

**Wirral's Area Forums**



**Greasby Frankby Irby Upton and Woodchurch  
Area Forum**

**Meadowside School  
Pool Lane  
Woodchurch  
CH49 5LA**

**Wednesday 15th June 2011.**

**7.00pm-9.00pm**

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## Code of Conduct for Area Forums

- Indicate to the Chairperson when you would like to speak
  - Let invited speakers finish what they have to say
  - Respect others right to be heard
  - Do not use abusive or offensive language
  - Do not make any discriminatory remarks
  - Do not have private conversations while meeting is in progress
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# **AGENDA**

## **Greasby, Frankby, Irby, Upton & Woodchurch Area Forum**

- Welcome, Introduction & Apologies
  - Minutes & matters arising  
(Previous meeting – February 2011)
- Neighbourhood Plans Presentation.
  - Public Question Time
  - Area Forum Partner Updates

# Section One

## Minutes

### Previous minutes

Thursday, 17 February 2011

Attendance:

Councillors P Reisdorf (Chair)  
Cllr T Anderson  
Cllr G Gardiner  
Cllr W Clements  
Cllr S Whittingham

Community Representatives Jean Robinson (Overchurch Residents Association), John Smith (Greasby Community Association), Bert Grunnill (Upton Church Together)

Lead Officer  
Geoff Patterson

Area Service Co-ordinator  
Andy Brannan

Street Scene Manager  
Mark Traynor

Community Safety Officer  
Mike Collins

Wirral University Teaching  
Hospital NHS Foundation Trust  
Amanda Farrell  
NHS Wirral  
Paul Edwards

Merseyside Police  
Sergeant mark Roberts

Merseyside Fire and Rescue  
Service  
Sarah Patterson

Head of Cultural Services  
Jim Lester

In Attendance  
Jayne Elliott (Minute Taker)

### **1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES:**

The Chair, Councillor Peter Reisdorf welcomed the Forum members and 17 members of the public to the Greasby, Frankby, Irby & Woodchurch Area Forum meeting held at Brookdale Primary School.

**Apologies:** David Smith, Councillor Tony Smith & Ron Green

### **2 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING, INCLUDING AREA CO-ORDINATORS REPORT:**

Andy Brannan informed the meeting that the updates from the previous minutes were on Page 10 of the briefing pack.

2.1 (P11) Councillor Peter Reisdorf explained that his surgeries were held at Greasby Library.

2.2 (P11) It was asked when the yellow lines would be re-painted. The bad weather over the winter has caused delays in the re-painting. Any information on dates will be passed on as soon as they are confirmed.

Andy Brannan informed the meeting, that there is funding available for Grit Bins to be sited at various residential locations. There is a scheme to nominate roads. He asked the members of the meeting to complete the forms provided with their nominations and leave them on the top table at the end of the meeting.

Q. 2 bins on Manor Road have gone missing and of yet have not been replaced.  
A. Awaiting to hear what is happening with these bins.

Q. Will the nomination forms be available at other places around Wirral?  
A. There will be a press release and the forms will be placed in Community Centres and libraries. The closing date is 18th March 2011.

### **3 CENSUS 2011:**

The Census is a survey completed every 10 years. It is a compulsory survey to find out the needs of people in Wirral. It will provide information in order to resource ambulances, police, hospitals, schools and care homes.

The information is based on numbers and not individual names.

The census will be posted out to Wirral residents or it can be completed on line.

### **4 PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES PROCUREMENT EXERCISE:**

Jim Lester, Head of Cultural Services updated the Forum on the progress of the move to a single service provider for the Parks and Countryside Service.

Mr Lester explained that the following will not be included in the process:

Buildings (Except depots)  
Hard Landscapes  
Landican Cemetery  
Tammy Shanter Farm  
Beach Patrol  
Golf Professionals

The whole process should deliver savings and improve services.  
If there are any requests or complaints regarding parks, there is now a central number to ring – 0151 606 2004.

Q. How many departments are you covering in your job and how many are going to contractors?

A. Mr Lester is Head of Cultural Services, Technical Services Department. His responsibilities are Parks and Open Spaces, Museums and Leisure Centres  
Approximately 170 staff will transfer over to the new single provider.

Q. What will happen to the staff that transfer over?

A. The law says that the staff will transfer over with the same conditions under TUPE.

Q. What is happening to the sports activities in the parks (e.g. Tennis courts)?

A. The same arrangements will continue. Bookings will be taken via Wirral Council. There may be some changes and hopefully some improvements. It will be a 10 year contract, so there is room for investment for the contractor. For example: Trained staff and to develop the service.

