



## Council

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at **6.00 p.m. on Monday, 20 March 2023** in the Council Chamber, within the Town Hall, Wallasey, to take into consideration and determine the following subjects:

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

Please note that public seating is limited, therefore members of the public are encouraged to arrive in good time.

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

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

## 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 - 28)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting(s) of the

Council held on Monday, 5 December 2023 and Monday, 27 February 2023.

#### **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 by 12 noon on Wednesday, 15 March 2023 to the Council's Monitoring Officer (via the online form here: [Public Question Form](#)) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 10.

For more information on how your personal information will be used, please see this link: [Document Data Protection Protocol](#)

Please telephone the Committee Services Officer if you have not received an acknowledgement of your question by the deadline for submission.

##### **B. Statements and Petitions**

Notice of statements to be given in writing or by email by 12 noon on Wednesday, 15 March 2023 to the Council's Monitoring Officer ([committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk)) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 11.1.

Petitions may be presented to the Council if provided to Democratic and Member Services no later than 10 working days before the meeting, at the discretion of the Mayor. The person presenting the petition will be allowed to address the meeting briefly (not exceeding three minutes) 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. If a petition contains more than 5,000 signatures, it will be debated at a subsequent meeting of Council for up to 15 minutes, at the discretion of the Mayor. Please give notice of petitions to [committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk) in advance of the meeting.

Please telephone the Committee Services Officer if you have not received an acknowledgement of your statement/petition by the deadline for submission.

##### **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. REVISION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2022/23**

The Council is requested to agree to the revision of the appointment of committees for the 2022/23 municipal year.

### **B. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2023/24 AND 2024/25**

The Council is requested to agree the following recommendation of the Constitution and Standards Committee held on 22 February 2023:

To approve the Calendar of Meetings for the 2023/24 and 24/25 municipal year, subject to Policy and Resources Committee being rescheduled from 14 February 2024 to 13 February 2024.

Constitution and Standards minute 28 (22/02/23) and report attached.

### **C. AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**

The Council is requested to agree the following recommendation of the Constitution and Standards Committee held on 22 February 2023:

To amend:

- (1) standing order 9.1 & 14 to read where 3.5 hours have elapsed,
- (2) standing order 13.1 that the number of motions be limited to 1 per group,
- (3) standing order 13.2 so that the first motion on notice listed be rotated so as to allow each political group the opportunity for their motion to be debated first ( to be co-ordinated by the Director of Law & Governance), with motions thereafter to be listed in the order of political group size.'

Constitution and Standards minute 28 (22/02/23) and report attached.

### **D. PAY POLICY 2023-2024**

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

on 15 February 2023:

To approve the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2023/24, with the Statement to remain under review and dealt with at the earliest possible meeting in light of the facts presented.

Policy and Resources Committee minute 101 (15/02/23) and report attached.

## **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.

### **A. DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING**

Members' attention is drawn to two officer decisions which have been taken and excluded from removal of delegation and reconsideration by Policy & Resources Committee and is reported to the Council in accordance with Part 4, Section 4, paragraph 6(a)(ii) of the Constitution.

[Cost of Living – Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector Grants Programme](#)

22 December 2022

Director of Public Health

[Cost of Living – Fuel Poverty](#)

22 December 2022

Director of Public Health

The minutes of all committees which have met since 11 November 2022, up until 24 February 2023 are attached below.

Minutes of Committees:

- 16.11.2022 – Regulatory & General Purposes Committee
- 16.11.2022 – Licensing Act Committee
- 23.11.2022 – Constitution & Standards Committee
- 29.11.2022 – Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
- 30.11.2022 – Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee
- 01.12.2022 – Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee
- 06.12.2022 – Children, Young People & Education Committee
- 07.12.2022 – Economy, Regeneration & Housing Committee

- 14.12.2022 – Pensions Committee
- 15.12.2022 – Planning Committee
- 21.12.2022 – Health & Wellbeing Board
- 11.01.2023 – Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
- 12.01.2023 – Planning Committee
- 17.01.2023 – Audit & Risk Management Committee
- 18.01.2023 – Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee
- 18.01.2023 – Policy & Resources Committee
- 24.01.2023 - Children, Young People & Education Committee
- 26.01.2023 - Economy, Regeneration & Housing Committee
- 30.01.2023 - Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee
- 31.01.2023 - Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
- 01.02.2023 - Regulatory & General Purposes Committee
- 02.02.2023 - Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee
- 09.02.2023 – Strategic Applications Sub Committee
- 09.02.2023 – Planning Committee
- 15.02.2023 – Policy & Resources Committee
- 21.02.2023 – Pensions Committee
- 22.02.2023 – Constitution & Standards Committee

## **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 245 - 250)**

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.

## **Full Council Responsibility for Functions**

The full responsibility of functions for Full Council can be found at the end of this agenda.



Paul Satoor, Chief Executive

## **TIMINGS AND GUILLOTINE**

Members are reminded of the following:

Item 2 - under Standing Order 2(iv) Mayor's announcements normally limited to up to 5 minutes.

Item 4A. – under Standing Order 10.7, public questions, up to 2 minutes allowed to put a question and up to 2 minutes for a response. Up to 30 minutes in total allowed for public questions (Standing Order 2(v)).

Item 4B. - under Standing Order 11.1, representations (statements) up to 3 minutes, with public speaking on any one item not exceeding 10 minutes. Up to 20 minutes in total allowed to receive representations (Standing Order 2(vi)).  
Petitions – under Standing Order 11.2, present and speak to a petition for up to 1 minute.

Item 4C. – under Standing Order 12.8, questions on notice from Members will not exceed 1 minute and up to 2 minutes for a response.

Item 6 – under Standing Order 2(xii) the total time allowed for questions and answers on decisions of committees is up to 45 minute.

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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## COUNCIL

Monday, 5 December 2022

Present: The Civic Mayor (Councillor Jeff Green) in the  
Chair  
Deputy Civic Mayor (Councillor Jerry Williams)

Councillors	T Anderson	A Gardner	D Mitchell
	S Bennett	P Gilchrist	S Mountney
	J Bird	H Gorman	Y Nolan
	M Booth	N Graham	C O'Hagan
	A Brame	K Greaney	A Onwuemene
	D Burgess-Joyce	EA Grey	O Osanlou
	H Cameron	J Grier	S Percy
	I Camphor	A Hodson	C Povall
	C Carubia	K Hodson	S Powell-Wilde
	P Cleary	J Johnson	L Rennie
	M Collins	C Jones	J Robinson
	H Collinson	T Jones	T Smith
	C Cooke	M Jordan	P Stuart
	T Cox	S Kelly	Jason Walsh
	A Davies	B Kenny	S Williams
	C Davies	D Kenny	J Williamson
	G Davies	J Laing	V Wilson
	T Elzeiny	I Lewis	G Wood
	L Fraser	J McManus	
	S Foulkes	P Martin	

<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	E Gleaves	Joe Walsh
		P Hayes	A Wright
		J Hoey	

### 57 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Civic Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the webcast. He then asked Members 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.

Councillors Chris Cooke, Steve Foulkes and Jerry Williams declared personal interests in respect of motion 3 'Wirral Needs More Train Services not Less' as members of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee.

58 **CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Civic Mayor announced that apologies had been received from Councillors Emily Gleaves, Paul Hayes, John Hoey, Joe Walsh and Alison Wright.

The Civic Mayor informed the Council that he had attended 46 events since the last Council meeting and explained that many events were the first at which people had attended since the pandemic. The Civic Mayor highlighted a number of key events he had attended, including Remembrance Sunday services, the awarding of an MBE to Kieran Gordon for services to careers and education and the long service awards for staff who had served for over 40 years. The Civic Mayor further expressed his thanks to members and officers who had bought tickets and sponsored tables for the afternoon Tea Dance event.

The Deputy Mayor then informed the Council of his recent visit to Peru, explaining the connection between Birkenhead and the Peruvian Navy and presented a letter from the Commander of the Peruvian Navy to the Civic Mayor.

The Civic Mayor invited Councillor Yvonne Nolan to speak on the international 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, and the actions being taken within Wirral to support this including the launch of a local, co-produced Violence Against Women and Girls strategy.

59 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 10 October 2022 had been circulated to Members. On a motion by the Civic Mayor, seconded by Councillor Janette Williamson, it was –

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2022 be approved and adopted as a correct record.**

60 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Civic Mayor informed the Council that three public questions had been received.

Brenda Ashton asked the Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, Councillor Liz Grey, a question in relation to road safety on Spital Road at the end of Vanderbyl Avenue, seeking a road safety inspection of the road concerned.

In response, Councillor Grey explained the limitations on the Council's ability to widen the footway on the south side of Spital Road but outlined the

previous traffic management measures which had been put in place by way of mitigation. She further advised that officers would investigate the location further to establish whether crossing facilities could be accommodated.

Jon Oborn asked the Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, Councillor Liz Grey, a question as to whether Merseyrail should be allowed to run a rail service that impacted on local residents' health and wellbeing, resulting from trains sounding their horns as they passed through Bromborough Rake Station following the adoption of a new timetable.

In response, Councillor Grey expressed her sympathy with the situation Mr Oborn was in but was pleased to hear that Merseyrail had been working with Mr Oborn and local residents which had resulted in a reduction of train horn usage for trains passing one and other. It was reported that officers at Merseyrail were still working to remind drivers to only sound their horn when there was a perceived hazard.

The Head of Legal Services read out a question on behalf of Kerry Rooney, which asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Janette Williamson, whether the reduction in trains stopping at Bromborough Rake train station was reasonable for wheelchair dependent people.

In response, Councillor Janette Williamson outlined her disappointment that Bromborough Rake had seen a reduction in service, and as a result had made strong representations to Merseyrail via the Metro Mayor Steve Rotherham to have the decision looked at again as a matter of urgency.

## 61 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS**

The Civic Mayor informed the Council that notice of one public statement had been received from Kieran Murphy in relation to motion 3 – “Wirral Needs More Train Services not Less”. Kieran Murphy was in attendance and spoke in relation to disability access to Merseyrail’s service on the Chester line, and the impact of reducing the services from Bromborough Rake station given that it was the only station between Hooton and Bebington with wheelchair access. He called upon the Council to put pressure on Merseytravel to remove the franchise from Merseyrail for the impact on disabled access.

The Civic Mayor informed the Council that one petition had been received from Councillor Pat Cleary in relation to speed and weight restrictions for Price Street, Birkenhead. Councillor Cleary presented the petition with over 200 signatures, seeking the Council to acknowledge the regular excess speed of vehicles on Price Street, the high volume of large vehicles, the danger to residents and their calls for action.

Councillor Lesley Rennie presented a petition requesting additional measures to prevent flooding at Warren Drive, Wallasey.

Councillor Ian Lewis presented a petition requesting additional measures for improvements to road safety at Newport Avenue, Wallasey.

62 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

The Civic Mayor informed the Council that no questions by members had been received.

63 **REVIEW OF CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES**

The first matter requiring approval was the biennial review of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPR) which regulate the way in which the Council's contracts were procured.

On a motion by Councillor Tony Cox, seconded by Councillor Julie McManus, it was –

**Resolved (unanimously) – That the changes to the Contract Procedure Rules be adopted as part of the Council's Constitution.**

64 **WIRRAL YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-23**

The second matter requiring approval was the Wirral Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2022-23 which was an annual plan submitted to the Youth Justice Board and linked to the terms and conditions of the Youth Justice Board grant award, which contributed to the funding of youth offending teams and services across England and Wales.

On a motion by Councillor Kathy Hodson, seconded by Councillor Helen Collinson, it was –

**Resolved (unanimously) – That the Wirral Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2022-23 be approved.**

65 **CAPITAL MONITORING QUARTER 2 2022/23**

The third matter requiring approval was the Capital Monitoring Quarter 2 2022/23, provided an update on the progress of the Capital Programme 2022/23 at the end of September 2022 and sought approval of the revised 2022/24 Capital Programme of £98.7 million taking into account re-profiling, virements, additional funding requirements and grant variations identified since the Capital Programme was agreed on 28 February 2022.

On a motion by Councillor Janette Williamson, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, it was –

**Resolved (unanimously) – That**

**(1) the revised Capital Programme of £98.7 million for 2022/23, including the virements of budget referred to in Appendix D of the report be approved.**

**(2) the additional funding for the schemes referred to in section 3.7 in the report be approved.**

66 **CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REVIEW**

The fourth matter requiring approval was the Cumulative Impact Assessment Review, which provided consultation feedback on the cumulative impact assessment which is contained within the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy and recommended that a Cumulative Impact Assessment continued to be included within the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.

On a motion by Councillor Andrew Hodson, seconded by Councillor Claire O'Hagan, it was –

**Resolved (unanimously) – That a Cumulative Impact Assessment continue to be included within the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.**

67 **REVISED CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE 2022**

The fifth matter requiring approval was the Revised Code of Corporate Governance 2022, which sought the approval of the Council's revised Code of Corporate Governance following a review of the current version last reviewed in 2018.

On a motion by Councillor Tony Cox, seconded by Councillor Clare O'Hagan, it was –

**Resolved (unanimously) – That the Revised Code of Corporate Governance and the framework detailed therein be adopted as part of the Council's Constitution.**

68 **HEALTH AND CARE PARTNERSHIP**

The sixth matter requiring approval was the appointment of a member to the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership.

On a motion by Councillor Janette Williamson, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, it was –

**Resolved (unanimously) – That Councillor Janette Williamson be appointed to represent the Council on the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership.**

## 69 DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

The Civic Mayor reported that in accordance with Part 4, Section 4, paragraph 6(a)(ii) of the Constitution, Council's attention was drawn to two decisions which had been taken and excluded from removal of delegation and reconsideration by Policy and Resources Committee.

The Civic Mayor introduced the minutes of the various Committees which had met from 19 September to 11 November 2022 and asked for questions to Committee Chairs on any of the minutes being received.

Councillor Sue Percy asked a question of Councillor Janette Williamson as Chair of Policy & Resources Committee, in respect of a re-profiling of capital funding in the High Street Fund for New Ferry, seeking assurances that the regeneration of New Ferry after the horrific explosion in 2017 would remain as a regeneration priority. Councillor Tony Jones as Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee responded providing an update on the residential development plans in New Ferry with the Council working in partnership with Regenda Group on a comprehensive plan for the area to include affordable and energy efficient housing with a greater amount of family homes and environmental sustainability, with construction anticipated to start on the first site by late spring or early summer 2023.

Councillor George Davies asked a question of Councillor Liz Grey, in respect of minute 33 of Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, seeking an update on the Hoylake Beach Management Plan. In response, Councillor Liz Grey updated that at the meeting on Wednesday, a realistic compromise of two options was agreed for a natural beach with improved access for all and some vegetation removal nearer to the RNLI station, which would undergo assessment before submission to Natural England and a full public consultation.

Councillor George Davies asked a question of Councillor Tony Jones as Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee, welcoming the opening of Eureka and seeking further information on when further regeneration activities would be completed. In response, Councillor Tony Jones also welcomed the opening of Eureka and the creation of jobs for the area, and provided an update on other schemes including the Millers Quay residential development which was now in development, the Hive office which

was almost two thirds let after only a year since completion, and further Public Realm work across Birkenhead waterfront getting underway.

Councillor James Laing asked a question of Councillor Stuart Kelly as Chair of Planning, in relation to the refusal of an application for smart parking in the Cherry Tree centre in Liscard following issues with incorrect fixed penalty notices for disabled residents, asking whether the applicant had appealed the decision. In response, Councillor Stuart Kelly confirmed that he had not received notification of an appeal, but that unsuccessful applicants had six months from the date of decision to appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.

Councillor Angie Davies asked a question of Councillor Janette Williamson as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, asking whether she would wish to congratulate the previous Director of Public Health, Julie Webster on her retirement and her work to finalise the Public Health Annual Report, welcome Dave Bradburn as the new Director of Public Health, and thank the Public Health team for everything they do to keep Wirral safe. In response, Councillor Janette Williamson outlined her pleasure working with Julie Webster throughout her time at the Council, welcomed Dave Bradburn to the Council, and expressed how enormously valued the Public Health team were.

Councillor Julie McManus asked a question of Councillor Tony Jones as the Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee, seeking assurances that active travel was at the heart of the Council's regeneration programme. In response, Councillor Tony Jones outlined that there were numerous active travel schemes that were key to the delivery of the regeneration project, and outlined recent examples of funding to support the schemes including £2.25m funding awarded by Department of Transport to support movement schemes in Birkenhead, and that in the last two weeks, three consultations had been launched on active travel schemes.

Councillor Paul Martin asked a question of Councillor Liz Grey, in respect of minute item 33 of Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, seeking an update on progress with the flood alleviation scheme. In response, Councillor Liz Grey outlined the excellent progress being made despite the complex engineering work required, and informed Council that the scheme was in-keeping with the environment in West Kirby and added to the public realm as well as protecting lives, property and businesses.

Councillor Tom Anderson asked a question of Councillor Tony Jones as Chair of Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee, asking whether he agreed that the £180m worth of investment showed the Conservative government's commitment to levelling up Birkenhead. In response, Councillor Tony Jones outlined that to drive the regeneration of Birkenhead forward, it was right and proper that sources of funding were accepted when available.

Councillor Daisy Kenny asked a question of Councillor Tony Jones, in respect of minute item 24 of Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee, noting that the item relating to Dominick House was withdrawn, and seeking assurances that the future regeneration of the site would be of the highest quality and done in consultation with ward Councillors, local businesses and residents. In response, Councillor Tony Jones confirmed this was the case and expressed his gratitude to Liscard ward members for offering to ensure that the consultation process was done in its fullest manner.

70 **JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

Council discussed the matter of reports and minutes from the Combined Authority and other organisations being considered by the Council to enable members appointed to external organisations to answer questions on those matters. The Civic Mayor requested that the matter be looked at further by the Governance Working Group.

71 **MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

Five motions had been submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.1, and were determined as detailed in minutes 72 to 76 below.

72 **MOTION - MANDATORY VOTER ID CHECKS COULD STOP PEOPLE VOTING**

Councillor Janette Williamson moved and Councillor Angie Davies seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

In moving the motion, Councillor Williamson confirmed that she was happy to accept the Green Group amendment, which was moved by Councillor Judith Grier and seconded by Councillor Harry Gorman and read as follows:

*Insert after final paragraph:*

‘If, despite the many arguments against, mandatory checks are introduced for the elections in May 2023 Council believes that the earliest possible implementation and timely delivery of any voter ID procedures will be essential to ensure as few residents as possible are disenfranchised. We therefore call on government to ensure that adequate funds are made available to local authorities to implement any changes.’

Following a debate, and Councillor Williamson having replied, the motion was put and it was –

**Resolved (39:19) (1 abstention) – That**



**The Government are determined to push ahead with the implementation of mandatory Voter ID to 'combat voter fraud' despite little evidence of such fraud. In fact there were only 6 known cases of voter fraud in the last election (as admitted by the previous Secretary of State for Health, Matt Hancock MP).**

**A study commissioned by the Cabinet Office has shown that more than 2 million people lack the necessary ID to vote in elections. Council believes the Government have cynically and deliberately attempted to exclude young people and those from disadvantaged backgrounds from the democratic process. This will mean that many Wirral residents will be unable to exercise their right to vote because of lack of appropriate ID.**

**Councils will have to issue Wirral voters with an electoral identity document, at an estimated cost nationally of £15m, and it is very unlikely this process will be ready until January 2023 with limited time to make residents aware of the new rules, cope with last minute applications or gauge demand. Most importantly, Council believes the Voter ID checks could stop people from voting, suppress turnout amongst disadvantaged groups and ultimately sway results with the real possibility of challenges in court. Council believes this is an unnecessary distraction and focus should be on addressing major concerns such as media bias, low turnout and not introducing a barrier preventing voters exercising their democratic right to vote.**

**Wirral Council has suffered 12 years of austerity and is facing huge budget challenges. This is a drain on time and resources and driven by a Conservative Government who Council believes are attempting to manipulate elections in a manner that demeans our democracy.**

**Wirral Council calls on the Government to delay the implementation of mandatory Voter ID checks at next year's local elections as there is still lack of clarity about the rules and a short timetable to establish the system which could leave hundreds of Wirral residents disenfranchised.**

**If, despite the many arguments against, mandatory checks are introduced for the elections in May 2023 Council believes that the earliest possible implementation and timely delivery of any voter ID procedures will be essential to ensure as few residents as possible are disenfranchised. We therefore call on government to ensure that adequate funds are made available to local authorities to implement any changes.**

73 **MOTION - PROTECTING THE SERVICES OUR RESIDENTS WANT**

Councillor Tom Anderson moved and Councillor Jenny Johnson seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Councillor Phil Gilchrist moved and Councillor Stuart Kelly seconded the following amendment, submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.3:

*Paragraph 1 – insert after ‘...rely upon ‘:*

‘but recognises that this has become more difficult in this period of high inflation, increased material costs and shortages, along with fluctuating energy prices.’

*Paragraph 1 – insert at the start of the second sentence:*

‘Council recognises that’

*Paragraph 1 – insert at end of second sentence:*

‘and supports the ongoing programme of reducing overheads and the number of buildings.’

*Paragraph 3 - insert after ‘...is performing ‘:*

‘so welcomes plans to secure a closer working relationship with its contractors to manage and target resources that are under pressure.’

*Paragraph 5 – insert after ‘...income families..’:*

‘due, in the main, to the valuations used in this unfair system which is overdue for overhaul or replacement. However, it is clear that final budgets and Council Tax levels can only be finalised in the full knowledge of the settlement expected to be announced by the Government on or around 19 December.’

*Paragraph 6 – insert after ‘...can afford.’:*

‘In so doing, Council recognises the very real constraints that have been made clear by Cllr Izzy Seccombe, the Leader of the Conservative Group on the Local Government Association, when she set out her honest assessment of the situation facing us all...  
*‘Without immediate additional funding, councils will face increasingly difficult decisions about which services to stop providing, meaning not just isolated closures of individual facilities but significant cuts to the services people rely on, including those to the most vulnerable. It is*

*important that we are honest with central government about these pressures'*

(<https://conservativehome.com/2022/11/18/izzi-seccombe-local-government-is-ready-to-step-up-to-the-financial-challenge-by-championing-innovation-and-partnership-working/>)'

Councillor Janette Williamson moved and Councillor Liz Grey seconded the following amendment, submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.3:

*Delete second sentence of first paragraph and insert instead:*

'However, Council recognises that in 2011, the Tory led council made 1100 staff redundant, and it has relied upon a diminished but committed workforce ever since, and we thank them for that.

*Replace second paragraph with:*

'Council notes that despite the Conservative Group not supporting the Wirral Plan Update, Council remains committed to working to achieve.'

*Insert at end of third paragraph:*

'Council also recognises that to protect and deliver these services at their current levels it needs adequate funding from a government that has inflicted 11 years of austerity on local councils which looks to resume following the impending public sector cuts of £35bn, who have lost 60p in every £1.

*Insert at end of fourth paragraph:*

'They expect the vulnerable to be cared for with high-quality social care, to be protected with vital and life-saving public health measures and to address the growing climate emergency which Full Council agreed in 2019.'

*Delete after first word of fifth paragraph:*

'welcomes the statement by the Leader of the Council reported in the local media that a "Council tax rise 'is not on the cards' in Wirral" and'

*Insert at end of fifth paragraph:*

'and deplores the recent Autumn Statement by Jeremy Hunt which seeks to balance the £55bn black hole in the economy, as reported in the media to have been caused by the Truss/Kwarteng 'mini-budget' off the backs of Council Tax payers and up to £35bn in public sector cuts.

*Insert at end of sixth paragraph:*

'Council also calls on all members to work together to deliver a legal and balanced budget protect the services that residents deserve, and to renew its request to Government, in writing with a letter signed by all Group Leaders to fund Wirral fairly to do so in the forthcoming settlement on or around December 19<sup>th</sup>.'

Following clarification from Councillor Phil Gilchrist on his amendment, the consent of Council was sought to amend the original amendment to include the word 'Council' in paragraph 6, to enable the amendment to make sense when moved in conjunction with the Labour Group amendment. This was agreed by Council.

Councillor Janette Williamson confirmed that she was happy to accept the Liberal Democrat Group amendment as part of the Labour Group amendment.

Following a debate, the amendment was put and agreed (39:19) (1 abstention).

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

**Resolved (40:18) – That**

**Council understands it exists to provide services which residents rely upon. but recognises that this has become more difficult in this period of high inflation, increased material costs and shortages, along with fluctuating energy prices.**

**However, Council recognises that in 2011, the Tory led council made 1100 staff redundant, and it has relied upon a diminished but committed workforce ever since, and we thank them for that and supports the ongoing programme of reducing overheads and the number of buildings.**

**Council notes that despite the Conservative Group not supporting the Wirral Plan Update, Council remains committed to working to achieve:**

- **A sustainable environment**
- **Brighter futures for all our residents**
- **An inclusive economy**
- **Safe and vibrant communities**
- **Active and healthy lives for all our residents**

**Council recognises that first impressions count; how the Borough looks fundamentally affects how our residents feel about where they live and how the Council is performing so welcomes plans to secure a closer**

**working relationship with its contractors to manage and target resources that are under pressure. Council also recognises that to protect and deliver these services at their current levels it needs adequate funding from a government that has inflicted 11 years of austerity on local councils which looks to resume following the impending public sector cuts of £35bn, who have lost 60p in every £1.**

**Council understands our residents expect the grass to be cut, and they expect the streets to be free from litter and potholes filled. They expect the vulnerable to be cared for with high-quality social care, to be protected with vital and life-saving public health measures and to address the growing climate emergency which Full Council agreed in 2019.**

**Council recognises that Council Tax rises impact disproportionately on the lowest income families due, in the main, to the valuations used in this unfair system which is overdue for overhaul or replacement. However, it is clear that final budgets and Council Tax levels can only be finalised in the full knowledge of the settlement expected to be announced by the Government on or around 19 December and Council deplores the recent Autumn Statement by Jeremy Hunt which seeks to balance the £55bn black hole in the economy as reported in the media to have been caused by the Truss/Kwarteng 'mini-budget' off the backs of Council Tax payers and up to £35bn in public sector cuts.**

**Council, therefore, calls on all Members to meet the challenge of providing decent Council Services, paid for at a price families can afford. In so doing, Council recognises the very real constraints that have been made clear by Cllr Izzy Seccombe, the Leader of the Conservative Group on the Local Government Association, when she set out her honest assessment of the situation facing us all: 'Without immediate additional funding, councils will face increasingly difficult decisions about which services to stop providing, meaning not just isolated closures of individual facilities but significant cuts to the services people rely on, including those to the most vulnerable. It is important that we are honest with central government about these pressures' ([https://conservativehome.com/2022/11/18/izzy-seccombe-local-government-is\[1\]ready-to-step-up-to-the-financial-challenge-by-championing-innovation-and\[1\]partnership-working](https://conservativehome.com/2022/11/18/izzy-seccombe-local-government-is[1]ready-to-step-up-to-the-financial-challenge-by-championing-innovation-and[1]partnership-working)). Council also calls on all members to work together to deliver a legal and balanced budget and to protect the services that residents deserve, and to renew its request to Government, in writing with a letter signed by all Group Leaders to fund Wirral fairly to do so in the forthcoming settlement on or around December 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**MOTION - WIRRAL NEEDS MORE TRAIN SERVICES NOT LESS**

Councillor Jo Bird moved and Councillor Amanda Onwuemene seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

In moving the motion Councillor Jo Bird confirmed that she was happy to accept the Labour Group amendment, which was moved by Councillor Steve Foulkes and seconded by Councillor Sue Percy as follows:

*Insert at end:*

‘Furthermore Council supports the Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram in his Campaign to establish a “London Style Public Transport System “ across the Liverpool City Region.

Additionally, Council notes that there is a review meeting with Mersey Rail already arranged for the 8<sup>th</sup> December and Wirral Council calls for the outcome of that meeting to notified to Council straight away.

Council calls on Councillors on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee to continue to work together to ensure the best possible level of service for all Wirral Rail users and regrets the operational issues currently being experienced on the Chester Line.

Council notes that at the last meeting of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee, public assurances were given to review the current situation in light of public comments and submissions from Ward Councillors and we should all work together to bring about improvements as soon as possible.’

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 9.1, the Council did not debate this matter, and it was –

**Resolved (unanimously) (1 abstention) – That**

**In August 2022, Merseyrail took the unilateral decision to slash train services to Bromborough Rake and Green Lane stations from six per hour to two per hour. This decision was made without public consultation or any known disability or social impact assessment. Bromborough is the only accessible train station between Bebington and Hooton. Green Lane serves that part of Wirral with the lowest levels of car ownership.**

**Merseyrail, owned by Serco and Abellio, justify their decision by a 10% improvement in reliability for the remaining stations between Hamilton Square and Chester. The company could use the same rationale to reduce services to other stations as well. Trains to and from Chester**

often wait for many minutes at Birkenhead Central station instead of picking up passengers at Green Lane and Bromborough Rake.

To date, over 500 people have signed a petition to restore the service. Merseyrail has so far dismissed their concerns.

Merseyrail says services will be restored when new trains, first commissioned in 2016, are in use across the network. The new trains are already many years late and there is no date for their roll out on the Wirral line.

In support of the Council's Wirral Plan, Local Plan, and net zero carbon targets, Wirral Council resolves to:

1. Work towards a clean, reliable, frequent, affordable train service to be proud of.
2. Publicly oppose Merseyrail's reduction in train services on the Wirral Line and calls on Merseyrail to fully restore train services immediately.
3. Urge the Liverpool City Region Metro Mayor and Transport Committee to publicly oppose these and any future reductions in train services on the Wirral.

Furthermore Council supports the Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram in his Campaign to establish a "London Style Public Transport System" across the Liverpool City Region.

Additionally, Council notes that there is a review meeting with Mersey Rail already arranged for the 8<sup>th</sup> December and Wirral Council calls for the outcome of that meeting to notified to Council straight away.

Council calls on Councillors on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee to continue to work together to ensure the best possible level of service for all Wirral Rail users and regrets the operational issues currently being experienced on the Chester Line.

Council notes that at the last meeting of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee, public assurances were given to review the current situation in light of public comments and submissions from Ward Councillors and we should all work together to bring about improvements as soon as possible.

#### 75 **MOTION - PAYING MORE FOR LESS AFTER DAMAGING DECISIONS**

Councillor Phil Gilchrist moved and Councillor Chris Carubia seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 9.1, the Council did not debate this matter, and it was –

**Resolved (39:19) (1 abstention) – That**

**Council believes that the Truss/Kwarteng ‘mini budget’ on 23 September 2022 has been hugely damaging to the national economy. Its lasting effect is widely acknowledged, and it will continue to hit the Wirral economy and residents for several years to come.**

**Council recognises that the impact of high inflation and higher mortgage rates will affect many Wirral residents who are already struggling to cope with high energy costs this winter.**

**Council notes that the measures introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his 17 November 2022 Autumn Statement rely heavily on an unfair Council Tax system.**

**Council deplores the decision to delay the introduction of vital reforms to Social Care which prolongs the uncertainty that has affected the long-term solutions put forward to provide the care needed for our ageing population.**

**Council believes that statutory services, such as Social Care, should be funded by central Government rather than through the unfair Council Tax system.**

**Council believes local, discretionary services should be funded by a reformed property tax that better reflects local land and property values.**

**Council condemns the Conservative Government for creating the chaotic economic conditions that are now pushing the Council Tax increase for Wirral residents towards the five per cent figure. All this during a period of high inflation.**

**Wirral’s people will once again be asked to pay out more for less services. This is an unacceptable solution to the financial pressures facing local services.**

**Council, therefore, calls on the Government to resume work on a fairer funding system for local Government that will help areas such as Wirral, which has such a high proportion of properties in lower tax bands, to support much-needed local services.**



**MOTION - FOOD IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE SCHOOL DAY**

Councillor Sue Percy moved and Councillor Paul Stuart seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 9.1, the Council did not debate this matter, and it was –

**Resolved (unanimously) – That**

**The Chancellor says that education is a priority.**

**Food is an essential part of the school day. Teachers know that without food children cannot learn.**

**We all know that our school communities are struggling.**

**Parents are skipping meals to make sure children have enough. Schools are starting food banks. Teachers are paying for pupils' food out of their own pockets. Children are sharing their lunches with friends who do not have enough.**

**The Autumn Budget Statement which the Government has produced was an opportunity to do what is right and ensure every child gets a hot dinner at school every day but has no provision in it to extend free school meals for all primary school children. This is an investment in our country's economic future and this government is failing to help.**

**There's still time for the Government to do the right thing.**

**Over 130 civil society leaders (and counting) are calling for Free School Meals for All. Because a hot, nutritious school dinner is an essential for setting children up for success.**

**Teachers, doctors, nurses, nutritionists, chefs, faith leaders, charities, local authorities, and unions have pledged support.**

**Council urges all Councillors and local MP's to be brave and to stand with the families they represent and to be a voice for children's futures in local councils and in Westminster.**

**40 MPs have already signed the open letter calling on the Prime Minister to extend Free School Meals to every child in primary school.**

**When constituents write in numbers, Councillors and MPs listen.**

**The Government must step up and do its part.**

**Let us keep up the momentum. Together, we will secure a brighter future for our children.**

**Council requests that the Leader writes to the Secretary of State for Education Gillian Keegan to demand fairer funding for the future of our children.**

# COUNCIL

Monday, 27 February 2023

Present: The Civic Mayor (Councillor Jeff Green) in the  
Chair  
Deputy Civic Mayor (Councillor Jerry Williams)

Councillors	T Anderson	P Gilchrist	S Mountney
	S Bennett	N Graham	Y Nolan
	J Bird	EA Grey	C O'Hagan
	M Booth	J Grier	A Onwuemene
	A Brame	P Hayes	O Osanlou
	D Burgess-Joyce	A Hodson	S Percy
	H Cameron	K Hodson	C Povall
	I Camphor	J Hoey	S Powell-Wilde
	C Carubia	J Johnson	L Rennie
	P Cleary	C Jones	J Robinson
	M Collins	T Jones	T Smith
	H Collinson	M Jordan	P Stuart
	C Cooke	S Kelly	Jason Walsh
	T Cox	B Kenny	S Williams
	A Davies	D Kenny	J Williamson
	C Davies	J Laing	V Wilson
	G Davies	I Lewis	G Wood
	T Elzeiny	J McManus	A Wright
	S Foulkes	P Martin	
	A Gardner	D Mitchell	

<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	L Fraser	K Greaney
		E Gleaves	Joe Walsh
		H Gorman	

## 77 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Civic Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting then led Council in a moments silence in memory of Elle Edwards who was tragically killed on Christmas Eve in Wallasey village.

The Civic Mayor informed the meeting that he had been informed in advance of a number of Members who had a personal interest in agenda item 4c, 'Budget 2022/23 and Medium-Term Financial Plan' insofar as it related to the schools budget element by virtue of holding positions as school governors, as follows:

Councillors Brame, Carubia, Cleary, Collinson, Cooke, Angie Davies, George Davies, Foulkes, Gilchrist, Grey, McManus, Mitchell, Smith, Wilson, Williams and Wood. He also reported that Councillor Jo Bird wished to declare an interest as her partner was a school governor.

Additionally, the Civic Mayor reported the following personal interests insofar as they related to the schools budget element, by virtue of those Members either themselves or close family members working in either Schools or the Council's Education and Children, or Young People's Directorate:

Councillors Chris Jones, Martin, Povall, Robinson and Stuart.

Members were then invited to make any further declarations. Councillors Mike Collins and Yvonne Nolan declared personal interests as school governors, and Councillor Jo Bird declared a personal interest by virtue of her partner being a school governor. Councillors Steve Foulkes, Brian Kenny, Leslie Rennie and Gill Wood declared personal interests as members of the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority who voted on the precept. Councillor Leslie Rennie declared a personal interest as her husband received a pension from Merseyside Police. Steve Foulkes declared a personal interest as he received a pension from Merseyside Police. Councillor Brian Kenny. Councillor Ian Lewis declared a personal interest as he was a Trustee of an organisation hoping to acquire Wallasey village library through the Community Asset Transfer programme. Councillor Mike Collins declared a personal interest as his company had a contract with social services.

## 78 **CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Civic Mayor asked for any apologies and these were then given for Councillors Leah Fraser, Emily Gleaves, Harry Gorman, Karl Greaney and Joe Walsh.

The Civic Mayor informed the Council that he had attended 57 events since the last Council meeting which included Christmas events such as a Community Carol service at Christ the King, the Ukrainian Christmas Day celebration, plus a war memorial centenary celebration, an Everest film presentation, Chinese New Year and a minutes silence for Ukraine. He invited Members to the Civic Sunday on 30 April at St Bridget's Church in West Kirby.

## 79 **PROCEDURE FOR BUDGET DECISION MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The Council was then invited to consider the recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee meeting of 15 February 2023, in respect of the procedure to be adopted for this extraordinary meeting of the Council.

On a motion by Councillor Janette Williamson, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, it was –

**Resolved – That, for the duration of the extraordinary meeting of 28 February 2023 (Budget Council):**

**(a) the procedure attached as Appendix A to the report be followed in respect of the meeting; and**

**(b) Council Standing Order 15.4 (timing of speeches) be suspended together with such other standing orders as may conflict with the Budget Council procedure or the Mayor’s administration of the meeting, in such a manner as the Mayor in his or her absolute discretion dictates, to ensure the objective of Council setting a lawful budget and council tax requirement prevails.**

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

Seven matters had been referred by the meetings of Policy and Resources Committee on 18 January and 15 February 2023.

**81 COUNCIL TAX 2023/24 (TAX BASE, DISCOUNTS AND EXEMPTIONS AND LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME)**

The first matter requiring approval was in relation to proposed Council Tax, the motion for which was moved by Councillor Janette Williamson and seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan.

**Resolved (38:21) (1 abstention) – That**

**(1) The level and award of each local discount for 2023/24 be as follows:**

**Wirral Women’s & Children’s Aid**

**To continue to award Wirral Women & Children’s Aid 100% discount. This remains unchanged from 2022/23.**

**Care Leaver’s Discount**

**To award Care Leavers the requisite discount to reduce their Council Tax liability to zero until they are 25. This to remain unchanged from 2022/23.**

**Empty Property Discounts 2023/24**

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

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

**Both to remain unchanged from 2022/23, and to include an exception for properties requiring adaptations to meet the need of a disabled person who will be occupying the property as soon as the adaptations are complete and in addition awaiting renovations prior to being occupied by someone under Ukraine resettlement scheme.**

**Empty Property Premium =**

**100% (200% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty for more than two years.**

**200% (300% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty more than five years.**

**300% (400% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty more than ten years.**

**All remain unchanged from 2022/23, save for an exception from 1 April 2023 for properties that have restrictions placed upon them restricting the sale to a particular group (usually leasehold properties for the elderly which attract high service charges). An exception to be introduced to the Premium from 1 April 2023.**

**Council Tax Discretionary Hardship Relief Scheme**

**The Council Tax Discretionary Hardship Relief Scheme, approved by Cabinet in October 2013, to continue in its current format for 2023/24. The Scheme offers help and assistance in exceptional cases of hardship.**

**(2) Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS)**

**The current Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme to remain unchanged from 2022/23 apart from the following :**

- a. The scheme to be aligned to all the Department of Work and Pensions uprating's and changes for Housing Benefit and Universal Credit**
- b. There to be no loss of entitlement due to payments made under Homes for Ukraine Scheme (£350)**
- c. In response to the government announcement (Council Tax Support Fund) of the 23 December, an additional reduction of at least £25 where a liability in excess of this exists, for all recipients of Council Tax Support for 2023/24 at the time of annual billing.**
- d. Delegated authority be given to the Head of Revenues & Benefits in consultation with the Director of Finance and Leader of the Council to create a discretionary scheme based upon government guidance to**

utilise any remaining funding provided under the Council Tax Support Fund for 2023/24

### **(3) Changes to Empty Property Discounts 2024/25**

To reduce the Empty Property Premium from 2024/25 to properties that have been empty for more than one year (Currently Two). So that the following apply:-

**100% (200% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty for more than one year.**

**200% (300% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty more than five years.**

**300% (400% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty more than ten years.**

### **(4) Changes to the treatment of second homes (dwellings that are furnished but are not someone's sole or main residence)**

From April 2024 the council to charge **100% (200% Council Tax) for any person with a second home within Wirral. Double the amount of council tax of a property occupied as someone's sole or main residence.**

## **82 BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2023/24**

The Chair announced that following legal advice appendix at item 10 no longer needed to be treated as confidential and could be made publicly available. He proposed that items 5 and 6 on the agenda (exclusion of the press and public and noting the confidential appendix) therefore be withdrawn. This was approved by assent.

