

## WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET – 24 JUNE 2010

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LAW, HR AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

## REVIEWS OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS AND COMBATING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

---

### 1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report has been requested by the Leader of the Council to set out proposals for establishing all-party reviews of local governance arrangements and combating anti-social behaviour.

### 2. Background

2.1 In order to make urgent progress on matters contained in the Progressive Partnership document signed by the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and other key areas of concern, the Leader of the Council has requested the initiation of commissions which will advise him and the Cabinet of options for future action.

2.2 The Leader of the Council has indicated that urgent progress needs to be made on providing evidence based options to him for:

- The delegation of significant amounts of executive authority, currently exercised by the Cabinet, to Councillors who represent localities and to local communities; and
- Improving the Council's approach to combating anti-social behaviour.

2.3 Potential terms of reference for the Commissions are outlined below.

2.4 The Commissions will not be decision-making bodies and so there is no legal requirement that they are proportionate. However, the Leader has indicated that he envisages that the Commissions will be relatively small in terms of numbers, but inclusive, perhaps 1.1.1, supported by a lead officer. The Commissions will also be able to co-opt subject experts if they believe this will add value to their deliberations, subject to confirmation of the Leader of the Council. It is envisaged that Commissions will be in existence for a very short period and disband once their focused pieces of work have been completed.

2.5 In order to achieve these aims, it is recommended that similar governance arrangements and principals as with previous working parties are adopted. Any Cabinet Member will be able to lead a commission, or be a member of these commissions, or to attend ex officio.

2.6 Suggested terms of reference for these commissions are set out below.

## 2.7 Wirral Localism Commission:

- To recommend options and governance models, including the obligation for transparency, openness and inclusiveness, for devolving significant amounts of Council services, resources and Executive Authority to Council members, communities and local residents.
- The Commission will be expected to consult openly and widely drawing on lessons of best practice operated by Partnerships in other parts of the Country.
- The Commission will, as a priority, undertake a study of which services and the level of resources can or should be delegated from the Executive to members, residents and communities. The Commission will report frequently, as directed by the Leader of the Council and in any event report back its findings to the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet by 1 October 2010, at the latest.

## 2.8 Wirral: Combating Anti Social Behaviour:

- To review how much money, from different streams of expenditure, the Council puts towards combating anti social behaviour, to examine how this money is spent and to advise the Leader on how this budget might be better spent.
- The Commission will report frequently, as directed by the Leader of the Council. As its first piece of work the Commission will undertake a study on the size and objectives of the under-fives budget to report back to the Leader and Cabinet by 1 September 2010, at the latest.

2.9 It is recommended that the Deputy Chief Executive provide the lead officer to support the Wirral Localism Commission and the Director of Children's Services provide the lead officer to support the Combating Anti Social Behaviour Commission.

## 3. Financial implications

3.1 The proposed Commissions will be supported within existing resources.

## 4. Staffing implications

4.1 The proposed Commissions will be directly supported by officers from the Directorates indicated within the report.

## 5. Equal Opportunities implications

5.1 The proposed Commissions will need to ensure that all consultation arrangements have due regard to equalities considerations.

## 6. Community Safety implications

6.1 It is envisaged that the proposed Wirral: Combating Anti-Social Behaviour Commission will recommend improvements that will enhance community safety over time.

## **7. Local Agenda 21 implications**

7.1 None directly arising from this report.

## **8. Planning implications**

8.1 None directly arising from this report.

## **9. Anti-poverty implications**

9.1 None directly arising from this report.

## **10. Human Rights implications**

10.1 None directly arising from this report.

## **11. Social Inclusion implications**

11.1 None directly arising from this report.

## **12. Local Member Support implications**

2.10 It is likely that the proposed Wirral Localism Commission will lead to devolving significant amounts of Council services, resources and Executive Authority to all Council Members, the communities and local residents.

## **13. Background Papers**

13.1 None.

## **14. Recommendations**

14.1 The Director of Corporate Services is instructed to convene a commission, to be known as the Wirral Localism Commission, comprising one Member nominated by each political group; and to provide an officer to support the Commission.

14.2 The terms of reference of the Wirral Localism Commission are:

- To recommend options and governance models, including the obligation for transparency, openness and inclusiveness, for devolving significant amounts of Council services, resources and Executive Authority to Council members, communities and local residents.
- The Commission will be expected to consult openly and widely drawing on lessons of best practice operated by Partnerships in other parts of the Country.
- The Commission will, as a priority, undertake a study of which services and the level of resources can or should be delegated from the Executive to members, residents and communities. The Commission will report frequently, as directed by the Leader of the Council and in any event report back its findings to the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet by 1 October 2010, at the latest.

- 14.3 The Director of Children's Services is instructed to convene a commission, to be known as the Wirral: Combating Anti-Social Behaviour Commission, comprising one Member nominated by each political group; and to provide an officer to support the Commission.
- 14.4 The terms of reference of the Wirral: Combating Anti-Social Behaviour Commission are to:
- To review how much money, from different streams of expenditure, the Council puts towards combating anti social behaviour, to examine how this money is spent and to advise the Leader on how this budget might be better spent.
  - The Commission will report frequently, as directed by the Leader of the Council. As its first piece of work the Commission will undertake a study on the size and objectives of the under-fives budget to report back to the Leader and Cabinet by 1 September 2010, at the latest.
- 14.5 All officers are requested to support the work of the commissions as required.

**Bill Norman**  
Director of Law, HR and Asset Management