Q. Are you involved in the negotiations over Tranmere Rovers?

A. Mr Lester is not involved with the negotiations. It is other colleagues that are involved. Tranmere Rovers are in discussion with the Local Authority, and facts and figures on Woodchurch Leisure Centre have been provided.

Q. Where are the goal posts in Coronation Park?

A. There have been extensive improvements taking place in the park, but due to the bad weather this has delayed the work. The goal posts will be replaced and the work will be finished off as soon as the weather improves.

Q. When the Pavilion's re-furbishment has been completed, what will stop it from being vandalised again?

A. There have been proposals submitted for lighting. It will be protected as best as it can be. It was stated that it was an electrical fault that caused the fire and then it was vandalised. There were no problems at the Pavilion before the fire happened.

Q. Why do the staff cutting the grass on the verges blow the cut grass into the gutter and this then blocks the drains – this is the case in Greasby.

A. The cut grass should be left on the verge. This is a practical problem and the costs are too high to provide a vacuum.

Q. Do the golf courses make a profit?

A. They are doing OK. The golf courses will be staying with the local authority, but the maintenance of the courses will be going to the new contractor.

Q. Can the work force put a bid in?

A. No they are unable to put a bid in.

## **5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

The cable link for Scottish Power from Scotland to Connah's Quay will pass through Wirral. It looks like Greasby and Frankby will be the area affected. For more information, ask for the telephone number at the end of the meeting.

Q. During the winter period, Escolme Drive is particularly dangerous due to the surface on the road and it becomes very slippery in the icy weather. The road is busy with school access and accidents are waiting to happen.

A. This issue will be put forward to see if the road can be gritted by the proper gritter. This information will be taken back and any responses will be reported back to Andy Brannan.

Q. Concerning the recent press release regarding Tranmere Rovers – Where do the proposals stand in view of potential takeover talks?

A. The Councillors are speaking to Tranmere Rovers, and there will be consultations with the public. It was stated that if the land at Woodchurch is developed as Tranmere's training pitch, then it would still remain for community use. There is more information on page 13 of the local updates.

Q. There are concerns if there is a buy out from Tranmere Rovers. What comes of centre if there is a buy out?

A. Tranmere Rovers want to improve the area, but it will remain 40% community use.

Q. How much are Tranmere Rovers paying?

A. They are still in discussions and are unsure of the amount yet.

Q. Arrowe Park Hospital - The council gave the hospital some land on the right hand side of the hospital, with the intention not to charge for parking. Is this correct?

A. There are 500 public car park spaces and half of these are free to patients. The car park behind the nurse's quarters is a free car park, and the 1st 20 minutes is free. Information regarding this issue will be sought and reported back to Andy Brannan.

## **6 AREA FORUM PARTNER UPDATES:**

### **Community Safety Team**

For a more detailed report, see pages 35 – 36

- The police have been working in partnership with the Community Safety Team, to help with young people in the local parks...
- Packs of water have been issued to safety officers, to help deal with small fires in parks.
- Dog Fouling initiative – over 60,000 bags have been issued.

### **Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**

For a more detailed report, see pages 29 – 33

In addition to the report it was reported that staff have worked really hard and coped extremely well during the difficult winter period and the increase in the flu viruses.

### **Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service**

For a more detailed report, see pages 17 – 19

It was reported that 250 tons of bon fire materials were removed before bonfire night. 23,000 safety leaflets were distributed and schools were targeted in this campaign.

There has been approval for a pilot scheme to take place to recruit Fire Cadets, based at Wallasey Fire Station.

## **NHS Wirral**

For a more detailed report, see pages 19 -20.

## **General**

Jean Robinson (Overchurch Residents Association) reported that the new fence is completed at the woodlands area and she wanted to thank everyone for their support.

John Smith (Greasby Community Association) reported on the following:

- The Greasby Messenger is available – anyone from Irby can add to it.
- The Council Cabinet has given their approval for the business plan for the Greasby Community Centre to go over to the community.

## **Merseyside Police**

Sergeant Mark Roberts (Upton Police Station) reported on the following:

- There has been good feedback on the speeding campaign. 13 tickets have been issued around Arrowe Park Road and Mill Lane area.
- There has been alcohol seized due to antisocial behaviour and there has been a conviction.