The second matter requiring approval was the Council Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2023/24.

Councillor Janette Williamson formally moved the Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, and which was set out as a recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee of 15 February 2023, minute 94.

The motion having been formally moved and seconded, Councillor Janette Williamson spoke to her motion.

Councillor Kathy Hodson, as Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee, then spoke to the Schools Budget element of the proposed budget.

Councillor Tom Anderson, as Leader of the Conservative Group, then addressed the Council on the budget proposals.

Councillor Pat Cleary, as Leader of the Green Group, then addressed the Council on the budget proposals.

Councillor Phil Gilchrist, as Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, then addressed the Council on the budget proposals.

The budget proposals were then debated.

At 7.40pm the Mayor adjourned the meeting for a short break.

The meeting resumed at 7.55pm.

**In respect of the budget motion, the Council divided as follows:**

For the motion (38) - Councillors S Bennett, J Bird, A Brame, C Carubia, P Cleary, H Collinson, C Cooke, A Davies, C Davies, G Davies, S Foulkes, P Gilchrist, N Graham, E Grey, J Grier, J Hoey, C Jones, T Jones, S Kelly, B Kenny, D Kenny, J Laing, P Martin, J McManus, D Mitchell, Y Nolan, C O'Hagan, A Onwuemene, O Osanlou S Percy, S Powell-Wilde, J Robinson, T Smith, P Stuart, Jason Walsh, J Williams, J Williamson and G Wood.

Against the motion (21) – Councillors T Anderson, M Booth, D Burgess-Joyce, H Cameron, I Camphor, M Collins, T Cox, T Elzeiny, A Gardner, P Hayes, A Hodson, K Hodson, J Johnson, M Jordan, I Lewis, S Mountney, C Povall, L Rennie, S Williams, V Wilson and A Wright.

Abstaining (1)– Councillor J Green.

The motion was therefore carried (38:21) (1 abstention).

**The Council was then invited to vote on the Statutory calculations for the Council Tax levels for 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 32-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.**

The Council voted as follows:

For the motion (59) - Councillors T Anderson, S Bennett, J Bird, M Booth, A Brame, D Burgess-Joyce, H Cameron, I Camphor, C Carubia, P Cleary, M Collins, H Collinson, C Cooke, T Cox, A Davies, C Davies, G Davies, T Elzeiny, S Foulkes, A Gardner, P Gilchrist, N Graham, E Grey, J Grier, P Hayes, A Hodson, K Hodson, J Hoey, J Johnson, C Jones, T Jones, M Jordan, S Kelly, B Kenny, D Kenny, J Laing, I Lewis, P Martin, J McManus, D Mitchell, S Mountney, Y Nolan, C O'Hagan, A Onwuemene, O Osanlou, S Percy, C Povall, S Powell-Wilde, L Rennie, J Robinson, T Smith, P Stuart,



Jason Walsh, J Williams, S Williams, J Williamson, V Wilson, G Wood and A Wright.

Against the motion – none.

Abstaining (1) – Councillor Jeff Green

The motion was therefore carried (59:0) (1 abstention).

**A. Resolved (38:21) (1 abstention) - That**

- (1) a) the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) set out as Appendix 7 be approved;
- b) increases to the Council's fees and charges equal to or above the annual Consumer Price Index reported by the Office for National Statistics in February 2023 be approved, unless either of the following conditions apply:
- i. There is a statutory constraint that prevents such an increase,
  - ii. The Council is operating in a market whereby such an increase would result in the Council being uncompetitive.
- c) the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy for Business Rates for 2023/24 set out as Appendix 6 be approved.
- d) Unearmarked Reserves (General Fund Balances) be maintained at a figure not lower than £13.18m for the course of the 2023/24 financial year.
- e) it be approved that, in respect of the Budget Proposals, the Director with portfolio undertake such actions as they consider necessary to implement the agreed Budget and deliver the savings, income and efficiency proposals developed as part of the formulation process and update Committees accordingly.
- f) the 2023/24 Schools Budget of £337.017m be approved

**B. Resolved (59:0) (1 abstention) - That:**

- (1) a. the Band D Council Tax be set at £1,798.48 for the Wirral Borough Council element of the Council Tax, representing a general increase of 2.99% and 2.00% ringfenced increase to Adult Social Care, and the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2023/24 of £171.9m as detailed in Appendix 5.
- b. it be noted that the additional precepts from the Police & Crime Commissioner for Merseyside and the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority remain in estimated form and authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer to implement any variation to the overall council tax arising from the final notification of the precepts.

- (2) the additional funds of £135,000 arising from the final settlement be allocated as follows:  
£41k be invested in specialist, complex investigation work to support Children's social care cases where there are multiple victims or perpetrators.  
£94k be invested by not taking the following four budget options that fall within the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee in respect of:
- The review of bulky waste (ERIC) collection service £10k
  - The Environmental Health Service Review £40k
  - The reduction in the recycling promotional budget £20k
  - The reduction in Waste & Environmental Services budget £24k

83 **CAPITAL MONITORING QUARTER 3 2022/23**

The third matter requiring approval was in relation to the capital monitoring for quarter 3 2022/23.

On a motion by Councillor Janette Williamson, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson it was -

**Resolved – That**

- (1) the revised Capital Programme of £86.3 million for 2022/23 be approved, including the virements of budget referred to in Appendix D of the report.
- (2) the additional funding be approved for the schemes referred to in section 3.7 of the report from a variety of sources, new borrowing required from the Council, capital receipts, external contributions and the repurposing of previously agreed Council borrowing.

84 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023-28**

The fourth item requiring approval was in relation to the capital programme for 2023-28.

On a motion by Councillor Janette Williamson, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson it was -

**Resolved - That**

- (1) the new bids as detailed in Appendix B to this report be approved requiring £17.69 million of funding for inclusion in the Capital Programme.

- (2) any new bids supported by grant funding be approved but do not commence until written confirmation has been received from the granting authority.
- (3) the Capital Programme 2023-28 as detailed in Appendix C to this report be approved.

85 **CAPITAL FINANCING STRATEGY 2023/24**

The fifth item requiring approval was in relation to the Capital Financing Strategy 2023/24.

On a motion by Councillor Janette Williamson, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson it was -

**Resolved – That**

- (1) the Capital Financing Strategy 2023/24 be approved.
- (2) the associated Prudential Indicators be adopted.
- (3) the Council’s Minimum Revenue Provision policy be approved.

86 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023/24**

The sixth item requiring approval was in relation to the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24.

On a motion by Councillor Janette Williamson, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson it was -

**Resolved – That**

- (1) the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2023/2024 be approved.
- (2) the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators be approved.

87 **INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2023/24**

The seventh item requiring approval was in relation to the Investment Strategy 2023/24.

On a motion by Councillor Janette Williamson, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson it was -

**Resolved – That the Investment Strategy for 2023/2024 which includes potential investment in Service Investments: Loans (including the Approval Limit detailed in Table 1), Service Investment: Shares (non-currently held), Commercial Property and Loan Commitments and Financial Guarantees be approved.**



## COUNCIL

Monday, 20 March 2023

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>REVISION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2022/23</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF LAW &amp; GOVERNANCE</b>

### REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise the Council on the allocation of committee places to political groups following the cessation of Paul Connolly as a Councillor and to request the Council to allocate such places proportionately for the remainder of the 2022/2023 municipal year.

The Local Government & Housing Act 1989 requires the review of political balance to take place as soon as practicable after the division of political groups, which is considered to be this meeting of Council.

The number of Committee places remains at 114 as this was the number of places agreed by the Council at the Annual Meeting when the Committees were established. The change to proportionality is to accommodate the fact that there is a vacancy and that a by-election will not be held before the whole council elections in May 2024.

As a consequence, the number of Committee places allocated to the Conservative Group and Green Group will reduce by one per group. Once the Director of Law and Governance has been notified which Committee each group wishes to vacate a seat on, the number of seats allocated to that group on the chosen Committee will reduce by 1 which will ensure committee place allocations reflect the overall political balance of the Council.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

Council is recommended to:

- (1) agree the revised proportionality in the political composition of membership of ordinary committees of the Council as set out at Appendix A.
- (2) agree that the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to act on the instruction of the relevant Group Leaders in relation to the Committee Places to be made vacant.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To comply with proportionality requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and relevant case law.

### 2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 As proportionality is an operation of law with purposive interpretation, the possibility of options is limited and would rely on negotiations between political parties. See paragraph 3.1.4 below.

### 3.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

#### 3.1 Proportionality

- 3.1.1 The Council is under a duty at specified times to undertake a review of the representation of different political groups on ordinary committees and other bodies subject to the provisions of the legislation.
- 3.1.2 Notice has been given to the proper officer under paragraph 10 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, that former Councillor Paul Connolly has ceased to be a member of the authority.
- 3.1.3 The review of political balance is to take place as soon as practicable after the division of political groups, which is considered to be this meeting of Council.
- 3.1.4 The obligation to ensure that there is proportionality in the political composition of public bodies to which this legislation applies extends only to proportionate representation of members of political groups and does not require independent members to be proportionally represented. The convention, however, is to apply a purposive interpretation and apply the calculations to reflect proportionality across the formal activities of the authority, representing the overall political composition of the authority.
- 3.1.5 The political composition of the 66 Members of Council is now as follows:
- |                  |    |          |
|------------------|----|----------|
| Labour           | 26 | (39.39%) |
| Conservative     | 23 | (34.85%) |
| Green            | 9  | (13.64%) |
| Liberal Democrat | 6  | (9.09%)  |
| Ind. Member      | 1  | (1.52%)  |
| Vacancy          | 1  | (1.52%)  |
- 3.1.6 The key relevant principle in this instance, to be applied so far as is reasonably practicable, is that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of the Authority which are allocated to each political group is to bear the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary

committees of the Authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority. That results, over the 114 current ordinary committee places, to:

Labour	44.91 rounded to	45
Conservative	39.73 rounded to	40
Green	15.55 rounded to	15
Liberal Democrat	10.36 rounded to	10
Ind. Member	1.73 rounded to	2
Vacancy	1.73 rounded to	<u>2</u>
		114

- 3.1.7 The Conservative Group and Green Group's representation on current committees will therefore reduce by one ordinary committee seat each and, the seats will remain vacant until the point at which a member is elected to the vacancy.
- 3.1.8 The Conservative Group and Green Group will be asked to inform the Director of Law and Governance which Committee it wishes to relinquish a place on.
- 3.1.9 An appendix is attached showing the revised allocations of committee places.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Local Government & Housing Act 1989 (Section 15 as amended) requires the Council, in performing its duties under the legislation and in exercising their power at other times to determine the allocation to different political groups of seats on a committee to which this applies ('ordinary committees'), to make only such determinations as give effect, so far as reasonably practicable, to a set of prioritised principles.
- 5.2 These principles, in relation to the seats on any body which fall to be filled by appointments made by any relevant authority or committee of a relevant authority, are—
- (a) that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
  - (b) that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
  - (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the

number of members of that group to the membership of the authority;  
and

- (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of the seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.

## **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 are none arising directly from this report.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION**

8.1 As set out in the report.

## **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.

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

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## **APPENDICES**

A. Revised Committee places allocation.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Previous reports on the appointment of Committees and amendments made during the year and the Council's Constitution.

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



<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>25 May 2022</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>6 December 2021</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>26 May 2021</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>28 September 2020</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>14 May 2019</b>

Appendix A

<u>Committee</u>	Places	Lab	Cons	Green	Lib Dem	Ind Mbr	Vacancy
Policy and Resources	15	6	6	2	1	0	
Adult Social Care and Public Health	11	4	4	2	1	0	
Children, Young People and Education	11	4	4	2	1	0	
Economy, Regeneration and Development	11	5	4	1	1	0	
Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport	11	4	4	2	1	0	
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure	11	4	4	2	1	0	
Audit and Risk Management	6	2	2	1	1	0	
Pensions	11	4	3	2	1	1	
Planning	12	6	4	1	1	0	
Regulatory and General Purposes (& Lic. Act)	15	6	6	1	1	1	
	<b>Current Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Revised Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>

## MINUTE EXTRACT

### CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

22 FEBRUARY 2023

#### 28 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2023/24 AND 2024/25

The Head of Democratic and Member Services presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance. This report recommended draft dates for Council and Committee meetings for the municipal year 2023/2024. Members were informed that the upcoming all-out election gave an opportunity to develop a two-year programme of meetings.

Members commented that they appreciated the early notification of the meeting cycle but noted that the Policy and Resource Committee was scheduled for 14 February 2024 and requested this be moved by a day.

**Resolved – That Council be recommended to approve the Calendar of Meetings for the 2023/24 and 24/25 municipal year, subject to Policy and Resources Committee being rescheduled from 14 February 2023 to 13 February 2024.**

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**CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE****Wednesday, 22 February 2023**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2023/24 AND 2024/25</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report recommends draft dates for Council and Committee meetings for the municipal year 2023/2024 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

This matter affects all wards. This is not a key decision.

The report contributes to the delivery of all five Wirral Plan 2021-2026 Priorities by ensuring that the Council's decision-making process is as effective as possible.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Constitution and Standards Committee is recommended to:

- (1) consider and comment on the report and
- (2) authorise the Director of Law and Governance to make any necessary changes to the draft meeting schedule resulting from any agreed changes to the Committee System and submit the meeting schedule to Council for final approval.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 The Council must approve and publish a Calendar of Meetings for each municipal year.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 The other option was to produce a calendar of meetings for 2023/24 only, however it was felt to enable easier forward planning for Members and Officer a two year calendar of meetings would be produced, and that in future years calendars would be produced a year in advance with the upcoming calendar to be reviewed for any minor changes required.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider the draft Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2023/24 and 2024/25 and provide details and reasons of any changes (if any) they would like to see to the draft Calendar.
- 3.2 Convening an extraordinary Council meeting or changing a scheduled meeting can often prove difficult given the demands placed upon Members. Matters are compounded by the membership of committees, etc being limited to a specific number of Members (and deputies) which impacts upon availability. It is therefore important that the Calendar of Meetings comprehensively captures Council meetings in such a way that it enables the Council to manage and discharge its functions in a timely and cost-effective manner.
- 3.3 The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee has been scheduled earlier in the cycle to enable it to appoint to the Joint Strategic Commissioning Board Sub-Committee, the members of which make up the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board which is planned to meet on 22 June.
- 3.4 Audit and Risk Management Committee has been scheduled for later in March to enable more time for report audit and risk activity from January to March.
- 3.5 Dates are not included in the Calendar for Member training. A programme of dates will be drawn up by the Member Support Steering Group in due course and circulated to Members.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 It is considered good practice for the Council to publish a Calendar of Meetings in respect of each Municipal Year.

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

6.1 The Council is required to ensure there are sufficient resources to administer all Council meetings in accordance with relevant legislation and the Council's Constitution.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 It is not possible to pre-empt or predict the exact number of Council meetings that are required and when they will need to take place. Additional Council meetings will be convened when necessary (and in accordance with the Council's Constitution) to ensure that the Council discharges its duties, obligations and responsibilities.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

8.1 The development of the Committee Calendar and any suggested amendments to it has been informed by the discussions held at recent meetings of the Governance Working Group.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no direct environment or climate implications arising from this report.

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING**

11.1 There are no direct community wealth implications arising from this report.

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Calendar of Committee Meetings 2023/24

Appendix 2 – Calendar of Committee Meetings 2024/25

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Constitution  
Calendar of Meetings 2022/23

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

This report is being considered by the Constitution and Standards Committee in accordance with Section (m) of its Terms of Reference, "to consider and make recommendations on such other matters as the Committee itself thinks appropriate or which

are referred to it by Council, which further the aim of promoting and maintaining the highest standards of conduct within the Council.”

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>Council 25 May 2022</b>
<b>Constitution and Standards Committee</b>	<b>17 February 2022</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>22 March 2021</b>
<b>Constitution and Standards Committee</b>	<b>24 February 2021</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>28 September 2020</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>18 March 2019</b>



## 2023/24 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

### MAY 2023

Monday	1	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday	2	
Wednesday	3	
Thursday	4	Local Elections
Friday	5	
Saturday	6	
Sunday	7	
Monday	8	
Tuesday	9	
Wednesday	10	
Thursday	11	
Friday	12	
Saturday	13	
Sunday	14	
Monday	15	
Tuesday	16	
Wednesday	17	Annual Council Part One
Thursday	18	
Friday	19	
Saturday	20	
Sunday	21	
Monday	22	
Tuesday	23	
Wednesday	24	Annual Council Part Two
Thursday	25	
Friday	26	
Saturday	27	
Sunday	28	
Monday	29	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday	30	
Half Term		
Wednesday	31	

## 2023/24 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

### JUNE 2023

Thursday	1	
Friday	2	
Saturday	3	
Sunday	4	
Monday	5	
Tuesday	6	
Wednesday	7	Licensing Act Committee; Regulatory & General Purposes Committee
Thursday	8	Planning Committee
Friday	9	
Saturday	10	
Sunday	11	
Monday	12	Constitution & Standards Committee
Tuesday	13	Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
Wednesday	14	Policy & Resources Committee
Thursday	15	
Friday	16	
Saturday	17	
Sunday	18	
Monday	19	Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee
Tuesday	20	Economy, Regeneration & Housing Committee
Wednesday	21	Children, Young People & Education Committee
Thursday	22	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (10.00am) Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee
Friday	23	
Saturday	24	
Sunday	25	
Monday	26	Pensions Committee
Tuesday	27	Audit & Risk Management Committee
Wednesday	28	Shareholder Board (4.00pm)
Thursday	29	Planning Committee
Friday	30	

**2023/24 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

**JULY 2023**

Saturday	1	
Sunday	2	
Monday	3	Group Meetings
Tuesday	4	
Wednesday	5	
Thursday	6	
Friday	7	
Saturday	8	
Sunday	9	
Monday	10	Council
Tuesday	11	Senior Officer Appointments & Staffing Sub Committee (10am)
Wednesday	12	Policy & Resources Committee
Thursday	13	Council Reserve
Friday	14	
Saturday	15	
Sunday	16	
Monday	17	Economy, Regeneration & Housing Committee
Tuesday	18	Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
Wednesday	19	Children, Young People & Education Committee
Thursday	20	Health & Well Being Board (2.00pm) Planning Committee
Friday	21	
Saturday	22	
Sunday	23	
Monday	24	Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee
Tuesday	25	Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee
Wednesday	26	
Thursday	27	
Friday	28	
Saturday	29	
Sunday	30	
Monday	31	

**2023/24 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

**AUGUST 2023**

Tuesday	1	
Wednesday	2	
Thursday	3	
Friday	4	
Saturday	5	
Sunday	6	
Monday	7	
Tuesday	8	
Wednesday	9	
Thursday	10	
Friday	11	
Saturday	12	
Sunday	13	
Monday	14	
Tuesday	15	
Wednesday	16	
Thursday	17	Planning Committee
Friday	18	
Saturday	19	
Sunday	20	
Monday	21	
Tuesday	22	
Wednesday	23	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (2.00pm)
Thursday	24	
Friday	25	
Saturday	26	
Sunday	27	
Monday	28	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday	29	
Wednesday	30	
Thursday	31	

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

Friday	1	
Saturday	2	
Sunday	3	
Monday	4	
Tuesday	5	
Wednesday	6	Shareholder Board (10.00am)
Thursday	7	Regulatory & General Purposes Committee
Friday	8	
Saturday	9	
Sunday	10	
Monday	11	
Tuesday	12	
Wednesday	13	Policy & Resources Committee
Thursday	14	Planning Committee
Friday	15	
Saturday	16	
Sunday	17	
Monday	18	Economy, Regeneration & Housing Committee
Tuesday	19	Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
Wednesday	20	Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee
Thursday	21	Health & Well Being Board(2.00pm) Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee
Friday	22	
Saturday	23	
Sunday	24	
Monday	25	Children, Young People & Education Committee
Tuesday	26	Pensions Committee
Wednesday	27	
Thursday	28	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (10.00am) Constitution & Standards Committee
Friday	29	
Saturday	30	

**OCTOBER 2023**

Sunday	1	
Monday	2	Group Meetings
Tuesday	3	
Wednesday	4	Policy & Resources Committee
Thursday	5	
Friday	6	
Saturday	7	
Sunday	8	
Monday	9	Council
Tuesday	10	
Wednesday	11	Planning Committee
Thursday	12	Council Reserve
Friday	13	
Saturday	14	
Sunday	15	
Monday	16	Economy, Regeneration & Housing Committee
Tuesday	17	Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
Wednesday	18	Children, Young People & Education Committee
Thursday	19	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (10.00am) Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee
Friday	20	
Saturday	21	
Sunday	22	
Monday	23	Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee
<b>HALF TERM</b>		
Tuesday	24	Audit & Risk Management Committee
Wednesday	25	Licensing Act Committee
Thursday	26	
Friday	27	
Saturday	28	
Sunday	29	
Monday	30	
Tuesday	31	

**NOVEMBER 2023**

Wednesday	1	
Thursday	2	
Friday	3	
Saturday	4	
Sunday	5	
Monday	6	
Tuesday	7	
Wednesday	8	Policy & Resources Committee
Thursday	9	Planning Committee
Friday	10	
Saturday	11	
Sunday	12	
Monday	13	
Tuesday	14	
Wednesday	15	Shareholder Board (10am)
Thursday	16	Regulatory & General Purposes Committee
Friday	17	
Saturday	18	
Sunday	19	
Monday	20	
Tuesday	21	
Wednesday	22	Constitution & Standards Committee
Thursday	23	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (10.00am)
Friday	24	
Saturday	25	
Sunday	26	
Monday	27	Group Meetings
Tuesday	28	Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
Wednesday	29	Children, Young People & Education Committee
Thursday	30	Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee

**2023/24 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

**DECEMBER 2023**

Friday	1	
Saturday	2	
Sunday	3	
Monday	4	Council
Tuesday	5	Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee
Wednesday	6	Economy, Regeneration & Housing Committee
Thursday	7	Council Reserve
Friday	8	
Saturday	9	
Sunday	10	
Monday	11	Pensions Committee
Tuesday	12	
Wednesday	13	
Thursday	14	Health & Well Being Board(2.00pm) Planning Committee
Friday	15	
Saturday	16	
Sunday	17	
Monday	18	
Tuesday	19	
Wednesday	20	Policy & Resources Committee
Thursday	21	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (10.00am)
Friday	22	
Saturday	23	
Sunday	24	
Monday	25	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday	26	BANK HOLIDAY
Wednesday	27	
Thursday	28	
Friday	29	
Saturday	30	
Sunday	31	

**2023/24 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

**JANUARY 2024**



Monday	1	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday	2	
Wednesday	3	
Thursday	4	
Friday	5	
Saturday	6	
Sunday	7	
Monday	8	
Tuesday	9	
Wednesday	10	
Thursday	11	Planning Committee
Friday	12	
Saturday	13	
Sunday	14	
Monday	15	Audit & Risk Management Committee
Tuesday	16	
Wednesday	17	Policy & Resources Committee
Thursday	18	Senior Officer Appointments & Staffing Sub Committee (10am)
Friday	19	
Saturday	20	
Sunday	21	
Monday	22	Economy, Regeneration & Housing Committee
Tuesday	23	Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
Wednesday	24	Children, Young People & Education Committee
Thursday	25	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (10.00am) Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee
Friday	26	
Saturday	27	
Sunday	28	
Monday	29	Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee
Tuesday	30	
Wednesday	31	Regulatory & General Purposes Committee

**FEBRUARY 2024**

Thursday	1	
Friday	2	
Saturday	3	
Sunday	4	
Monday	5	
Tuesday	6	
Wednesday	7	Charitable Trust Sub Committee (2pm)
Thursday	8	Planning Committee
Friday	9	
Saturday	10	
Sunday	11	
Monday	12	
Tuesday	13	
Wednesday	14	Policy & Resources Committee
Thursday	15	
Friday	16	
Saturday	17	
Sunday	18	
Monday	19	Group Meetings
Tuesday	20	
Wednesday	21	Shareholder Board (10am)
Thursday	22	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (10.00am) Constitution & Standards Committee
Friday	23	
Saturday	24	
Sunday	25	
Monday	26	Budget Council
<b>Half Term</b>		
Tuesday	27	
Wednesday	28	
Thursday	29	Budget Council Reserve

## 2023/24 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

### MARCH 2024

Friday	1	
Saturday	2	
Sunday	3	
Monday	4	Economy, Regeneration & Housing Committee
Tuesday	5	Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
Wednesday	6	Children, Young People & Education Committee
Thursday	7	Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee
Friday	8	
Saturday	9	
Sunday	10	
Monday	11	Group Meetings
Tuesday	12	Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee
Wednesday	13	
Thursday	14	Health & Well Being Board (2pm) Planning Committee
Friday	15	
Saturday	16	
Sunday	17	
Monday	18	Council
Tuesday	19	Pensions Committee
Wednesday	20	Policy & Resources Committee
Thursday	21	Council Reserve
Friday	22	
Saturday	23	
Sunday	24	
Monday	25	Senior Officer Appointments & Staffing Sub Committee(10am) Regulatory & General Purposes Committee
Tuesday	26	Audit and Risk Management Committee
Wednesday	27	
Thursday	28	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (10.00am)
Friday	29	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>
Saturday	30	
Sunday	31	

**2023/24 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

**APRIL 2024**

Monday	1	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday	2	
Wednesday	3	
Thursday	4	
Friday	5	
Saturday	6	
Sunday	7	
Monday	8	
Tuesday	9	
Wednesday	10	
Thursday	11	
Friday	12	
Saturday	13	
Sunday	14	
Monday	15	
Tuesday	16	
Wednesday	17	
Thursday	18	Planning Committee
Friday	19	
Saturday	20	
Sunday	21	
Monday	22	
Tuesday	23	
Wednesday	24	
Thursday	25	
Friday	26	
Saturday	27	
Sunday	28	
Monday	29	
Tuesday	30	

## 2024/25 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

### MAY 2024

Wednesday	1	
Thursday	2	Combined Authority Mayoral/ Police & Crime Commissioner Elections
Friday	3	
Saturday	4	
Sunday	5	
Monday	6	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday	7	
Wednesday	8	
Thursday	9	
Friday	10	
Saturday	11	
Sunday	12	
Monday	13	
Tuesday	14	
Wednesday	15	Annual Council Part One
Thursday	16	
Friday	17	
Saturday	18	
Sunday	19	
Monday	20	
Tuesday	21	
Wednesday	22	Annual Council Part Two
Thursday	23	
Friday	24	
Saturday	25	
Sunday	26	
Monday	27	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday	28	
Wednesday	29	
Thursday	30	
Friday	31	

## JUNE 2024

Saturday	1	
Sunday	2	
Monday	3	
Tuesday	4	
Wednesday	5	Licensing Act Committee; Regulatory & General Purposes Committee
Thursday	6	Planning Committee
Friday	7	
Saturday	8	
Sunday	9	
Monday	10	Constitution & Standards Committee
Tuesday	11	Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
Wednesday	12	Policy & Resources Committee
Thursday	13	
Friday	14	
Saturday	15	
Sunday	16	
Monday	17	Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee
Tuesday	18	Economy, Regeneration & Housing Committee
Wednesday	19	Children, Young People & Education Committee
Thursday	20	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (10.00am) Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee
Friday	21	
Saturday	22	
Sunday	23	
Monday	24	Pensions Committee
Tuesday	25	Audit & Risk Management Committee
Wednesday	26	Shareholder Board (4.00pm)
Thursday	27	Planning Committee
Friday	28	
Saturday	29	
Sunday	30	

## JULY 2024

Monday	1	Group Meetings
Tuesday	2	
Wednesday	3	
Thursday	4	
Friday	5	
Saturday	6	
Sunday	7	
Monday	8	Council
Tuesday	9	Senior Officer Appointments & Staffing Sub Committee (10am)
Wednesday	10	Policy & Resources Committee
Thursday	11	Council Reserve
Friday	12	
Saturday	13	
Sunday	14	
Monday	15	Economy, Regeneration & Housing Committee
Tuesday	16	Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
Wednesday	17	Children, Young People & Education Committee
Thursday	18	Health & Well Being Board (2.00pm) Planning Committee
Friday	19	
Saturday	20	
Sunday	21	
Monday	22	Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee
Tuesday	23	Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee
Wednesday	24	
Thursday	25	
Friday	26	
Saturday	27	
Sunday	28	
Monday	29	
Tuesday	30	
Wednesday	31	

## AUGUST 2024

Thursday	1	
Friday	2	
Saturday	3	
Sunday	4	
Monday	5	
Tuesday	6	
Wednesday	7	
Thursday	8	
Friday	9	
Saturday	10	
Sunday	11	
Monday	12	

Tuesday	13	
Wednesday	14	
Thursday	15	Planning Committee
Friday	16	
Saturday	17	
Sunday	18	
Monday	19	
Tuesday	20	
Wednesday	21	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (2.00pm)
Thursday	22	
Friday	23	
Saturday	24	
Sunday	25	
Monday	26	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday	27	
Wednesday	28	
Thursday	29	
Friday	30	
Saturday	31	

## SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday	1	
Monday	2	
Tuesday	3	
Wednesday	4	Shareholder Board (10am)
Thursday	5	Regulatory & General Purposes Committee
Friday	6	
Saturday	7	
Sunday	8	
Monday	9	
Tuesday	10	
Wednesday	11	Policy & Resources Committee
Thursday	12	Planning Committee
Friday	13	
Saturday	14	
Sunday	15	
Monday	16	Economy, Regeneration & Housing Committee
Tuesday	17	Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
Wednesday	18	Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee
Thursday	19	Health & Well Being Board(2.00pm) Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee
Friday	20	
Saturday	21	
Sunday	22	
Monday	23	Children, Young People & Education Committee
Tuesday	24	Pensions Committee
Wednesday	25	
Thursday	26	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (10.00am) Constitution & Standards Committee
Friday	27	
Saturday	28	



Sunday	29	
Monday	30	Group Meetings

## OCTOBER 2024

Tuesday	1	
Wednesday	2	Policy & Resources Committee
Thursday	3	
Friday	4	
Saturday	5	
Sunday	6	
Monday	7	Council
Tuesday	8	
Wednesday	9	Planning Committee
Thursday	10	Council Reserve
Friday	11	
Saturday	12	
Sunday	13	
Monday	14	Economy, Regeneration & Housing Committee
Tuesday	15	Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
Wednesday	16	Children, Young People & Education Committee
Thursday	17	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (10.00am) Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee
Friday	18	
Saturday	19	
Sunday	20	
Monday	21	Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee
Tuesday	22	Audit & Risk Management Committee
Wednesday	23	Licensing Act Committee
Thursday	24	
Friday	25	
Saturday	26	
Sunday	27	
Monday	28	
Tuesday	29	
Wednesday	30	
Thursday	31	

## NOVEMBER 2024

Friday	1	
Saturday	2	
Sunday	3	
Monday	4	
Tuesday	5	
Wednesday	6	Policy & Resources Committee
Thursday	7	Planning Committee
Friday	8	
Saturday	9	
Sunday	10	
Monday	11	
Tuesday	12	

Wednesday	13	Shareholder Board (10am)
Thursday	14	Regulatory & General Purposes Committee
Friday	15	
Saturday	16	
Sunday	17	
Monday	18	
Tuesday	19	
Wednesday	20	Constitution & Standards Committee
Thursday	21	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (10.00am)
Friday	22	
Saturday	23	
Sunday	24	
Monday	25	Group Meetings
Tuesday	26	Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
Wednesday	27	Children, Young People & Education Committee
Thursday	28	Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee
Friday	29	
Saturday	30	

## DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	1	
Monday	2	Council
Tuesday	3	Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee
Wednesday	4	Economy, Regeneration & Housing Committee
Thursday	5	Council Reserve
Friday	6	
Saturday	7	
Sunday	8	
Monday	9	Pensions Committee
Tuesday	10	
Wednesday	11	
Thursday	12	Health & Well Being Board(2.00pm) Planning Committee
Friday	13	
Saturday	14	
Sunday	15	
Monday	16	
Tuesday	17	
Wednesday	18	Policy & Resources Committee
Thursday	19	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (10.00am)
Friday	20	
Saturday	21	
Sunday	22	
Monday	23	
Tuesday	24	
Wednesday	25	BANK HOLIDAY
Thursday	26	BANK HOLIDAY
Friday	27	
Saturday	28	
Sunday	29	

Monday	30	
Tuesday	31	

## JANUARY 2025

Wednesday	1	BANK HOLIDAY
Thursday	2	
Friday	3	
Saturday	4	
Sunday	5	
Monday	6	
Tuesday	7	
Wednesday	8	
Thursday	9	
Friday	10	
Saturday	11	
Sunday	12	
Monday	13	Planning Committee
Tuesday	14	Audit & Risk Management Committee
Wednesday	15	Policy & Resources Committee
Thursday	16	Senior Officer Appointments & Staffing Sub Committee (10am)
Friday	17	
Saturday	18	
Sunday	19	
Monday	20	Economy, Regeneration & Housing Committee
Tuesday	21	Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
Wednesday	22	Children, Young People & Education Committee
Thursday	23	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (10.00am) Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee
Friday	24	
Saturday	25	
Sunday	26	
Monday	27	Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee
Tuesday	28	
Wednesday	29	Regulatory & General Purposes Committee
Thursday	30	
Friday	31	

## FEBRUARY 2025

Saturday	1	
Sunday	2	
Monday	3	
Tuesday	4	
Wednesday	5	Charitable Trust Sub Committee (2pm)
Thursday	6	Planning Committee
Friday	7	
Saturday	8	
Sunday	9	
Monday	10	
Tuesday	11	

Wednesday	12	Policy & Resources Committee
Thursday	13	
Friday	14	
Saturday	15	
Sunday	16	
Monday	17	Group Meetings
Tuesday	18	
Wednesday	19	
Thursday	20	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (10.00am) Constitution & Standards Committee
Friday	21	
Saturday	22	
Sunday	23	
Monday	24	Budget Council
Tuesday	25	
Wednesday	26	Shareholder Board (10am)
Thursday	27	Budget Council Reserve
Friday	28	

## MARCH 2025

Saturday	1	
Sunday	2	
Monday	3	Economy, Regeneration & Housing Committee
Tuesday	4	Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
Wednesday	5	Children, Young People & Education Committee
Thursday	6	Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee
Friday	7	
Saturday	8	
Sunday	9	
Monday	10	Group Meetings
Tuesday	11	Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee
Wednesday	12	
Thursday	13	Health & Well Being Board ( 2.00pm) Planning Committee
Friday	14	
Saturday	15	
Sunday	16	
Monday	17	Council
Tuesday	18	Pensions Committee
Wednesday	19	Policy & Resources Committee
Thursday	20	Council Reserve
Friday	21	
Saturday	22	
Sunday	23	
Monday	24	Senior Officer Appointments & Staffing Sub Committee(10am) Regulatory & General Purposes Committee
Tuesday	25	Audit and Risk Management Committee
Wednesday	26	
Thursday	27	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (10.00am)
Friday	28	

Saturday	29	
Sunday	30	
Monday	31	

**APRIL 2025**

Tuesday	1	
Wednesday	2	
Thursday	3	
Friday	4	
Saturday	5	
Sunday	6	
Monday	7	
Tuesday	8	
Wednesday	9	
Thursday	10	
Friday	11	
Saturday	12	
Sunday	13	
Monday	14	
Tuesday	15	
Wednesday	16	
Thursday	17	Planning Committee
Friday	18	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>
Saturday	19	
Sunday	20	
Monday	21	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>
Tuesday	22	
Wednesday	23	
Thursday	24	
Friday	25	
Saturday	26	
Sunday	27	
Monday	28	
Tuesday	29	
Wednesday	30	

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## MINUTE EXTRACT

### CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

22 FEBRUARY 2023

#### 29 AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

The Head of Democratic and Member Services presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance. The report provides a summary of the discussions held by the Governance Working Group in respect to the Council Procedure Rules and the consideration of Motions on Notice at Council Meetings. Members were informed that the Governance Working Group heard feedback from each of the Political Groups and the Mayor and determined that there were three matters which warranted further consideration by the Constitution & Standard Committee.

The matters previously identified by the Governance Working Group were:

- Standing Orders 9.1 & 14 (l) that the meeting continues beyond 3 hours in duration (2 in the case of an extraordinary meeting)
- Standing Order 13.1 - so as to restrict the number of Motions on Notice submitted to one per political group
- Standing Order 13.2 – in respect to the order in which Motions on Notice are debated

The Governance working group, had over the past few months spoken with the Political Groups and consulted with other Local Authorities on best practice. Members discussed the requirement for openness and transparency during public meetings with several Members considering the previous arrangements sufficient. However, the ability for smaller groups to have their motions on notice heard and discussed in public was also raised as a concern for some Members.

A motion was moved by Councillor Tony Cox, Seconded by Councillor Amanda Onwuemene as follows;

‘that Council be recommended to amend

standing order 9.1 & 14 to read where 3.5 hours have elapsed,

standing order 13.1 to limit the number of motions on notice to 1 per political group,

standing order 13.2 so that the first motion on notice listed be rotated so as to allow each political group the opportunity for their motion to be debated first ( to be co-ordinated by the Director of Law & Governance), with motions thereafter to be listed in the order of political group size. ’

The motion was put and carried (4:2)

**Resolved – that Council be recommended to amend,**

- (1) standing order 9.1 & 14 to read where 3.5 hours have elapsed.**
- (2) standing order 13.1 that the number of motions be limited to 1 per group.**
- (3) standing order 13.2 so that the first motion on notice listed be rotated so as to allow each political group the opportunity for their motion to be debated first (to be co-ordinated by the Director of Law & Governance), with motions thereafter to be listed in the order of political group size.'**



**CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE****Wednesday, 22 February 2023**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report provides a summary of the discussions held by the Governance Working Group in respect to the Council Procedure Rules and the consideration of Motions on Notice at Council Meetings.

