One aspect that has raised particular concern is the proposal to remove local residents' right to object to individual planning applications in their own neighbourhood if the area is zoned for growth or renewal.

Council believes that the Planning system works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes. Wirral Council therefore calls on the Government to protect the right of communities to object to individual planning applications.

2. SCHOOLS NEED ADEQUATE FUNDING TO ENSURE OUR CHILDREN CATCH UP

Proposed by Councillor Chris Carubia

Seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Council congratulates Wirral's young people on their GCSE and A level results.

Council recognises, respects and appreciates that these results reflect the hard work put in by students, supported by their teachers, teaching assistants and parents, despite the considerable disruption to their education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council looks forward to better understanding how well Wirral's young people have been able to come through such difficult times and remains concerned that the crisis has had a severe impact on the mental health of young people.

Council recalls, in February 2021, that Sir Kevan Collins was appointed as Education Recovery Commissioner. It is noted that, at the time, the Prime Minister stated :-

"his experience and expertise will help ensure every young person is supported to catch up on their education and gain the skills and knowledge they need to be able to seize opportunities in future." (Press release, 03.02.21)

Council considers the fact that Sir Kevan felt he had little alternative but to resign in June 2021 is a warning sign that the clear long-term recovery programme he proposed is not likely to be forthcoming from the Government in the way he recommended or at the scale needed to undo the disruption caused by COVID-19.

Council strongly supports the view expressed by Sir Kevan in his resignation letter to the Prime Minister in which he stated:-

"I hope that you are able to allocate the additional resources that are likely to be needed for a successful recovery through the forthcoming Spending Review."

Council, therefore, asks that the Group Leaders and Spokespersons for Children, Young People & Education sign a letter to the Secretary of State for Education endorsing Sir Kevan's views and calling for adequate resources for catch-up programmes, designed for all age groups, that will enable Wirral's young people to recover this lost ground.

3. INQUIRY INTO THE NICKLAUS JOINT VENTURE GROUP (NJVG) DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

**Proposed by Councillor Tom Anderson
Seconded by Councillor Kathy Hodson**

Council seeks confirmation of the full extent of the agreement with Nicklaus Joint Venture Group to develop a 'Hoylake Golf Resort', including risks and associated costs to date.

Council therefore requests the Audit and Risk Management Committee to investigate the governance and financial arrangements associated with this project, including evidence from those involved in the original decision; a timeline of key points; a full breakdown of costs and who authorised those costs.

Further, Council seeks assurances that any other similar agreements which may have been entered into are assessed for risk exposure.

4. CREATING LOW TRAFFIC STREETS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS ACROSS WIRRAL

**Proposed by Councillor Harry Gorman
Seconded by Councillor Chris Cooke**

Council notes:

the negative effects of air pollution on public health and the widespread problems associated with 'rat-running' on minor roads.

the benefits of active travel both in reducing carbon emissions and improving health.

the effectiveness of modal filters, chicanes and other traffic calming measures in creating low traffic neighbourhoods by removing through traffic from residential areas

and from outside schools. This enables local people to take more and safer journeys on foot, bike or by other active modes.

that there are successful modal filters already installed in Wirral (e.g. Highcroft Avenue, Bebington and Lansdowne Road, Birkenhead).

the greater affordability and versatility of wooden planters compared with other modal filter and chicane designs and the benefits that more plants can bring to a street scene. These can be upgraded with more permanent structures when funding allows.

best practice case studies that have created high-quality public spaces that prioritise people over cars using design features such as modal filters, school streets, footway improvements, seating, tree planting, pocket parks, cycle parking and signage and waymarking.

low traffic neighbourhoods deter traffic from cutting through residential side streets to avoid main roads whilst still allowing vehicle access for residents. Scheme outcomes can be a reduction in travel speeds and the creation of safer environments for those walking, cycling or using mobility scooters.

the council's commitment to addressing the climate emergency and safer streets and support by all parties for a residential 20mph speed limit.

that 20mph limits are often ignored without physical traffic calming measures being in place.

that speed enforcement is dependent on police resource and can't be present on all streets, all the time.

Council instructs:

The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee as part of its work programme:

- To undertake an assessment of the suitability of streets for planter-based traffic calming solutions to help quickly create low traffic neighbourhoods throughout Wirral.
- To work with stakeholders to identify issues and co-develop effective solutions in order to assess the feasibility of delivering a low traffic neighbourhood.
- To seek to ensure traffic calming measures are always considered whenever a road is up for resurfacing.

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