Q. In The Spinney, youths are causing a problem for the residents.

A. This information will be taken back to the Police Station.

Q. The new police website has raised that there have been 34 incidents around the Sainsbury's roundabout. (Antisocial behaviour, burglaries)

A. There have been calls to the Sainsbury's Car Park. It is hoped that cameras will be fitted in this area.

## **Wirral Older People's Parliament**

For a more detailed report, see pages 21 – 26

There will be a Conference this year taking place on 26th & 27th May 2011 at the Floral Pavilion

Q. Is the Older Peoples Parliament dealing with the closures of care homes in Wirral?

A. Yes, this is all detailed in the Older Peoples Parliament report.

## **Street Scene**

For a more detailed report, see page 27

Q. Is the Home Watch Scheme still running?

A. Yes, this is part of Community Safety Team – For more details contact Mike Collins.



## **Matters arising**

Q. 2 bins on Manor Road have gone missing and of yet have not been replaced.

A. Awaiting to hear what is happening with these bins.

**Grit bins that went missing from Thursaston Road and Manor Road will be replaced by Technical Services.**

Q. Will the nomination forms be available at other places around Wirral?

A. There will be a press release and the forms will be placed in Community Centres and libraries. The closing date is 18th March 2011.

**There was a fantastic response to the press release and posters advertising the allocation of grit bins with over 400 suggestions across the 11 area forums.**

**Each suggested location will then be assessed against strict criteria to identify the areas of biggest need.**

Q. During the winter period, Escolme Drive is particularly dangerous due to the surface on the road and it becomes very slippy in the icy weather. The road is busy with school access and accidents are waiting to happen.

A. This issue will be put forward to see if the road can be gritted by the proper gritter. This information will be taken back and any responses will be reported back to Andy Brannan.

**A review of Wirral's gritting routes takes place every year. There are strict national guidelines to follow to ensure that all major roads, bus routes and shopping areas are gritted. If there are any roads that are not covered on a gritting route but should be included they will be added at this review stage.**

**However Escolme Drive has been identified as a potential location for a grit bin from this area forums allocation of Winter Resilience Funding from 2010/11**

Q. In the Spinney, youths are causing a problem for the residents.

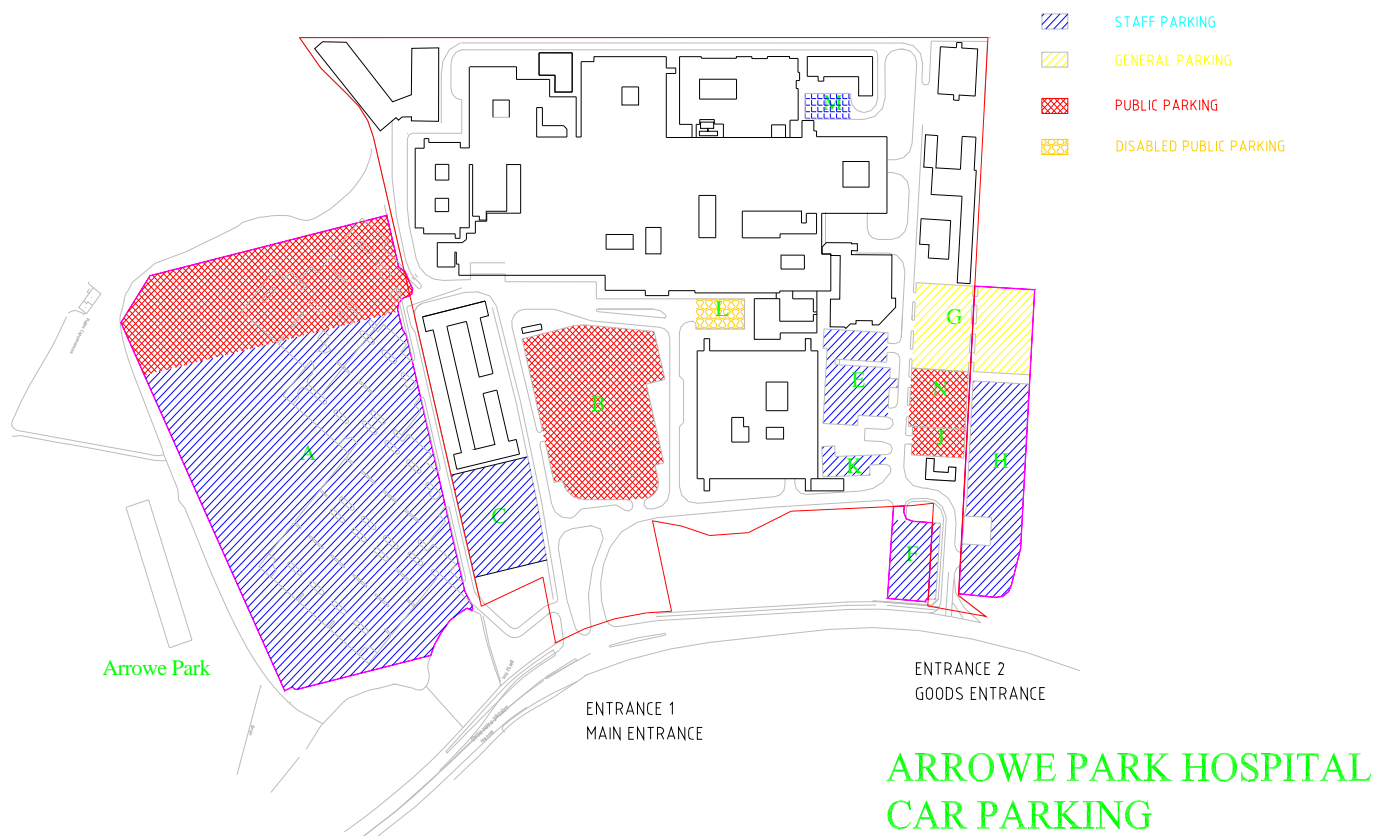
A. This information will be taken back to the Police Station.