This matter affects all wards. This is not a key decision.

The report contributes to the delivery of all five Wirral Plan 2021-2026 Priorities by ensuring that the Council's decision-making process is as effective as possible.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Constitution and Standards Committee is recommended to consider whether they wish to make a recommendation to the Council to alter the Council Procedure Rules in respect to:

- Standing Order 14 (l) that the meeting continues beyond 3 hours in duration (2 in the case of an extraordinary meeting)
- Standing Order 13.1 - so as to restrict the number of Motions on Notice submitted to one per political group
- Standing Order 13.2 – in respect to the order in which Motions on Notice are debated

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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

- 1.1 The Governance Working Group heard feedback from each of the Political Groups and the Mayor, and determined that there were three matters which warranted further consideration by the Constitution & Standard Committee.
- 1.2 The matters identified by the Governance Working Group were:
- Standing Order 14 (l) that the meeting continues beyond 3 hours in duration (2 in the case of an extraordinary meeting)
  - Standing Order 13.1 - so as to restrict the number of Motions on Notice submitted to one per political group
  - Standing Order 13.2 – in respect to the order in which Motions on Notice are debated

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 The Constitution & Standards Committee could decide that having considered the matters referred to in section 1.2 of the report, that they do not deem it necessary to make a recommendation to the Council to amend the Council Procedure Rules and that they remain unchanged

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Council Procedure Rules are set out in Part 4, Section 1 of the Constitution which details the framework for the administrative conduct of the Council and its committees, including Standing Orders, Procedure Rules at meetings.
- 3.2 Following the review undertaken by the Governance Working Group in the 2021/2022 municipal year on the Committee System, the Governance Working Group determined that for the current municipal year they would give consideration to the Council Procedure Rules especially as they related to the debate on Motions on Notice.
- 3.3 Three meetings of the Working Group were held over the autumn and winter. The Group considered information provided by the Local Government Association, how other comparable authorities conducted their Council Meetings as well as feedback from each of the political groups and the current Mayor of Wirral.
- 3.4 At their last meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023, the Working Group concluded that there were three matters which required debate by the Constitution & Standards Committee which are detailed in section 1.2 of the report.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial implication arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Part 3, Section A of the constitution detailed those functions which are reserved to the Council Meeting. Point 2 (k) stipulates those significant changes to the Council's Constitution, include adopting and amending standing orders, Rules of Procedure, Contract Procedure Rules, Financial Regulations, Codes and Protocols that make up the Constitution.
- 5.2 Should the Constitution & Standards Committee conclude that the Council Procedure Rules be amended, then a recommendation must be made to the Council for a final decision.

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

- 6.1 There are no implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 There are no foreseen risks arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 The Governance Working Group considered information and views from the Director of Law & Governance, Political Groups, the Mayor of Wirral and the Local Government Association.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no direct environment and climate implications arising from this report

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no direct community wealth implications arising from this report.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** **Steve Fox**  
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## **APPENDICES**

None

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Council Constitution

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

This report is being considered by the Constitution and Standards Committee in accordance with Section 11.2(a) of its Terms of Reference, to keep the Council's constitutional arrangements under review and to make recommendations as to amendments and improvements to the Council's Constitution, including the codes and protocols.

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

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Council	May 2022

## MINUTE EXTRACT

### POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 15 February 2023

#### 101 PAY POLICY 2023-2024

The Assistant Director for Human Resources/Organisation Development introduced the report of the Director of Resources which outlined the Pay Policy Statement 2023/24, which intended 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 and the Head of Paid Services' responsibility for ensuring the provisions set out in the statement were applied consistently throughout the Council and recommending any amendments to Full Council.

It was clarified that the Council was a Real Living Wage payer but that some of its suppliers were in a different position, however the aspiration was for all contractors to pay the Real Living Wage with plans in place to achieve that. Following a query in relation to the performance management policy, an update on the policy was added to the Committee's work programme.

It was moved by Councillor Tom Anderson, seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie, that Council be recommended to approve the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2023/2024, subject to an amendment to section 10.3 of the Pay Policy Statement to delete 'Chief Officer' and replace with 'Head of Service or above', and delete '£100,000' and replace with 'is statutory', so that it read 'Any payments upon termination in respect of a Head of Service or above is statutory, (apart from contractual payments, where the Council has no discretion) shall be subject to a vote at Council or relevant Committee or Panel of Members with delegated authority to approve such payments. Payments upon termination are subject to any legislative requirements or caps.'

The Committee discussed the implications of the motion and sought a way forward to enable further information to be provided. The Monitoring Officer advised that it was a statutory requirement to publish the Pay Policy Statement by 1 April 2023 and that there were no further scheduled meetings of Policy and Resources Committee prior to the final meeting of Council on 20 March 2023 in the current Municipal Year.

The Monitoring Officer suggested to the mover of the motion that the Pay Policy Statement be referred to Council for consideration as presented, and that the Director of Resources be requested to submit a further report to Policy and Resources Committee early in the new municipal year. The mover of the motion indicated the motion should remain as originally proposed.

The motion was therefore put to the vote and was lost (6:9).

Councillor Phil Gilchrist then moved that 'Council be recommended to approve the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2023/24, with the statement to remain

under review and dealt with at the earliest possible meeting in light of the facts presented.” This was seconded by Councillor Jo Bird.

The motion was put and agreed (unanimously). It was therefore –

**Resolved (unanimously) – That Council be recommended to approve the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2023/24, with the Statement to remain under review and dealt with at the earliest possible meeting in light of the facts presented.**

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****15 FEBRUARY 2023**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2023-2024</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

In line with the Localism Act 2011 (the Act), the purpose of the Council's Pay Policy Statement is to provide transparency with regard to the Council's approach to setting pay by identifying:

- The methods by which salaries of all employees are determined;
- The detail and level of the salary package of its most senior staff;
- The Head of Paid Service responsibility for ensuring the provisions set out in this statement are applied consistently throughout the Council and recommending any amendments to Full Council.

The approval of the annual Pay Policy Statement is a key decision of the Council and affects all wards.

The Pay Policy Statement 2023-2024 supports the effective delivery of the Wirral Plan 2021-2026 by ensuring a fair and equitable approach to pay for all Council employees: Council's employees are here to help make the Council's ambitions a reality, to achieve the goals and priorities set out in the Wirral Plan.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Policy & Resources Committee is requested to recommend that Council approve the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2023/24.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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

1.1 The Council is required by Section 38 of The Act to prepare a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year. The Act requires that the Pay Policy Statement:

- Includes details in relation to all aspects of Chief Officer's remuneration, increases and additions to remuneration, bonuses, termination payments and remuneration upon recruitment.
- Includes information about the relationship between the remuneration of its highest paid officers ('chief officers') and lowest paid employees.
- Is published as soon as is reasonably practicable, after approval and/or amendment (which must include publication on the authority's website).

1.2 It is essential that the Council's approach to pay, as set out in this pay policy statement, is accessible for citizens and enables local taxpayers to take an informed view of whether local decisions on all aspects of remuneration are fair and make best use of public funds.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

2.1 No other options were considered as the Pay Policy Statement is a requirement of the Act. There are a range of policies and discretions contained within the Pay Policy statement itself relating to pay and terms and conditions which are the most appropriate.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3.1 The draft Pay Policy Statement details the Council's current arrangements, using the definitions contained in the Act and associated guidance.

3.2 The Act also requires the Council to have regard to statutory guidance entitled 'Openness and accountability in local pay' under the Transparency Agenda.

#### **3.3 Key Changes**

The 2023/24 statement reflects key changes and updates that have occurred within the last financial year as follows:

#### **The Foundation Living Wage (FLW)**

The Council is committed to paying the Foundation Living Wage (FLW). The current FLW rate is £9.90, implemented in the Council's pay scales effective 1 April 2022. A new FLW rate was announced by The Living Wage Foundation in November 2022. The new Living Wage rate is £10.90 per hour, an increase of £1. This increased rate will be implemented on 1 April 2023.



### **New appointments**

The Council supports the use of apprenticeships and traineeships for new and existing employees to develop the capabilities needed for the Council to deliver now and in the future. The Pay Policy Statement has been updated to reflect the equitable application of pay for new appointments where an employee is required to undertake immediate formal training before they are fully qualified or fully competent to carry out the full duties of the role, for example through a traineeship or through utilisation of the apprentice levy.

## **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Council is committed to the Foundation Living Wage with implementation taking place on 1 April each year. The budget for salary, and associated oncosts are distributed across the directorates and informed by the Pay Policy.
- 4.2 An annual growth item is included within the Medium-Term Financial Plan for increases in pay, the total value will vary depending on inflation assumptions after accounting for the cost of the most recently agreed pay award.

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Section 38 of the Act requires the Council to prepare a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year by 31 March.
- 5.2 The Council remains bound by relevant employment (and other) legislation as the employer and any changes which may be proposed by the policy must bear in mind the requirements of such legislation.
- 5.3 The Council can amend the pay policy on an annual basis as required by the Act but may also amend the policy as needed to take into account changing legislative requirements.

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

- 6.1 There are no resource implications.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 The Council is required to prepare and approve its Pay Policy Statement by 31 March each year. The Council will be at risk of not meeting the requirements of The Act if this is not achieved.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 The Pay Policy Statement for 2023/2024 has been shared with the Trade Unions.

## **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 Council operates all pay arrangements within the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. All pay arrangements are regularly reviewed to identify any equality issues applicable to the workforce.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The content and recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on emissions of greenhouse gases. The salary sacrifice scheme supports employees to buy bicycles through the cycle to work scheme. Employees can also lease electric cars through the car lease scheme. Over 50% of the car lease fleet is either pure electric or hybrid. Employees have the option to lease for up to 4 years to make EV/Hybrid vehicles more affordable and accessible to a larger part of the workforce.

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 The Pay Policy Statement and the Council's commitment to the Foundation Living Wage will increase spend in the local economy: 76% of Council staff reside in Wirral.

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 Pay Policy Statement 2023-2024

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The Localism Act 2011 and Guidance

The Local Government Transparency Code 2015

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015

Pay Policy Statement 2022-2023

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

This report is being considered by Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with section 1.2(a) of its Terms of Reference, to formulate, co-ordinate and implement corporate policies and strategies.

The report is being referred to Council for decision in accordance with the Part 3(A) of the Constitution 'Functions Reserved to Council', specifically 2(b)(n) 'Approving the Annual Senior Officer Pay Policy Statement'.

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Council	18 March 2022
Policy & Resources Committee	16 March 2022
Council	22 March 2021
Policy & Resources Committee	17 March 2021
Council	16 March 2020
Employment & Appointments Committee	3 March 2020

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**WIRRAL COUNCIL**

**PAY POLICY STATEMENT**

**2023 – 2024**

## **1. Introduction and Purpose**

- 1.1. The Council is required to comply with the guidance issued or approved by the Secretary of State.
- 1.2. In line with the Localism Act 2011 (the Act) and associated guidance, the purpose of this statement is to provide transparency with regard to the Council's approach to setting pay by identifying:
  - The methods by which salaries of all employees are determined;
  - The detail and level of the salary package of its most senior staff i.e. 'Chief Officers', as defined by the relevant legislation;
  - The Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service responsibility for ensuring the provisions set out in this statement are applied consistently throughout the Council and recommending any amendments to Full Council.
  - Details in relation to all aspects of Chief Officer's remuneration, increases and additions to remuneration, bonuses, termination payments and remuneration upon recruitment.
  - The relationship between the remuneration of its highest paid officers ('chief officers') and lowest paid employees.
- 1.3. The Council will consult with the relevant Trade Unions in relation to changes and updates to the Pay Policy Statement, before the Policy Statement is considered by Full Council.
- 1.4. Once approved by Full Council, this policy statement will come into immediate effect and will be subject to review on a minimum of an annual basis; the Policy Statement being approved by 31 March each year.
- 1.5. The Council may, by resolution, amend this Pay Policy Statement, including after the beginning of the financial year to which it relates.
- 1.6. The Council will, as soon as is reasonably practicable, after approving or amending the pay Policy Statement, publish the statement or the amended statement. This will be published on the Council's website.

## **2. The Scope of this Policy**

- 2.1. This Pay Policy Statement relates to staff employed by Wirral Council whose salary package including rate of pay and terms and conditions are determined by and are within the control of the Council.

## **3. Other Legislation Relevant to Pay and Salary Package**

- 3.1. In determining the pay and salary packages of all of its employees, the Council will comply with all relevant employment legislation.
- 3.2. It is Council policy to ensure that there is no pay discrimination within its terms and conditions of employment, including pay structures. Any pay differentials can be objectively justified through the use of job evaluation, which directly establishes the relative levels of posts by grades according to the requirements, demands and responsibilities of the role.

- 3.3. Under the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities Regulations 2017), the Council is required to publish an annual gender pay gap report, reporting a snapshot of the workforce in scope as at 31 March (previous year).
- 3.4. The Council will ensure that it meets the requirements of the Local Government Transparency Code 2015. The Transparency Code requires that all local authorities publish certain information related to the organisation, salaries and fraud including:
  - Organisation chart
  - Senior salaries
  - The pay multiple
  - Trade union facility time
  - Fraud
  - Constitution

#### **4. Pay Structure**

- 4.1. The Council uses the National Joint Council (NJC) nationally negotiated pay spine (i.e. a defined list of salary points) as the basis for its pay structure.
- 4.2. The Council employs staff on other pay and terms and conditions including Craft, Youth and Community, Soulbury, Teachers, NHS, and pay is in accordance with national pay spines.
- 4.3. The Council adopts the national pay bargaining arrangements in respect of the establishment and revision of national pay spines, for example through any agreed annual pay increases negotiated with joint Trade Unions, subject to any local agreements in place.
- 4.4. Where a nationally negotiated pay spine does not apply, the Council will determine the salary rate through local negotiation and agreement.
- 4.5. All other pay related issues are the subject of either nationally or locally negotiated rates, in accordance with collective bargaining, or in accordance with the terms set out in this Policy Statement.
- 4.6. In determining its grading structure and setting salary packages for any posts which fall outside the scope of the national pay bargaining arrangements, the Council takes account of the need to ensure value for money in respect of the use of public expenditure, balanced against the need to recruit and retain employees who are able to meet the requirements of providing high quality services to the community.
- 4.7. There are circumstances where the terms of Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment: Regulations: TUPE) may determine the eligibility of pay awards for employees who transfer into the Council on protected terms and conditions.

#### **4.8. Variations to Pay Grade**

- 4.8.1. On occasion it may be necessary to take account of the external pay levels in the employment market in order to attract and retain employees with

particular experience, skills and knowledge. Where necessary the Council will ensure the requirement for such is objectively justified by reference to clear and transparent evidence. This will include relevant market comparators and benchmarking information, recruitment and retention challenges, skilled nature of the work and other relevant data from local government, sector or service sources as appropriate.

4.8.2. Proposals should be made by the recruiting manager, supported by a business case providing objective justification for the proposed variation. Proposed variations must be with the agreement of the relevant Director, the Director of Resources and the Assistant Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development.

4.8.3. Any temporary supplement to the salary scale for the grade is approved in accordance with the Council's Honoraria procedure, or any applicable market rate supplement arrangements.

#### **4.9. Job Evaluation**

4.9.1 Post grades are determined using Job Evaluation schemes and the Council's pay structures.

#### **4.10. The Foundation Living Wage (FLW)**

4.10.1. The Foundation Living Wage (FLW) rates are based on Minimum Income Standards methodology and seek to take account of real living costs for essential goods and services.

4.10.2. Through the Council's Pay Policy Statement, the Council is committed to and pays the Foundation Living Wage for all employees.

4.10.3. The FLW rate is reviewed and announced by The Living Wage Foundation on 1 November each year. The Council will consider any increases to the FLW as part of the annual Pay Policy Statement. If agreed, increases to the FLW will take effect from 1 April the following year. The provision for the FLW will be kept under review.

#### **4.11. New Appointments**

4.11.1. New appointments will normally be made at the minimum Spinal Column Point (SCP) of the relevant pay scale for the grade. Where the candidate is already in receipt of remuneration above the minimum SCP of the relevant pay scale, the appointment will normally be made at the nearest equivalent SCP in the grade. If the employee is already in receipt of acting up or honoraria this will also apply.

4.11.2. Where a new appointment is made that requires an employee to undertake immediate formal training before they are fully qualified or fully competent to carry out the full duties of the role, for example through a traineeship or through utilisation of the apprentice levy, the appointment will normally be made at 80% of the minimum SCP of the relevant pay scale for the grade (as a minimum this will be equivalent to the FLW). Salary matching will not normally apply.



4.11.3. The appointment salary may be varied with the agreement of the Assistant Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development.

#### **4.12. Progression through Pay Grades**

4.12.1. An employee's progression through the increments of a particular pay grade is linked to length of service. Increments are awarded on 1 April each year, or for new appointments between 1 October and 31 March, six months from the start date.

4.12.2. Where a seasonal employee returns to the same job role and has worked for the Council in the previous year or season, it is Council policy to recognise that previous service, and apply the increment.

4.12.3. The arrangements and factors considered in determining an individual's progression through their pay grade may be determined by experience, skills and qualifications as set out in the relevant Job Description and progression criteria.

#### **5. Senior Management Salary**

5.1. For the purposes of this statement, senior management means 'Chief Officers' as defined under section 43(2) of the Localism Act 2011. This includes statutory chief officers, non-statutory Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers as listed within that Act.

5.2. The posts falling within the statutory definition are set out in '*The Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency (the data transparency code)*'.

5.3. The Council's grading structure for its most senior officers reflects the size, scope and responsibilities of the role, including the range of services they are accountable for. The grades are as follows:

- Chief Executive
- Director 1
- Director 2
- Assistant Director 1
- Assistant Director 2

5.4. The terms and conditions, including the payment of any allowances for Chief Officers is set out within the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities constitution conditions of service salaries. All details of Chief Officer salaries are published in accordance with the Transparency Code.

5.5. The Chief Executive handbook sets out the terms and conditions of employment for the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service. Some provisions within this also apply to Council's Statutory Officers (Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer).

**6. Recruitment of Chief Officers**

- 6.1. The requirements concerning recruitment are set out in the Officer Employment Procedure Rules at Part 4(7) of the Council’s Constitution, which sets out the ability of the Senior Officer Appointments & Staffing Sub-Committee to lead on the appointment of Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers. Under its terms of reference, at Part 3B of the Constitution, the Sub-Committee will lead in making a recommendation to Council in respect of those Chief Officers listed at para. 6.4 below, but may make direct appointments in respect of other Chief Officer posts, or have delegated that function to the Head of Paid Service (or nominee). This is particularly the case in respect of Deputy Chief Officers and which are those posts identified as Assistant Director or Head of Services that report directly to a Chief Officer.
- 6.2. The determination of the salary to be offered to any newly appointed Chief Officer will be in accordance with the pay structure and relevant policies in place at the time of recruitment. The Council’s Chief Officer pay scales are published on the Council’s website.
- 6.3. The Localism Act Guidance says that Council should have the opportunity to vote before salary packages of £100,000 or more are agreed. Through the Council’s Constitution, this is delegated to the Senior Officer Appointments & Staffing Sub-Committee, other than for those roles where the full Council has reserved powers in respect of defined posts.
- 6.4. A meeting of full Council will approve the appointment to the following:
  - Head of Paid Service;
  - Section 151 Officer (also known as Chief Finance Officer);
  - Monitoring Officer;
  - Returning Officer (for which expenses may be claimed); and
  - Electoral Registration Officer.

**7. Additions to Salary**

- 7.1. In addition to basic salary, the following posts receive additional pay as set out below:

Post / Tier of post	Payment details
Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service	Returning Officer duties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National statutory amount for Parliamentary/National Elections.</li> <li>• Locally determined amount in accordance with national guidance for Local Government Elections.</li> </ul>
All eligible employees	Allowances in accordance with the Council’s Terms and Conditions.

**8. Salary Sacrifice Schemes**

- 8.1 Wirral Council currently provides a range of employee benefits to its workforce including discounted shopping, childcare vouchers, cycle scheme, and a car lease scheme. The cycle scheme and car lease scheme operate through a salary sacrifice arrangement. Salary sacrifice is where an employee chooses to give up part of their salary for a given period of time in return for a benefit provided by the employer, the value of which is exempt from tax and national insurance contributions. We offer a cycle scheme which runs for 12 months and a car lease scheme which runs for up to 48 months.
- 8.2 The Employee Benefits Schemes are part of the Council's commitment to workforce reward and recognition and support the Council's attraction and retention strategy. The schemes do not form part of the Council's contractual terms and conditions of employment.
- 8.3 Employees who cancel the salary sacrifice arrangement or leave the organisation within the agreement period, will be liable to a charge. Charges may be taken from final net pay as appropriate.

## **9. Pension Contributions**

- 9.1. The employer's pension contribution is required to be published under S7 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011.
- 9.2. The Council will automatically enroll all eligible employees into the Local Government Pension scheme and the Council is required to make a contribution to the scheme representing a percentage of the pensionable salary due under the contract of employment of that employee.
- 9.3. The rate of contribution is set by Actuaries advising Merseyside Pension Fund and reviewed every three years in order to ensure the scheme is appropriately funded.

## **10. Payments on Termination**

- 10.1. The Council's approach to statutory and discretionary payments on termination of employment for all employees, including Chief Officers, prior to reaching normal retirement age, is set out within the Council's Enhanced Discretionary Severance Scheme.
- 10.2. The Council will keep its Enhanced Discretionary Severance Scheme under review. Any changes, as approved by full Council are published in accordance with the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006.
- 10.3. Any payments upon termination in respect of a Chief Officer exceeding £100,000, (apart from contractual payments, where the Council has no discretion) shall be subject to a vote at Council or relevant Committee or Panel of Members with delegated authority to approve such payments. Payments upon termination are subject to any legislative requirements or caps.

## **11. Lowest Paid Employees**

- 11.1. The lowest paid persons employed by the Council are employed on full time equivalent rates in accordance with the council's grading structures. The grading structures take account of the FLW hourly rate (see section 4).
- 11.2. The relationship between the rate of pay for the lowest paid employee and Chief Officers is determined by the council's job evaluation schemes.

As required by the Localism Act, the following table provides the Council's salary ratios.

<b>Definition</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
The average full time equivalent (fte) earnings and the Chief Executive	1: 5.25
The average full time equivalent (fte) earnings and average Chief Officer earning	1: 3.56
The lowest paid employee full time equivalent (fte) earnings and average Chief Officer earnings	1: 5 .76

## **12. Accountability and Decision Making**

- 12.1. In accordance with the Constitution of the Council, the Senior Officer Appointments & Staffing Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for decision making in relation to Chief Officer recruitment. This may be delegated to the Head of Paid Service.
- 12.2 The Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service has delegated responsibility for decision-making in relation to the recruitment, pay, terms and conditions and severance arrangements in relation to employees of the Council below Chief Officer level.

## **13. Re-employment / Re-engagement of Employees**

- 13.1. The Council will not re-employ any former employees that have left the Council through early retirement or under the Voluntary Severance Scheme where there has been a cost to the Council, except in exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the Assistant Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development.
- 13.2. The Council will not consider applications from former Wirral employees who were dismissed from employment.

## **14. Publication**

- 14.1. Upon approval by full Council, this statement will be published on the Council's Website and Intranet.
- 14.2. In line with the requirement of the Local Government Transparency Code 2015, the Council will publish an organisation chart covering staff in the top three levels of the organisation, which will include the following information:

- Department
- Team
- Job Title
- Permanent or temporary status
- Grade
- Salary in £5,000 brackets
- Salary ceiling (the maximum salary for the grade)
- Contact details

14.3. Actual salary will be published for senior salaries (employees whose salary in that year was at least £50,000).

14.4 Employees whose salaries are more than £150,000 will be identified by name.

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## **REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 16 November 2022

Present: Councillor A Hodson (Chair)

Councillors C O'Hagan M Collins  
C Davies S Williams  
J Hoey C Cooke  
C Jones D Mitchell  
M Booth K Greaney  
D Burgess-Joyce

Apologies: Councillors S Bennett  
D Kenny  
L Fraser

### **11 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the webcast.

### **12 APOLOGIES**

The Chair confirmed that apologies had been received from Councillors S Bennett, L Fraser and D Kenny.

### **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 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

The Chair reported that no questions, statements or petitions had been received from members of the public and that Councillor Cooke had asked why the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee could not meet until the Mayor's Charity was registered with the Charity Committee in order to discuss future plans going forward.

In response, the Chair referred to Part 3, Section B of the Constitution of the Council which sets out at Paragraph 8.3 the Terms of Reference of the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee and advised that as such the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee only has responsibilities in respect of discharging the Council's role as corporate trustee of the EF Callister Youth Club Charity and the Wirral Borough Council Mayor's Charity, it has no power to set up other charities or charitable organisations.

15 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2022 be approved.**

16 **MINUTES OF THE REGULATORY PANEL**

**Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Regulatory Panel held on 7, 9 and 23 September and 14 October 2022 be approved.**

17 **POLLING PLACES REVIEW**

The Head of Democratic and Member Services submitted a report which set out the findings following a review undertaken in respect of the use of polling station venues in three wards which were currently used as polling places for the purposes of Local Authority, Parliamentary and other elections.

The Head of Democratic and Member Services informed Members that the report provided guidance on selecting polling places and an outline of alternative polling places which had been identified by the Returning Officer. He reported that local Ward Members had been consulted in respect of options and costs associated with the hire of alternative venues which were detailed within the exempt Appendix 2 to the report.

Members of the Committee were asked to consider and comment on the report and agree to the relocating of the three polling places detailed in section 3 of the report.

The Head of Democratic Services referred to the objective criteria used when considering the overall suitability of a polling place or polling station.

It was recommended that the Polling Station for Polling District EA be moved from Bedford Drive Primary School to Byrne Avenue Baths; GD be moved from Brackenwood Junior School to Brackenwood Infants School and JB be moved from the Scout Hut to the Youth Space, St Anselmians Rugby Club, the details of which were outlined within the appendices to the report.



**Resolved (by assent) –**

- (1) That the report be noted.**
- (2) That the proposed relocations of the three polling places as detailed in section 3 of the report be implemented in readiness for the May 2023 Local Authority Elections.**

**18 MARKETS RIGHTS LICENCE APPLICATION FEE**

The Head of Legal Services (Deputy Monitoring Officer) submitted a report requesting that Members of this Committee approve a proposed fee for the administration and processing of applications for a Market Rights Licence.

The Licensing Manager advised that the Market Rights Policy had been approved by Members of this Committee on 27 September 2022. The cost of processing an application for a Market Rights Licence was estimated to be £55.00. It was reported to Members of the Committee that these costs reflected officer time to process applications and that this did not take into account the costs of referring an application to a Regulatory Panel should this be necessary. The Licensing Manager advised Members of the Committee that the fee would be reviewed in advance of the next financial year.

The Chair thanked the Licensing Manager and staff for their work.

**Resolved (by assent) – That the proposed fee of £55.00 for the administration and processing of applications for a Market Rights Licence as set out within the report be agreed.**

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# Public Document Pack

## LICENSING ACT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 16 November 2022

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	A Hodson (Chair)	
	Councillors	C O'Hagan C Davies J Hoey C Jones M Booth D Burgess-Joyce	M Collins S Williams C Cooke D Mitchell K Greaney
<u>Apologies:</u>	Councillors	S Bennett D Kenny L Fraser	

### 7 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the webcast.

### 8 APOLOGIES

The Chair confirmed apologies had been received from Councillors S Bennett, L Fraser and D Kenny.

### 9 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.

### 10 MINUTES

**Resolved** – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2022 be approved.

### 11 MINUTES OF THE LICENSING PANEL

**Resolved** – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Panel held on 27 May, 8, 22 and 23 June, 11 August and 16 and 23 September 2022 be approved.

## 12 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Chair reported that there had been no public questions, statements or petitions submitted.

## 13 CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REVIEW

The Head of Legal Services (Interim Monitoring Officer) submitted a report providing Members of the Committee with consultation feedback on the cumulative impact assessment which is contained within the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy, requesting that the Committee make a recommendation to Council as to whether there is evidence that it would be necessary to continue to include a cumulative impact assessment within the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.

The Licensing Manager reported that the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy had first been published in January 2005 and had since been subject to four reviews, the last full review of the Policy had taken place in December 2019.

Merseyside Police had requested the Licensing Authority consider adopting a Special Cumulative Impact Policy for an area within Birkenhead due to the level of crime and disorder, public nuisance, littering, street drinking, under-age drinking and anti-social behaviour believed to be resulting in part from the number of off-licence premises located in the area. The request had been supported by Ward Councillors.

Further to a comprehensive consultation process about the possibility of introducing a Special Cumulative Impact Policy for Charing Cross, Grange Road West, Grange Mount, Oxtan Road and the boundary of the Town Centre and upon examining the responses received through the consultation, the Licensing Authority had been satisfied that there was evidence that the number of premises in Charing Cross, Grange Road West, Grange Mount, Oxtan Road and the boundary of the Town Centre licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 for the sale by retail of alcohol for consumption off the premises were cumulatively giving rise to significant problems of public nuisance and crime and disorder.

The Licensing Authority subsequently resolved to introduce a Special Cumulative Impact Policy limited to Charing Cross, Grange Road West, Grange Mount, Oxtan Road and the boundary of the Town Centre with effect from 10 July 2017 to apply to Premises licensed for the sale by retail of alcohol for consumption off the premises only.

Members were informed that it was now necessary to review the current circumstances and determine whether there was evidence for the Statement of Licensing Policy to continue to include a cumulative impact assessment.

Statutory consultation had been undertaken regarding whether it remained necessary for the cumulative impact assessment to continue to be included in the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy. In response to the consultation, Merseyside Police had submitted a report which provided details of alcohol related crimes and anti social behaviour in and around the area of Birkenhead to which the cumulative impact assessment applied. The findings of Merseyside Police were attached at Appendix 2 to the report and it was the view of Merseyside Police that street drinking continued to be a major policing issue within the assessment area. Included in the report from Merseyside Police were the results of a survey that had been undertaken with businesses in the area. Thirty-Seven local businesses responded to the survey, some of which had provided details of the impact of street drinkers in the area. A table showing the responses to the survey was attached at Appendix 3 to the report.

A Police Officer currently responsible for policing Birkenhead Town Centre had submitted a statement within the report. This officer expressed concern that the adverse impact of street drinkers in the area would worsen if the area was no longer subject to a cumulative impact assessment.

In response to the consultation a submission had also been made by a Licensing Consultant. This response was attached at Appendix 4 to the report and expressed concern that the existence of a cumulative impact assessment preserved a 'low status quo' as well as 'poor operating regimes' and served to deter applications from responsible operators. The Licensing Consultant also expressed concerns in respect of how applications were considered when they were made in an area that is subject to a cumulative impact assessment. It was the view of the Licensing Consultant that the cumulative impact assessment should not remain in place.

Members of the Committee were advised that should they recommend to Council that they were of the opinion that there continued to be evidence for the cumulative impact assessment to remain in place, the Licensing Authority would be required to revise the cumulative impact assessment to include a statement to that effect and set out the evidence as to why it remained of that opinion. If the Licensing Authority was no longer of the view that the cumulative impact assessment should remain in place it must publish a statement to that effect.

Sergeant Watson attended the meeting and addressed Members of the Committee. He provided some background in respect of his involvement policing night-time economy and other issues around licensed premises and street drinkers. He advised that he had liaised extensively with local neighbourhood inspectors and the dedicated ward manager when compiling the report.

Members referred to the evidence that had been provided in 2017 when the Policy had been implemented. The Licensing Manager advised Members that they must consider the report by Sergeant Watson and determine whether there remained evidence that the number of premises selling alcohol for consumption off the premises only, was having a cumulative impact and leading to problems that were undermining the licensing objectives.

Members head from Sergeant Watson who advised that having a cumulative impact assessment in place was an effective tool in seeking to address the issue of street drinkers that remained a problem in the area. In response to the proposal made by the Licensing Consultant, who responded to the consultation, that a Public Spaces Protection Order would be a more appropriate way of tackling street drinking in the area, Sergeant Watson advised Members that a cumulative impact policy in this area provided a more effective targeted approach to addressing the issues around street drinking.

In response to a query in respect of Planning providing permission for premises selling alcohol to operate in the area, the Licensing Manager informed Members that whilst Planning is a separate regime, there was an expectation that an applicant would obtain Planning Permission before seeking a licence. It was explained to Members of the Committee that having a cumulative impact assessment within the Licensing Policy would not prevent applications being made and that if there are representations in respect of an application it must then be considered on its merit. It would be for the applicant to demonstrate that they will not have a negative cumulative impact in the area and undermine the licensing objectives.

On a motion by Councillor D Mitchell and seconded by Councillor M Collins, it was -

**Resolved (by assent) – That the Committee:**

- (1) Determined that there remained evidence that the number or density of premises selling alcohol, for consumption off the premises, in the area of Birkenhead identified within the current Statement of Licensing Policy attached at Appendix 1 to the report, is having a cumulative impact and leading to problems in the area which are undermining the licensing objectives.**
- (2) Recommend to Council that the Licensing Authority remained of the opinion that it is necessary to continue to include a cumulative impact assessment within the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.**

## CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 23 November 2022

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	T Cox (Chair)	
	Councillors	J McManus A Onwuemene P Gilchrist	J Robinson (in place of P Stuart) T Anderson (in place of P Hayes)
	Independent Persons	RS Jones J McCosh	

### 17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Paul Stuart and Paul Hayes, deputised by Councillors Jean Robinson and Tom Anderson respectively.

### 18 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 are.

No such declarations were made.

### 19 MINUTES

**Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2022 be agreed**

### 20 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Chair reported that there had been no public questions, statements or petitions submitted.

### 21 REFERRAL FROM AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: REVISED CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE 2022

The Head of Legal Services introduced the report which detailed the recommendations of the Audit and Risk Management Committee in respect of the revised Code of Corporate Governance, which was last reviewed in 2018. The Code communicated the Council's governance and decision-making processes and the principles underlining them, and had been updated

to reflect the Council's current operating model and procedures and the change on the Council's governance arrangements in 2020 to a Committee system.

The Head of Legal Services noted a correction in Appendix 2 of the report. Under "Monitoring, Review and Reporting" it states: "All Policy and Committee Chairs will be represented on Finance and Policy Committee", this should read as: "All Policy and Committee Chairs will be represented on Policy and Resources Committee"

Councillor P Gilchrist noted that in the table under Appendix 2 of the report there are multiple references to an "entity" and asked to confirm if this was referring to Council. The Head of Legal Services confirmed that this was the case and that the word "Council" would replace any reference to an "entity" in the final version of the Code of Corporate Governance.

**Resolved – That**

- (1) the revised Code of Corporate Governance be approved subject to the corrections above; and**
- (2) Committee recommend to Full Council the adoption of the revised Code of Corporate Governance and the framework detailed therein as part of the Council's Constitution.**



## ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 29 November 2022

Present:

Councillor Y Nolan (Chair)

Councillors	I Camphor	M Jordan
	A Davies	S Mountney
	C Davies	C O'Hagan
	T Elzeiny	A Onwuemene
	P Gilchrist	J Walsh

### 54 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

### 55 APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

### 56 MEMBER 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.

The following declarations were made:

Councillor Mary Jordan	Personal interest by virtue of her employment in the NHS, her son's employment in the NHS and her involvement as a trustee for 'Incubabies'.
Councillor Angela Davies	Pecuniary interest in item 5 by virtue of her employment with Cheshire and Wirral Partnership.
Councillor Tracy Elzeiny	Personal interest by virtue of her employment in the NHS.
Councillor Yvonne Nolan	Personal interest by virtue of her role as a governor of Clatterbridge Cancer Centre and Cheshire and Wirral Partnership.
Councillor Clare O'Hagan	Personal interest by virtue of her employment in the NHS.
Jo Bird	Personal interest by virtue of a family member's employment in Social Care.
Cherry Povall	Personal interest by virtue of her role as a trustee for

57 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th and 24th October be approved and adopted as a correct record.**

58 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The chair informed Members that three public questions had been received.

Mr John Brace asked a question relating to the Autism Act 2009 which required Minister to set out a strategy (known as the autism strategy) for meeting the needs of adults in England with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Mr Brace asked how the Council tailors its social services function for adults with an autism spectrum disorder in 7 key areas. Mr Brace was informed that a written answer would be supplied.

Two questions were asked by the organisation Level 80. The first question pertained to making financial assessments and invoicing more accessible for people on the autistic spectrum. The chair advised that a written response to this question would be supplied.

The final question asked by Level 80 was are Wirral Council doing to encourage people to work in the area of social care. The Chair responded to say that work had been undertaken by the Committee to support recruitment and fund the domiciliary care sector. This includes paying the real living wage of £11ph.

59 **DIRECT PAYMENTS REVIEW**

The Lead Commissioner, Integrated Services presented the report of the Director of Care and Place. The report advised Members that it was a statutory duty as defined by the Care Act 2014 to offer a person a Direct Payment as a cash alternative to a directly commissioned care and support service where a person has been assessed as having eligible needs. This applied both to carers and people in need of care and support. The Children Act also placed a duty on Local Authorities to offer a Direct Payment to disabled children.

The report detailed the outcome of a review previously agreed by Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee in March 2022 where it was noted that the number of people and carers in receipt of a Direct Payment was relatively low. The review had been a collaborative exercise and included, as equal partners, officers of the Council, people with lived experience, voluntary sector

providers and representatives from Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) and the Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust (WCHCFT).

The Lead Commissioner, Integrated Services advised Members that there are 2795 people eligible for social care in Wirral and out of this number 535 are in receipt of direct payment and noted that it is essential that that position change. Several examples were given to the Committee to explain how transformative this service can be to people's lives.

Members queried the possible introduction of a qualification for carers and personal assistants with a high level of skill, and how this could attract a higher rate of pay, collaboration with Children's services over transition and the use of a register of available support for service users.

**Resolved – That,**

**(1). Direct Payment hourly rates for Personal Assistants for adults be aligned to that of a Domiciliary Care Worker from April 2023 be approved.**

**(2). Work commences towards reconciling the Direct Payment hourly rates for adults and children.**

**(3). A future report be brought to this committee exploring the options of either providing,**

**(A) A Council Coordinated Personal Assistant register**

**(B) Tendering for a full Direct Payment Service to include a Personal Assistant Register, Payroll, a Managed Accounts Service and Information and Advice**

60

## **INFORMATION AND ADVICE SERVICE COMMISSION**

The Director of Public Health presented the report which sought agreement from the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee to progress proposed commissioning intentions for information and advice services. The report sets out the requirement for a local information and advice service to be recommissioned from April 2024, as a joint commission. The current service is experiencing increasing demand, supporting residents and communities with a wide range of issues.

The report set out the proposed funding model for the re-commission, including use of the Public Health Grant, given the strong links between the service outcomes, and improved population health. As part of the re-

commissioning process, the potential to further integrate other information and advice services in Wirral will be explored. Evaluation undertaken to date would shape the delivery and outcomes of this recommission, and an evaluation of the new service will take place to inform future recommissions.

Members queried existing services available in Wirral currently, as well as access to information and advice through telephone services, through Citizens Advice Bureau, Libraries and Once Stop Shops. Questions around budget provisions and appointments waiting times were also asked by the committee. Members requested that further information be brought back to Committee, outlining existing provision and commissioning specification.