**The police have given attention to the Spinney. Work will to address the problem of youths congregating around the area.**

Q. Arrowe Park Hospital - The council gave the hospital some land on the right hand side of the hospital, with the intention not to charge for parking. Is this correct?

A. There are 500 public car park spaces and half of these are free to patients. The car park behind the nurse's quarters is a free car park, and the 1st 20 minutes is free. Information regarding this issue will be sought and reported back

**Car parks A, F and G/H shown on the attached map lie on land that is leased from the Council. All other areas shown are owned by the Trust. The Trust does not charge patients or visitors for parking in areas A, F or G/H. F and G/H are staff car parks. A is predominantly a staff car park but also includes 300 spaces for public parking but these spaces are free to park in.**



# **Section Two**

## **Local Updates**

Area forums provide an opportunity for people who live or work in Wirral to have a greater say on local issues and be more active in decision making and shaping local services.

They involve local ward councillors, police, NHS Wirral, University Teaching Hospital Trust, fire safety representatives etc along with community representatives and officers from various departments of the council.

Forums also provide information about current services, how they can be accessed and ultimately raise awareness of local council initiatives.

## Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

Reported January 2011:

- Two 12-year old cousins from **Birkenhead** were issued with interim Anti-Social Behaviour Orders pending a full hearing (see below);
- 40-year old female from Heygarth Drive, **Greasby**, was sentenced to 20 weeks' imprisonment following breaches of an Anti-Social Behaviour Order obtained against her in 2010. Her 51-year old partner from Grove Road, **Hoylelake**, was sentenced to electronic tagging for 6 weeks and ordered to stay at his mum's address in Hoylelake between 7pm and 7am, following a breach of a 2-year Anti-Social Behaviour Order obtained against him in 2010.

Reported February 2011:

- Two 12-year old cousins from **Birkenhead** were issued with 2-year Anti-Social Behaviour Orders following alleged anti-social behaviour including abusive behaviour and the harassment of local businesses and their customers.

Reported March 2011:

- 16-year old female was issued with an interim Anti-Social Behaviour Order pending a full hearing (see below).

Reported April 2011:

- 16-year old female was issued with a 2-year Anti-Social Behaviour Order following a catalogue of abusive and threatening behaviour.

Activity has included:

- **Programme to tackle anti-social behaviour in New Ferry & Bromborough (February 2011)**

Teenagers were offered a 12-week alcohol and drug intervention course, with emphasis on gun and knife crime, to tackle anti-social behaviour in the area.

The programme, a result of partnership between Merseyside Police and Wirral Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team, was run in conjunction with Wirral's Challenge and Support Project co-ordinated by the Team, which provides a twin approach of enforcement to challenge the behaviour of young people involved in anti-social behaviour and intervention to tackle the underlying causes.

Alongside the curricular activities there was opportunity for the young people to get involved in community projects. The young people were presented with their completion certificates at Merseyside Police's headquarters in May and work is currently underway to extend this programme across the borough.

- **ASBO helped boy (March 2011)**

A teenager and his parents, in an interview with the Wirral Globe, reported how an Anti-Social Behaviour Order [issued against him by the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team] has helped him turn his life around.

The teenager suffering from Asperger's Syndrome was given an ASBO because of his behaviour. The youngster, who also suffers Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) was issued with Order after a string of complaints about him. His parents, who initially fought against their child being put under the stigma of an ASBO, spoke out to say it helped him turn his life around.

The young man was 13 years old when he was issued with an ASBO for his continued disturbance in his neighbourhood. The teenager's 2009 ASBO, which recently expired, came after a string of incidents involving verbal abuse and threats to Wirral Council staff. His mum said she tried to get the ASBO lifted many times. She said: "*He was just a nuisance, plain and simple. But I did fight the ASBO because my son has ADHD and asperger's syndrome so I didn't think he would be able to keep to the restrictions imposed upon him. But he surprised us all and got into the habit of not going where he wasn't allowed and improving his behaviour. I think the ASBO definitely helped him because he knows now that if he puts a foot out of line, there may be bigger consequences.*"

➤ **Calling all local young people (March 2011)**

A young sports instructor from Wirral called on other young people to join her to take part in an event to raise money for this year's Red Nose Day. Chloe Tolman, 20, organised a fancy dress 5-a-side football tournament to raise money for Comic Relief which took place at Seacombe's Soccerdome.

The event was supported by officers from the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Youth Offending Service, Youth & Play Service and Sports Development Unit.

## **AREA FORUM STREETSCENE UPDATE**

### **Traffic Management**

#### **Greasby, Frankby, Irby, Upton, Woodchurch**

##### *Traffic Management Updates*

The following Traffic Management scheme has been completed since the last round of Area Forum reports:

- Upton By-Pass – Vehicle Activated Sign

### **Highway Management**

Last year each Forum was given the opportunity to contribute to the current Structural Maintenance Programme and submit lists of roads they considered to be local priorities for significant repair. Each suggested road was assessed according to the criteria below and if successful included in the programme.

The current programme of schemes **attached at Appendix 1** denotes those schemes with an “F”.

*Network Condition and Assessment Criteria*

In order to fulfil its duty to maintain the highway, it is necessary to consider how the Council will prioritise the maintenance schemes to be undertaken and what treatment of the prioritised schemes should comprise in order to repair and prevent further deterioration of those lengths of road and footway. The following criteria are used in carrying out this analysis:

- (i) In accordance with national best practice the Council undertakes surveys of the highway network in order to determine the condition of the carriageways.
- (ii) Areas of constant repairs; mainly due to vehicle over-ride; are highlighted in the Highway Inspectors’ safety inspections.
- (iii) Particular roads brought to the Council’s attention, as warranting significant repair, by Area Forums, Elected Members, the public and Streetscene officers.
- (iv) Feedback from the Council’s Term Maintenance Contractor regarding the suitability of different repair solutions depending on the existing road condition and use.
- (v) Road casualty information, where collisions with road surface condition as a potential causation factor, to determine whether prioritising a scheme in the programme may also address a recognised road safety concern.

Technical Services are now in the process of preparing the Structural Maintenance Programme for 2012/2013 and would once again appreciate your assistance in providing lengths of roads and pavements that should be considered for resurfacing or reconstructing due to their poor condition. Please submit any roads for consideration by contacting your local Councillor or the Community Engagement team on 0151 691 8695, alternatively email, [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) no later than 1 August 2011.

Road Name	Limits	Ward	Est £s	Category	Works Description
Cortsway (Phase 1)	All	Greasby, Frankby & Irby	£30,000	Structural Footway	L/R & P/L kerbs as required. L/R flags as required. Construct/reconstruct flexible footway.
Norwood Road  (Identified through the Area Forum)	All	Greasby, Frankby & Irby	£6,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Carr Bridge Road	All	Upton	£33,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Concordia Avenue	All	Upton	£20,000	Structural Footway	L/R & P/L kerbs as required. L/R flags as required. Construct/reconstruct flexible footway.

Ferny Brow Road	All	Upton	£14,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Hoole Road (to complete)  (Identified through the Area Forum)	All	Upton	£20,000	Structural Footway	L/R & P/L kerbs as required. L/R flags as required. Construct/reconstruct flexible footway.
New Hey Road  (Identified through the Area Forum)	Cambridge Road to Grasswood Road	Upton	£17,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
New Hey Road  (Identified through the Area Forum)	Cambridge Road to Grasswood Road	Upton	£30,000	Structural Footway	L/R & P/L kerbs as required. L/R flags as required. Construct/reconstruct flexible footway.