**On a motion by Cllr Mary Jordan, Seconded by Cllr Ivan Camphor it was -**

**Resolved – That**

- (1) The Director of Public Health be authorised to re-commission the Wirral Information and Advice service totalling up to £7,000,000 (£1,400,000 per annum) for a three-year contract (1st April 2024 – 31st March 2027) with the option of a one year plus further one year extension.**
- (2) A report be brought back to the committee at a future date, mapping existing service provision and specification development, before the service goes out to tender.**
- (3) Delegated authority be given to the Director of Public Health to award the tender to the successful bidder following the tender process**

61 **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH 2022/23 Q2 BUDGET MONITORING**

The Director of Care and Health introduced the report which set out the financial monitoring information for the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee as at Quarter 2 (1 Apr – 30 Sep) 2022/23.

The report provided Members with an overview of budget performance for this area of activity, including progress on the delivery of the 2022/23 saving programme and a summary of reserves to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

Members were informed that at the end of Quarter 2, there is a forecast adverse position of £0.629m on the Committees net revenue budget of £115.107m with mitigations to balance the budget at year end. This position was based on activity to date, projected trends in income and expenditure and potential mitigation to offset areas of adverse variance.

Committee noted that officers would be looking to draw down £567k of the Social Care Grant held in corporate reserves. The main driver of the budget pressures was an increase in support packages to enable discharge from hospital, primarily into residential and nursing care. This is alongside a large increase of people requiring residential care, and a reduction in domiciliary care. Additional resources had been provided by the Department of Health and Social Care, to support winter pressures. Members were informed that Wirral's allocation of this funding was £1.5m

### **Resolved – That**

- (1) the projected adverse revenue position at Quarter 2 be noted.**
- (2) progress on delivery of the 2022/23 savings programme at Quarter 2 be noted.**
- (3) the reserves allocated to the Committee for future one-off commitments be noted.**
- (4) the forecast level of reserves at Quarter 2 be noted.**
- (5) the current activity profiles from 2017 to Quarter 2 of 2022/23 be noted.**

## **62 ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Assistant Director of Adult Care and Health presented the report of the Director of Adult Care and Health. The report provided Committee with a performance update in relation to Adult Social Care and Public Health. The report was designed based on discussion with Members through working group activity. A further workshop had been held in 2022 and Members had provided input on the datasets received by the Committee which will be reflected in future performance monitoring reports.

Members were informed that care home placements were still running at a higher level than previously reported. However, there is a stabilisation of the vacancy rate in this sector so there is still capacity. The number of closures for outbreak management reasons was currently at 3. In terms of domiciliary care, over the last 4 months there has been an incremental increase in capacity within the domiciliary care sector. The waiting list for Domiciliary care packages had also reduced significantly. Officers also confirmed that they would be considering careful use of the £1.5m winter discharge funding that is available.

Regarding social care and social work delivery, there was no significant change in KPI for the community trust of Cheshire and Wirral partnership trust, but energy is being focussed on areas which needed improvement.

Members queried whether data could be provided on the Clatterbridge Intermediate Care beds which they noted as a priority and were advised that this would be included within the next performance data set brought to committee. Also discussed was the numbers of overall service users, discharge rates of medically optimised people and pressure on General Practice.

**Resolved – that the content of the report be noted**

### 63 **CARE HOME QUALITY WIRRAL**

The Director of Public Health presented the report of the Director of Health and Care, which provided Committee with an update regarding Care Home Quality across Wirral.

The report focussed on three key areas,

1. Current position in terms of Care Quality Commission (CQC) assessment status of care homes in Wirral and comparable benchmarking as of July 2022.
2. An overview of how the quality of the care home provision in Wirral is managed.
3. The strategy to improve and manage the market quality moving forward.

Members were informed that out of a total of 116 care homes in Wirral, 69 are rated good and 47 require improvement. None are currently rated as outstanding. Compared to neighbouring authorities across the city region, Wirral has almost double the amount of care homes which require improvement.

Member of the Committee discussed the report in detail, with queries regarding the effectiveness of the Provider Assessment and Market Management Solution (PAMMS) tool and were informed that a greater number of local authorities were starting to use it.

It was noted that the improvement journey would take time, but officers were putting together a team to tackle this.

Also queried was the improvement journey, with Members of the committee wanting to know what comparable Authorities were doing to improve. Requests for further information were made, including a detailed action plan, information of the level of complaints (including areas). Members also

requested a progress report come back to Committee to update on improvements.

On a motion by Councillor Nolan and seconded by Councillor Jordan it was,

**Resolved – that**

**(1) The contents of the report be noted**

**(2) A progress report be brought back to the committee**

## 64 **COMMUNITY CONNECTOR SERVICE**

The Director of Public Health introduced the report which provided an update to the Committee on the current Community Connector service commissioned by Wirral Council. The report provided an overview of the Community Connector Service, its performance to date, the important role the service played in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and how the service will continue to evolve moving forwards.

The Community Connector service was commissioned in response to local insight undertaken to understand the support communities required to address health related worklessness in the borough.

Members were presented with a short video which was included within the report. They were advised that the service was commissioned to support referrals from statutory services and provide “door knocking” support. Service users had been supported into volunteering, further education and employment.

The Committee noted their appreciation of the service and queried how they could directly support the community by providing practical resources such as warm packs during the cost-of-living crisis. It was agreed that discussions should be had with the Community Connector service regarding signposting to warm hubs, handing out warm packs

On a motion by Councillor Nolan, seconded by Councillor Camphor it was,

**Resolved – that**

**(1) The report on community connectors be noted.**

**(2) That officers work with Community Connectors to see if practical support can be introduced to help with the cost of living crisis.**

65 **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Head of Legal Services introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and review its work across the municipal year.

**Resolved – that the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year be noted.**



## **ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 30 November 2022

Present: Councillor EA Grey (Chair)

Councillors S Foulkes H Gorman  
T Smith N Graham  
A Gardner O Osanlou  
L Fraser C Davies (In place  
V Wilson of S Percy)

In attendance: Councillors J Williamson  
T Cox

### 39 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

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

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

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

### 41 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sue Percy who was deputised by Councillor Chris Davies. Councillor Tony Cox was also in attendance.

### 42 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2022 be approved and adopted as a correct record.**

### 43 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

#### 43.1 **Public Questions**

The Chair indicated that 6 questions had been received, a number of which were in relation to agenda item 6 – Hoylake Beach Management – Approval of consultation report and final consultation outcomes.

Anne Ardern submitted a question about why the “do nothing” option has been discounted from the beach management scheme.

Lorna Humphreys sought clarification on whether spending large sums of money raking parts of Hoylake beach was appropriate given the unprecedented level of debt the Council was facing.

Charlotte Smith attended the meeting and queried why an option for an amenity beach had not been put forward, she emphasised that as someone who was disabled and had suffered from mental health issues, she felt excluded from accessing the beach as it was.

A supplementary question was asked about the working relationship between Wirral Borough Council and Natural England and whether Natural England had visited Hoylake Beach to assess the serious public safety risks that the beach posed to both humans and wildlife. The Chair agreed to provide a written response.

The Chair responded to all the above questions that a motion was to be put forward during the consideration of the Hoylake Beach Management item that she felt would answer all their questions.

Julian Priest asked a question about the method of plant removal in the pioneer zones and whether this involved raking or digging which would only disrupt and exacerbate the spread of vegetation

The Chair sought clarification from the Senior Manager of Flood and Coastal Risk Management who stated that the method of vegetation removal advocated through the management options was by mechanical means.

A supplementary question was raised on the legality of this option given that this would exacerbate the spread of vegetation.

The Chair outlined that the Council would take legal advice and refinements from Natural England to ensure no illegal action was taken on the beach.

Ruth Molyneux asked a question regarding pedestrian safety on New Chester Road and why safety railings had not been provided at one crossing on the road.

The Chair responded that an independent safety audit had been carried out on the layout during the residential development in 2017 and that this had not identified the requirement for guardrail which was there to direct pedestrians

to cross at safe locations rather than to protect pedestrians from errant vehicles. The collision data records for this location had been reviewed and indicated no pedestrian or cyclist injury collisions recorded at this junction within the last 5 year study period.

#### **43.2 Statements and petitions**

No statements or petitions had been received.

#### **43.3 Questions by Members**

There were no questions by Members.

### **44 HOYLAKE BEACH MANAGEMENT - APPROVAL OF CONSULTATION REPORT AND FINAL CONSULTATION OUTCOMES**

The Chair welcomed the officers from Natural England, who were the governments advisors for the Natural Environment, who had attended the meeting to assist Members with any queries they had.

The Assistant Director of Parks and Environment introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which provided Members with the results of the initial consultation exercise relating to Hoylake Beach Management and also proposed two beach management options for further consultation. The report set out the process and results from the initial consultation and this along with ecological and geomorphic studies and discretionary advice from Natural England was used to develop a range of management options.

Members sought clarification on refinements that Natural England may make on the proposed options in order to give assent and these included things such as development of a vegetation management plan and consideration of implementation of board walks and designated walking paths to protect existing and emerging vegetation amongst other refinements.

In response to queries from Members regarding the possibility of an option of a portion of the beach being raked into an amenity beach whilst still maintaining a natural area, Natural England outlined they would not be able to say whether that would gain assent or not but that proposals would be assessed and considered against the environmental tests which must determine there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the site.

Councillor Liz Grey proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes that -

Committee requests the Director of Neighbourhoods to work closely with NE and MEAS to refine as appropriate the following two options, which ECET committee feels better reflect the consultation findings and the strength of feeling among the local population while keeping within the law. Committee requests that both options be costed and include a thorough review of potential drainage improvement works that might be needed:

1. An option to work with natural processes along the entire beach but with a focus on greatly improved access for all and clearance of slipways.
2. An option, similar to the Royal Haskoning Report of 03 November 2022, reference PC2553-RHD-ZZ-XX-RP-Z-0001" option 3, but with reduced vegetation clearance. This could involve 'do nothing' from Red Rocks to Trinity Road and 'do everything' from Trinity Road to the RNLI station.

Committee urges officers and NE to consider the protection of nature but also the need to heal a sorely divided local population. Any options proposed for final public consultation must meet NE full approval.

Committee appreciates the scientific evidence that shows clearly that beach levels are rising and that this facilitates the growth of vegetation on what is now essentially dry land most of the time. Committee understands the rich diversity of plants growing in this location and the degree of national and international legal protection this habitat is given. Having no wish to break the law or jeopardise the natural world and the benefits this offers the local community, including economic benefits, Committee requests the Director of Neighbourhoods to explore with NE the possibility of best enabling as many people as possible to appreciate this beach, however they may currently understand the term "beach", while the Council and its partners continue the process of engagement and education with all stakeholders.

Committee's concern for the wellbeing of the local community matches our concern for best practice in beach management and long-term protection of nature. Committee believes that it is in the best interests of community cohesion and wellbeing if some vegetation removal could be considered alongside that which may need to be considered for the proper use of the RNLI hovercraft to save lives at sea. Committee also believes that in removing some vegetation, the remaining vegetation would be far better protected from the misguided and illegal activities of which we have been notified in recent years, including in recent weeks. This has included reports of diggers and strimmer's being taken onto the beach as well as the spraying of chemicals, all without permission. People have also bragged on social media of their efforts to remove vegetation by hand. Committee believes that such behaviour would cease were a small "amenity beach" to be provided, with vegetation removed to the promenade wall. Should the level of protection afforded to any species of plants there become a barrier to this, then a buffer zone could be created to protect specific plants or habitats without highlighting individual examples, removing the necessity to completely reject vegetation removal per se.

Committee accepts the need to prepare a mitigation plan with expert advice and for this to be monitored with experts and we request that officers work

closely with NE and other local environmental experts, including MEAS, to assess how and where this might be possible and appropriate and Committee requests that the Director of Neighbourhoods works closely with NE and any other relevant bodies to assess the drains that empty onto the beach and arrange for any remedial or diversion works, if needed and as appropriate.

Following a debate on the motion, the meeting adjourned at 20.08pm.

The meeting resumed at 20.26pm.

Councillor Andrew Gardner moved, seconded by Councillor Tony Cox that –

Given the overwhelming support on Wirral for a compromise, all options that have been democratically put forward by elected representatives on Wirral, be presented by officers to Natural England for negotiation and a report brought back to the Committee on the outcome of those negotiations.

The Committee moved to a vote on the motion put by Councillor Liz Grey where it was carried (6:4) (1 abstention).

The Head of Legal Services outlined that as the second motion was wider than the motion that had just carried, it then fell.

**Resolved (6:4) (1 abstention) – That**

**Committee requests the Director of Neighbourhoods to work closely with NE and MEAS to refine as appropriate the following two options, which ECET committee feels better reflect the consultation findings and the strength of feeling among the local population while keeping within the law. Committee requests that both options be costed and include a thorough review of potential drainage improvement works that might be needed:**

- 1. An option to work with natural processes along the entire beach but with a focus on greatly improved access for all and clearance of slipways.**
- 2. An option, similar to the Royal Haskoning Report of 03 November 2022, reference PC2553-RHD-ZZ-XX-RP-Z-0001" option 3, but with reduced vegetation clearance. This could involve 'do nothing' from Red Rocks to Trinity Road and 'do everything' from Trinity Road to the RNLI station.**

**Committee urges officers and NE to consider the protection of nature but also the need to heal a sorely divided local population. Any options proposed for final public consultation must meet NE full approval.**

**Committee appreciates the scientific evidence that shows clearly that beach levels are rising and that this facilitates the growth of vegetation on what is now essentially dry land most of the time. Committee understands the rich diversity of plants growing in this location and the degree of national and international legal protection this habitat is given. Having no wish to break the law or jeopardise the natural world and the benefits this offers the local community, including economic benefits, Committee requests the Director of Neighbourhoods to explore with NE the possibility of best enabling as many people as possible to appreciate this beach, however they may currently understand the term “beach”, while the Council and its partners continue the process of engagement and education with all stakeholders.**

**Committee’s concern for the wellbeing of the local community matches our concern for best practice in beach management and long-term protection of nature. Committee believes that it is in the best interests of community cohesion and wellbeing if some vegetation removal could be considered alongside that which may need to be considered for the proper use of the RNLI hovercraft to save lives at sea. Committee also believes that in removing some vegetation, the remaining vegetation would be far better protected from the misguided and illegal activities of which we have been notified in recent years, including in recent weeks. This has included reports of diggers and strimmer’s being taken onto the beach as well as the spraying of chemicals, all without permission. People have also bragged on social media of their efforts to remove vegetation by hand. Committee believes that such behaviour would cease were a small “amenity beach” to be provided, with vegetation removed to the promenade wall. Should the level of protection afforded to any species of plants there become a barrier to this, then a buffer zone could be created to protect specific plants or habitats without highlighting individual examples, removing the necessity to completely reject vegetation removal per se.**

**Committee accepts the need to prepare a mitigation plan with expert advice and for this to be monitored with experts and we request that officers work closely with NE and other local environmental experts, including MEAS, to assess how and where this might be possible and appropriate and Committee requests that the Director of Neighbourhoods works closely with NE and any other relevant bodies to assess the drains that empty onto the beach and arrange for any remedial or diversion works, if needed and as appropriate.**

#### **45 POLLINATOR STRATEGY**

The Strategic Manager of Parks and Countryside introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which sought the approval of the Wirral Pollinator Strategy which supported the Council’s biodiversity commitment.

The strategy had been developed to ensure the Council and its residents, businesses and landowners were provided with information to help to protect and increase pollinator populations. The strategy spoke to the national strategy and addressed the recent Environment Act 2021 which placed a duty on Local Authorities to enhance biodiversity and to protect and encourage pollinators.

Members thanked officers for their work and noted the report contained a lot of interesting information and captured the context of why the Council needs a Pollinator Strategy.

Councillor Andrew Gardner proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor Tony Cox that –

Committee resolves that recognised official and affiliated park groups to the Council can be impacted in their work by “No Mow May” and such groups can apply for exemption from “No Mow May” providing that they produce a pollinator policy that will describe how they will otherwise prosper pollinators in lieu of “No Mow May”.

A discussion ensued where officers outlined that “No Mow May” had two purposes, one to promote pollinators and second was that budget options agreed included reduced grass cutting with certain exemptions. It was reported that officers were in the process of meeting with the parks friends’ groups to see what mitigation could be done.

The Committee moved to a vote on the motion from Councillor Andrew Gardner, it was put and lost (4:7).

On a motion by Councillor Liz Grey, seconded by Councillor Tony Smith it was –

**Resolved (unanimously) –That the Wirral Pollinator Strategy be approved, and officers and their partners, Wirral Wildlife, MEAS and New Ferry Butterfly Park be thanked for their hard work on this excellent report.**

#### 46 WEED CONTROL

The Strategic Manager of Parks and Countryside introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which provided an overview of the appraisal exercise undertaken to consider options for future weed control across the borough. The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee approved the Council’s Weed Control Measures options appraisal in September 2021 for a one year contract with a further one year extension, this report sought approval for the one year extension to further investigate and action alternative methods of weed control.

In response to a Member query on how much weeding officers expected to undertake with machinery, it was reported that this was something still be worked upon, officers were keen to use machinery in alleyways where there was a reduced risk of stone chips causing damage, from this officers could identify how quickly the machinery could work through an area depending on weed density, this would then be scaled up and applied across the Wirral to find this figure.

On a motion by Councillor Liz Grey, seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes, it was -

**Resolved – That**

- (1) the current weed control contract with ManCoed Ltd at a cost of £260,000 for one year be extended.**
- (2) the continued exploration of alternative options for weed control be endorsed, including the provision of an ‘in-house’ multi-disciplinary service and a further report including options and costs be brought to a future committee.**
- (3) the Director of neighbourhoods be requested to engage residents in relation to the issue of ideas for controlling weeds.**

47 **UPDATE - WIRRAL ALLOTMENT PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY**

The Strategic Manager of Parks and Countryside introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which provided an update on the progress against the recommendations of the report brought to the Committee in October 2020.

The Wirral Allotment Partnership Strategy reviewed Wirral Council’s Allotment provision with the intention of providing allotments throughout the borough in the most cost-effective manner. The report detailed the number of people on the waiting list for an allotment, capital programme sites under development and raised beds that had been developed.

In response to queries from Members about how the Council intended to meet the demand for allotments it was outlined that the strategy aimed for 1000 units, there were sites under development and the possibility of half plots on the larger plots was being explored and that work with Community, Voluntary and Faith sector organisations was encouraged to increase allotment provision.



**Resolved – That the update report and progress made be noted.**

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

The Director of Neighbourhood Services introduced the report which provided a performance update in relation to Environment and Climate Emergency and Highways and Infrastructure. As part of the previous item, Members had asked for a breakdown of allotment provision by ward, and this could be included in the performance report going forward.

Members queried the capital spend in highway maintenance, it was reported that most activity in this area takes place during the summer months so although the report showed that there was significant underspend in this area, work that had been undertaken was being processed by finance currently.

Further information was requested on pavement conditions across the borough and future reports would incorporate more information on this subject.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

49 **QUARTER 2 BUDGET REPORT**

The Senior Finance Business Partner introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which set out the financial monitoring information for the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee as at quarter 2 of 2022-23. As at the end of September 2022 (Quarter 2), the forecast outturn position for the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee was £2.434m adverse against a budget of £63.907m. £0.560m of this relates to an adjustment for the proposed 2022/23 pay award. The report gave a summary of progress on the delivery of 2022-23 savings with £1.555M either delivered or on track to be delivered.

Members noted the energy efficiency capital programme was forecast to underspend and queried whether there was an energy efficiency strategy for each of the Council's assets. It was reported that there was a decarbonisation plan for buildings that were not efficient, and officers recognised that the asset strategy was building focussed and there was more work to be done on changing behaviours around energy efficiency.

**Resolved – That**

- (1) the forecast revenue position presented at Quarter 2 be noted.**

**(2) the progress on delivery of the 2022-23 savings programme at Quarter 2 be noted.**

**(3) the forecast level of reserves at Quarter 2 be noted.**

**(4) the forecast capital position presented at Quarter 2 be noted.**

50 **WORK PROGRAMME**

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

In response to a query from a Member, the Director of Neighbourhood Services clarified that there would be risk workshops scheduled in the new year.

The Chair requested that biodiversity training for elected members be added to the work programme and suggested this could go beyond the committee and all elected Members could be invited.

**Resolved – That the Environment Climate Emergency and Transport Committee work programme be noted.**

## **TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 1 December 2022

Present: Councillor H Cameron (Chair)

Councillors T Smith J Johnson  
N Graham J Grier  
S Percy A Brame  
KJ Williams J Laing  
I Camphor T Elzeiny (In place  
of M Collins)

Apologies Councillors M Collins

### 42 **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.

### 43 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Mike Collins who was deputised by Councillor Tracy Elzeiny.

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

Members are asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest. No interests were declared.

### 45 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 October be approved and adopted as a correct record.**

### 46 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

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

### 47 **QUARTER 2 BUDGET REPORT**

The Senior Finance Business Partner introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which set out the financial monitoring information for the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee as at Quarter 2 of 2022-23. It was reported that there was a forecast adverse position of £3.948M, a portion of this related to an adjustment for the proposed 2022/23 pay award and was mitigated in part by the proposed National Insurance reduction from November 2022. The report gave a summary of progress on the delivery of 2022-23 savings with £1.403M actual savings delivered to date.

In response to Member queries about the £3M contingency fund which was set up for non-achieved savings by the end of the year, it was outlined that this fund sat with the S151 officer, and a bid would have to be made to access this if necessary.

Following a discussion on the impact of the sea wall at West Kirby on footfall at the leisure sites, it was reported that outdoor water sports had become increasingly popular and were not as affected as the catering offer.

Members noted the energy pressures and queried whether this could be brought down by reducing energy usage and referenced the Climate Emergency policy and action plan as well as behavioural changes needed to achieve the net zero by 2030 target.

#### **Resolved – That**

- (1) the forecast revenue position presented at Quarter 2 be noted.**
- (2) the progress on delivery of the 2022-23 savings programme at Quarter 2 be noted.**
- (3) the forecast level of reserves at Quarter 2 be noted.**
- (4) the forecast capital position presented at Quarter 2 be noted.**

#### **48 TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Chair reported that the appendix to the report was exempt and if the Committee needed to refer to the appendix in their discussions, the press and public would have to be excluded from the meeting for the duration. The Chair noted that only part of the appendix needed to be exempt and requested that

the information be presented separately in future to ensure transparency with the public.

On a motion by Councillor Helen Cameron, seconded by Councillor Tony Smith 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 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.**

The Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee considered the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services in its entirety.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

#### 49 **LIVERPOOL AND WIRRAL CORONER AREA ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

The Coroner presented his report. The Coroner was an independent judicial office holder, appointed by the local authority. They investigated deaths reported to them if it appeared that: the death was violent or unnatural; the cause of death was unknown; or the person died in prison, police custody or another type of state detention. The report was the full annual report of the Liverpool and Wirral Coroner Area for the period of 2021.

It was reported that 2021 had the highest number of deaths reported to coroners nationally since 1995 and 24% of deaths in Liverpool and Wirral had resulted in an inquest. The Coroner highlighted the pressures of the additional post mortems and stated that Arrowe Park Hospital only had capacity to perform 6 autopsies a week which meant a forensic pathologist had to be brought in to provide cover and extra resources, in response to a Member query on the subject, the Coroner outlined that it was a matter for individual trusts to employ sufficient pathologists to meet the needs of residents.

The coroner addressed queries around contingency planning and noted that if there was a mass fatality disaster which required a temporary mortuary to be set up and staffed, the duty to fund this would fall on the Local Authority. The national emergency mortuary arrangements were detailed, and the coroner emphasised the importance of these arrangements as the North West did not have the facilities to deal with mass fatalities.

The Chair noted the importance of this and asked that the risks highlighted by the coroner be brought to the upcoming risk workshop.

On a motion from Councillor Helen Cameron, seconded by Councillor Ivan Camphor

**Resolved – That**

- (1) the report be noted.**
- (2) the reputational risk highlighted by the coroner’s report be considered at the upcoming risk workshop.**

50 **WORK PROGRAMME REPORT**

The Consultant Lawyer introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and review its work across the municipal year.

The Chair noted that an item on the third sector was missing from the work programme and asked that this be brought as soon as possible.

In response to a request from a Member, the Assistant Director of Parks and Countryside agreed to circulate a briefing note on emergency planning.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

## CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 6 December 2022

Present:

Councillor K Hodson (Chair)

Councillors	C Cooke	S Bennett
	C Carubia	E Gleaves
	H Collinson	D Kenny
	C Povall	V Wilson

Apologies

Councillors S Powell Wilde  
A Wright  
M Jackson  
(Diocesan rep)

35 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting as well as those watching the webcast.

36 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Sue Powell Wilde, Councillor Alison Wright and Margaret Jackson .

37 **MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

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

Councillor Collinson declared a prejudicial interest in respect of items 6 and 7 by virtue of her involvement with the Unity Federation and membership on Wirral Development Trust.

38 **PUBLIC AND MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

The Chair reported that there were no public questions, statements, petitions or questions by members.

39 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October be approved as a correct record**

40 **CONSULTATION OUTCOME LEASOWE AGE RANGE**

Having previously declared a prejudicial interest in respect of this agenda item, Councillor Collinson left the room during consideration of this matter.

The Principal Officer for School Admissions, Place and Planning introduced the report of the Director of Children, Young People and Education which provided the outcome of a consultation on a proposal to alter the age range of Leasowe Primary School to establish a maintained nursery class and sought approval to alter the age range of the school by one year group from 4 to 11, to 3 to 11.

The report advised that a consultation was held between 5<sup>th</sup> October 22 and 2<sup>nd</sup> November 22 and that no objections were received during this period. The report further advised how adopting the proposal would mean that all three primary schools within the identified planning area would offer on-site nursery provision. The report also identified and explained the benefits of operating a nursery class as part of the school and advised members that additional costs could be met from the existing budget of Leasowe Primary School.

In response to a question by a Member it was explained how at present the school had temporarily opened up an F1 (pre school) class in order to meet demand and it was further explained how the uptake of 3 year old provision in this planning area was reported to be lower than other parts of Wirral. Members were assured that ongoing work is being undertaken with Council Education Officers and Early Years Providers in order to address disparity in take up of 3 year old placements.

A member sought reassurance that the consultation had been carried out effectively and legally and was assured that it had been.

**Resolved – That**

**(1) the proposal to alter the age range of Leasowe Primary School by one year group from 4 to 11, to 3 to 11, as a prescribed alteration to a maintained school be approved; and**

**(2) the Director of Children, Families and Education be granted all necessary authority to implement the proposal.**

41 **CONSULTATION OUTCOME OBSERVATORY SCHOOL**

Having previously declared a prejudicial interest in respect of this agenda item, Councillor Collinson left the room during consideration of this matter.



The Principal Officer for School Admissions, Place and Planning introduced the report of the Director of Children, Family and Education which provided the outcome of a consultation on proposals for prescribed alterations to The Observatory School. The report advised how The Observatory School is a mixed age 11 to 16 community special school for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs. It was explained how the proposals listed within the report relate to making permanent a trial scheme providing places to primary school age pupils, increasing the number of places offered by the school and also an expansion onto a satellite site in the Leasowe area.

Members were advised how a public notice setting out the three prescribed alterations was published on 5<sup>th</sup> October 22 followed by a 4 week representation period to which no objections were received.

In response to a query, members were advised that the Assistant Director for Education would work closely with the school to address provision with regards to staffing. Furthermore with regards to staff moving from site to site, members were advised that the school are working with existing staff regarding any new working arrangements.

On a motion by Councillor Carubia and seconded by Councillor Povall it was:

**Resolved – That**

- (1) the change to the lower age limit of The Observatory School from 11 to 8 be approved;**
- (2) the permanent change of the number of places at The Observatory School to 100 be approved;**
- (3) the expansion of The Observatory School onto a satellite site be located at the former Leasowe Early Years Centre be approved; and**
- (4) the Director of Children, Families and Education be granted all necessary authority to implement the proposals**

42 **2022-23 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER TWO**

The Senior Business Partner introduced a report of the Director of Children, Families and Education which provided members with an overview of budget performance, including progress on the delivery of the 2022-23 saving programme and a summary of reserves.

Members were advised how at the end of quarter 2, there was a forecast adverse position of £2.297m on the Committees net revenue budget of £79.234m. Members were further advised how there had been significant movements since the last report, largely due to 3 main issues:

- Forecast increased costs of £1.1m from the employers proposed pay award, over and above the original 3% built into the 2022-23 budget;
- SEND assisted travel contract, with inflation now estimated at over 30%
- Increased numbers of children in care, after a year of reducing numbers, particularly in young people placed in high -cost residential settings.

In response to a question, members were advised how due to the overspend in the high needs (SEND) block, the DfE have arranged for consultants to review what can be improved to become more cost effective. It was explained how in Wirral there is a higher than average proportion of children with SEND who are educated in a specialist setting rather than within a mainstream school. In response to a further question, members heard how the 'Transforming Care' project is projected to create savings when new properties are opened in the new year.

#### **Resolved – That**

- (1) the forecast revenue position presented at Quarter 2 be noted;**
- (2) the progress on delivery of the 2022-23 savings programme at Quarter 2 be noted;**
- (3) the forecast level of reserves at Quarter 2 be noted; and**
- (4) the forecast capital position presented at Quarter 2 be noted.**

#### **43 QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Performance and Improvement Manager for Children's Services introduced the report of the Director for Children, Young People and Education providing the latest performance information for Children's Services.

Of particular note, members heard how there had been an increase in numbers of looked after children in this quarter and the numbers of children adopted within this quarter had decreased. They were also informed that there is further work to do around improving health assessment compliance, with particular reference to there having been a significant dental check delay for some children.

Furthermore, in terms of education it was reported that attainment across all ranges had fallen at both national and Wirral level compared to 2019

outcomes and in relation to KS2 outcomes, the gap to national had widened to 7%, compared to the 2019 gap. It was reported how improvements have been made in EHCP timeframes and more children have been benefiting from the age 2 – 3 funding.

A query was raised regarding dental care for children and it was suggested that other options be considered for example the possibility of a community dentist at Arrowe Park.

An increase in domestic violence referrals was noted and a query was raised regarding this. In response, it was explained that the issue is complex and there has been legislative change that has led to the increase. The Assistant Director informed members that there has been ongoing preventative work with both perpetrators and victims.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

**44 UPDATE ON WIRRAL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY 2021-2024**

The Assistant Director for Education introduced the report of the Director of Children, Family and Education that provided an update on the Wirral School Improvement Strategy 2021-2024.

Members were reminded that the strategy had been improved in September 2021. Progress to date was set out within the report under five themes; Leadership and Governance, High Support, High Challenge, Self – improving school system, learning and innovation and School Improvement Wirral. Progress was identified alongside each theme.

In response to a question it was reported that Ofsted inspections had been considered when devising the strategy and that 86% of schools in Wirral have received a rating of good or better.

**Resolved – That**

**(1) Progress made to date on delivering the School Improvement Strategy 2021-24 be endorsed; and**

**(2) the outlined plans to progress the strategy over the next two years be approved.**

**45 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN REPORT**

The Assistant Director of Education introduced the report of the Director of Children, Family and Education that had been referred to the Children, Young People and Education Committee from the Constitution and Standards Committee following its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

The report provided members with an opportunity to review the Ombudsman's report and to agree to monitor the recommendations as part of its role in monitoring the SEND Improvement Programme and 'Wirral Statement of Action'. The report provided an overview into the nature of the complaint and updated the committee on progress on the recommendations. Overall, it was reported that failings had been linked to communication with the young person and family and measures are now in place to address this as detailed within the report.

In response to a question, it was reported that the backlog in EHCP's had improved and an intensive piece of work is being undertaken to ensure that annual reviews are being held.

**Resolved – That**

**(1) progress made to date on the recommendations as outlined be endorsed; and**

**(2) progress be monitored as part of the committees role in overseeing progress of the Wirral Statement of Action.**

46 **BREAKING THE CYCLE**

The Assistant Director for Early Help and Prevention presented a report by the Director of Children, Family and Education that provided an update on the Breaking the Cycle programme. Members heard how there would be a further two reports presented to committee providing an overview of learning and impact and will provide direction to workforce remodelling activity. The report provided information on the 8 Breaking the Cycle projects and their impact. Furthermore, the report shared what had been learnt by participants about their experience.

Of particular note, the report advised how during the first year of delivery, Breaking the Cycle catalyst projects have provided co-ordinated support from a lead practitioner that had benefited 2,308 individuals, including 840 adults and 1468 children and young people. An analysis of the cohorts who had accessed support were detailed within the report.

Members provided positive feedback on the programme and offered their full support regarding the progression. Officers were thanked for their hard work and dedication.

**Resolved – That**

**(1) the development of services relating to the break the cycle programme be endorsed; and**

**(2) a further two learning reports be considered at future committee meetings.**

47 **UPDATE ON THE GOVERNMENT WHITE 'OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL; STRONG SCHOOLS WITH GREAT TEACHERS FOR YOUR CHILD'**

The report presented by the Assistant Director of Education presented a report by the Director of Children, Families and Education which provided an update on the content of the Government's White Paper on schools entitled 'Opportunity for all: Strong schools with great teachers for your child'. The report highlighted the key aspects of the white paper and the impact that this could have on the school system. The white paper was appended to the report.

In response to a question, members were advised how one of the key changes should the legislation be enacted would be that all schools will be an academy school by 2030. Members were further advised how a steering group consisting of headteachers of community maintained schools had been established to consider the implications.

A discussion then ensued regarding budgeting for both academies and maintained schools and members were appraised of the arrangements for both and the key difference being that a maintained school can set a deficit budget were as an academy cannot.

**Resolved – That the report be noted**

48 **FAMILY HUBS**

The Assistant Director for Early Help and Prevention introduced a report by the Director of Children, Families and Education that provided an introduction to the Family Hubs programme. It was reported how Family Hubs provide the means by which Wirral Council can optimise a number of existing strategic priorities whilst providing an accessible, relevant and supportive offer to residents

The report advised how a family hub is a system wide model of providing high quality, joined up family support services that are delivered from conception through to the age of 19 ( or 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities).

Further details of the initiative were set out in the report and it was explained how each hub should be bespoke to the local community it serves and there are three key delivery principles underpinning the national concept – Access, Connection and Relationships.

**Resolved – That**

**(1) The report be noted; and**

**(2) a further update report be presented to the Children, Young People and Education Committee in six months**

49 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Head of Legal Services outlined the report detailing the work programme for the Children, Young People and Education Committee for the municipal year

The Director of Children, Family and Education advised that a report would be presented to committee in March informing of the findings of the ongoing joint targeted inspection that is currently ongoing

**Resolved – That the work programme be noted.**

50 **CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL MINUTES 12.10.22**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the Corporate Parenting Panel be noted.**

## **ECONOMY REGENERATION & HOUSING COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 7 December 2022

Present: Councillor T Jones (Chair)

Councillors P Martin A Hodson  
G Wood I Lewis  
G Davies L Rennie  
J Robinson J Grier  
D Burgess-Joyce D Mitchell

### 32 **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 for two years.

### 33 **APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received.

### 34 **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 on the agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

### 35 **MINUTES**

The Chair presented the minutes of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee held on 19 October 2022.

**Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting of Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee held on 19 October 2022 be approved and adopted as a correct record.**

### 36 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

No questions, statements or petitions from the public or Councillors had been received.

37 **UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND**

The Head of Economic Growth presented the report to the Committee which provided an overview of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and the mechanisms for delivery of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's (LCRCA's) allocation. A proportion of LCR's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funds would be allocated for direct delivery by the six constituent Local Authorities with commencement expected in the financial year 2022/2023.

The report sought approval for the Council's Phase 1 Investment Plan of £1.53m and delegated authority to commence delivery on receipt of the relevant grant funding permissions.

Members were informed that the LCR allocation of UKSPF represented a significant reduction in funding for the region in comparison to funding received from European programmes between 2014 and 2020. The committee sought and obtained an explanation regarding the criteria for the 18.9% allotted allocation, the re-allocation of unspent funding and the level of compliance and reporting that the Council will be undertaking on receipt of the funding.

**Resolved – That**

- 1. the submission of Wirral Council's Phase 1 Investment Plan to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) be endorsed.**
- 2. Delegated authority be granted to the Director of Regeneration and Place to:**
  - (a) make such changes to Wirral Council's Phase 1 UK Shared Prosperity Fund ("UKSPF") Investment Plan as may be necessary to reflect any feedback received from the LCRCA, provided such changes do not have a material impact on Council resources between different intervention areas.**
  - (b) review and accept the UKSPF Phase 1 grant funding agreement of £1.53m from the LCRCA;**
  - (c) commence delivery of the UKSPF Phase 1 programme in line with the grant funding agreement and change control process;**
  - (d) ensure any spend in advance of the grant funding agreement is only in extenuating circumstances where the viability of any project is at risk due to financial timescales; and**



- (e) negotiate and accept management funds for the staffing resource assigned to management, monitoring and evaluation of the Wirral UKSPF Programme.**

## **38 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER TWO**

The Senior Manager Finance presented the report which set out the financial monitoring information for the Economy Regeneration & Housing Committee as at quarter 2 (1 Jul – 30 Sep) of 2022-23. The report provided Members with an overview of budget performance, including progress on the delivery of the 2022-23 saving programme and a summary of reserves to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

At the end of Quarter 2, there was a forecast adverse position of £0.237m on the Committee's net revenue budget, of £14.583m. This included the costs of the staff Pay Award which was £0.345m above the 3% pay award budget that had been built in to 22-23 budget. This position was based on activity to date, projected trends in income and expenditure and potential mitigation to offset areas of adverse variance.

Without the pay award there would have been an overall favourable position of £0.104m.

Members queried the costings around the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service contract. A discussion was also had on the number of Homeless people, including prevention and resettlement in the borough. It was agreed that further work be undertaken by the Committee on this issue. Further queries from Members relating to budget reporting, grant funding and real living wage.

### **Resolved – That**

- (1) the forecast revenue position presented at Quarter 2 be noted;**
- (2) the progress on delivery of the 2022-23 savings programme at Quarter 2 be noted;**
- (3) the forecast level of reserves at Quarter 2 be noted; and**
- (4) the capital forecast position of £39.061m at Quarter 2 be noted.**

## **39 WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Lead Principal Lawyer presented a report on the work programme for the municipal year. He also informed members that the Regeneration Working Group had met since the previous meeting and arising from that Group was a suggested workshop session with members of the Committee, which would be beneficial to obtain an overview of the timelines of the various major regeneration programmes. He also indicated that members input in relation to

housing and homeless matters would be best dealt with via a workshop in the first instance.

Members discussed several items on the work programme including Council House building and the Mass Transit Business Case. The Director of Regeneration and Place indicated that she intended to arrange workshops relating to housing and homelessness matters and also relating to Regeneration Programmes. Members expressed a preference for the next workshop be held in person.

**Resolved – that the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year be noted.**

40 **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 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**

41 **APPENDIX 2 - UKSPF WIRRAL INVESTMENT PLAN PHASE 1**

**Resolved – That the exempt appendix be noted.**

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## PENSIONS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 14 December 2022

Present:

Councillor P Cleary (Chair)

Councillors C Povall B Kenny  
G Davies A Gardner  
H Collinson J Bird  
S Percy S Mountney  
Councillors J Aston, Knowsley Council

### 1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone and read out the webcasting notice.

It was agreed that the order of the agenda would be amended, with Item 10 (Draft Funding Strategy Statement) being presented before Item 9 (Update on 2022 Actuarial Valuation), as the content of that report informed the latter.

### 2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from:

- Cllr Joe Walsh (Cllr Sue Percy was deputising)
- Cllr Jason Walsh (Cllr Jo Bird was deputising)
- Cllr Tom Anderson (Cllr Simon Mountney was deputising)
- Cllr Chris Carubia
- Cllr Karl Greaney
- Cllr Martin Bond, St Helens Council
- Cllr Paulette Lappin, Sefton Council
- Roger Bannister, UNISON Retired Member

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

Councillor Jo Bird	Personal interest as her partner was a member of the Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Helen Collinson	Pecuniary interest by virtue of her being a Deferred Member of Merseyside Pension Fund and her daughter was an active member of the Fund.
Councillor George Davies	Personal interest as his wife was a member of Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Andrew Gardener	Pecuniary interest by virtue of being a Member of Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Brian Kenny	Personal interest as his fiancée was a member of Merseyside Pension Fund.

Councillor Simon Mountney	Personal interest as his wife was a member of Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Cherry Povall	Personal interest as daughter a member of the Merseyside Pension Fund.

4 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the Pensions Committee meeting held on 28 September 2022 be agreed as a correct record.**

5 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No questions, statements or petitions had been received.

6 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS) UPDATE**

The Senior Manager for Operations and Information Governance introduced a report of the Director of Pensions which provided members with an update on the National Pensions Dashboard programme and the associated impacts on the Fund’s administration. Members were provided with an overview of recent developments and the aims of the dashboard project. Members were informed that work was being undertaken with the Fund’s system supplier on software solutions which were required to securely connect to the dashboard at the required staging dates. It was noted that all LGPS Funds were required to connect and respond to data requests by September 2024, with a requirement to provide data detailing accrued and projected pension values by April 2025. However, the pensions dashboard would only be made publicly available when the security of the infrastructure and governance framework had been approved by the Money and Pensions Service, the IT providers and Government.

**Resolved – That the legislative developments, required actions and timescale to connect to the pension dashboard infrastructure be noted.**

7 **NORTHERN LGPS UPDATE**

The Director of Pensions introduced a report which provided members with an update on pooling arrangements in respect of Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) and the Northern LGPS Investment Pool. Minutes of the previous Northern LGPS Joint Committee meeting were appended for noting. It was noted in relation to Item 20 of the minutes, that the consultation process for Direct Infrastructure Platform (GLIL) was underway (GLIL).

The Chair highlighted the work being undertaken by the Fund’s Responsible Investment Partners PIRC in developing a new database of FTSE All Share companies covering 80+ workforce indicators.

**Resolved – That the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting be noted.**

8 **WIRRAL LOCAL PENSION BOARD MINUTES**

The Chair introduced a report of the Director of Pensions which provided members with the draft minutes of the previous meeting of the Wirral Local Pension Board.

The Committee placed on record their thanks to Geoff Broadhead for stepping in for the Chair of the Local Pension Board at the recent Annual Employers' Conference.

**Resolved – That the minutes of the Wirral Local Pensions Board be noted.**

## 9 DRAFT FUNDING STRATEGY STATEMENT

The Head of Pensions Administration introduced a report of the Director of Pensions which provided Members with MPF's Draft Funding Strategy Statement (FSS) for 2022. Members were asked to consider the actuarial assumptions adopted, deficit and surplus recovery plans and the policies within the FSS. Whilst it was noted that funding position at this valuation was considered positive, the key communication that had arisen from the valuation was for employers to balance contribution affordability versus sustainability given the global economic and inflationary outlook post valuation date. It was noted that a consultation with employers took place on the key changes to the FSS from 31 October to 2 December 2022.

**Resolved – That**

- 1. The Draft Funding Strategy Statement be approved**
- 2. Refinement of the final version be delegated to the Director of Pensions and the Fund Actuary within the statutory deadline of 31 March 2023, following due consideration of the employer consultation and final valuation results.**

## 10 UPDATE ON 2022 ACTUARIAL VALUATION

The Head of the Pensions Administration introduced a report of the Director of Pensions which informed Members of the Actuary's 2022 actuarial valuation based on membership and cashflow data provided by the Fund at 31 March 2022. It was noted that the market value of assets at the valuation date was around £11 billion, giving a funding level of 106% with an associated surplus of £639m and an average employer future service cost of 18.5% of pay. Alongside this, a comparison of valuation results in 2019 and analysis was provided. Members were asked to note that the final actuarial outcome will be certified following finalisation of the Funding Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy Statement.

Considering both the Draft FSS and the 2022 Actuarial Valuation, Members discussed the long-term impact on costs, noting that fewer scheme members are opting to take a maximum lump sum payment when retiring. Members also praised the healthy position of the Fund despite recent challenges.

**Resolved – That the valuation basis be approved and authorisation be given to the Fund Actuary to certify the final valuation report containing employers' contributions payable for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026.**

## 11 MERSEYSIDE PENSION FUND'S RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT POLICY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Director of Pensions introduced a report in respect of MPF's investments in companies that are alleged to be facilitating the construction and continued existence of Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories of Palestine, which set out developments since consideration of previous report on the matter at Committee in February 2022, alongside several actions to develop ways to manage and respond more effectively to questions on responsible investment issues. Outlining the principal developments, members were asked to note the work of the National Scheme Advisory Board in meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur, ongoing engagement activity by the Local Authority Pensions Board Forum, and proposed legislation by Government in relation to Boycotts, Divestments and Sanctions. In addition, Members were informed that MPF had become a signatory to the UN's Principles of Responsible Investment (UNPRI) Advance initiative on human rights stewardship, and that the Fund had appointed Strategic Advisors, Redington, who, amongst other things, would be undertaking work on enhancing the Fund's Stewardship and Responsible Investment activities.

The Director of Pensions clarified that paragraph 9.3 of the report was incomplete and was too narrowly worded. Whilst it was important to recognise tensions when exploring controversial responsible investment issues, it was acknowledged this should have been done in general terms.

Members of the committee discussed how Pension Fund members could be consulted on issues of responsible investment and what a mechanism for consultation could look like in order to ascertain views of a representative sample of members. Whilst it was noted that the Pensions Committee was the democratic voice for the Pension Fund's various stakeholders, and there was provision for Trade Union representation on the Committee, there was an opportunity to develop greater engagement with Fund Members through the work with Redington. Members noted that it was important to develop a clear framework for addressing issues of responsible investment in order to make fully informed decisions. Members also discussed implications of responsible investment and investment in arms companies.

**Resolved – That the activities and actions detailed in the report be supported.**

## 12 **APPOINTMENT OF REDINGTON AS STRATEGIC INVESTMENT ADVISORS**

The Director of Pensions introduced a report that informed Members of the appointment of Redington as Strategic Investment Advisors to Merseyside Pension Fund. Members were informed of how Redington would be supporting the Fund's Strategic Objectives work, including a stakeholder survey to explore investment beliefs.

Members explored in greater detail the process for the survey, and how specific concerns on responsible investment and human rights were taken on board. The Director of Pensions clarified that it was proposed that the survey would be issued in early 2023, with a view for completion by the end of January. Analysis of the responses would then be fed back at the next Working Party meeting. It was noted the survey was to cover investment objectives and beliefs, including responsible investment, at a higher level, with an anticipated further survey on responsible investment beliefs exploring issues in greater detail.

**Resolved – That the appointment of Redington as Strategic Investment Advisors to Merseyside Pension Fund be noted.**

**13 CONSULTATION ON GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING OF CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME**

The Director of Pensions introduced a report that provided Members with MPF's response to a consultation by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) which sought views on proposals for LGPS administering authorities in England and Wales to assess, manage and report on climate-related risks. Having given due consideration to the consultation in detail, the Fund were supportive of proposals as were pooling partners. Following consultation with the Chair of the Pensions Committee, a joint response was prepared and submitted by the Northern LGPS Investment Pool (NLGPS). The responses from the Scheme Advisory Board and the Local Authority Pensions Board Forum were also highlighted within the report.

The Chair discussed the need for Government to provide the necessary investment framework for Pensions Funds to make appropriate environmental investment decisions.

**Resolved – That the report be considered and the response to the consultation be noted.**

**14 MINUTES OF WORKING PARTY MEETINGS**

Due to the official mourning period following the death of the Queen, the September meeting of the Working Party had not taken place. However, Members were pointed to the PIRC Responsible Investment Report published within the pack and the link to the quarterly LAPFF report.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

**15 EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE 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 the relevant paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.**

**16 APPOINTMENT OF REDINGTON AS STRATEGIC INVESTMENT ADVISORS EXEMPT APPENDIX**

**Resolved – That the exempt appendix be noted.**

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## PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 15 December 2022

Present:

Councillor S Kelly (Chair)

Councillors

S Foulkes  
G Davies  
T Elzeiny  
H Gorman  
K Hodson

M Jordan  
B Kenny  
P Martin  
J McManus  
A Wright  
S Powell Wilde (for P  
Stuart)

### 102 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed Members of the Planning Committee, Officers and members of the public to the meeting.

### 103 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:  
Councillor Paul Stuart.

### 104 MINUTES

The Head of Legal Services submitted the minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2022 for approval.

The Lead Principal Lawyer noted an error on minute 98 where a typo read: "...under Minute 9" when it should have read "... under Minute 90" and that the correct date in the resolution should have been 13 October 2022 and not 8 September 2022.

**Resolved – That, subject to the resolution on Minute 98 being corrected to read:**

**"Resolved – That, subject to Councillor P Stuart being noted as the seconder for the substantive motion under Minute 90, the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2022 be approved"**

**The minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2022 be approved.**

### 105 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.

106 **APP/22/00977 9 CALDY ROAD, WEST KIRBY, WIRRAL CH48 2HE**

The Senior Planning Officer presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Planning in relation to the above application for consideration.

Lead Petitioner Martha McInerney addressed the committee.

Ward Councillor Jenny Johnson addressed the committee.

Ward Councillor Simon Mountney addressed the committee.

Applicant's Agent Paul Nellist from Asteer Planning addressed the committee.

The Chair moved a motion for refusal which was seconded by Councillor Kathy Hodson.

The motion was put and lost (5:6) (1 abstention).

On a motion by Councillor Steve Foulkes and seconded by Councillor Brian Kenny, it was –

**Resolved (7:5) – that the application be approved subject to the following conditions:**

**1. The development hereby permitted shall begin not later than 3 years from the date of this decision.**

***Reason:* To comply with Section 91 (as amended) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.**

**2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans listed as follows:**

**PLAN 01 Revision B (Proposed Site Plan) received 31.10.2022**

**and the following plans received by the Local Planning Authority on 05 August 2022:**

**PLAN 02 (Proposed Ground and First Floor Plan)**

**PLAN 03 (Proposed Second Floor and Roof Plans)**

**PLAN 04 (Proposed Front and North Side Elevations)**

**PLAN 05 (Proposed Rear and South Side Elevations)**

**PLAN 06 (Proposed Bin and Cycle Stores Plans and Elevations)**

**PLAN 07 (Existing and Proposed Street Scene Elevations)**

***Reason:* For the avoidance of doubt and to define the permission.**

**3. The external surfaces of the development hereby permitted shall be constructed in the materials shown on drawings numbered PLAN 04 (Proposed Front and North Side Elevations) and PLAN 05 (Proposed Rear and South Side Elevations).**

***Reason:* To make sure that the appearance of the building is suitable and that it contributes to the character and appearance of the area having regards to Wirral Unitary Development Plan Policy HS4.**

**4. NO DEVELOPMENT SHALL COMMENCE until a Demolition and Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. For each phase of development, the CEMP shall demonstrate the following and, once approved, development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plan.**

**(A) Highways**

**A.1 - Location(s) for the parking of vehicles of site operatives and visitors,**

**A.2 - Location(s) for the loading and unloading of plant and materials**

**A.3 - Location(s) for the storage of plant and materials used in the demolition and construction of the development**

**A.4 – The erection of security hoardings (including decorative displays and facilities for public viewing where appropriate), and**

**A.5 - Measures to prevent the deposit of mud/grit/dirt on the public highway, with wheel washing facilities where appropriate.**

**(B) Residential Amenity**

**B.1 - Control, monitoring and mitigation of emissions of noise, dust and sub-surface vibration.**

**B.2 - Hours of demolition and construction activity, and deliveries to and dispatches from the site not to exceed 08:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday and 08:00 to 13:00 on Saturday. For the avoidance of doubt no activity, deliveries or dispatches shall take place on Sunday or Public Holidays.**

**(C) Waste Management**

**C.1 - The anticipated nature and volumes of waste that the demolition and construction phases of development will generate,**

**C.2 - The steps to be taken, where appropriate, to ensure that the maximum amount of waste arising from the development is incorporated into the new development,**

**C.3 - The steps to be taken to ensure effective segregation of waste at source including as appropriate, the provision of waste sorting, storage, recovery and recycling facilities, and**

**C.4 - Any other steps to be taken to manage the waste that cannot be incorporated into the new development.**

**(D) Invasive Species Removal**

**A method statement prepared by a competent person including the following information:**

**D.1 - A plan showing the extent of the plants,**

**D.2 - The method(s) that will be used to prevent the plants spreading further, including demarcation,**

**D.3 - The method(s) of control that will be used, including details of post-control monitoring, and**

**D.4 - How the plants will be disposed of after treatment/removal.**

***Reason:* In the interests of highway and environmental safety, the amenity of highway users and neighbouring occupiers, and to ensure that demolition and construction of the development achieves efficient use of resources in accordance with policy WM8 of the Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan.**

**5. NO DEVELOPMENT SHALL COMMENCE UNTIL details of a sustainable surface water drainage scheme and a foul water drainage scheme have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The drainage schemes shall include:**

- (i) An investigation of the hierarchy of drainage options in the National Planning Practice Guidance (or any subsequent amendment thereof). This investigation shall include evidence of an assessment of ground conditions and the potential for infiltration of surface water in accordance with BRE365;**
- (ii) A restricted rate of discharge of surface water agreed with the local planning authority (if it is agreed that infiltration is discounted by the investigations);**
- (iii) Levels of the proposed drainage systems including proposed ground and finished floor levels in AOD;**
- (iv) Incorporate mitigation measures to manage the risk of sewer surcharge where applicable; and**
- (v) Foul and surface water shall drain on separate systems.**

**The approved schemes shall also be in accordance with the Non-Statutory Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems (March 2015) or any subsequent replacement national standards.**

**Thereafter, the drainage schemes shall be completed in accordance with the approved details prior to first occupation of the development and retained for the lifetime of the development.**

**Reason:** To promote sustainable development, secure proper drainage and to manage the risk of flooding and pollution.

**6. No plant or materials shall be brought onto site until Root Protection Area fencing has been installed in accordance with the submitted tree protection plan and specification. (Drawing number 22/AIA/WIRR/99 03) within the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement by Tree Solutions Ltd, Revision A, dated November 2022.**

**Thereafter:**

- i) Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and the fencing shall be retained until development subject to this consent is completed. There shall be no excavation or other alteration of ground levels, storage of materials or plant, parking of vehicles, deposit of soil or rubble, lighting of fires or disposal of liquids within any area fenced off as part of the tree protection plan and specification.**

**Reason:** In the interests of the health and amenity value of trees and to accord with saved policy GR7 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan.

**7. No development other than demolition and vegetation removal shall take place until detailed construction plans setting out finished internal floor levels and external ground levels, and eaves and ridge heights, relative to existing levels and those of neighbouring properties have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter development shall be carried out as approved.**

**Reason - To ensure the finished levels at construction accord with the levels approved at planning stage in the interests of maintaining the character of the area and residential amenity in accordance with the objectives of saved policy HS4 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan.**

**8. No development above ground floor slab level shall take place 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) Compensatory tree and hedge planting across the site (including a minimum of eight trees and, where practical, the retention and infilling of the existing hedge to the Caldby Road frontage) to replace those specimens removed as part of the development to include the location, number, species and size of trees to be planted and a method statement to secure the sustainable planting of trees.**
- iii) Detailed planting plan and specification for soft landscaping of land forward of the principal elevation of the building;**

- iv) The location and design of fences, gates, walls, railings or other means of enclosure; and
- v) The timing of implementation of the scheme.

Thereafter development shall be carried out as approved.

*Reason:* In the interests of visual amenity and to accord with saved policy GR5 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan.

9. If, within a period of five years from the date of planting of any tree under the landscaping scheme approved under condition 8, that tree or any tree planted in replacement for it, is removed, uprooted, destroyed or dies or becomes in the opinion of the Local Planning Authority seriously damaged or defective, another tree of the same species and size as that originally planted shall be planted in the same place unless the Local Planning Authority agrees to any variation.

*Reason:* In the interests of visual amenity and to accord with saved policy GR5 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan.

10. No demolition or vegetation removal shall take place within the main bird nesting season (March to September inclusive) until a pre-commencement check is carried out by a qualified ecologist no earlier than 48 hours before works take place and the qualified ecologist confirms in writing to the Local Planning Authority no later than 48 hours after the check has taken place, that no actively nesting birds will be affected by the works.

*Reason:* In order to avoid harm to protected species in accordance with saved policy NC7 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan and paragraph 175 of the National Planning Policy Framework

11. The construction of the development hereby approved shall be carried out in accordance with the following reasonable avoidance measures for terrestrial mammals:

- i) All trenches and excavations should have a means of escape (e.g. a ramp);
- ii) Any exposed open pipe systems should be capped to prevent mammals gaining access; and
- iii) Raised storage of materials on pallets to ensure that mammals do not use material stockpiles for shelter.

*Reason:* To avoid harm to protected species in accordance with the objectives of saved policy NC7 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan.

12. 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 submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Thereafter the bird boxes shall be installed as approved and subsequently retained.

*Reason:* To provide suitable mitigation for the loss of breeding bird habitat in accordance with saved policy NC7 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan and paragraph 180 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

13. Prior to first occupation of the development hereby approved, the cycle storage and refuse storage structures as shown on approved drawings PLAN 01 Revision B (Proposed Site Plan) and PLAN 06 (Refuse and Cycle Stores Plans and Elevations) shall be constructed in accordance with the approved plans, made available for use, and there after retained.

*Reason:* To ensure satisfactory provision is made for the storage of refuse and cycles in the interests of amenity and to accord with the objectives of saved policies HS4 and TR12 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan.

14. The areas shown on approved drawing PLAN 01 REVISION B (Proposed Site Plan) for vehicular access, turning and parking shall be constructed, marked out, and made available for use prior to first occupation of the development hereby approved. Thereafter the vehicular access, turning and parking areas shall be retained for their intended purpose.

*Reason -* To ensure satisfactory off-street accommodation for vehicles is provided for and maintained, in the interests of highway safety and amenity and to accord with the objectives of saved policies HS4 and TR9 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan.

15. Prior to first occupation of the development hereby approved, a sustainable drainage management and maintenance plan for the lifetime of the development shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The sustainable drainage management and maintenance plan shall include as a minimum:

- a. Arrangements for adoption by an appropriate public body or statutory undertaker, or management and maintenance by a residents management company; and
- b. Arrangements for inspection and ongoing maintenance of all elements of the sustainable drainage system to secure the operation of the surface water drainage scheme throughout its lifetime.

The development shall subsequently be completed, maintained and managed in accordance with the approved plan.

*Reason:* To ensure that management arrangements are in place for the sustainable drainage system in order to manage the risk of flooding and pollution during the lifetime of the development.

**16. Prior to the installation of any external lighting, details of the type, location and luminance of the lighting to be installed shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter the lighting shall be installed as approved. When designing the lighting scheme the designer should have regard to the Institute of Lighting Professionals and Bat Conservation Trust Guidance Note 08/18 'Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK.'**

***Reason - To avoid significant harm to protected species in accordance with saved policy NC7 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan.***

**17. The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied until the windows identified on the approved floor plan and elevation drawings to be fitted with glazing obscured to at least Pilkington level 3, have been so fitted. Thereafter the obscured glazing shall be retained.**

***Reason: To prevent harmful overlooking in the interests of protecting the privacy and amenity of neighbouring residents.***

#### **NOTES TO APPLICANT:**

**1. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service advise the following:**

- i) Access for fire appliances should comply with the requirements of Approved Document B5 of the Building Regulations.**
- ii) Water supplies for firefighting purposes should be risk assessed in accordance with the undermentioned housing guidance in liaison with the water undertakers (United Utilities - 0161 907 7351) with suitable and sufficient fire hydrants supplied, and**
- iii) The premises should comply with Section 55 of the County of Merseyside Act 1980.**

#### **Housing**

**Housing developments with units of detached or semidetached houses of not more than two floors should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum of eight litres per second through any single hydrant. Multi occupied housing developments with units of more than two floors should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum of 20 to 35 litres per second through any single hydrant on the development.**

**2. The applicant, their advisers and contractors should be made aware that if any roosting bats are found, then as a legal requirement, work must cease, and advice must be sought from a licensed specialist.**

**3. Consent under the Highways Act is required for the construction of a new vehicle access or the amendment/removal of an existing vehicular access. Proposed vehicle access to be constructed in accordance with LPA commercial concrete crossing specifications. Such works are undertaken at the developer's expense, including the relocation/replacement and/or removal**



of street furniture and vegetation as necessary. Submission of a S50 Highway Opening Notice is required prior to commencement of any works on the adopted highway. Please contact the Council Highway Management team area manager via [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk) prior to the commencement of the works for the approval of the proposed details.

107 **ADV/22/00807 APPLICATION FOR ADVERTISING CONSENT, LAND AT STANLEY ROAD, BIRKENHEAD CH41 7AZ**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

Ward Councillor Liz Grey addressed the committee.

It was then moved by Councillor Julie McManus and seconded by Councillor Sue Powell-Wilde, that the application be refused for the following reason:

“That the Local Planning authority consider that the advertisements would harm the visual amenity of the area. The size and the positioning of the proposed advertisements when combined with the illuminated display and the format of displaying advertisements with changing images would exacerbate the impact on the street scene. The proposed advertisement displays would therefore appear more visually obtrusive and readily apparent than the current existing boards. As such, it is considered to be harmful of the amenity of the local area and the proposal therefore would fail to meet paragraphs 130 and 136 of the National Planning Policy Framework which requires development to be sympathetic to the local area, and for decision makers to consider the effect of advertisements on amenity.”

The motion was put and carried (12:0),

**Resolved (12:0) – That the application be refused for the following reason:**

**The Local Planning authority consider that the advertisements would harm the visual amenity of the area. The size and the positioning of the proposed advertisements when combined with the illuminated display and the format of displaying advertisements with changing images would exacerbate the impact on the street scene. The proposed advertisement displays would therefore appear more visually obtrusive and readily apparent than the current existing boards. As such, it is considered to be harmful of the amenity of the local area and the proposal therefore would fail to meet paragraphs 130 and 136 of the National Planning Policy Framework which requires development to be sympathetic to the local area, and for decision makers to consider the effect of advertisements on amenity.**

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## HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Wednesday, 21 December 2022

**Present:**

Councillor Janette Williamson	Chair
Simon Banks	Place Director, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside
David Bradburn	Director of Public Health, Wirral Council
Louise Healey	Department for Work and Pensions
Graham Hodgkinson	Director of Adults' Care & Health & Strategic Commissioning
Kevin Johnson	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Services
Matthew Moscrop	Wirral Community Policing
Councillor Yvonne Nolan	Wirral Council
Matthew Swanborough	Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

45 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Chair welcomed everyone and gave the webcast notice

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Councillor Tom Anderson
- Councillor Kathy Hodson
- Councillor Amanda Onwuemene
- Rachel Bennett, Magenta Living
- Julie Gray, Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Trust;
- Karen Howell for Wirral Community Health Care NHS Trust
- Paul Satoor, Wirral Council
- Karen Prior and Kirsteen Shepherd, Healthwatch
- Mark Thomas, Merseyside Fire and rescue
- Simone White, Wirral Council

46 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

47 **MINUTES**

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on 2 November 2022 be agreed as a correct record.**

48 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

No questions, statements or petitions were received.

## 49 EARLY YEARS UPDATE

The Children's Centre Operational Manager introduced the report of the Director of Child, Family and Education which provided an update of Early Years partnership work relating to: Early Years Strategy; First 1001 Days Programme; and Link to the Family Hubs initiative. The report detailed the organisational, structural and partnership activity undertaken over the previous 18 months.

Koala North West (KNW) and Foundation Years Trust (FYT) worked with the Council and NHS to collectively apply for funding to create Wirral's 1001 First Days programme to improve integration between services offered for families of children between 0 – 2 years, providing a seamless offer which families could easily navigate. The bid was successful and representatives of the two organisations were present to help present the report.

The 1001 first days programme was to provide the foundation for the development of Family Hubs in Wirral to ensure access and inclusion, broaden and cement relationships and align and connect services.

The Chair thanked the partners for the work they had done and Members noted that there would be further feedback on progress. and that the work was crucial to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The Chair noted that in the recommendations the correct title of the sector was the Voluntary, Community Faith and Social Enterprise sector (VCFSE) and the recommendation would be amended to reflect this.

### **Resolved: That**

- (1) the progress made in integrated working across Early Childhood Services, Public Health and Wirral's voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector (VCFSE), including the Early Years Strategy be noted and endorsed; and**
- (2) future updates on outcomes of the Early Years Strategy and Family Hubs be provided.**

## 50 WIRRAL PLACE UPDATE REPORT

The Place Director (Wirral), NHS Cheshire and Merseyside, presented his report which provided an update on the development of Wirral as a "Place" within the Integrated Care System (ICS) and of the working arrangements of NHS Cheshire and Merseyside in the borough. Most recently available meeting minutes were included. Progress on the development of the Health and Care Partnership Strategy were noted, and members were informed that the Strategy was to be approved on 17 January 2023, with Wirral's submission being based upon the information contained in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027 and Outcomes Framework.

### **Resolved - That**

- (1) this report be noted and similar updates be received at future meetings.**
- (2) the minutes of the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board held on 13th October 2022 be noted.**

- (3) **the Wirral submission for the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership Strategy be noted which, when ratified, will be brought to a future meeting.**

## 51 **FIRE, HEALTH AND DEPRIVATION**

The representative from the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service presented the report of the Director of Prevention at the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service. The Service existed to Protect, Prevent and Respond. In relation to Prevention, the Service committed to undertake 60,000 home safety visits every year – 9,000 in Wirral – and had several areas of prevention which it contributed toward. It was very aware of the connection between fire, health and deprivation and when fire fatalities were at a peak in 2015/2016 they changed their approach to focus on prevention including considering trends and detailed data to identify areas and lifestyle factors to target, including receiving direct referrals for individuals who could be contacted for a fire safety check.

Members praised the approach taken and asked about detail of the tackling of different aspects and lifestyles such as hospital discharges.

**Resolved: That the contents of this report be noted.**

## 52 **TOBACCO CONTROL - KHAN REVIEW - WIRRAL'S RESPONSE**

The Senior Public Health Manager for Healthier Lives introduced this report which provided a summary of the work undertaken to date on tobacco control and the challenges that remained. Smoking had been noted as a significant contributor to health inequalities and good long-term progress had been made in reducing smoking rates in Wirral. However, smoking rates remain highest among some of the most disadvantaged groups. The report also provided a response to the recently published independent Khan Review with a proposal to review local priorities and processes.

Members praised the work done to date and noted related ongoing issues such as addiction, cost and vaping.

**Resolved: That:**

- (1) **the good progress made in reducing smoking prevalence in Wirral be noted but it be recognised that we need to go further in order to address inequalities in smoking rates within the Borough.**
- (2) **the Khan review and its recommendations to refresh the Wirral Tobacco Control action plan be utilised with all members committing to contribute to this work and to nominate a representative to take this forward.**
- (3) **the refreshed Wirral Tobacco Control plan be received for sign off once developed.**

## 53 **COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY & FAITH SECTOR REFERENCE GROUP UPDATE**

Representatives of the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector Reference Group (CVFRG). Presented this report which provided the latest updates and proposals from the Reference Group. Three documents - The Community Hub Handbook; The Connected Society; and A Community - Powered NHS, Making Prevention a Reality

– were to be the main documents used to inform the delivery of the prototypes, the formation of partnerships and the transformations at community level. The CVFRG had been involved in the formation of a Transformation and Partnership Steering Group, with appropriate representation from Wirral Council, Wirral NHS and the CVFRG. It was noted that the workers for CVFRG were volunteers. The representatives spoke of the health value of green space infrastructure including some planned community gardens and there were seven pilot social prescribing projects to enable people to have health benefits from the gardens.

**Resolved: That the contents of the attached reports be noted, and the continued development of the programmes for engagement with communities and residents be supported.**

#### 54 **COST OF LIVING ACTION GROUP UPDATE**

The Director of Public Health introduced this report which provided an update from actions undertaken by the Cost-of-Living Action Group to address the impact of the increase in cost of living on residents and businesses in the Borough.

The Chair commended the work done as there was political will, partnership working and commitment on all sides.

**Resolved: That: -**

- (1) the actions completed by the Cost-of-Living Action Group in addressing cost of living challenges in the borough be noted.**
- (2) all partners participate in the Keep Wirral Well communications programme and promote Wirral Infobank and warm hubs both to their clients and employees as part of their Anchor Institution work as detailed in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.**

#### 55 **WIRRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CARE MODEL**

The Associate Director for Transformation and Partnerships presented this report which proposed a refreshed model to tackle inequalities in communities. It was to use dashboards to track statistics on population health and outcomes for particular neighbourhoods matched with local intelligence. The proposed model was for a steering group then each neighbourhood have nine core groups with organisation representatives.

Members noted that the approach was an infrastructure shift with primary care needs aligned with the communities they served.

**Resolved: That the proposed model for neighbourhoods and the proposed programme and associated timeline be noted.**

#### 56 **CO-OPTION OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

The Head of Legal Services presented this report which recommended a co-option to the Board of representatives from the Wirral Chamber of Commerce as a supporter of businesses as part of the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Wirral Plan to support inequalities. The co-option would be non-voting and focussed on assisting the board to deliver the Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

**Resolved: That a representative from Wirral Chamber of Commerce be Co-opted onto the Health and Wellbeing Board.**

57 **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members considered the work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year. The Chair requested that the Partnership Summits should continue following a successful initial event.

**Resolved: That the proposed Health and Wellbeing Board work programme for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year be noted.**

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## ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 11 October 2022

Present:

Councillor Y Nolan (Chair)

Councillors	I Camphor	M Jordan
	A Davies	S Mountney
	C Davies	C O'Hagan
	T Elzeiny	A Onwuemene
	P Gilchrist	J Walsh

32 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

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

33 **APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received.

34 **MEMBER 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.

The following declarations were made:

Councillor Mary Jordan	Personal interest by virtue of her employment in the NHS, her son's employment in the NHS and her involvement as a trustee for 'incubabies'.
Councillor Jason Walsh	Personal interest by virtue of a family member's employment in the NHS.
Councillor Angela Davies	Personal interest by virtue of her employment with Cheshire and Wirral Partnership.
Councillor Tracy Elzeiny	Personal interest by virtue of her employment in the NHS.
Councillor Yvonne Nolan	Personal interest by virtue of her role as a governor of Clatterbridge Cancer Centre and Cheshire and Wirral Partnership.
Councillor Chris Davies	Personal interest by virtue of his role on the board of governors for Wirral University Teaching Hospital.

Councillor Ivan Camphor	Personal interest as a General Practitioner at Heatherlands Medical Centre, Medical Secretary for Mid-Mersey Medical Committee and a GP representative for Cheshire Mid-Mersey and his involvement as trustee for 'incubabies'.
Councillor Clare O'Hagan	Personal interest by virtue of her employment in the NHS.

35 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2022 be approved and adopted as a correct record.**

36 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No public questions, statements or petitions had been received.

**At the request of the Chair, the Committee agreed to alter the order of business to hear the Wirral Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board first and the Public Health Annual Report second.**

37 **WIRRAL SAFEGUARDING ADULTS PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

The Wirral Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board Business Manager introduced the report of the Director of Care and Health which updated the Committee on the work of the Wirral Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (WSAPB) and presented the last annual report of the Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Board.

The Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Board started in 2017 and was a collaboration between Wirral, Liverpool, Sefton and Knowsley. Following a peer review in January 2020 it was decided that the Board would go back to local arrangements.

In response to a query regarding whether recruitment of Social Workers would affect the WSAPB's strategy it was outlined that the WSAPB had a responsibility to assure itself appropriate arrangements were in place to ensure people were being safeguarded but didn't take any direct responsibility. This meant that individual services would have their own strategies and work plans.

Members noted that the data showed Wirral's safeguarding concerns were considerably higher than other authorities, it was clarified that the Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Board had identified that Wirral were processing all items as safeguarding concerns and that nationally Wirral was not an outlier.

**Resolved – That the final annual report of the Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Board and the update report in relation to the work of the Wirral Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board be noted.**

38 **PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT (PHAR)**

The Director of Public Health introduced the report which was an independent annual report of the Director of Public Health and was a statutory requirement. The 2022 report was presented in two parts. There was a video which focussed on the key role of the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector in supporting local people and residents to be resilient in challenging circumstances and there was a State of the Borough report which used a range of statistics to report on health and wellbeing in the borough.

Some statistics were shared with the committee which demonstrated the challenges in Wirral which included over a third of Wirral residents living in the most 20% deprived areas of England and that the life expectancy gap between Wirral and Nationally was increasing.

Members queried different aspects of the interactive State of the Borough report and it was agreed that there were some gaps in information and officers were happy to work with Members to improve this. It was noted that when the 2021 Census was published there would be a lot of new data to add to the report.

The Chair emphasised the importance of the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector in supporting local people and thanked the previous Director of Public Health, Julie Webster, who had recently retired but was in attendance for all the hard work her team had done.

**Resolved – That**

**(1) the Public Health Annual Report (video) be endorsed and the role of the local Community, Voluntary and Faith sector in the local response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the huge contribution it continues to make for residents and the local economy be acknowledged.**

**(2) the ongoing development of the State of the Borough website be supported and an annual report on key indicators, themes, and the progress being made to improve health in Wirral be received.**

39 **DEMENTIA CARE AND PREVENTION**

The Director of Care and Health introduced the report which described the work undertaken to produce the joint Wirral Dementia Strategy 2022-2025.

The Strategy aimed to bring greater alignment of services and more creative responses to people's needs and focussed on increased awareness, early diagnosis and an improved quality of care.

There were several pillars which supported the strategy which were preventing well, diagnosing well, supporting well, living well and planning well.

The report highlighted the work of dementia champions and the community, voluntary and faith sector.

In response to a query on how waiting times for diagnosis could be shortened and how community services could support people and their families, it was outlined that this was a key area the strategy aimed to deal with and that there was a link between primary care and specialist services and the ongoing partnership work required to continue to improve and develop both the waiting times for diagnosis and the post diagnosis support.

Members noted that there was a lack of detail in terms of measurables in the strategy and queried whether it could be enhanced to show the current position, the aspirational position and how it would be achieved.

On a motion by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, Seconded by Councillor Mary Jordan it was –

**Resolved – That**

- (1) the Wirral Dementia Strategy 2022-2025 be approved.
- (2) the work undertaken across the Wirral system to establish Wirral as a place where people who are living with, or affected by, Dementia can truly 'live well' be noted.
- (3) the Wirral Dementia Strategy 2022-2025 be referred to the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board.

40 **REABLEMENT REVIEW**

The Head of Community Care Market Commission introduced the report of the Director of Care and Health which provided the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee with the outcome of a review of reablement provision in Wirral. It was reported that there had been a drop in activity of service provision over the past two years and the Council had an opportunity to transfer, recruit and train an experienced workforce to improve the reablement offer for Wirral residents. The current contract for direct provision was due to be under review in 2023 and officers were keen to specify the contract to align it with a new service offer.

The Director of Care and Health emphasised the importance of these services to get residents back on their feet and as independent as possible and stated that if the Council could drive the training and development of staff, better support would be able to be provided to those who needed it.

Members highlighted concern over recruitment and whether the Council intended to recruit staff who were already fully trained or those who wanted to be trained and it was reported that there would be a blended approach which would take into account the potential transfer of staff into the new service offer, the Healthy Wirral Workforce Academy and recruiting new and experienced staff.

### **Resolved – That**

- (1)** the content of the report and the options described at section 2 be considered, and the recommended Option 1 - To establish an in-house reablement service delivered by the Council be approved in principle.
- (2)** the Director of Care and Health be requested to progress with engagement, service design and financial modelling for an in-house service, and a further report be brought to a future committee detailing the proposed service arrangements.

### **41 SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING MODEL**

The Head of Community Care Market Commission introduced the report of the Director of Care and Health provided an update for Members on the work undertaken to develop a new model for Supported Independent Living in Wirral for Adults with Learning Disabilities, Autism and Mental Health needs. It was reported that colleagues across the Liverpool City Region had been working on developing a spectrum of accommodation which ranged from renting or owning homes to living in supported or specialist accommodation which looked to enable people to have their own front door and facilities.

A framework of providers had been established with 71 providers on that framework which meant that there was a broader range available for people to choose from when there was a complex case and this enabled officers to undertake effective future planning also. A care and accommodation panel had been established which looked to place people in existing accommodation and also identified unmet need where there is a requirement for more bespoke arrangements.

There were alternative services for young people in transition and officers were looking at accommodation with skills development to enable people to move on to employment.

In response to a query about engagement with the community and self-advocacy groups it was reported that the Council wanted to co-produce the schemes and had worked with a wide range of parents, carers and groups with some bespoke and some generic engagement and that part of the work of the Liverpool City Region group was to widen the co-production element and ensure peoples voices were heard.

**Resolved – That the approach to developing the Supported Independent Living offer to people in Wirral with a learning disability, autism or mental health need be approved.**

#### 42 **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH 2022/23 Q1 BUDGET MONITORING**

The Director of Care and Health introduced the report which set out the financial monitoring information for the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee as at Quarter 1 (1 Apr – 30 Jun) 2022/23 and provided Members with an overview of budget performance for this area of activity, including progress on the delivery of the 2022/23 saving programme and a summary of reserves to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

The pressures around hospital discharge and placement were reported as significant and the Q1 report didn't show one of the key problems within the financial year which had been the withdrawal of the hospital discharge fund nationally which had been a key factor in enabling people to get out of hospital and be supported locally.

The forecast assumed full achievement of £3.9M of savings.

#### **Resolved – That**

- (1) the projected adverse revenue position at Quarter 1 be noted.
- (2) the progress on delivery of the 2022/23 savings programme at Quarter 1 be noted.
- (3) the reserves allocated to the Committee for future one-off commitments be noted.
- (4) the forecast level of reserves at Quarter 1 be noted.
- (5) the current activity profiles from 2018 to Quarter 1 of 2022/23 be noted.
- (6) the forecast capital position presented at Quarter 1 be noted.

43 **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Head of Legal Services introduced the report which provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and review its work across the municipal year.

Members requested an update on the transfer of Wirral Evolutions to an in house Council service, the Director of Care and Health provided an update which outlined that staff have successfully moved across and he had met with the day services staff and discussed how they felt about the changes and areas for improvement and that there was a two way conversation happening.