## Waste and Recycling

Wirral Council has exceeded its recycling target of 37% for 2010/11 - we are now recycling 40% of our waste. The increase in recycling has been as a result of recycling the Borough's street sweepings and also an overall reduction in the weight of refuse produced per household. Well done and thank you to all our residents for their hard work.

In March, Wirral Council rolled out a recycling service to all properties in hard to access areas (bag collection rounds). 350 properties have received a new box for recyclable material, to be collected on a weekly basis. We are now very close to 100% of Wirral households having a kerbside recycling service - just two more properties to go!

Wirral Council will be holding a compost giveaway on Sat 11th June at Port Sunlight Garden Centre from 9am till 1pm. Bags of compost will be available on a first come first serve basis, one bag per customer. Information will also be available on home composting and [www.getcomposting.com](http://www.getcomposting.com), where residents can purchase low cost compost bins, wormeries and water butts.

The Waste and Environment section have employed our third and final round of Future Job Fund posts - 6 Assistant Recycling Project Officers have joined the team until September 2011. These officers will continue the good work being done to tackle contamination of the grey recycling bins. Since May 2010, the Assistant Recycling Project Officers have worked with the Biffa crews in the worst performing areas and have seen a 50% reduction in the number of bins rejected for contamination. A secondary project has begun, auditing properties presenting two or more green bins for refuse. The aim of this project is to ensure that all properties presenting two bins are authorised to do so and also to keep accurate records for future reviews.

Due to the success of the Future Job Fund projects, the Waste and Environment Team has received authorisation to employ 6 full time staff in these posts. We

anticipate beginning the recruitment process in July/August, so as to ensure continuity.

### **Local Transport Plan 3**

The Third Local Transport Plan for Merseyside became active from 1st April 2011.

The plan sets out the implementation plans in the short term to 2015 and looks to the longer term strategy for 2024 on how to improve transport in Merseyside.

The Third Local Transport Plan has the following vision:

*'A city region committed to a low carbon future, which has a transport network and mobility culture that positively contributes to a thriving economy and the health and wellbeing of its citizens and where sustainable travel is the option of choice'.*

The Local Transport Plan has six goals:

- Help create the right conditions for sustainable economic growth by supporting the priorities of the Liverpool City Region, the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Local Strategic Partnerships.
- Provide and promote a clean, low emission transport system which is resilient to changes to climate and oil availability.
- Ensure the transport system promotes and enables improved health and wellbeing and road safety.
- Ensure equality of travel opportunity for all, through a transport system that allows people to connect easily with employment, education, healthcare, other essential services and leisure and recreational opportunities.
- Ensure the transport network supports the economic success of the city region by the efficient movement of people and goods.
- Maintain our assets to a high standard.

(Please note all goals have equal status).

The Local Transport Plan and supporting annexes are available to download from [www.transportmerseyside.org](http://www.transportmerseyside.org) or by contacting 0151 330 1294

### **School Environment Awards**

The Wirral Council School Environment Awards, in association with Biffa and Tranmere Rovers, are now in their third year and have seen some very successful, exciting and challenging projects being rewarded to schools across Wirral.

The awards are open to all schools and provide recognition to schools studying a range of environmental topics that are strongly linked to the National Curriculum and compliment work towards Eco Schools.

This year's winners were:

- Energy Awareness Award - Greenleas primary School
- Mayor's Outstanding Contribution Award - Irby Primary School
- Wirral Ranger's Wildlife Conservation Award - Hoylake Holy Trinity
- Junior Road Safety Officer's Award - Great Meols Primary School
- Road Safety Participation Award - Upton Hall School, FCJ
- Biffa Schools Recycling Award - Stanton Rd Primary School



- Tranmere Rovers Community Award - Prenton High School For Girls
- Green Facilities Champion - University Academy of Birkenhead

## Street Cleansing

Wirral's street cleansing contractors Biffa have adopted a new 'area based' approach to cleaning the borough. Wirral has been divided into four areas meaning that each area has its own designated cleansing operatives, supervisors and manager.

This change in approach identifies the following opportunities for improvements:

- Geographical ownership is created for frontline operatives and management. This not only highlights locations presenting a reoccurring challenge but creates an extra element of ownership and pride in the cleanliness of any one particular location.
- Localised working will reduce the distances that cleansing vehicles will need to cover. This will obviously reduce fuel costs but will also lower carbon emissions for the street cleansing service as a whole. This will aid in Biffa and Wirral's aim to make the service as environmentally sustainable as possible.

## Big Tidy Up's

From May, Tidy Ups will begin in those wards who have allocated money through the 'You Decide' funding. In West Wirral we will be engaging Tranmere Together to work with a number of local organisations.