In response to a query regarding the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Community Mental Health Transformation task and finish group it was reported that a meeting would be scheduled as soon as possible.

**Resolved – That the proposed Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year be noted.**

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## PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 12 January 2023

Present:

Councillor S Kelly (Chair)

Councillors	S Foulkes	B Kenny
	T Elzeiny	J McManus
	H Gorman	P Stuart
	M Jordan	A Wright

Deputies:

Councillors A Gardner  
D Kenny  
S Powell-Wilde

108 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed Members of the Planning Committee, Officers and members of the public to the meeting.

109 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from:  
Councillor Paul Martin  
Councillor Kathy Hodson  
Councillor George Davies

110 **MINUTES**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted the minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2022 for approval.

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2022 be approved.**

111 **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 Powell-Wilde declared an interest in agenda item 5 in that she had been involved in discussions regarding the application with representatives of the applicant. Having regard to the risk of bias and pre-determination she indicated that she would leave the chamber during the discussion of the matter.

Councillor Wright declared an interest in agenda item 5 in that she had formed a pre-determined view on the merits of the matter. Having regard to the risk of bias and pre-determination she indicated that she would leave the chamber during the discussion of the matter.

- 112 **LDP/22/01313; 52 PENKETT ROAD, LISCARD, WALLASEY, WIRRAL, CH45 7QW, PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE FROM 7 BED RESIDENTIAL DWELLING TO AN OFSTED REGISTERED RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S HOME, PROVIDING ACCOMMODATION FOR UP TO FOUR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 10-18.**

Councillor Powell-Wilde and Councillor Wright left the Chamber during the discussion of the following item.

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

The Lead Petitioner, Gary Vinson, addressed the Committee.

Representatives of the Applicant, Jaci Quennell and Paul Simon addressed the Committee.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Andrew Gardner it was –

**Resolved (9:0:1 abstention) – that the application be approved.**

## AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 17 January 2023

Present: Councillor S Mountney (Chair)  
Councillors S Kelly S Powell-Wilde  
Jason Walsh P Martin  
T Cox

### 35 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair opened the meeting and reminded everyone that the meeting was being webcast and a copy was retained on the Council's website.

### 36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Angela Davies.

### 37 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.  
There were no declarations of interests.

### 38 MINUTES

Members noted that for the matter brought up in Minute 25 at the last meeting, the Hoylake town hall development known as the Beacon Project and the value for money of the funds for it, the Director of Resources had written to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to request an update and had not received a reply. The Chair informed Members that he would write on behalf of the Committee.

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2022, be approved.**

### 39 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

No questions or statements had been received.

### 40 INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE REPORT

The Chief Internal Auditor presented his report which identified and evaluated the performance of the Internal Audit Service and included details of any issues arising from the actual work undertaken during the period 1 October to

31 December 2022. The Internal Audit Charter and Strategy were included for endorsement.

Members queried detail in the report to satisfy themselves that sufficient capacity and controls were in place to investigate and reduce errors.

**Resolved: That the report be noted and the Internal Audit Charter and Strategy be endorsed.**

#### 41 **CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

The Risk, Continuity and Compliance Manager introduced the report of the Director of Finance which provided an update on the Council's risk management arrangements for the Corporate and Directorate Risk Registers including the latest version of the Corporate Risk Registers and the first Policy and Service Committee risk workshops.

Members requested more detail on matters such as hospital pressures and relations with partner organisations to ensure robustness against risks.

**Resolved: That the report be noted.**

#### 42 **HYBRID WORKING**

The Assistant Director for Human Resources and Organisational Development presented the report of the Director of Resources which set out the Council's approach to the adoption of hybrid working and gave an update on the steps taken to implement this way of working across services. Hybrid working had become standard practice for about 1,800 of the Council's 3,500 staff since the Covid-19 pandemic and was generally welcomed without any reported loss in productivity or any increase in sickness levels. It had not been imposed and principles of working had developed.

Members queried the details of the arrangements including cost benefits and contact methods.

**Resolved: That how the Council has adopted hybrid working, the principles and support that are in place to provide a framework to support the effective operation and management of hybrid working be noted.**

#### 43 **MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION**

The Senior Finance Manager for Major Projects and Corporate Activity presented the report of the Director of Finance which provided an update on the calculation of the annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), made in relation to the financing of past and current capital expenditure. Audit and

Risk Management Committee requested in July 2022 that a report be brought in regard of MRP to a future meeting of the Committee. This was in response to Grant Thornton's, the Council's external auditors, External Audit Annual Report 2020-21. The terminology was explained as well as the main calculations and potential alternative approaches. It was noted that an MRP policy was approved annually by full Council.

**Resolved: That the report be noted.**

44 **ANNUAL UPDATE ON USE OF SURVEILLANCE POWERS UNDER THE REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA)**

The Principle Lawyer for Litigation and Governance presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided an annual update on issues relevant to certain types of surveillance activity which the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 enabled local authorities to carry out. In 2022 there were 28 uses of the powers and 6 breaches uncovered.

**Resolved: That the use made by the Council of covert surveillance since 1 January 2022 be noted.**

45 **PLANNING SYSTEM UPDATE**

The Head of ICT and Digital presented the report of the Director of Resources which updated the Committee on the implementation of the public portal for planning, building control and the regulatory services. The element for Land Charges was still to be released. It was noted that the issues over functionality which had prompted comments had largely been resolved.

**Resolved: That the report be noted.**

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

**Resolved – That in accordance with section 100A (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 the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The public interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.**

47 **EXEMPT APPENDIX - PLANNING SYSTEM UPDATE**

**Resolved: That the exempt appendix be noted.**

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## CHARITABLE TRUSTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 18 January 2023

Present:

Councillors	C Davies	A Hodson
	J Hoey	C Cooke
	L Fraser	

1 **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Jonathan Barnett, Solicitor welcomed Members of the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee to the meeting and sought nominations for the role of Chair of the Sub-Committee Committee for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

It was moved by Councillor A Hodson, seconded by Councillor L Fraser that Councillor Andrew Hodson be appointed Chair.

No other nominations were received.

**Resolved – That Councillor Andrew Hodson be appointed Chair of the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.**

2 **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

The Chair invited nominations for the role of Vice Chair of the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

It was moved by Councillor C Davies, seconded by Councillor J Hoey that Councillor Chris Davies be appointed Vice Chair.

No other nominations were received.

**Resolved – That Councillor Chris Davies be appointed Deputy Chair of the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.**

3 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the webcast.

4 **APOLOGIES**

The Chair confirmed that no apologies had been received.

## **5 MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members of the Sub-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 J Hoey declared a personal interest by virtue of having been involved in shutting down another charity.

## **6 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received from any Members or from members of the public. No statements or petitions had been received.

## **7 WIRRAL MAYOR'S CHARITY - STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021-22**

The Director of Finance submitted a report outlining the Statement of Accounts of the Mayor's Charity for the year ended 14 May 2022 for approval. It was reported that this included an amount of £11,279 that had been carried forward which had subsequently been donated to various charities in 2022/23. The Internal Audit report into the Mayor's Charity Account was attached at Appendix 2 of the report for Members' consideration.

The Senior Finance Business Partner outlined the report and confirmed that the Mayor's Charity has a financial year end of 14 May 2022. It was highlighted that £2,300 (£13,650 in 2020/21) had been brought forward from 2020/2021 which was a significant reduction from the previous year resulting from reduced activity due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Members were advised that a total of £15,505 had been raised from the Mayor's Lottery and that payments to winners had meant only £505 had been added to the monies available for donation to local charities. The Mayor's Ball had raised £8,610. It was reported that this resulted in a total of £11,279 to be carried forward to 2022/23. It was further reported that it was a consideration for the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee as to whether the accounts be approved.

The Audit Manager confirmed that the Trust Deed had now been updated and lodged with the Charity Commission. Members were advised that actions had been taken from the previous year in order to strengthen the charity's internal financial controls which included all expenses for invoices are now paid by cheque from the charity account and for in person cash collection at events the number of tickets sold is recorded and cash tallied and signed off at the end of the event. Also during this year, other initiatives had been progressed such as the move to increase participation in the Lottery via a Just Giving page.



In response to questions from Members in respect of ways to generate more income, it was suggested that increases to prices of tickets for the Mayor's Lottery could be made and the amount available to win be decreased or to limit the prize to a first prize only.

On a motion by Councillor C Davies and seconded by Councillor J Hoey it was -

**Resolved –**

- (1) That the Statement of Accounts and the Internal Report be noted.**
- (2) That the Statement of Accounts be approved.**

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## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 18 January 2023

Present: Councillor J Williamson (Chair)

Councillors T Anderson H Cameron  
P Gilchrist L Rennie  
P Cleary B Kenny (In place  
T Jones of EA Grey)  
Y Nolan J Bird  
J Robinson M Booth  
P Stuart K Hodson  
J Johnson

In attendance: Councillors C Davies

78 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting as well as those watching the webcast.

79 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received by Councillor Liz Grey.

80 **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 declarations were made.

81 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2022 be approved as a correct record.**

82 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

The Chair reported that there were no public questions, statements, petitions or questions by members.

83 **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE PANEL**

The Chief Executive introduced the item which presented the second update report of Wirral's Independent Assurance Panel. The Chair invited Carolyn Downs, the Chair of the Independent Assurance Panel to introduce her report. Carolyn Downs outlined that the Panel was reassured by the Council's governance and Member Learning and Development programme, as well as the recent recruitment of the Director of Finance, Director of Law and Governance and Director of Regeneration and Place which the Panel had supported.

It was reported that the key area of concern for the Panel was the delivery of the 2023/24 budget. Carolyn acknowledged the difficulty in agreeing such large scale savings in a Council operating in a committee system of governance with no overall political control, in a year of whole Council elections, and noted that Councils nationally were having to make considerable savings. However, the risks associated with the Council's budget position were outlined to the Committee, these included:

- The significant use of reserves leaving a level of reserves below the Council's target, and the need to start work on increasing reserves immediately in the next municipal year.
- The removal of vacancy factors as part of the budget setting process which gave less flexibility to support in-year delivery of savings, which would require close monitoring and discipline.
- £4.4m of the proposed savings relating to the entire closure of non-statutory Leisure Services, which would be a difficult political decision and therefore likely reduced the level of flexibility in the overall savings options members could consider.

The Committee was advised that the Panel were assured to see work ongoing cross-party to deliver a balanced budget and that once a budget had been agreed, the Panel did not plan to meet formally again until following the May 2023 elections.

In response to queries from members on the use of reserves and how to manage the delivery of savings in 2023/24, Carolyn outlined that she expected monthly monitoring of the revenue position by the Council's Senior Leadership Team in consultation with the Relevant Chair and Spokes, with formal reports to Committees on a quarterly basis, and that work should start on addressing the level of reserves as early as possible following the May 2023 elections.

The Chair expressed her thanks to Carolyn Downs and the rest of the Panel for their support and guidance and acknowledged the concerns raised.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

84 **COUNCIL TAX 2023/24 (TAX BASE, DISCOUNTS AND EXEMPTIONS AND LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME)**

The Head of Revenues & Benefits introduced the report of the Director of Finance, which brought together related issues regarding the proposed Council Tax Base for 2023/24 upon which the annual Council Tax levels would be set. The proposed Council Tax Discounts included Local Discounts, Exemptions, and the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme which would be used during 2023/24.

It was reported that the recommended figure for 2023/24 was 95,585.07. Compared to the 2022/23 figure of 95,172.39, this was an increase of 412.67. The Council Tax Base had increased due to an increase in the number of properties, projected number of new builds and a reduction in the number of residents claiming a Council Tax Reduction. The numbers claiming support had continued to reduce over the past year.

Members discussed the merits of increased levels of Council Tax on empty properties and welcomed the continuation of local discounts for Women & Children's Aid and Care Leavers.

**Resolved – That**

**(1) the figure of 95,585.07 as the Council Tax Base for 2023/24 be approved at an increase of 412.67 (0.43%) on last year's Council Tax Base.**

**(2) Council be recommended to approve:**

**(1) The level and award of each local discount for 2023/24 be as follows:**

-

**Wirral Women's & Children's Aid**

**To continue to award Wirral Women & Children's Aid 100% discount. This remains unchanged from 2022/23.**

**Care Leaver's Discount**

**To award Care Leavers the requisite discount to reduce their Council Tax liability to zero until they are 25. This to remain unchanged from 2022/23.**

**Empty Property Discounts 2023/24**

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

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

**Both to remain unchanged from 2022/23, and to include an exception for properties requiring adaptations to meet the need of a disabled person who will be occupying the property as soon as the adaptations are complete and in addition awaiting renovations prior to being occupied by someone under Ukraine resettlement scheme.**

**Empty Property Premium =**

**100% (200% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty for more than two years.**

**200% (300% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty more than five years.**

**300% (400% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty more than ten years.**

**All remain unchanged from 2022/23, save for an exception from 1 April 2023 for properties that have restrictions placed upon them restricting the sale to a particular group (usually leasehold properties for the elderly which attract high service charges). An exception to be introduced to the Premium from 1 April 2023.**

### **Council Tax Discretionary Hardship Relief Scheme**

**The Council Tax Discretionary Hardship Relief Scheme, approved by Cabinet in October 2013, to continue in its current format for 2023/24. The Scheme offers help and assistance in exceptional cases of hardship.**

### **(2) Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS)**

**The current Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme to remain unchanged from 2022/23 apart from the following :**

- a. The scheme to be aligned to all the Department of Work and Pensions uprating's and changes for Housing Benefit and Universal Credit**
- b. There to be no loss of entitlement due to payments made under Homes for Ukraine Scheme (£350)**
- c. In response to the government announcement (Council Tax Support Fund) of the 23 December, an additional reduction of at least £25 where a liability in excess of this exists, for all recipients of Council Tax Support for 2023/24 at the time of annual billing.**
- d. Delegated authority be given to the Head of Revenues & Benefits in consultation with the Director of Finance and Leader of the Council to**

**create a discretionary scheme based upon government guidance to utilise any remaining funding provided under the Council Tax Support Fund for 2023/24**

### **(3) Changes to Empty Property Discounts 2024/25**

**To reduce the Empty Property Premium from 2024/25 to properties that have been empty for more than one year (Currently Two). So that the following apply:-**

**100% (200% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty for more than one year.**

**200% (300% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty more than five years.**

**300% (400% Council Tax) for unfurnished properties empty more than ten years.**

### **(4) Changes to the treatment of second homes (dwellings that are furnished but are not someone's sole or main residence)**

**From April 2024 the council to charge 100% (200% Council Tax) for any person with a second home within Wirral. Double the amount of council tax of a property occupied as someone's sole or main residence.**

## **85 2023/24 BUDGET UPDATE**

The Director of Finance introduced the report, which provided an update on the 2023/24 budget position following the forecast position presented at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 5 October 2022 and at the subsequent Policy & Resources Committee budget workshop on 24 November 2022. Budget options were set out in this report, which had been developed in response to the previously outlined budget gap.

The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was published on 19 December 2022 and the information provided in the report outlined the government's announcements on that day and afterwards. The Provisional Finance Settlement would become final at a date set by Government in late January or early February 2023.

The Settlement provided a level of additional resources to the Council and in addition the prospect of increasing Council Tax and the Adult Social care Precept by 4.99% for 2023/24; this was significantly below the headline rate of inflation in the UK economy at the present time. However, the additional resources which amounted to £6.3m were insufficient to bridge the Council's budget shortfall which had been confirmed in the sum of £49m (gross) and £32.3m (net) following the completion of internal review and the impact of the

Provisional Settlement but excluding the higher level of Council Tax increase that was now possible.

Further information was sought on the overall budget pressures the Council faced including the reported additional £7m of pressures. Additional comments were made in relation to the Business Rates 100% Retention Pilot and the level of funding spent on Corporate Services. Members noted that the overall budget was due to increase by 10% to £363m and it was queried whether further options would be presented to members. In response, the Chief Executive outlined that officers had worked to satisfy the Independent Assurance Panel by producing a balanced budget for members to consider, and that whilst members were free to propose alternative saving options, the statutory budget consultation would be undertaken based on the options currently presented.

It was moved by Councillor Pat Cleary, seconded by Councillor Jo Bird, that the officer recommendations be agreed, with the inclusion of an additional resolution –

‘The composition of the Policy & Resources budget working group should be Leaders and Deputy Leaders of each of the Political Groups represented on the Policy & Resources Committee, or in their absence their deputies, as appointed by their Group Leader.’

Following a discussion in which Councillor Cleary spoke to the additional resolution, the motion was put and agreed (unanimously). It was therefore –

**Resolved (unanimously) – That**

- 1. the outcome of the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement for 2023/24 be noted, in advance of the Final Settlement which is expected in late January/early February 2023.**
- 2. the extent of the Council’s financial challenge and the need to make significant financial savings in order to maintain the Council as an ongoing concern be recognised, to avoid the issuance of a Section 114 notice and the potential ministerial intervention under Section 15 of the Local Government Act 1999 which would be likely to ensue.**
- 3. the savings, efficiencies and income proposals that are available to address the 2023/24 budget gap be noted.**
- 4. the latest position on consultation be noted and agreement be given to consult on the budget proposals for 2023/24, under section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.**



5. it be noted that the Section 151 Officer may need to make further adjustments to the forecast budget shortfall pending final decisions by Members in the period ahead.
6. The composition of the Policy & Resources budget working group should be Leaders and Deputy Leaders of each of the Political Groups represented on the Policy & Resources Committee, or in their absence their deputies, as appointed by their Group Leader.

86 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Director of Law and Governance introduced the report which provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

It was noted that following its consideration earlier in the meeting, the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy would need to be removed from the work programme.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, it was –

**Resolved – That the work programme, with the removal of the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy item, be noted.**

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## CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 24 January 2023

Present:

Councillor K Hodson (Chair)

Councillors	H Collinson	S Powell-Wilde
	C Cooke	V Wilson
	C Carubia	A Wright
	C Povall	Jackson
	S Bennett	H Gorman (In place of E Gleaves)
	D Kenny	

50 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting as well as those watching the webcast.

51 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2022 be approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Paul Stuart in the attendance as a deputy for Councillor Sue Powell-Wilde.**

52 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Emily Gleaves.

53 **MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

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

Councillor Helen Collinson declared a personal interest as a trustee of Wirral Development Trust which was connected to Leasowe Adventure Playground.

54 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Chair reported that two public questions had been submitted, and in the absence of their attendance the Chair would read out the question.

The first question was from Bobby Jones, outlining the importance of the Little Centre Beechwood and Gautby Road Play Centres to the local community and asking whether they would cutting their budget. The Chair outlined the reluctance to decrease the number of services provided to children but

explained the significant budgetary pressures the Council faced and the challenge to legally set a balanced budget. She advised that no decision had yet been made and that any decision would take account of the feedback from the public consultation Youth Services.

The Chair read out the second question from Nicky Ryan, which asked whether the community agreed how much of a good impact the play schemes had on Wirral children. The Chair outlined that the consultation response demonstrated the importance of play schemes to local communities, but further detailed the Council's budget position and that all savings would need to be considered to decide what could be delivered in the next financial year.

## 55 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS**

The Chair reported that four requests had been received to make a statement.

Paul Townley and Jess Thompson made a joint statement in relation to item 7 'Budget Workshop Outcomes', providing the history of the Leasowe Adventure Playground and detailing the activities that take place there. Jess spoke to the Committee as a young person who uses the play centre and outlined the events that she attended and how important it was to her, and urged the Committee to consider its importance to local young people.

Councillor Liz Grey made a statement in relation to item 7 'Budget Workshop Outcomes' and urged the Committee to speak out against cuts to Wirral play schemes, which offered support to families in the most deprived areas, helped the Council meet its Wirral Plan objectives, reduced anti-social behaviour, supported child development and education through play and would be a false economy if savings were made.

Councillor Brian Kenny made a statement in relation to item 7 'Budget Workshop Outcomes' and urged the Committee not consider savings in play schemes in Bidston and St James ward as one of the most deprived wards in the country, and detailed the benefits of play to children's cognitive, physical, social and emotional development. Councillor Kenny read out statements from local young people and urged the Committee to listen to the local young people.

Councillor Julie McManus made a statement in relation to item 7 'Budget Workshop Outcomes' and detailed the work that local play schemes undertook during school holidays, with over 100 hot meals provided each day during school holidays. Councillor McManus read out a statement on behalf of a local young person which detailed how they valued the local play scheme.

The Chair read out a statement on behalf of Councillor Ian Lewis, which questioned the reality of the potential savings of closing play schemes as corporate costs were apportioned across council services and the identified

saving amount took no account of the revenue raised through attendance or fund raising, and that the centres were in areas prone to anti-social behaviour which would be exacerbated by any closures.

56 **MEMBER'S QUESTIONS**

The Chair reported that no questions had been received from Members.

**With the consent of the Committee, the Chair altered the order of business**

57 **BUDGET WORKSHOP OUTCOMES**

The Director of Children, Families and Education introduced the report which enabled the Committee to consider feedback and outcomes from the Budget Workshops which had been held in recent months to facilitate discussion on the proposed budget options. The report also provided an update on the 2023/24 budget setting process with details on the most recent budget options, which were developed in response to the previously outlined budget position.

Members acknowledged the level of public support for play schemes and thanked those residents who had spoken at the beginning of the meeting. The Committee debated the Council's overall budgetary position and the level of funding required to operate the schemes. The Chair outlined concerns around discrepancies between users and the Council for the running costs of the schemes and their attendance levels.

On a motion by Councillor Kathy Hodson, seconded by Councillor Vida Wilson, it was –

**Resolved (unanimously) – That**

- (1) The Committee would oppose any attempts to close these play centres until adequate evidence on which to base a decision on the level of quality and provision has been provided.**
- (2) The Committee be invited to meet with the play schemes to learn more about their work, the issues they have faced, their relationship with the department and their communities.**
- (3) the Budget Workshop feedback and outcomes, as detailed appendices 2 and 3, be reported to Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.**
- (4) the latest budget information provided to Policy and Resources Committee in January 2023 be noted.**

58 **The meeting was adjourned at 18:47pm and resumed at 18:55pm  
ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY  
CONTROLLED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND THE CO-  
ORDINATED ADMISSION SCHEMES FOR 2024-25**

The Head of School Admissions introduced the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education which set out the proposed Council's admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools and the co-ordinated schemes for 2024-2025. The report also provided for approval the Wirral Fair Access Protocol which had been amended to reflect feedback from Wirral schools and the 2021 Fair Access Guidance.

The Committee was advised that there had been no significant changes to the admission arrangements in the body of the schemes, and that the only changes were that Christ Church CE Primary School in Birkenhead had consulted on a reduction in its Published Admission Number (PAN) from 37 to 30 from 2024/2025, and St Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School in Wallasey had consulted on a reduction in PAN from 45 to 30 from 2024/2025. Further detail was given on the changes to the Fair Access Protocol including elective home education, reasonable travelling distance to school and termly sharing of the Fair Access Grid.

In response to a number of queries from members, it was outlined that the Fair Access Panel was made up of three headteachers with a minimum of two in attendance for quoracy with further representation from admissions, the inclusion team, 14-19 services, special educational needs and disability services and the attendance team, and that the outcomes were reported to the schools adjudicator with parents retaining the right to appeal for a school place.

**Resolved – That**

**(1) The admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and the Wirral co-ordinated scheme for 2024/2025 be approved.**

**(2) The revised Wirral Fair Access Protocol be approved.**

59 **SUMMARY OF STANDARDS (UPDATED) – PROVISIONAL OUTCOMES  
FOR KEY STAGE 4**

The Assistant Director for Education introduced the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education which provided an update on the provisional pupil outcomes for Key Stage 4 children and gave a first indication of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the education of young people in Wirral. It was reported that the locality figures were based on the location of the child,

not the school they attended, and that only children that were both resident and educated within Wirral were captured in the data.

The Committee was advised of the Attainment 8 and Progress 8 figures, with Wirral scoring 48.7 in Attainment 8 which was in line with the national average. The Progress 8 figures were broken down within localities and by selective and non-selective schools. The Committee discussed the figures in detailing noting reductions in Progress 8 in certain areas, and were advised that comparisons to 2019 had to be considered in the context of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Members requested further information regarding comparisons with statistical neighbours.

### **Resolved – That**

**(1) the report be noted.**

**(2) the Service’s planned refresh of the school improvement strategy based on the outcomes outlined be supported.**

## **60 SOCIAL CARE WORKFORCE STRATEGY 2022-2025**

The Assistant Director for Children and Families introduced the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education which presented an update on the Children’s Social Care Workforce Strategy 2022-25. The strategy set out the Council’s plans developing and supporting the social care workforce over the next three years. It outlined five priorities to attract, retain and support the development of a stable, talented, and committed workforce which has the skills, knowledge and motivation to improve children’s lives. These were:

- Priority 1: ‘Growing our own’ through recruitment and development
- Priority 2: Support Continuous Professional Development to deliver a motivated and skilled workforce, with an emphasis on supporting staff retention
- Priority 3: Develop high performing social work managers that support a performance management framework that reflects ‘high support high challenge’
- Priority 4: Develop new and revised ways of working building on existing strengths to support children, young people and their families
- Priority 5: Communication and change management

Further updates were provided to the Committee with recruitment agencies having supported the recruitment of 7 social workers under a payment by results commitment, with 3 social workers having successfully completed year 1 of the degree apprenticeship and a 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort launching in January 2023. It was further reported that £250,000 had been received from the Department for Education Innovation Programme to look at developing a not-for-profit

recruitment agency, with the Director of Children, Families and Education leading on that project for the North West.

Members sought further information on a range of issues detailed within the report including the development of a Community Interest Company for recruiting where it was reported that different models had been tried nationally and faced issues with competition from other agencies. The recruitment and retention of social workers was discussed at length and it was queried whether the priorities in the strategy had yet been embedded with the workforce and whether officers thought it would improve retention. In response, members were advised that it was hoped that the new and existing initiatives would improve retention, but highlighted the challenges Wirral faced including neighbouring authorities rated as inadequate and using financial solutions to attract care workers.

**Resolved – That the progress made to date on implementing the Social Care Workforce Strategy 2022-2025 be endorsed.**

61 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Head of Legal Services introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and review its work across the municipal year.

**Resolved – That the work programme be noted.**

62 **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 paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.**

63 **BUDGET WORKSHOP APPENDICES**

**Resolved – That the appendices be noted.**



## **ECONOMY REGENERATION & HOUSING COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 26 January 2023

42 **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 for two years.

43 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ian Lewis

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

Councillor Jean Robinson disclosed a personal interest in respect to her position on Wirral Growth Company in respect of agenda item 48 Budget Setting 23/24. She indicated that she would remain in the chamber during the discussion and voting of the agenda item

45 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2022 be approved as a correct record**

46 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

No questions, statements or petitions from the public or Councillors had been received.

47 **UTILISATION OF PROCURE PARTNERSHIPS FRAMEWORK**

The Head of Regeneration Delivery presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place.

This report sought members' approval to authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place to utilise the Procure Partnerships Framework to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced main contractor to develop the design and carry out the construction works in relation to two major schemes.

These were the highways, public realm and active travel schemes across the Birkenhead Waterfront Programme and in Birkenhead Town Centre via the Conway Street / Europa Boulevard and Grange Road / Charing Cross / Grange Road West Movement Projects.

The project's aim was to create an environment that is safe and attractive for both pedestrians and cyclists in order to support modal shift and address the environment and climate emergency. These infrastructure improvements would be a critical pump priming element to the ongoing regeneration plans for Birkenhead and contribute significantly to creating a platform for further investment.

Members queried the Procure Partnerships scoring in regards to social and environmental considerations and if consideration was given to local suppliers. The Head of Regeneration Delivery responded to confirm that there is a standard weighting in the procurement process of 10% in respect of social value waiting as well as consideration of environmental credentials. Members were also informed that the Council put emphasis on 'meet the supplier' days with a focus on employment and educations days. The Head of Regeneration Delivery agreed to circulate to members the relevant criteria.

**Resolved - that Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to**

**(1) commence a procurement exercise by way of a mini tendering process via the Procure Partnerships Framework for the appointment of a main contractor to develop the design and carry out the construction works in relation to the highways, public realm and active travel schemes across the Birkenhead Waterfront Programme and in Birkenhead Town Centre via the Conway Street / Europa Boulevard and Grange Road / Charing Cross / Grange Road West Movement Projects; and**

**(2) appoint of a main contractor under a pre-construction services agreement following completion of a tender submission.**

#### 48 **BUDGET SETTING 2023/24**

The Director of Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee introduced the report which enabled the Committee to consider feedback and outcomes from the Budget Workshops which had been held in recent months to facilitate discussion on the proposed budget options. The report also provided an update on the 2023/24 budget setting process with details on the most recent budget options, which were developed in response to the previously outlined budget position.

Members queried the Merseytravel Levy and asked if any representation was being made by the Council to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

(LCRCA) regarding reduced train services. Officers assured Members that the budget setting process or the Merseytravel Levy was undertaken by the LCRCA and that representation was made by all 5 constituent Local Authorities.

**Resolved – That**

**(1) the Budget Workshop feedback and outcomes, as detailed appendices 2 and 3, be reported to Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.**

**(2) the latest budget information provided to Policy and Resources Committee in January 2023 be noted.**

49 **WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Lead Principal Lawyer introduced the report which reminded members that the Economy, Regeneration and Housing 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 were within the remit of the Committee.

**Resolved - that the content of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year be noted**

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

**Minutes:**

**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 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.**

51 **BUDGET SETTING - WORKSHOP APPENDICES**

**Resolved – That the exempt appendix be noted.**

52 **ACQUISITION OF NATIONAL GRID LAND, NORTHSIDE**

The Head of Regeneration Delivery introduced the report.

**Resolved – That the recommendations as detailed in the report be approved.**

53 **HIND STREET REGENERATION – PROCUREMENT OF GRANT FUNDING  
ENABLEMENT WORKS**

The Head of Regeneration Delivery introduced the report.

**Resolved – That the recommendations as detailed in the report be approved.**

## ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Monday, 30 January 2023

Present: Councillor EA Grey (Chair)

Councillors S Foulkes N Graham  
S Percy O Osanlou  
T Smith I Lewis (In place of  
V Wilson L Fraser)  
H Gorman C Povall (In place of  
A Gardner)  
T Elzeiny (In place  
of T Cox)

Apologies Councillors A Gardner  
L Fraser  
T Cox

### 51 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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

### 52 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrew Gardner, Tony Cox and Leah Fraser who were deputised by Councillors Ian Lewis, Cherry Povall and Tracy Elzeiny.

### 53 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

### 54 MINUTES

Councillor Naomi Graham clarified that in minute 49, the decarbonisation plan was not yet in place but was in the process of being developed.

With this correction it was –

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2022 be approved and adopted as a correct record.**

55 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Chair indicated that 3 questions had been received. The first question was received from Verity Smith, but as they were not in attendance, the Chair reported that a written response would be sent directly to the questioner.

The Chair read out the second question from Derek Holmes which was in relation to why Christmas lights and installation costs in Liscard were funded by the Council when other areas did not receive any funding and responded that the work local communities and traders do across Wirral was appreciated by the Council. The Council sought to support these activities where it can in terms of paying for the electricity for the light and where able, the Council used external funding to support the main retail centres. Liscard Town Centre had regeneration proposals and to support this, the Council made a small on-off contribution from its own regeneration resources towards the cost of putting up lights in Liscard in 2022. Local councillors and traders would continue to work together, and it was hoped that for 2023 the traders in Liscard would be able to raise funds themselves to provide lights.

Julie Hunter submitted a question which was read out by the Chair. The question was about the spread of Spartina and a new vegetation removal programme. The Chair outlined that removal of future vegetation between the beach management areas of Kings Gap and the Lifeboat Station was considered in the development of options and would be considered in the further development of two options as directed by the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee in November 2022. No beach management was considered to the east or west of these boundaries.

56 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS**

The Chair informed the Committee that a petition had been received in relation to a crossing needed on Spital Road. Brenda Ashton presented the petition with over 300 signatures calling for the Council to install a crossing between Spital station and Spital dam.

A second petition had been received in relation to twinning Birkenhead Park with Central Park, New York. The petitioner was not present at the meeting and the Chair agreed to defer this to the March Committee meeting.

57 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

There were no questions by Members.

58 **PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT SCHEME - PHASE 1**

The Assistant Director for Highways and Infrastructure introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which considered objections and comments of support submitted during the statutory consultation period for Phase 1 of the 20mph speed limit implementation project, which consists of 15 zones. The proposed 20mph speed limits applied to areas that were predominantly residential, retail, or educational.

It was anticipated that bringing in more 20mph speed limits on roads in the borough would help perception of improved road safety for all road users. 20 mph speed limits also reduced greenhouse gas emissions contributing to the Council's net zero objectives as part of its Climate Emergency declaration and could help make residential streets more pleasant and attractive places to live. The proposed scheme addressed the priorities of the Liverpool City Region Road Safety Strategy, the Council's Road Safety Working Group, Wirral 2021-26 Plan and climate emergency declaration.

In response to Member's comments about the disappointing number of responses to the consultation, The Assistant Director for Highways and Infrastructure outlined that due to the nature of the scheme and the zones encompassing large residential and business areas, it was agreed with Legal Services colleagues that the most effective consultation would be via publication of press releases, social media alerts, public notices and Wirral Council's engagement tool 'Have Your Say' website, which satisfied the consultation requirements listed under Section 7 of The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

A discussion ensued with Members querying the plan to dispel scepticism about the project and whether Wirral would be able to analyse collision data before and after the implementation of 20mph zones as other local authorities had done previously, it was clarified that Wirral did have access to such data and would be able to demonstrate the impact of the implementation. Furthermore, officers intended to utilise education and engagement initiatives and work with local policing teams for a shared approach to the rollout as well as identifying spokespeople and role models in the communities to be ambassadors of the scheme.

On a motion by Councillor Liz Grey, seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes it was-

**Resolved – That the proposal to introduce 20mph speed limits on all of the roads listed in Appendix B to this report be approved and officers be thanked for their hard work that went into the planning of this and future phases.**

## 59 **BUDGET SETTING 2023/24**

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

Engagement with local residents and businesses had been undertaken as part of the budget setting process. The outcome of this consultation for Street Cleaning and Parks was included at Appendix 4 and 5 and would be presented to Policy and Resources Committee on 15 February 2023, alongside the outcomes of the other service-specific consultations.

Members acknowledged that the budget workshops were an opportunity to speak freely and work beyond political boundaries. The Chair noted that although no options had been rejected or agreed in these workshops, detailed comments were made which would be shared with Policy and Resources Committee.

### **Resolved – That**

- (1) the Budget Workshop feedback and outcomes, as detailed in Appendices 2 & 3, be reported to Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.**
- (2) the latest budget information provided to Policy and Resources Committee in January be noted.**
- (3) the outcome of the public consultation for Street Cleaning and Parks as detailed in Appendix 4 & 5 to the report be noted.**

## 60 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair introduced the report which provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and review its work across the municipal year and requested an update on how Sat Nav companies directed traffic through residential areas and an update on Car Free Day which would be held in September.

**Resolved – That the Environment Climate Emergency and Transport Committee work programme be noted.**

## 61 **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 paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.**

**62 BUDGET SETTING 2023/24 EXEMPT APPENDICES**

**Resolved – That the content of the appendices be noted.**

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## ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 31 January 2023

Present: Councillor Y Nolan (Chair)

Councillors A Davies S Mountney  
C Davies C O'Hagan  
T Elzeiny A Onwuemene  
P Gilchrist J Walsh  
M Jordan

Apologies Councillors I Camphor

### 72 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair opened the meeting and reminded everyone that the meeting was being webcast and a copy is retained on the Council's website for two years

### 73 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillor Ivan Camphor.

### 74 MEMBER 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.

The following declarations were made:

Councillor Mary Jordan	Personal interest by virtue of her employment in the NHS, and her involvement as a trustee for 'Incubabies'.
Councillor Angela Davies	Personal interest by virtue of her employment with Cheshire and Wirral Partnership.
Councillor Tracy Elzeiny	Personal interest by virtue of her employment in the NHS.
Councillor Yvonne Nolan	Personal interest by virtue of her role as a governor of Clatterbridge Cancer Centre and Cheshire and Wirral Partnership.
Councillor	Personal interest by virtue of her

75 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2023 be approved subject to Councillor Angela Davies declaration of a pecuniary interest being changed to a personal interest.**

76 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Debbie Williams of the Wirral Motor Neurone Disease Association asked the committee if Wirral council were fully committed to honouring their commitment to the MND charter signed in 2017. In particular the early referral to social care services and to timely access to equipment and home adaptations

The Chair responded, Wirral Council were fully committed to adhering to the principles of the MND Charter and summarised the services currently in place for those who are in need.

Tony Swarbrick of the Wirral Motor Neurone Disease Association asked a question; Would MND patients continue to be a high priority when referrals were made to Adult Social Services?

The Chair responded; Supporting people with MND and their carers would continue to be a high priority for the Council. Responses to those in need of care would be timely and person centred.

The Chair read a question on behalf of Julie Andrew; Why was the Care Act assessment and the Care Act review documentation so poor for Wirral residents and why do safeguarding investigations need to be forced on people when they did not want to be safeguarded against?

The Chair responded by summarising the requests of The Care Act 2014 legislation. A person's Mental Capacity was an important consideration and where a person has the mental capacity to make a decision, and chooses not to proceed with safeguarding procedures, then this could often be respected.

77 **HEALTH PROTECTION STRATEGY**

The Director of Public Health, and the Assistant Director of Public Health, introduced the report to the committee. The report updated members on the partnership work undertaken to develop a Wirral Health Protection Strategy. The report described how the Wirral Health Protection Board planned to face future challenges using the experience gained throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The report explained the importance of a collaborative approach toward health protection in order to improve health and wellbeing, as well as protecting the local economy and reduce health inequalities. Officers detailed

how the strategy will contribute to the aims of the Forward Plan, particularly promoting Active and Healthy Lives.

Officers explained to members that the next step would be to develop a detailed implementation plan and that progress updates would return to committee. Members queried update of the MMR vaccine and were advised that this is a national issue where responsibility for communication is between the NHS and Local Authorities.

Further questions were asked by Members regarding preparedness for future pandemics and were pleased to see a wide ranging focus within the strategy, such as that on Hepatitis B and C, and HIV. Members also queried the financial aspect of the strategy and whether the grant would be ring fenced. Officers were asked to provide baseline information prior to implementation to be able to compare the effects of the strategy.

Officers responded informing members that that requested information would be detailed within the progress report as well as being monitored by the Youth Protection Board, and that all partners were actively engaged with the strategy.

Members felt that 6-monthly monitoring was more appropriate than annually.

On a motion by Councillor Amanda Onwuemene, seconded by Councillor Jason Walsh, it was

**Resolved – That the Wirral Health Protection Strategy 2023-2027 and Delivery Plan be approved and the Director of Public Health be requested to report back after six months of implementation and six months prior to completion as well as annually to monitor progress.**

## 78 **BUDGET SETTING 2023-24**

The Director of Care and Health introduced the report which summarised the outcomes of the recent budget workshops between Members and senior officers. The report also provided an update on the 2023/2024 budget setting process, including details of recently developed budget options.