## Community Speedwatch

Is speeding a problem in your neighbourhood? Make a difference by joining the Wirral Community Speedwatch team and help to make Wirral's roads safer. Community Speedwatch allows Wirral residents concerned about speeding in their local area to monitor motorist's speed using state of the art radar guns. The scheme aims to tackle areas where the dangers of careless driving and speeding are a real concern to local people. For more information on becoming a Community Speedwatch Volunteer contact Carolyne Hankey on 0151 606 5448, [carolyne.a.hankey@merseyside.pnn.police.uk](mailto:carolyne.a.hankey@merseyside.pnn.police.uk).



# Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

The Fire Service on Wirral is delivered through 6 community fire stations located at.

- **Birkenhead:** Exmouth Street. Birkenhead.CH41 4AX. 0151 296 5325
- **Bromborough:** Dock Road South. Bebington.CH62 4SQ 0151 296 5925
- **Heswall:** Telegraph Road, Heswall, CH60 OAF. 0151 296 5805
- **Upton:** Arrowe Park Road. Upton.CH49 OUF. 0151 296 5895
- **West Kirby:** The Concourse. West Kirby. CH48 4HX. 0151 296 5955
- **Wallasey:** Mill Lane. Wallasey. CH44 5UE. 0151 296 6180

For a FREE Home Fire Safety Check, including FREE smoke alarm installation if required please contact Fire Service Direct on **FREE phone 0800 731 5958**

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS) news can be followed via our website [Merseyfire.gov.uk](http://Merseyfire.gov.uk) we can also be found on social network sites - @Merseyfire on Twitter or visit our Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/merseyfire](http://www.facebook.com/merseyfire).

### **Integrated Risk Management Plan**

MFRS are committed to integrated working with other authorities, agencies and the voluntary sector to improve public safety and well being. We have an Integrated Risk Management Plan which is a local strategic plan that outlines the measures intended to be taken to continue the modernisation and improvement of services to the people of Merseyside.

Wirral has developed a local IRMP taking account of specific risks and community concerns. The main action points for 2011-2012 have been identified as:

- 1) Road Safety: - To work with partners to provide appropriate education and training thereby delivering improved road safety across the borough.
- 2) Fire Cadets: - The first course of Cadets is now under way at Wallasey fire station.
- 3) Site Specific Risk Information: - Station have commenced a new initiative to identify and plan for managing risk at vulnerable locations and premises... This will enable MFRS to target response and improve community safety.
- 4) Wirral healthy Homes Initiative. Enhance and expand the Wirral Healthy Homes Initiative to reduce risk in homes from the private rented sector through a series of targeted campaigns.
- 5) Reduction of Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) in Wirral - Support and enhance the partnership responsible for the reduction of anti-social behaviour. Additional MFRS staffing resources have been embedded within the Merseyside Police ASB team and the Community Safety Team.
- 6) Wirral Stronger Communities Initiative: - Engage with partners to deliver Community Safety Initiatives in the Morpeth Dock area of the Wirral.
- 7) Risk Reduction in the Home: - MFRS resources are being targeted at those most at risk with the objective of reducing risk within the community.
- 8) Health, Safety & Welfare: - MFRS will address emerging issues by developing solutions at local level to improve health, safety and welfare in the workplace.
- 9) Environmental Impact: MFRS staff will help minimise the Service's impact on the environment by reducing overall carbon emissions, conserving energy and minimising other pollution.
- 10) Fire Prevention: - MFRS staff are to take an active role in the safeguarding of members of the public in licensed premises on Merseyside by conducting inspections during hours of operation.
- 11) Equality & Diversity: - MFRS staff will contribute to delivering our service equitably to all communities and individuals by considering the needs and risks associated with their communities and to develop innovative ways of addressing those needs and risks.
- 12) Corporate Social Responsibility: - MFRS staff will take an innovative approach to engaging with voluntary and charitable organisations to deliver benefits to our communities whilst contributing to the overall aims of MFRS

### **Accidental Dwelling Fires**

Last years campaign to reduce the incidence of accidental dwelling delivered a 10% reduction over the last 12 months... Intelligence shows that the majority of such fires originate in the kitchen and this is supported by current statistics:

February 21 fires; 12 originating in the kitchen  
March 14 Fires; 9 originating in the kitchen  
April 13 fires; 6 originating in the kitchen

We are continuing with our targeted campaign to achieve a further reduction.