Members requested an update on the Public Health grant as soon as it was readily available.

**Resolved – That**

- (1) The Budget Workshop feedback and outcomes, as detailed in Appendices 2 & 3, be agreed and reported to Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.**

**(2) The latest budget information provided to Policy and Resources Committee in January be noted.**

**79 WIRRAL SAFEGUARDING ADULTS PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

The Director of Adults, Health and Strategy Communications, introduced the report. The report updated the committee on the work of the Wirral Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (WSAPB) and advise on the reporting schedules of the boards annual reports.

Members commented on the attendance of care home staff at a previous meeting of the WSAPB and expressed how helpful their insight was.

Members queried if there would be a cost to third sector parties to take up the multiagency training offered by the board, to which officers responded that there would be no charge for training.

**Resolved – That the update report in relation to the work of the Wirral Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board and the reporting schedule for future Annual reports be noted.**

**80 WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Head of Legal Services, introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and review its work across the municipal year.

**Resolved – that the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year be noted.**

**81 EXEMPTION 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 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**

**82 APENDIX 3 - BUDGET WORKSHOP OUTCOME - TRANCHE 2**

**Resolved – That the exempt appendix be noted.**

## REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 1 February 2023

Present:

Councillor A Hodson (Chair)

Councillors	C O'Hagan	M Collins
	S Bennett	L Fraser
	C Davies	S Williams
	J Hoey	C Cooke
	C Jones	D Mitchell
	D Kenny	K Greaney
	M Booth	A Wright (In place of D Burgess- Joyce)

19 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the webcast.

20 **APOLOGIES**

The Chair confirmed that apologies had been received from Councillor D Burgess-Joyce with Councillor A Wright deputising.

21 **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.

22 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

The Chair reported that no questions, statements or petitions had been received from members of the public or from any Members.

23 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2022 be approved.**

24 **MINUTES OF THE REGULATORY PANEL**

**Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Regulatory Panel held on 11 and 25 November 2022 and 2, 9 and 16 December 2022 be approved.**

25 **BOROUGH ELECTION FEES & CHARGES**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report detailing the proposed fees to be paid to the Returning Officer and his staff employed to undertake duties at the local elections held within the Borough.

The Electoral Services Manager reported that the next scheduled local elections would take place on Thursday 4 May 2023 and the local election fees for 2023 were set in in Appendix 1 to the report. The fees and charges had been considered and endorsed by the Returning Officer.

Members were advised that consideration had been given to a range of fees which could be paid to the Returning Officer and that the recommendation put forward had been informed by both national guidance and information gathered from other Merseyside Local Authorities. Annual fees were uprated using the retail price index percentage increase. It was reported that in accordance with the Representation of the People's Act 1983, the cost of a local government election would be met from the local authority budget.

Discussions took place in respect of staff receiving their salary and a fee when undertaking election duties and it was suggested that this be investigated over the next four years.

**Resolved (by assent) – That the fees to be paid to the Returning Officer and his staff employed to undertake duties at the local elections held within the Borough as set out within Appendix 1 to the report be endorsed.**

26 **POLLING PLACES REVIEW**

The Head of Democratic and Member Services submitted a report which set out the findings following a review undertaken in respect of the use of polling station venues in two wards which were currently used as polling places for the purposes of Local Authority, Parliamentary and other elections.

The Electoral Services Manager informed Members that the report provided guidance on selecting polling places and an outline of alternative polling places which had been identified by the Returning Officer. It was reported that local Ward Members had been consulted in respect of options and costs associated with the hire of alternative venues were detailed within Appendix 2 to the report.



It was reported that a review of two venues which had been used as polling places in May 2022 was commissioned by the Returning Officer as a result of the Elections Office being informed that the venues in question would not be available for the delivery of the May 2023 Local Authority Election and that associated costs and Member views were detailed within Appendix 1 to the report.

The Electoral Services Manager referred to the objective criteria that are used when considering the overall suitability of a polling place or polling station.

Members were advised that it was recommended that the polling station for polling district HE be moved from Bromborough Civic Centre to The Village Hall, St Barnabas Church due to the Civic Centre having been closed since March 2020 with no plans to reopen and that the polling station for polling district VF be moved from Wallasey Village Library to St Hilary's Church due to the library having to undergo some building work prior to reopening, the dates for which had not been confirmed.

**Resolved (by assent) –**

- (1) That the report be noted.**
- (2) That the relocation of the two polling places as detailed within the report be agreed in readiness for the May 2023 Local Authority Elections in that the polling station for polling district HE be moved to The Village Hall, St Barnabas Church; and the polling station for polling district VF be moved to St Hilary's Church.**

27 **WIRRAL AWARDS 2022**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report requesting agreement from the Committee that the Wirral Award be conferred on the nominees as recommended by the Wirral Award Working Party held on 12 January 2023. The Wirral Award is intended to confer civic recognition upon individuals or organisations resident or located in Wirral for an outstanding achievement within the previous twelve months, or for distinguished service to the Borough over a period of twenty years or more.

It was reported that once nominations were agreed, certificates would be awarded to the successful nominees at a special ceremony to be held at a suitable venue.

Members considered the recommendations of the Wirral Award Working Party and the nominations which were attached to the report as an exempt appendix.

**Resolved** –

- (1) That the Wirral Award 2022 be conferred upon those recipients recommended by the Wirral Award Working Party.
- (2) That appropriate arrangements be made for the recipients of the Award to be invited to a special ceremony.

28 **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 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest Test had been applied and favoured exclusion.

29 **WIRRAL AWARD 2022 - EXEMPT APPENDIX - RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WIRRAL AWARD WORKING PARTY**

**Resolved** – That the appendix attached to the report containing the nomination forms for the Wirral Award 2022 is exempt under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information. Consideration had been given to the Public Interest Test.

## **TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 2 February 2023

Present: Councillor H Cameron (Chair)

Councillors T Smith J Johnson  
N Graham J Grier  
S Percy A Brame  
I Camphor J Laing  
M Collins P Martin (In place of  
KJ Williams)

51 **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.

52 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Jerry Williams.

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

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

Councillor Naomi Graham declared a non pecuniary interest by virtue of her husbands employment.

54 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2022 be approved and adopted as a correct record.**

55 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Chair indicated that 11 public questions had been received.

Jon White attended the meeting to ask a question on what the KKP Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy says about the community swimming provision in the Borough. The Chair responded that the Strategy was commissioned by Wirral Council's Planning Department and was a publicly available document and offered a paper copy or the link to be sent.

A supplementary question was asked on where children will learn the important life skill of swimming if 3 more swimming pools were lost, it was agreed that a written response would be provided within 10 working days of the meeting.

Jane Langsdale attended the meeting to ask a question about the Wallasey Central Library site and what specific plans the Council had for the future use of the land and building if it ceased to be used for its original purpose. The Chair responded that The Council had not developed any specific plans for the future use of the land and / or building that currently houses Wallasey Central Library in the event that it was ceased to be used as a Library.

A supplementary question on what enquiries had been previously made about the use of the land at Wallasey Central library and the Chair stated that a written response would be provided within 10 working days of the meeting.

Barbara Hardcastle attended the meeting and asked a question on continuing covid restrictions in libraries which had led to activities and groups being unable to be reinstated and opening times being limited. In response, the Chair outlined that whilst restrictions had been lifted regarding social distancing, and the Government had removed legal restrictions, Councils were directed to follow guidance. The guidance meant the Council must provide additional fresh air to our buildings and as a 'Duty of Care' (as building owners) and therefore is obligated to provide adequate fresh air for members of the public/employees, and to provide adequate ventilated spaces that are supported by statutory 'Approved Documents' and the likes of CIBSE etc. It was also prescribed by law in Regulation 6 of the Workplace (Health and Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992.

Whilst the guidance meant ventilation numbers cannot be ignored, the Library Service is working with the Facilities Management section to increase these where possible with investment in CO2 monitors to provide data to enable the numbers to be revisited and in some sites installation of mechanical ventilation to improve this. The implementation of the New Library Model would see the reintroduction of evening opening hours in the 4 Central libraries.

A supplementary question was asked around why there were not already CO2 monitors installed in libraries and the Chair stated that a written response would be provided within 10 working days of the meeting.

Jessica Keeler submitted a question around restrictions in Libraries planning and facilitating activities and events since the pandemic. The Chair indicated that a written response would be provided and minuted. The prepared response was the same as the above question submitted by Barbara Hardcastle.

Philippa Jones submitted a question on whether a feasibility study had been done on the accessibility to Birkenhead Library should it be relocated to Hamilton Square. The Chair indicated that a written response would be provided and minuted. The response was that Members had been advised that in the case of options where co-location of assets has been proposed, these proposals couldn't be regarded as robust at this stage. Fully completed business cases, site surveys, planning conditions and delivery plans would need to be satisfied, and any capital submissions and resource capacity requirements identified.

Ann Doughty submitted a question on capital investment that Birkenhead Library received from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and how the financial risk of proposals to relocate the library were to be mitigated. The Chair indicated that a written response would be provided and minuted. The response was that the Council's Library Senior Management Team is in regular contact with DCMS and has kept the department fully appraised of any changes, and any proposed options for Library services. Any implications of budget proposals where there could be an impact on capital investment programmes would be discussed directly with DCMS.

Ann Edwards attended the meeting and asked a question around biodiversity net gain plans for the land at Brackenwood. The Chair outlined that the full response would be minuted and is as follows: As its function, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG - under the Environment Act 2021) was designed to ensure developers delivered a mandatory minimum of 10% net gain on any development site versus its baseline. If developers had demonstrated the mitigation hierarchy and were unable to satisfy the required net gain on the development site, they were required to provide and/or purchase what are known as BNG units off-site on 'offset' or compensation sites. This then had to be managed in perpetuity (or a minimum of 30 years) and would be outlined in a Biodiversity Gain Plan and secured through a Conservation Covenant (or similar mechanism). This 'plan' would be developed and owned by either the developer if on-site or their own land, private landowners (if providing BNG units for sale), or the Council if on Council owned land. The Council was assessing all Council owned land for its potential to satisfy the forthcoming demand for BNG as offset sites and Brackenwood offered a unique opportunity to provide this on a large multi-functional scale – whilst delivering significant ecological and environmental benefits. It was anticipated that the delivery and long-term maintenance of BNG works would be funded up front through the sale of BNG units. Wirral Council was in a similar position

to all authorities across the Country, responding and reacting as new information on BNG delivery emerges, and DEFRA were due to release further instruction and guidance in the coming months. This would inform Wirral Council's BNG Strategy and long-term approach.

Robin Clarke attended the meeting and asked a question on how the Council could accurately determine the financial pressures set out in the report given that it had not recognised the impact of a 10% national increase in golfing participation rates or the disproportionate transfer rates from members at Hoylake compared to Brackenwood. The Chair responded that the Council had provided all the information it has on the attribution issue in the Freedom of Information response. This matter would need to be considered further if Members instructed Officers to negotiate Heads of Terms for a transfer of this asset. This matter would then be referred to a future meeting of this Committee for decision. This approach is recognized in the submission by Brackenwood Golf Community Limited. In terms of the national increase of 10% in participation rates, there were already a significant number of existing golf courses in Wirral, and to the South of the Borough, which were able to cater for any increased demand due to the capacity that is currently available.

Daniel Keane attended the meeting and asked a question on sports pitch provision in Bebington and ensuring that Biodiversity net loss was not created as a result of such developments. The Chair responded that the Council has undertaken a Playing Pitch Strategy, which is publicly available on its website. This identifies that there are significant shortfalls for all sports, for all pitch types, across all areas of the Borough. There are no other available sites in Bebington of this scale and size for new pitch provision. If the golf course is not transferred there is significant space (115 acres in total) which can be used to provide playing pitches and Biodiversity Net Gain. The Local Plan identifies brownfield sites for housing. These sites need to be supported by new playing pitches to meet the increase in demand. There is already a shortfall in pitches in Wirral so new sites need to be found to support the growth identified in the local plan. This is the best use of the site to fully support the Council's "brownfield first" strategy in the Local Plan.

Lief Prior attended the meeting and asked a question on how the Council proposed to manage fly tipping and maintenance of Brackenwood Park, the course or other existing buildings with no budget allocated should a Community Asset Transfer not proceed. The Chair responded that the Council had existing measures in place to deal with fly-tipping so there would be no additional cost should a CAT not proceed for Brackenwood Golf Course. The course closed on 1 April 2022 and therefore the course did not require maintaining as a golf course and all items required had been removed meaning there were no health and safety requirements.

Brackenwood Park is not part of the CAT transfer, and this area would continue to be maintained by the Council. If the officer recommendation was agreed then a further report would be brought back to Committee in June

2023 outlining the opportunities for pitch provision and Biodiversity Net Gain on the site, how this would be funded, and the timescales involved.

Keith Marsh attended the meeting and asked a question on Brackenwoods Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy and how it supported the Council's Local Plan delivery and brownfield first strategy. The Chair responded that to fully support the Local Plan's "brownfield first strategy" two significant things were required – sites for playing pitch provision and sites to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain. Returning the golf course to its former use would not provide a site for playing pitches, indeed it would remove a very significant site of 115 acres and therefore this would not support the Local Plan. The BNG Strategy was welcomed but this was a high-level strategy which would require more detail and specific measures to fully assess the benefit of this strategy towards the BNG targets required. It was the Officers' view that there were a significant number of golf courses available in Wirral and to the South of the Borough and that they have the capacity to cater for those of all levels and abilities to play the game and that there was sufficient capacity at these courses to meet any increase in demand.

## 56 STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS

The Chair indicated that there were 3 public statements to be heard.

Keith Marsh read a statement which emphasised that the Community Asset Transfer process had been an anxious and exhaustive period for Brackenwood Golf Club and members of the community. The statement noted how since May 2022, Brackenwood Golf Club volunteers had acted as custodians of the land ensuring it had been well maintained. He detailed how Brackenwood had submitted a Biodiversity Net Gain strategy which was complimentary of the brownfield first policy in the Local Plan and in support of greenbelt protection and how Brackenwood's business plans offered affordable golf closer to home, reducing car journeys and carbon footprints as well as providing free access to a sport often seen as expensive to under 16's and affordable access to adults to promote inclusivity rather than exclusivity.

Robin Clarke read a statement which demonstrated the local communities' sentiments at the officer recommendation not to proceed with the Community Asset Transfer of Brackenwood Golf Course and echoed the community and volunteers commitment to the site and Biodiversity Net Gain. The statement detailed the support the members of Brackenwood Golf Club had given to businesses who expressed an interest in the future of the club throughout the Community Asset Transfer process.

In his capacity as a Wirral resident, Councillor Jason Walsh made a statement, supporting the previous statements that Brackenwood was a much loved community space and was important to residents.

57 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

There were no questions by Members.

**At the request of the Chair, the Committee agreed to alter the order of business to hear item 7 first.**

58 **NEW FERRY RANGERS COMMUNITY CLUBHOUSE**

The Assistant Chief Executive introduced the report which outlined the various stages undertaken to secure funding for and subsequently award the tender for New Ferry Rangers Community Clubhouse project. The report related to the refurbishment of Bebington Youth Club in New Ferry for community uses. The main driver for the project was to transfer the under-utilised asset to New Ferry Rangers Football Club (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), allowing them to deliver a fit for purpose, community offer from the site, including a Community Café, Community Gym and 3G Pitch. The Community Clubhouse should be seen as a complimentary element of the wider regeneration of New Ferry.

Members thanked officers for their hard work, noting that residents had previously reported there were not enough facilities for young people and so this project would be appreciated.

**Resolved – That**

- (1) the award of the tender for refurbishment of the Bebington Youth Club and installation of a short sided 3G pitch to Skyline Property Solutions Ltd be noted.**
- (2) the acceptance of the Sport England grant to help fund this project (comprising of £300,000 total capital and £36,875 revenue in development support) be endorsed.**
- (3) the establishment of a long-term lease for the building, transferring responsibility to New Ferry Rangers Charitable Incorporated Organisation be endorsed, said lease will include continuity of Youth Services provision from the site, minimum nine hours per week.**

59 **COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER**

The Assistant Director - Special Projects introduced the report of the Director of Resources which made recommendations in relation to the following Community Asset Transfer (CAT) matters: Former Libraries, Brackenwood Golf Course, Bromborough Civic Centre, and in addition to an Asset Transfer (AT) matter: Former Public Toilets in Moreton



Members thanked officers for their hard work throughout the Community Asset Transfer Process.

Members considered the recommendations individually.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Mike Collins that the Director of Resources be authorised to conclude the transfer of assets of Pensby Library to Pioneer People and Prenton Library to St. Stephens Church on the basis of the terms reported in the exempt appendix 1 to the report. This was agreed by assent.

Members discussed that this was a good use of a community asset being introduced and re-opened to the community.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Jenny Johnson that the Director of Resources be authorised to enter into negotiations on the basis of the re-submitted business plans contained in the exempt Appendix 2 of this report to agree Heads of Terms for the transfer of the former library assets at Wallasey Village to the Wallasey Village Library and Community Centre, Irby to the Friends of Irby Library, and Higher Bebington library to the Co-op Academy Bebington. Once agreed these Heads of Terms are to be reported back to this Committee for a decision or onward recommendation to Policy and Resources Committee. This was agreed by assent.

The Chair noted that the additional 9 weeks that had been added to the timeline had been beneficial for small businesses as creating a business plan could be a daunting task. Members noted the importance of keeping as many libraries open as possible and welcomed this recommendation.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Mike Collins that the Director of Resources be authorised to market the site of the former Hoylake Library for sale or commercial leasing on the basis that it is surplus to the requirements of the Committee. This was agreed by assent.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Tony Smith that the removal of the former Woodchurch Library asset from the CAT process be approved. This was agreed by assent.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Judith Grier that Policy and Resources be recommended to agree that Higher Bebington Library be appropriated by the Council for educational purposes. This was agreed by assent.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Tony Smith that Policy and Resources be recommended to agree that the former Woodchurch Library asset be appropriated by the Council for educational purposes. This was agreed by assent.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Jenny Johnson that Policy and Resources be recommended to agree that the site of the former Hoylake Library be marketed for sale or commercial leasing. This was agreed by assent.

A discussion ensued around officer recommendation 5, where Members agreed that both interested parties for the Bromborough Civic Centre should be invited to bring a business plan.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Jenny Johnson that both interested parties for the Bromborough Civic Centre, Neo and Bromborough Community Group, be invited to bring business plans on the basis of their submitted expression of interest, incorporating their vision for the library element. This was agreed by assent.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Ivan Camphor that the former public toilets in Moreton which had been declared surplus to requirements be transferred to Moreton in Bloom, based on the information in the exempt appendix 7 of the report. This was agreed by assent.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Paul Martin that £52,000 of the surplus revenue amount allocated to Community Asset Transfer be used to meet the holding costs of the former libraries in 2023/24 prior to transfer. This was agreed by assent.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Sue Percy that the remaining revenue balance of £62,417 be retained to support the library element of Bromborough Civic Centre if members decide to transfer this asset at a future point in the financial year 2023/24. This was agreed by assent.

The Assistant Director – Special Projects outlined that in relation to Brackenwood, two business plans had been submitted and there was one that could potentially be taken forward, the considerations around the Council's local plan and brownfield strategy were set out in the report. It was reported that the work done so far on Brackenwood was preliminary due it being part of the CAT process.

A discussion on officer recommendation 1c around Brackenwood Golf Course ensued with Members querying the suitability of the land for sports pitches and the competing priorities of the brownfield first strategy and Biodiversity Net Gain. The Assistant Director - Special Projects clarified that whilst not all of Brackenwood could be used for playing pitches due to the slopes of the land and existing drainage issues, parts of the site were suitable, and the idea was to provide a hub of playing pitches with one centralised changing and servicing facility. Members made it clear that they were not in support of the officer recommendation.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Tony Smith 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 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.**

Following the exempt session, the press and public were invited back into the meeting.

The Chair moved a motion, seconded by Councillor Naomi Graham that the Director of Resources be authorised to start negotiating with Brackenwood Community Golf Club Ltd on the basis of their business plan, to seek to agree Heads of Terms to transfer the course and report back on the outcome of the negotiations and options, which support Local Plan priorities for decision by this committee. This was agreed by assent.

**Resolved - That**

- (1) the Director of Resources be authorised to conclude the transfer of assets of Pensby Library to Pioneer People and Prenton Library to St. Stephens Church on the basis of the terms reported in the exempt appendix 1 to this report.**
- (2) the Director of Resources be authorised to enter into negotiations on the basis of the re-submitted business plans contained in the exempt Appendix 2 of this report to agree Heads of Terms for the transfer of the former library assets at Wallasey Village to the Wallasey Village Library and Community Centre, Irby to the Friends of Irby Library, and Higher Bebington library to the Co-op Academy Bebington. Once agreed these Heads of Terms are to be reported back to this Committee for a decision or onward recommendation to Policy and Resources Committee.**
- (3) the Director of Resources be authorised to market the site of the former Hoylake Library for sale or commercial leasing on the basis that it is surplus to the requirements of the Committee.**
- (4) the removal of the former Woodchurch Library asset from the CAT process be approved.**
- (5) Policy and Resources be recommended to agree that Higher Bebington Library be appropriated by the Council for educational purposes.**

- (6) Policy and Resources be recommended to agree that the former Woodchurch Library asset be appropriated by the Council for educational purposes.**
- (7) Policy and Resources be recommended to agree that the site of the former Hoylake Library be marketed for sale or commercial leasing.**
- (8) both interested parties for the Bromborough Civic Centre, Neo and Bromborough Community Group, be invited to bring business plans on the basis of their submitted expression of interest incorporating their vision for the library element.**
- (9) the former public toilets in Moreton which had been declared surplus to requirements be transferred to Moreton in Bloom, based on the information in the exempt appendix 7 of this report.**
- (10) £52,000 of the surplus revenue amount allocated to Community Asset Transfer be used to meet the holding costs of the former libraries in 2023/24 prior to transfer.**
- (11) the remaining revenue balance of £62,417 be retained to support the library element of Bromborough Civic Centre if members decide to transfer this asset at a future point in the financial year 2023/24.**
- (12) the Director of Resources be authorised to start negotiating with Brackenwood Community Golf Club Ltd on the basis of their business plan, to seek to agree Heads of Terms to transfer the course and report back on the outcome of the negotiations and options, which support Local Plan priorities for decision by this committee.**

## **60 BUDGET SETTING 2023/24**

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

Engagement with local residents and businesses had been undertaken as part of the budget setting process. The outcome of this consultation for Leisure and Library Services was included at Appendices 4 and 5 and would

be presented to Policy and Resources Committee on 15 February 2023, alongside the outcomes of the other service-specific consultations.

The Chair thanked officers for their hard work in delivering the workshops and budget options and expressed that some options had been difficult to consider but acknowledged that officers had to bring a range of proposals to Members.

**Resolved – That**

**(1) the Budget Workshop feedback and outcomes, as detailed in Appendices 2 & 3, be reported to Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.**

**(2) the latest budget information provided to Policy and Resources Committee in January be noted.**

**(3) the outcome of the public consultation for Leisure and Library Services as detailed in Appendices 4 & 5 to the report be noted.**

61 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Consultant Lawyer introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and review its work across the municipal year.

It was requested that reports on trading standards and air pollution be added to the work programme.

In response to a Member query, the Assistant Director Neighbourhoods, Safety & Transport agreed to provide a briefing note and to hold a workshop for the Committee on the Open Golf.

**Resolved – That the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year be noted.**

62 **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 paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.**

63 **BUDGET SETTING 2023/24 EXEMPT APPENDICES**

**Resolved – That the content of the appendices be noted.**

64 **COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER EXEMPT APPENDICES**

**Resolved – That the content of the appendices be noted.**

## STRATEGIC APPLICATIONS SUB COMMITTEE

Thursday, 9 February 2023

Present:

Councillor S Kelly (Chair)

Councillors S Foulkes  
K Hodson  
P Stuart

H Gorman  
B Kenny  
M Jordan

20 **APOLOGIES**

No apologies were received.

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

Members of the Sub 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.

22 **OUT/22/01821; LAND EAST OF RIGBY DRIVE, GREASBY, WIRRAL, RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR UP TO 240 DWELLINGS (USE CLASS C3), INCLUDING 30% AFFORDABLE HOUSING; A 'PARK AND STRIDE' CAR PARK; IMPROVED WALKING AND CYCLING LINKS; A COMMUNITY ORCHARD; A COMMUNITY PARK AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA; WILDLIFE HABITATS AND GREEN CORRIDORS; AND OFF-SITE HIGHWAY, ENVIRONMENTAL, BIODIVERSITY AND ACCESSIBILITY ENHANCEMENTS.**

The Principal Planner presented the report in relation to the above application for consideration.

Mr G Davies, Mr Hodginson, Ms G Jenkinson and Mr P Simpson addressed the Sub Committee on behalf of the petitioners.

Ward Councillors, Councillor D Burgess-Joyce and Councillor T Elzeiny addressed the Sub-Committee.

On a motion by Councillor S Foulkes and seconded by Councillor K Hodson it was -

**Resolved (unanimously) – That the application be refused for the following reasons:**

1. The site lies in an area of Green Belt where the siting of new dwellings is considered to be inappropriate development, which is by definition harmful to the Green Belt. The proposal would be contrary to the core planning principles within the NPPF of protecting the Green Belt, preventing urban sprawl and recognising the intrinsic character of the countryside. There are no very special circumstances that would outweigh the harm and detrimental impact of the proposal upon the openness of the Green Belt and so development is therefore contrary to the provisions of Policies URN1 (General Principles and Urban Regeneration) and GB2 (Guidelines for development in the Green Belt) of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan (Adopted February 2000) and Section 13 of the National Planning Policy Framework

2. The proposed dwellings would represent an imposing and obtrusive urban built form of development and urban encroachment into this attractive undeveloped countryside/ rural landscape location, which would detract from and have a permanent detrimental impact upon the natural rural character and appearance of the site and setting of this particular part of the open countryside and Green Belt. As such the proposal therefore fails to accord with the advice set out in the NPPF on the basis that it fails to conserve and enhance the natural character and appearance of this part of the open countryside and it would adversely affect the intrinsic character and beauty of this part of the countryside contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework, and Policies URN1, LA7 Wirral Unitary Development Plan (Adopted 2000).

3. By reason of its extent and depth beyond existing development, and the proposed indicative layout, the proposed development would have a detrimental impact on the character and appearance of the countryside, and settlement of Greasby. The development would also result in the loss of Grade 2 and 3a 'Best and Most Versatile' agricultural land, with no public benefits present to override the need to protect the land. The proposal is therefore contrary to Section 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Policies AGR1, AG1, AG2 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan (Adopted 2000).

4. Insufficient information has been submitted in support of the application in respect of ecological impact of the proposal. The application fails to demonstrate how it would protect and enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity of the borough, especially those areas designated as of international, national and local importance, due to a lack of information submitted. It has therefore not been demonstrated that there would be no unacceptable harm to any protected species, wildlife diversity and protect ecological sites and as such the development would be contrary to the provisions of the Chapter 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Policies NCO1, NC1, NC3, NC4, NC7 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan (Adopted 2000).



**5. The provision for sustainable and active travel modes have not been satisfactorily supported within the proposals and as a consequence it is considered that the development will become car dominated and vehicles become the primary choice of travel. As such the proposals are in conflict with TRT1, TRT3 and TR11 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan (Adopted 2000) and the National Planning Policy Framework.**

**6. There is the potential for the development to impact a potential heritage asset with potential archaeological interest however, insufficient archaeological evaluation of the development site has been undertaken and submitted in support of the application. It has therefore not been demonstrated that there would be no unacceptable harm to the potential heritage asset, and as such the development would be contrary to the provisions of Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework and CHO1, CH25 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan (Adopted 2000).**

**7. The proposed drainage system does not meet the required minimum standards for sustainable drainage and therefore is contrary to national planning policy and guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework. As such the proposal is in conflict with Section 14 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Policy WA5 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan (Adopted 2000).**

**8. A Section 106 Agreement has not been completed to secure the following facilities/contributions/details, which are considered necessary to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development:**

**Off-site highway improvements;  
Sports facilities/pitch provision;  
Education;  
Affordable housing;  
Open Space and Play provision; and  
Off Site Ecological Contributions**

**This would be contrary to Policy URN2 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan and Paragraphs 55-58 of the National Planning Policy Framework**

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# Public Document Pack

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 9 February 2023

Present:

Councillor S Kelly (Chair)

Councillors

S Foulkes

G Davies

T Elzeiny

H Gorman

K Hodson

M Jordan

B Kenny

P Martin

J McManus

P Stuart

A Wright

113 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed Members of the Planning Committee, Officers and members of the public to the meeting.

114 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

115 **MINUTES**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2023 for approval.

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2023 be approved.**

116 **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 item on the agenda and if so, to declare them and state what they were.

No such declarations were made.

117 **APP/22/00576; 1 BRACKEN DRIVE, NEWTON, CH48 9UR, FIRST FLOOR EXTENSION TO BUNGALOW AND NEW FRONT GARDEN WALL.**

The Principal Planner presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in respect of the above application.

Mr P Nowell, Lead Petitioner addressed the Committee.

Mr A Moran, Applicant addressed the Committee.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor K Hodson it was –

**Resolved (unanimously) – That the application be approved subject to the following conditions:**

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

**2 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 1 April 2022 and listed as follows: 2021-45 02, in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 20 September 2022 and listed as follows: 2021-45 05 Rev B, 2021-45 03 Rev B and in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 20 December 2022 and listed as follows: 2021-45 06 Rev B.**

**3 Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (or any subsequent Order or statutory provision re-enacting or revoking the provisions of that Order), no further first floor windows or dormer windows shall be added to the property unless expressly authorised.**

**4 The rear facing first floor landing window shall not be glazed otherwise than with obscured glass to Pilkington level 3 and fixed shut and permanently retained as such.**

**5 Prior to the first use/occupation of the development/first floor accommodation, a full scheme of works for the reinstatement to standard footway levels of any existing vehicle accesses from the highway that are rendered obsolete by the development shall be submitted and approved in writing by the LPA. The development/first floor accommodation shall not be bought into use/occupied until the approved works have been completed in accordance with the approved scheme.**

118 **ADV/21/02183; CAR PARK SW OF CHERRY TREE SHOPPING CENTRE, 6-8 CHERRY SQUARE, LISCARD, CH44 5XU, APPROVAL IN ERROR OF RETROSPECTIVE ADVERT CONSENT FOR 6 NO. NON-ILLUMINATED POLE MOUNTED AND 2 NO. NON-ILLUMINATED WALL MOUNTED FASCIA SIGNS.**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place which provided an update about the circumstances that led to the approval of advertisement consent for ADV/21/02183 under delegated authority before the Planning Committee could consider the application. The report set out the procedural changes that had been implemented with a view to preventing similar occurrences in the future.

Members discussed the process failure outlined within the report and changes that could be made to the system.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor P Martin it was –

**Resolved (unanimously) – That Committee regrets the process failure outlined in the report, notes the circumstances which led to the issue and endorses the**

changes to internal Council procedure that had been implemented as outlined in paragraph 3.6 of the report.

119 **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE UPDATE- ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1ST JULY 2022 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022, AND 1ST OCTOBER 2022 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2022.**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place which updated Members on the performance of the Development Management Service with regard to its planning enforcement activity for the period of 1st July 2022 to 30th September 2022, and 1st October 2022 to 31st December 2022.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor S Foulkes, it was -

**Resolved – That the report be noted and the performance update be endorsed.**

120 **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE UPDATE - PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place which updated 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.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor K Hodson, it was -

**Resolved – That the report be noted and endorsed.**

121 **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE UPDATE- PLANNING APPEALS**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place which updated 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.

At the request of the Chair, the Development Management Manager agreed to circulate information in respect of the outcome of appeals regarding decisions made by the Planning Committee.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor S Foulkes, it was -

**Resolved – That the report be noted and endorsed.**

122 **CHANGES TO THE GUIDANCE ON SPEAKING AT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Lead Principal Lawyer presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided a revised guidance on the right of the public to speak at

Planning Committee. This Committee had previously adopted a related speaking protocol and no amendments had been suggested to that document.

The Lead Principal Lawyer advised that amended speaking guidance had been issued in November 2021 in line with the updated Right to Speak policy and that following this guidance being in place and as the committee had returned to in person working there had been a review of the guidance.

The suggested revised Guidance on the Right to Speak at Planning Committee and Strategic Applications Sub-Committee meetings was set out within Appendix 1 to the report. Members were advised that the main adjustments were to change from an FAQ style to an emphasis on information on topic areas. A section had also been added with guidance on what is and what is not a material consideration.

Councillor B Kenny requested that an amendment be made to the Guidance in respect of the time of arrival of people wishing to speak and that this be changed from 'persons wishing to speak should arrive no later than 5.45 pm' to 'persons wishing to speak should arrive no later than 15 minutes before the meeting is scheduled to start'.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor S Foulkes, it was –

**Resolved – That the updated guidance on the Right to Speak at Planning Committee and Strategic Applications Sub-Committee meetings as referred to within Appendix 1 of the report be approved subject to the following amendment:**

- **Change the wording in relation to 'persons wishing to speak should arrive no later than 5.45 pm' to 'persons wishing to speak should arrive no later than 15 minutes before the meeting is scheduled to start'.**

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## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 15 February 2023

Present: Councillor J Williamson (Chair)

Councillors	T Anderson	P Stuart
	P Gilchrist	H Cameron
	P Cleary	L Rennie
	EA Grey	J Bird
	T Jones	M Booth
	Y Nolan	K Hodson
	J Robinson	J Johnson

### 87 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting as well as those watching the webcast.

### 88 **APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received.

### 89 **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 Phil Gilchrist declared a personal interest as a governor of a school with a PFI contract.

### 90 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2023 be approved as a correct record.**

### 91 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Chair reported that five questions had been received under Standing Order 10.

Jenny Carter asked the Chair whether the future budget process could be coproduced with Together All Are Able. In response, the Chair acknowledged the importance of ensuring all resident can take part in the budget consultation, and outlined that the exceptional scale of the challenge and timetable for the setting of the 2023/24 budget restricted some of what was able to be achieved. It was intended to better build accessibility into the

timetable for future years and Together All Are Able were thanked for their offer of support, and the work they did in the community.

Brenda Ashton asked the Chair how residents could be assured that street cleansing and issues relating to fly-tipping could be addressed given press coverage around the prospect of a reduction in services. In response, the Chair outlined that the previously proposed reduction in street cleansing had not been included in the budget proposals presented to Policy & Resources Committee and expressed concern at any reduction in such a vital service.

Councillor Angie Davies outlined the community value of the Leasowe Adventure Playground to the local community and asked the Chair whether the Policy & Resources Committee would support the campaign to 'Save the Addy' and support the play scheme remaining open. In response, the Chair outlined her support for the 'Addy' and pledged that her group would support keeping it open, as proposed in the budget for consideration by Policy and Resources Committee.

Councillor Helen Collinson asked the Chair whether the services and facilities in Birkenhead Town Centre such as the Central Library, the Hive and the therapeutic services delivered in the Pilgrim Street Centre would be protected given their positive impact on communities and role in supporting the regeneration of the Town Centre. In response, the Chair welcomed the regeneration programme in Birkenhead and expressed her will to keep the services mentioned open.

Councillor Paul Martin asked the Chair for reassurance to local residents that Wallasey Central Library was being protected now and in the future. In response, the Chair outlined how Wallasey was well served by the Central Library and that her group would be voting to preserve vital services including the Library.

## 92 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS**

The Chair reported that two petitions had been received in respect to Wallasey Central Library.

Barbara Hardcastle spoke to her petition of 3,100 signatures which had been collected in a matter of weeks signifying the passionate support to retain a library service within Wallasey Central Library. Barbara outlined all of the services that were delivered to the community within the library above and beyond access to books and computers including clubs and volunteer events, and detailed how accessible the library was as well as its links with local primary schools. A query was raised in relation to Co2 levels and capacity which the Chair indicated a written response would be provided to.



Councillor Sue Powell-Wilde spoke to her petition which she reported had over 2900 signatures across a virtual and paper petition which represented the strong feeling of residents against any potential closure of Wallasey Central Library. Councillor Powell-Wilde outlined the fundamental role libraries played in society and questioned why libraries were originally identified as a potential saving. The Chair thanked Councillor Powell-Wilde for representing the Wallasey community and putting forward a case for why the library should not relocate.

93     **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

The Chair reported that no questions by members had been submitted.

94     **The order of business was altered to consider Agenda Item 6c next  
BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2023/24**

The Director of Finance introduced the report which set out the draft budget for 2023/24 as proposed by the Leader of the Council for approval by Policy and Resources Committee and onward recommendation to Council on 27 February 2023 to fulfil the legal obligation on Members of the Council to set a balanced and sustainable budget for 2023/24.

The Director of Finance outlined that the proposal left the Council with £13m of unearmarked reserves and that it was essential to rebuild those reserves as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy in future years alongside close monitoring of the budget in-year to avoid overspends, particularly given the limited scope there was within the proposed budget to manage in-year pressures. It was further outlined that the final Local Government Settlement figure had now been arrived at with £135,000 additional funding which was proposed to be added to the reserves.

It was then moved by Councillor Jannette Williamson, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, that the officer recommendations as detailed in the report be approved, subject to the following addition to be referred to the Council meeting –

“That the additional funds of £135,000 arising from the final settlement are allocated as follows:

£41k be invested in specialist, complex investigation work to support Children’s social care cases where there are multiple victims or perpetrators.  
£94k be invested by not taking the following four budget options that fall within the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee in respect of:

- The review of bulky waste (ERIC) collection service £10k
- The Environmental Health Service Review £40k
- The reduction in the recycling promotional budget £20k
- The reduction in Waste & Environmental Services budget £24k”

The Committee debated the motion at length with particular discussion taking place regarding the proposed 4.99% Council Tax increase and the number of other Local Authorities proposing a similar increase. Following questions by members, the Section 151 Officer confirmed that he was satisfied that sufficient allowances had been made for inflationary costs and that the proposals would enable a balanced and sustainable budget for 2023/24.

At 19:38pm, the Chair adjourned the meeting to enable discussion within Political Groups to take place on the proposal.

The Committee resumed at 19:47pm.

The motion was then put to the vote. It was –

**Resolved (9:6) That –**

- (1) Delegated authority be given to the Section 151 Officer, following consultation with the Chair and Group Spokespersons of the Policy & Resources Committee, to do anything necessary – including minor financial adjustments – to give effect to the proposals contained in this report and address any funding changes, if any.**
  
- (2) the response to the financial proposals forming a draft budget for the purposes of consultation under section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act, set out as below be noted:**
  - Appendix 1 Budget Proposals**
  - Appendix 2 Budget consultation**
  - Appendix 3 Policy & Service Committee budget proposals feedback**
  - Appendix 4 The Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Budget**
  - Appendix 5 Provisional Council Tax Statutory Calculations**
  - Appendix 6 Discretionary Rate Relief Policy**
  - Appendix 7 Medium-Term Financial Strategy**
  - Appendix 8 Budget proposal changes since January 2023**
  - Appendix 9 Council Tax Base Calculation Process and Associated Background Information**
  - Appendix 10 Budget Workshop Outcomes**
  
- (3) the measures being developed to moderate the impact of the present economic conditions on the Borough and the people who live and work in Wirral be noted, including the intention to carry forward a sum of £113,000 as part of financial year-end processes to assist the residents of the Borough in dealing with cost-of-living pressures.**

**(4) a Revenue Budget of £366.47m be recommended to Council, noting that the Section 151 Officer in liaison with the Monitoring Officer and Head of Paid Service may need to make adjustments to the Budget estimates before the preparation of final reports for Full Council on 27 February 2023.**

**(5) Accordingly it be recommended that Council:**

**a) Approve the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) set out as Appendix 7**

**b) Approve increases to the Council's fees and charges equal to or above the annual Consumer Price Index reported by the Office for National Statistics in February 2023, unless either of the following conditions apply:**

**i. There is a statutory constraint that prevents such an increase, ii. The Council is operating in a market whereby such an increase would result in the Council being uncompetitive.**

**c) Approve the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy for Business Rates for 2023/24 set out as Appendix 6.**

**d) Approve that Unearmarked Reserves (General Fund Balances) is maintained at a figure not lower than £13.18m for the course of the 2023/24 financial year.**

**e) Authorise, in respect of the Budget Proposals, that the Director with portfolio undertake such actions as they consider necessary to implement the agreed Budget and deliver the savings, income and efficiency proposals developed as part of the formulation process and update Committees accordingly.**

**f) Approve the 2023/24 Schools Budget of £337.017m**

**(6) (subject to a separate vote at Council) that Council:**

**a. Sets the Band D Council Tax at £1,798.48 for the Wirral Borough Council element of the Council Tax, representing a general increase of 2.99% and 2.00% ringfenced increase to Adult Social Care, and the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2023/24 of £171.9m as detailed in Appendix 5.**

**b. Note that the additional precepts from the Police & Crime Commissioner for Merseyside and the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority remain in estimated form and delegates authority to the Section 151 Officer to implement any variation to the overall council tax arising from the final notification of the precepts.**

**(7) That the additional funds of £135,000 arising from the final settlement are allocated as follows:**

**£41k be invested in specialist, complex investigation work to support Children's social care cases where there are multiple victims or perpetrators.**

**£94k be invested by not taking the following four budget options that fall within the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee in respect of:**

- **The review of bulky waste (ERIC)collection service £10k**
- **The Environmental Health Service Review £40k**
- **The reduction in the recycling promotional budget £20k**
- **The reduction in Waste & Environmental Services budget £24k**

## 95 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING Q3

The Director of Finance introduced the report which set out the financial monitoring information for the Council as at Quarter 3 (31 December) of 2022/23 and provided an overview of budget performance, including progress on the delivery of the 2022/23 saving programme and a summary of reserves and balances, to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

It was reported that at the end of Quarter 3, there was a forecast adverse position of £12.36m on the Council's net revenue budget, of £330.58m. The position had deteriorated by £1.36m since Quarter 2 due to the continued trend of increasing numbers of children in care, particularly young people placed in high-cost residential settings and the loss of Housing Benefit Subsidy.

A discussion ensued on the number of invoices paid without a purchase order having been raised and the Monitoring Officer's view was sought on the legality of a motion for no payments to be made without a purchase order. Advice was given that the impact could not be substantiated and that statutory services often required invoices to be paid without a purchase order.

It was moved by Councillor Tom Anderson, seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie, that 'From 1 June 2023, the Council does not pay any invoices without a Purchase Order, with a 6 month exemption for statutory services.'

Further to the motion, the Section 151 Officer explained that the proposed June 2023 deadline would be difficult to achieve without presenting a risk to the operation of the Council and sought the mover of the motion's view on delaying the deadline for a further six month period, to enable the submission of a report back to Committee on this matter. The mover of the motion indicated that he did not wish to amend the original motion.

Councillor Phil Gilchrist indicated that he wished to move an amendment so that officers report back to the Committee on the delivery of the new ERP system before a decision was taken. The Monitoring Officer advised that this risked negating the motion moved by Councillor Anderson.

The motion as originally moved was then put the vote and the motion was lost (6:9).

It was then moved by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart, that further to the recommendations detailed in the report, the following addition be considered, that 'in light of the responses from officers, officers report as early as possible to committee on the way that the new ERP system will correct deficiencies and provide further security to reduce the risk to the Council.'

Councillor Tom Anderson indicated that he was supportive of the motion and proposed a friendly amendment to the motion, so that it included an additional sentence to read "and report to Policy and Resources Committee on a regular basis the amount of invoices paid without a purchase order, with a plan of action to come in no later than September 2023."

Councillor Phil Gilchrist indicated he did not wish to accept the amendment as friendly and that the amendment should be voted on instead.

Councillor Lesley Rennie seconded the amendment. The amendment was then put to the vote and was carried (unanimously).

The substantive motion was then voted on and carried (unanimously). It was therefore –

#### **Resolved – That**

- (1) the forecast adverse position of £12.362m presented at Quarter 3, alongside the proposed mitigation at year end to eliminate the shortfall be noted.**
- (2) the progress on delivery of the 2022/23 savings programme at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- (3) the forecast level of reserves and balances at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- (4) in light of the responses from officers, officers report as early as possible to committee on the way that the new ERP system will correct deficiencies and provide further security to reduce the risk to the Council, and report to Policy and Resources Committee on a regular basis the amount of invoices paid without a purchase order, with a plan of action to come in no later than September 2023.**

The Director of Finance introduced the report which provided an update on the progress of the Capital Programme 2022/23 at the end of December 2022. It recommended that Committee agreed the revised 2022/23 Capital Programme of £86.3m which took account of re-profiling, virements, additional funding requirements and grant variations identified since the Capital Programme was formally agreed on 28th February 2022 and later revised in the Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 monitoring reports.

**Resolved – That**

- (1) Council be recommended to approve the revised Capital Programme of £86.3 million for 2022/23, including the virements of budget referred to in Appendix D of the report.**
- (2) Council be recommended to approve the additional funding for the schemes referred to in section 3.7 of the report from a variety of sources, new borrowing required from the Council, capital receipts, external contributions and the repurposing of previously agreed Council borrowing.**

97 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023-28**

The Director of Finance introduced the report which provided the draft Capital Programme 2023-28 for consideration and referral to Council for approval. It also included information regarding the revenue implications of the Programme and an update on the latest forecast for capital receipts. The 2023-28 Capital Programme represented a combination of schemes originally approved as part of the 2022-27 Programme, updated through the Capital Monitoring reports in 2022-23 and new bids for inclusion as detailed in the report.

It was moved by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart, that the officer recommendations detailed in the report be agreed, subject to the inclusion of:

“Committee also recognises that the capital programme has been put together in the light of the best available information on asset disposals, an estimate of likely capital receipts, the best use of funding allocated by the Government through the Liverpool City Region and the objective of repaying the exceptional financial support received by the agreed date.

A continuing area of concern for our communities is the state of our road and footway network.

The Director of Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Director of Finance are therefore requested to:

- put together bids for a programme, after annual repayment of the capitalisation directive, to allocate a maximum of 5% of capital receipts and for such receipts to be earmarked for additional investment into our roads/footways, to address the deterioration of the network.
- progress to both frame the future programme and updates on the roll out of the programme, should be reported back to the parent committee.”

The Committee debated the motion within which clarification was sought from the Section 151 Officer on the repayment of the capitalisation directive. It was clarified that any capital receipts generated up to a value of £2.5m would be used to repay the capitalisation directive, and that any value exceeding £2.5m would be within the Committee’s gift to deal with. The preference of the Section 151 Officer would be to repay the capitalisation directive sooner given that it was accruing interest, but the motion on the table if agreed would direct that a maximum of 5% of that value above £2.5m be earmarked roads and footways.

Following the questioning of the Section 151 Officer, the Chair moved to the vote on the motion. The motion was put and carried (13:2). It was therefore –

**Resolved (13:2) – That**

- (1) Council be recommended to approve the new bids as detailed in Appendix B to this report requiring £17.69 million of funding for inclusion in the Capital Programme.**
- (2) Council be recommended to approve of any new bids supported by grant funding do not commence until written confirmation has been received from the granting authority.**
- (3) Council be recommended to approve of the Capital Programme 2023-28 as detailed in Appendix C to this report.**
- (4) Committee also recognises that the capital programme has been put together in the light of the best available information on asset disposals, an estimate of likely capital receipts, the best use of funding allocated by the Government through the Liverpool City Region and the objective of repaying the exceptional financial support received by the agreed date.**

**A continuing area of concern for our communities is the state of our road and footway network.**

**The Director of Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Director of Finance are therefore requested to:**

- put together bids for a programme, after annual repayment of the capitalisation directive, to allocate a maximum of 5% of capital receipts and for such receipts to be earmarked for additional investment into our roads/footways, to address the deterioration of the network.
- progress to both frame the future programme and updates on the roll out of the programme, should be reported back to the parent committee.

98 **CAPITAL FINANCING STRATEGY 2023/24**

The Director of Finance introduced the report which set out the Capital Financing Strategy, which was an annual requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) 2021 Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the report therefore fulfilled the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to the CIPFA Code.

**Resolved – That**

- (1) Council be recommended to approve the Capital Financing Strategy 2023/24.**
- (2) Council be recommended to approve the associated Prudential Indicators to be adopted.**
- (3) Council be recommended to approve the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision policy.**

99 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023/24**

The Director of Finance introduced the report which provided the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24. Treasury management was the management of the Council's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Council had substantial sums of money both borrowed and invested and was therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk were therefore central to the Council's prudent financial management.

In response to a query, the Director of Finance undertook to provide a report to a future meeting on benchmarking the Council's risk appetite against other Local Authorities.

**Resolved – That**



**(1) Council be recommended to approve the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2023/2024.**

**(2) Council be recommended to approve the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators.**

100 **INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2023/24**

The Director of Finance introduced the report which set out the Investment Strategy 2023/24 which fulfilled the requirement of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to produce an investment strategy that covers non-treasury activities. The Strategy was produced following updated 'Guidance on Local Government Investments' in February 2018 following an increasing focus on commercial activities for local authorities including but not exclusive to property.

**Resolved – That Council be recommended to approve the Investment Strategy for 2023/2024 which includes potential investment in Service Investments: Loans (including the Approval Limit detailed in Table 1), Service Investment: Shares (non-currently held), Commercial Property and Loan Commitments and Financial Guarantees.**

101 **PAY POLICY 2023-2024**

The Assistant Director for Human Resources/Organisation Development introduced the report of the Director of Resources which outlined the Pay Policy Statement 2023/24, which intended 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 and the Head of Paid Services' responsibility for ensuring the provisions set out in the statement were applied consistently throughout the Council and recommending any amendments to Full Council.

It was clarified that the Council was a Real Living Wage payer but that some of its suppliers were in a different position, however the aspiration was for all contractors to pay the Real Living Wage with plans in place to achieve that. Following a query in relation to the performance management policy, an update on the policy was added to the Committee's work programme.

It was moved by Councillor Tom Anderson, seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie, that Council be recommended to approve the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2023/2024, subject to an amendment to section 10.3 of the Pay Policy Statement to delete 'Chief Officer' and replace with 'Head of Service or above', and delete '£100,000' and replace with 'is statutory', so that it read 'Any payments upon termination in respect of a Head of Service or above is statutory, (apart from contractual payments, where the Council has no discretion) shall be subject to a vote at Council or relevant Committee or

Panel of Members with delegated authority to approve such payments. Payments upon termination are subject to any legislative requirements or caps.’

The Committee discussed the implications of the motion and sought a way forward to enable further information to be provided. The Monitoring Officer advised that it was a statutory requirement to publish the Pay Policy Statement by 1 April 2023 and that there were no further scheduled meetings of Policy and Resources Committee prior to the final meeting of Council on 20 March 2023 in the current Municipal Year.

The Monitoring Officer suggested to the mover of the motion that the Pay Policy Statement be referred to Council for consideration as presented, and that the Director of Resources be requested to submit a further report to Policy and Resources Committee early in the new municipal year. The mover of the motion indicated the motion should remain as originally proposed.

The motion was therefore put to the vote and was lost (6:9).

Councillor Phil Gilchrist then moved that ‘Council be recommended to approve the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2023/24, with the statement to remain under review and dealt with at the earliest possible meeting in light of the facts presented.’ This was seconded by Councillor Jo Bird.

The motion was put and agreed (unanimously). It was therefore –

**Resolved (unanimously) – That Council be recommended to approve the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2023/24, with the Statement to remain under review and dealt with at the earliest possible meeting in light of the facts presented.**

## 102 WATER, WASTEWATER & ANCILLARY SERVICES

The Director of Regeneration and Place introduced the report which sought approval for the appointment of a provider of water, wastewater and ancillary services. The report set out how non-domestic customers could enter a contract with a retailer to achieve savings over the default non-contract position which would incur “deemed rates” relating to these services which included the management of bills, leak detection and disconnecting supplies.

A framework managed through direct award by North East Purchasing Organisation provided a compliant route to market for the procurement of water, wastewater, and ancillary services for all public sector bodies. Through the framework agreement after applying the favourable tariff offered by the retailer, it was expected that this would save approximately £80,000 over a 12-month period across corporate and school premises.

Concerns were raised over the discharge of wastewater and officers were urged to undertake close scrutiny of the services.

**Resolved – That**

**(1) Anglian Water Business (National) Ltd (Company Registration Number 03017251) be appointed under a 4-year contract via the North East Purchasing Organisation (Public Buying Organisation) direct award Framework – NEPO311 Framework Agreement for the provision of Water Retail Services.**

**(2) the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to finalise the legal documentation associated with the appointment of Anglian Water Business (National) Ltd.**

Having reached three hours since the commencement of the meeting, it was moved by Councillor Janette Williamson, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, that the meeting be extended by a further 15 minutes.

The motion was put and agreed (9:6). It was therefore –

**Resolved – That the meeting be extended to 21:25pm.**

103 **PROCEDURE FOR BUDGET DECISION MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The Director of Law and Governance introduced a report on the assurance process in formulating the draft Council Budget with a recommendation to Council on a process for adoption at the Budget decision making meeting.

**Resolved – That it be recommended to Council, that for the duration of the extraordinary meeting of 27th February 2023 (Budget Council):**

- (a) the procedure attached as Appendix A be followed in respect of the meeting; and**
- (b) Council Standing Order 15.4 (timing of speeches) be suspended together with such other standing orders as may conflict with the Budget Council procedure or the Mayor’s administration of the meeting, in such a manner as the Mayor in his or her absolute discretion dictates, to ensure the objective of Council setting a lawful budget and council tax requirement prevails.**

104 **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 paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

105 **ACQUISITION OF NATIONAL GRID LAND, NORTHSIDE**

The Head of Regeneration Delivery introduced the report.

**Resolved – That the recommendations as detailed in the report be approved.**

106 **EXEMPT APPENDIX - BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2023/24**

Members discussed the detail provided in the exempted appendices and gave consideration to the possibility that information relating to Libraries and Leisure Services had been discussed earlier in the meeting during debates on previous items. It was suggested that the exempt information, as it related to Libraries and Leisure Services no longer needed to be exempt and as such, could be released for public consumption.

On a motion by Councillor Tom Anderson, seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie, it was –

**Resolved (9:6) That – the appendices remain exempt, with the exception of information relating to Libraries and Leisure Services which should be made available for public consumption.**

# Public Document Pack

## PENSIONS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 21 February 2023

Present:

Councillor P Cleary (Chair)

Councillors C Povall A Gardner  
G Davies Jason Walsh  
H Collinson C Carubia  
B Kenny A Wright

Councillors T Cardwell, Liverpool Council  
Lappin, Sefton Council

### 17 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone and read out the webcasting notice.

### 18 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from:

- Councillor Tom Anderson
- Councillor Karl Greaney
- Councillor Joe Walsh

### 19 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Tom Cardwell	Personal interest as his mother is a member of pension fund
Councillor Helen Collinson	Pecuniary interest by virtue of her being a Deferred Member of Merseyside Pension Fund and her daughter was an active member of the Fund.
Councillor George Davies	Personal interest as his wife was a member of Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Andrew Gardener	Pecuniary interest by virtue of being a member of Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Brian Kenny	Personal interest as his fiancée was a member of Merseyside Pension Fund.
Paulette Lappin	Personal interest as a member of the fund
Councillor Cherry Povall	Personal interest as her daughter was a member of the Merseyside Pension Fund.

### 20 MINUTES

**Resolved – That the minutes of the Pensions Committee meeting held on 14 December 2022 be agreed as a correct record.**

### 21 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No questions, statements or petitions had been received.

## 22 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS) UPDATE

The Head of Pensions Administration for Merseyside Pension Fund presented the report of the Director of Pensions which informed Members that following a review of the classification of the Further Education (FE) sector - FE colleges, sixth form colleges and designated institutions - and their subsidiaries in England, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) had reclassified colleges and their subsidiaries as public sector bodies. Confirmation was awaited as to whether a government guarantee will be provided for their liabilities to the Pensions Fund. Once certain, the funding strategy would be reviewed.

**Resolved – That the outcome of the Office for National Statistics review of the Further Education sector and the implications for the Local Government Pension Scheme be noted.**

## 23 TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR 2023/24 AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021/22

The Head of Finance & Risk for Merseyside Pension Fund introduced the report of the Director of Pensions which requested approval of the treasury management policy statement and the treasury management practices for Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) for the year 2023/24. It was noted that there were no changes from the previous year.

**Resolved – That the treasury management policy statement and the treasury management practices for Merseyside Pension Fund for the financial year 2023/24 be approved.**

## 24 MERSEYSIDE PENSION FUND BUDGET FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24

The Head of Finance and Risk for Merseyside Pension Fund presented the report of the Director of Pensions which requested that Members approve the budget for Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) for the financial year 2023/24. It was noted that the budget was lower than the previous year on account of lower investment management fees being forecast.

**Resolved – That**

- (1) the budget for 2023/24 be approved (subject to review of charges from the administering authority for support services).**
- (2) a further report on the outturn for 2022/23 with finalised estimates, in particular for departmental & central support charges and any known changes in supplies and services for 2023/24, be presented to Members of Pensions Committee at a future meeting.**

## 25 MERSEYSIDE PENSION FUND AUTHORISED SIGNATORIES

The Head of Finance and Risk for Merseyside Pension Fund presented the report of the Director of Pensions which set out proposed changes to authorised signatories at Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) following the appointment of the Director of Finance and a review of the current signatories against business needs. The report described the different requirements for various institutions and functions, including the banks,

custodian, and overseas pensions payment agent, as well as the granting of power of attorney where appropriate. This report also formed a part of the Fund's scheme of delegation and set out the management and authorisation arrangements, for the avoidance of doubt, by organisations undertaking due diligence on MPF as an investee company or as a financial services provider, or for purposes of overseas jurisdiction. It was noted that there was only one change in the authorised signatories which was the addition of Wirral Council's Director of Finance following his appointment.

**Resolved – That**

- (1) the arrangements set out in section 3 of this report in relation to the internal control arrangements at Merseyside Pension Fund be approved.**
- (2) the officers designated in section 3 of this report as authorised signatories for Merseyside Pensions Fund be approved.**

**26 WIRRAL LOCAL PENSION BOARD MINUTES**

The Director of Pensions introduced his report which provided Members with the draft minutes of the previous meeting of the Wirral Local Pension Board.

The Chair thanked the Board and noted that minute 11 indicated that the Draft Funding Statement and Actuarial Valuation represented a very positive approach and position for both the Fund and Employers, and that the positive relationship between the Fund and employers was praised.

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

**27 MINUTES OF WORKING PARTY MEETINGS**

The Director of Pensions introduced his report which provided Members with the minutes of meetings of Working Parties held since the previous Committee meeting.

**Resolved – That the minutes be approved.**

**28 PROPERTY PORTFOLIO RENT ARREARS AND WRITE OFFS**

The Head of Finance and Risk for Merseyside Pension Fund presented the report of the Director of Pensions which requested that Members approve the write off of £900,575.41 of irrecoverable rent arrears from the Fund's property portfolio. It was noted that the annual property rental income for 2021/22 was £32.1 million; all possible actions had been taken to recover the debt; and the write off request was for three tenants that had gone into administration or liquidation. It was also noted that the position was exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Resolved – That the write off of uncollectable property rental income of £900,575.41 be approved.**

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

**RECOMMENDATION: That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely**

**disclosure of exempt information as defined by the relevant paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.**

**30 PROPERTY PORTFOLIO RENT ARREARS AND WRITE OFFS EXEMPT APPENDIX**

**Resolved – That the exempt appendix be noted.**

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## CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 22 February 2023

Present: Councillor T Cox (Chair)  
Councillors J McManus A Onwuemene  
P Stuart P Gilchrist  
P Hayes

22 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

23 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

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.

24 **MINUTES**

**Minutes:**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on be approved on 23 November 2022 be held as a correct record.**

25 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

No public questions or statements were received in advance of the committee meeting.

26 **MEMBERS LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2023 - 2027**

The Head of Democratic and Member Services introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance. The report provided Members with the proposed Members Learning and Development Strategy (ML&DS) that reinforced the importance placed on the provision of quality learning and development for all Members.

Members were advised how, ahead of the planned whole Council elections scheduled for May 2023, there was an opportunity to introduce and deliver a

strategy that ensured consistent and well-established plans to best develop Members through their four-year term of office.

The Strategy provided Members with the opportunity to develop skills and learning which assisted with their roles as decision makers and within the community. It also supported their wellbeing and safety.

Members were informed that the strategy had been produced with regard to the upcoming all-out elections in May 2023 and recommendations from the Independent Assurance Panel and Local Government Association (LGA) Peer review. It was also noted that whilst there was a robust new Member induction in place, there had previously not been a Learning and Development strategy which brought together a programme of committee specific and targeted learning. It would be launched in May 2023 in line with the new Member induction and started a four-year training programme for all Members.

Members thanked officers for the work producing the strategy and noted how helpful the Member Induction programme was for newly elected Members. It was requested that the dates for the induction programme be confirmed with candidates and agents in advance of the Local Election in May 2023. They also requested that the Committee calendar be appended to the induction programme.

**Resolved – that the Member Learning and Development Strategy for 2023-27 be approved.**

## 27 **SUMMARY OF STANDARDS COMPLAINTS**

The Head of Legal Services presented the report of the Monitoring Officer. The report provided a summary of Standards complaints received under the Members' Code of Conduct and Protocol for dealing with complaints against Members between 1 November 2021 and 31 December 2022.

Members were informed that the Council is required to deal with complaints made against Members under its approved Ethical Framework. It was noted that between 1 November 2021 and 31 December 2022 a total of 13 complaints in respect of the conduct of 6 Members had been received. The complaints were received from 10 different complainants. There were 2 complaints raised by Members against other Members. None of the complaints received were referred for a formal investigation.

Members were informed that several of the complaints were from members of the public regarding conduct by Members on social media and behaviour at meetings. Some complaints require detailed enquiries and therefore could take several months to conclude, however the number of complains is at a stable level. No complaints had been raised with the Chair regarding the

timescales of investigations and it was noted how invaluable the independent persons are when it came to standards complaints. There is no right of appeal in relation to the Monitoring Officer's decision, however complainants can go to the Local Government Ombudsman. In the past year, two complainants had been referred to the Local Government Ombudsman and the Ombudsman had concluded that the complaints process had been followed correctly and there was no cause for further investigation.

**Resolved – that the report be noted.**

## 28 **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2023/24 AND 2024/25**

The Head of Democratic and Member Services presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance. This report recommended draft dates for Council and Committee meetings for the municipal year 2023/2024. Members were informed that the upcoming all-out election gave an opportunity to develop a two-year programme of meetings.

Members commented that they appreciated the early notification of the meeting cycle but noted that the Policy and Resource Committee was scheduled for 14 February 2024 and requested this be moved by a day.

**Resolved – That Council be recommended to approve the Calendar of Meetings for the 2023/24 and 24/25 municipal year, subject to Policy and Resources Committee being rescheduled from 14 February 2024 to 13 February 2024**

## 29 **AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**

The Head of Democratic and Member Services presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance. The report provides a summary of the discussions held by the Governance Working Group in respect to the Council Procedure Rules and the consideration of Motions on Notice at Council Meetings. Members were informed that the Governance Working Group heard feedback from each of the Political Groups and the Mayor and determined that there were three matters which warranted further consideration by the Constitution & Standard Committee.

The matters previously identified by the Governance Working Group were:

- Standing Orders 9.1 & 14 (I) that the meeting continues beyond 3 hours in duration (2 in the case of an extraordinary meeting)
- Standing Order 13.1 - so as to restrict the number of Motions on Notice submitted to one per political group

- Standing Order 13.2 – in respect to the order in which Motions on Notice are debated

The Governance working group, had over the past few months spoken with the Political Groups and consulted with other Local Authorities on best practice. Members discussed the requirement for openness and transparency during public meetings with several Members considering the previous arrangements sufficient. However, the ability for smaller groups to have their motions on notice heard and discussed in public was also raised as a concern for some Members.

A motion was moved by Councillor Tony Cox, Seconded by Councillor Amanda Onwuemene as follows;

*'that Council be recommended to amend*

*standing order 9.1 & 14 to read where 3.5 hours have elapsed,*

*standing order 13.1 to limit the number of motions on notice to 1 per political group,*

*standing order 13.2 so that the first motion on notice listed be rotated so as to allow each political group the opportunity for their motion to be debated first ( to be co-ordinated by the Director of Law & Governance), with motions thereafter to be listed in the order of political group size '.*

The motion was put and carried (4:2)

**Resolved – that Council be recommended to amend,**

- (1) standing order 9.1 & 14 to read where 3.5 hours have elapsed,**
- (2) standing order 13.1 that the number of motions be limited to 1 per group,**
- (3) standing order 13.2 so that the first motion on notice listed be rotated so as to allow each political group the opportunity for their motion to be debated first ( to be co-ordinated by the Director of Law & Governance), with motions thereafter to be listed in the order of political group size.'**

## Council – 20 March, 2023

### 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. LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION

**Proposed by Councillor Janette Williamson**  
**Seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson**

Council notes that the Local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, a Government body, for examination and a date has now been set by the Planning Inspectorate for the 18th April 2023 to start the Local Plan hearings.

Council also notes that the Planning Committee's decision to refuse planning permission has been appealed by Leverhulme and is therefore dismayed and concerned that the Planning Inspectorate has made a decision to begin a public Inquiry on the Leverhulme appeals starting on the 16 May 2023 which will result in the Local Plan examination being paused.

This could potentially put at risk, all of the hard work to protect the greenbelt on Wirral and will cause unnecessary worry and distress to residents affected in Irby, Pensby, Barnston & Heswall.

The Leader of the Council seeks the support of members of the Council to write to the Secretary of State and the Planning Inspectorate to urge them to delay the Leverhulme appeals, until such time as the Local Plan examination has been concluded. Council believes that such a step is necessary to reinforce the Council's commitment to protect Wirral's Greenbelt and its Local Plan.

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#### 2. SUPPORTING FAMILIES WITH THE COST OF LIVING

**Proposed by Councillor Tom Anderson**  
**Seconded by Councillor Kathy Hodson**

Council welcomes the allocation of a further £6m for the Borough's Household Support Fund and the relaxation of some of the initial restrictions on how it can be used.

In total, this means that since the pandemic and the global rise in prices, Wirral Council will have received £15 million to support those households which are most exposed to rising costs for basic commodities and essentials.

Council thanks those staff and the voluntary, community and faith organisations that have delivered so much of this support and pledges to continue to work with them to ensure this latest tranche of funding reaches those most in need.

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### **3. WIRRAL: A FAIR TAX COUNCIL**

**Proposed by Councillor Harry Gorman**

**Seconded by Councillor Judith Grier**

Council notes:

- The pressure on organisations to pay the right amount of tax in the right place at the right time has never been stronger.
- Polling from the Institute for Business Ethics finds that “corporate tax avoidance” has, since 2013, been the clear number one concern of the British public when it comes to business conduct.
- Almost two-thirds (63%) of the public agree that the Government and local councils should consider a company’s ethics and how they pay their tax as well as value for money and quality of service provided, when undertaking procurement
- Around 17.5% of public contracts in the UK have been won by companies with links to tax havens.
- It has been conservatively estimated that losses from multinational profit-shifting (just one form of tax avoidance) could be costing the UK some £7bn per annum in lost corporation tax revenues.
- The Fair Tax Mark offers a means for business to demonstrate good tax conduct, and has been secured by organisations with a combined annual income of £50bn and more than 6,500 outlets and premises, including many social enterprises and co-operatives.

Council believes:

- Paying tax is often presented as a burden, but it shouldn’t be.
- Tax enables us to provide services from education, health and social care, to flood defence, road safety measures and the promotion of biodiversity. It also fosters social justice by redistributing wealth.
- As recipients of significant public funding, local authorities should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; be that by ensuring contractors are paying their proper share of tax, or by refusing to go along with offshore tax dodging when buying land and property.
- Where substantive stakes are held in private enterprises, then influence should be wielded to ensure that such businesses are exemplars of tax transparency and tax avoidance is shunned -e.g., no use of marketed schemes requiring disclosure under DOTAS regulations (Disclosure Of Tax Avoidance Schemes) or arrangements that might fall foul of the General Anti-Abuse Rule.
- More action is needed, however current law significantly restricts councils’ ability to either penalise poor tax conduct or reward good tax conduct, when buying goods or services.
- UK cities, counties and towns can and should stand up for responsible tax conduct - doing what they can within existing frameworks and pledging to

do more given the opportunity, as active supporters of international tax justice.

Council resolves to request that the Director of Finance investigates the following issues, with a report to be presented to a future meeting of Policy and Resources Committee:

- Approval of the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration;
- leading by example and demonstrating good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities;
- ensuring contractors implement IR35 robustly and pay a fair share of employment taxes;
- not using offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty;
- conducting due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates;
- demanding clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers and their consolidated profit & loss position;
- promoting Fair Tax Mark certification for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due;
- supporting Fair Tax Week events in the area, and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses who say what they pay with pride; and
- supporting calls for urgent reform of UK law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies

#### **References and links**

##### **[Introduction to the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration:](https://fairtaxmark.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Councils-for-Fair-Tax-Declaration.pdf)**

<https://fairtaxmark.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Councils-for-Fair-Tax-Declaration.pdf>

<https://fairtaxmark.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Intro-to-CFFTD.pdf>

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#### **4. GREATER INSULATION PROGRAMME NEEDED FOR WIRRAL'S HOUSING**

**Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist**

**Seconded by Councillor Orod Osanlou**

Council notes that the creation of the '*Department for Energy Security and Net Zero*' was announced by the Prime Minister on 7 February 2023. The 'Priority Outcomes' set out at its launch included actions to:

*'Improve the energy efficiency of UK homes, businesses and public sector buildings to meet the 15% demand reduction ambition.'*

*'Deliver current schemes to support energy consumers with their bills and develop options for long-term reform to improve how the electricity market works for families and businesses.'*

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Council recognises that this renamed Department replaced the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. This body had the key role in funding substantial programmes for home insulation schemes and projects throughout the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

Council observes that Wirral residents have benefitted through the projects established to retrofit local homes considered by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority at its meetings of 21 January 2022 (Item 110, Housing Retrofit Funding) with the potential for further funding discussed on 20 January 2023 (Item 100, Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund). These relied on funds channelled through the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and depended on bids submitted.

Council believes that it is essential that the energy efficiency of homes is improved in Wirral so that residents are able to live in well insulated properties, reduce their carbon footprint, meet their household bills and avoid being plunged into fuel poverty. In order to secure this, the creation and training of an appropriately skilled workforce is essential along with funding streams that are sufficient to enable sustained progress.

Accordingly, Council requests that the Director of Regeneration and Place provides a briefing paper on what is currently known about the energy efficiency of Wirral's housing stock with a view to supporting all future bids by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority for funding to enable Wirral's housing stock to become more energy efficient. The briefing should be drawn up in cooperation with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and circulated to Wirral's MPs.

In order for the Council to respond to future initiatives in a timely matter the arrangements be made for relevant spokespersons of all groups, and the Director of Regeneration and Place to liaise with officers of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and its relevant Portfolio Holder to enable these to be progressed.

In the event that funds are released by central government that enable this Council to take them up directly the issue be discussed with the relevant spokespersons and reported to the relevant Policy and Service Committee and Policy and Resources committee as required.

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## **5. REQUEST FOR FURTHER SUPPORT FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT**

**Proposed by Councillor Brian Kenny**  
**Seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart**

This Wirral Council notes the recent survey published by "Together Through This Crisis" initiative. The research from the coalition of organisations including Save the Children, Shelter and 38 Degrees, [published](#) recently, found that 24% of people are regularly unable to pay for basics, while nearly 40% of people end the month with no money left.



Council is concerned that thousands of Wirral residents are struggling during the current Cost of Living Crisis.

Council believes that the reason why so many Wirral residents are struggling, is due to the last 13 years of Tory Government economic mismanagement.

Council believes that politics is all about choices, and that the Tory Government have consistently shown that they have made the wrong ones, so far as Wirral residents are concerned.

Council maintains that the cost-of-living crisis means families and children across Wirral are in desperate need of additional support from the Tory Government. Council believes that in the sixth richest Country in the world, including Wirral, children and adults should not be going hungry, and that the energy bill ticking time-bomb should be ended, as a matter of urgency.

Mindful that the Spring statement is forthcoming, the Chief Executive and Council Leader are requested to write to both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor, calling for the government to take several steps to respond to the crisis, including introducing universal free school meals and unfreezing housing benefit, together with any other appropriate steps, to protect Wirral residents.

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## **6. PARENTAL LEAVE FOR MEMBERS**

**Proposed by Councillor Daisy Kenny**

**Seconded by Councillor Janette Williamson**

This Council believes that to ensure in so far as possible Members are able to take parental leave at the time of birth or adoption, that reasonable and appropriate arrangements are in place to provide cover during any period of leave taken.

Improved provision for new parents will contribute towards increasing the diversity of experience, age and background of local authority members. It will also assist with retaining experienced members and making public office more accessible to individuals who might otherwise feel excluded from it.

Therefore, this Council resolves that Constitution and Standards Committee be requested to explore the development of a Parental Leave Policy for Members and report back to Council with a recommendation by October.

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## Full Council – Responsibility for Functions

### 1. Introduction

Full Council is the primary decision-making body of the Council and, as such, is responsible for the exercise of all of the functions that are held by the local authority.

Whilst decisions in relation to these functions could be made by the Council, and indeed some functions can only be carried out by the Full Council, in order to operate more effectively as an organisation, most of the Council's functions are exercised through delegation to a committee, sub-committee or an officer, or to another local authority.

This part of the Constitution contains the remits of the Council, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels and also contains the Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

### 2. Council Functions

The Council reserves to itself the following functions (in accordance with the rules and procedures contained in this Constitution):

- (a) All non-delegable functions as defined by the Local Authorities (Committee System) (England) Regulations 2012 including: -
  - (i) **The Budget** – The approval or adoption of a plan or strategy for the control of the local authority's borrowing, investments or capital expenditure or for determining the authority's minimum revenue provision, which includes the overarching annual:-
    - (1) Capital programme
    - (2) Capital investment strategy
    - (3) Medium term financial plan
    - (4) Treasury management strategy,except for any amendment, modification, variation or revocation which—
    - (aa) is required for giving effect to requirements of the Secretary of State or a Minister of the Crown in relation to a plan or strategy submitted for approval, or to any part submitted; or
    - (bb) is authorised by a determination made by the local authority—
      - in pursuance of arrangements made for the discharge of functions as set out in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out at Part 4(3) of this Constitution (including virements); and
      - at the time when the local authority approves or adopts the plan or strategy, as the case may be.

(ii) **Policy Framework (Required)** – The making or revoking or amending the following policies, plans and strategies required to form a part of the Council’s Policy Framework:

- (1) Annual Library Plan;
- (2) Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy;
- (3) Development Plan Documents;
- (4) Licensing Authority Policy Statement;
- (5) Policies made under the Gambling Act (including any resolution relating to casinos);
- (6) Local Transport Plan;
- (7) Plans and alterations which together comprise the Development Plan;
- (8) Sustainable Community Strategy; and
- (9) Youth Justice Plan;

except for any amendment, modification, variation or revocation which—

- (aa) is required for giving effect to requirements of the Secretary of State or a Minister of the Crown in relation to a plan or strategy submitted for approval, or to any part submitted; or
- (bb) is authorised by a determination made by the local authority—
  - in pursuance of arrangements made for the discharge of functions as set out in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out at Part 4(3) of this Constitution; and
  - at the time when the local authority approves or adopts the plan or strategy, as the case may be.

- (iii) Making of a Members Allowance Scheme and amending the same.
- (iv) Determination of Mayor’s and Deputy Mayor’s allowances.
- (v) Making a request for single member electoral wards to the Local Government Boundary Commission.
- (vi) Resolution to change a scheme for elections.
- (vii) Making an order giving effect to the recommendations made in a Community Governance Review.
- (viii) Conferring voting rights on co-opted members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees (if any).

- (b) **Policy Framework (Choice)** - The making or revoking or amending the following policies, plans and strategies reserved by Council to form a part of the Council's Policy Framework
  - (i) The Council Plan.
- (c) Setting the Council's Council Tax requirement
- (d) Electing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor
- (e) Appointing the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council (Chair and Vice-Chair of Policy & Resources Committee)
- (f) Agreeing or amending the committee structure, the remit/terms of reference of committees, their size and membership
- (g) Confirming the appointment (or dismissal) of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance (Section 151) Officer.
- (h) Confirming the appointment of the Independent Persons.
- (i) Making, amending, revoking, re-enacting or adopting bylaws and promoting or opposing the making of local legislation including bylaws or personal bills.
- (j) Appointment of the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.
- (k) Significant changes to the Council's Constitution, including adopting and amending standing orders, Rules of Procedure, Contract Procedure Rules, Financial Regulations, Codes and Protocols that make up the Constitution.
- (l) All other matters which by law are reserved to the Council including: -
  - (i) Ombudsman reports where there has been a finding of maladministration with injustice and the report has been rejected
  - (ii) Statutory officer reports of the Monitoring Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Head of Paid Service and External Auditor's public interest reports.
- (m) Conferring the title of Honorary Freeman and Honorary Alderman.
- (n) Approving the Annual Senior Officer Pay Policy Statement.
- (o) Changing the name of the Borough.
- (p) Appointment of representatives of the local authority not otherwise delegated to a Committee.
- (q) Nomination of councillors and other persons to outside bodies
- (r) Consideration of reports from committees or any other body constituted by the Council.

- (s) To receive the minutes of committees and sub-committees acting under delegated powers for question and comment.
- (t) Making recommendations to the Secretary of State on the Borough boundaries, ward boundaries, electoral divisions, ward or polling districts; and
- (u) any other function which must by law be reserved to full Council.

Note

For the avoidance of doubt, the Full Council retains ultimate responsibility for the actions and decisions of all its Committees and also retains the ability to exercise all its powers whether or not they have also been delegated to a Committee or Officer. Full Council shall not, however, exercise a power that has been delegated without first ensuring that such a step is in the best interests of the Council and in accordance with the rules set out in the Articles of this Constitution. The Council's ability to exercise its powers will not override or supersede any decision or action already taken and implemented by a Committee or Officer acting under delegated authority.