### **Wirral FireWatch**

Every summer, firefighters see a dramatic rise in the number of grass and rubbish fires, particularly during spells of hot weather and the school holidays.

In Wirral, land around Bidston Hill, Thurstaston Common and Caldy Hill is often left blackened and scorched by fires during the summer.

MFRS staff will engage with young people in schools and youth clubs and while patrolling the green space areas to inform them about the dangers of starting small fires. MFRS staff, supported by partner agencies will undertake patrols in areas where small fires are most likely to occur. They will also work alongside other agencies to remove any build-up of combustible materials and provide advice to people living in "hotspot" areas on how they can reduce the risk of fires in their community.

Whilst we want people to enjoy themselves following a few simple tips could help improve community safety:

***Always extinguish your cigarette and any other smoking materials properly.***

***Store your wheelie bin away from the windows and doors of your property and where possible, store it behind locked gates.***

***Dispose of barbecues responsibly.***

***Don't leave bottles or glass in woodland areas -sunlight shining through glass can start fires so take them home or put them in a bin.***

***If you discover a fire or someone starting one, report it immediately by calling 999.***

## **Wirral Council Youth Service**

### **Introduction**

Wirral Youth Service provides opportunities, which are open to all Wirral young people. Youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through informal educational activities which combine fun, challenge and learning. The Service works with young people aged 13-19 years, and specifically targeted young people aged 20 until their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday who have additional needs and need support with transition into adult life/services.

The Youth Service in Wirral works with many young people in a variety of different settings, these include:

- Youth clubs

- Street work projects
- “Kontaktabuses”
- “Wirral Youth Theatre” and Youth Arts
- “Response” – Advice, support, advocacy and information service and Substance Misuse Service
- Duke of Edinburgh’s Award
- Outdoor activities
- Projects in schools
- 

The Service is flexible and able to respond to the needs of young people and offers opportunities that are both universal and targeted. Youth work on Wirral is delivered through joint working between the Local Authority, voluntary organisations and other agencies.

Youth workers work with young people in many different localities in Wirral. Having a variety of youth clubs and street work projects allows youth workers to work with young people in their neighbourhoods, meet their specific needs and respond to issues that are important to them.

Much of the work of the Youth Service takes place in one of fourteen open access youth clubs located across the Borough. Street work teams of youth workers make contact with young people who do not access the service elsewhere, build relationships with them and in negotiation with the young people, develop programmes which address their specific needs. This work is delivered on the streets, through project work and on mobile Kontaktabuses.

## **Response**

Response is a Borough wide Youth Service provision, providing counselling, support, advocacy and information for young people. Many of these young people have complex needs requiring intensive support from the service including homelessness, abuse, poor health and poverty.

The agency also has a team of specialist workers providing support to young people who have drug and alcohol problems. The team work with those individuals in a variety of settings including outreach street work and one to one work in their homes or wherever young people feel safe. The team also deliver educational programmes within schools and other youth settings on the risk, consequence and health implications of substance misuse. Partnership work plays an important role in targeting vulnerable, hard to reach groups of young people. Service level agreements and regular joint working ensures the needs of young people are met.

### *Duke of Edinburgh’s Award*

The Youth Service holds the operating licence for administering and running the DofE. The Youth Service is therefore able to issue individual operating licences to single units such as schools, youth clubs and uniformed organisations. Young people within the borough are able to participate in at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels and are offered a wide and diverse menu of opportunities.

A well equipped Open Award Centre is able to provide comprehensive and quality expedition training for those wishing to attempt their expedition or exploration. Young people are encouraged to make improved use of their leisure time and by participating in the DofE they are guided towards, helping their own communities, acquiring new skills, keeping fit and taking on new and exciting challenges.

Anyone aged between 14 and 25 can take part in the DofE regardless of background or ability and participants are able to increase their own self confidence and self esteem, make new relationships and develop fresh skills.

#### *Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts (WYT)*

Wirral Youth Theatre operates across the Borough to enable young people to access a wide range of performing arts related activities. Art forms such as drama, dance, music, technical theatre and new media are used to help young people to develop personally and socially as well as developing theatre and media related skills. WYT has now relocated to the Gilbrook School site in Birkenhead.

**You Decide Funding** There are projects being planned in a number of wards across the face of Wirral using the You Decide funding. The outputs of these projects will be maximised by the joint working of partners in the Integrated Youth Support Service including Youth sports and the Anti-social Behaviour team.

#### **Greasby/Frankby/Irby, Upton and Woodchurch.**

**West Wirral Outreach Team** Held an Easter programme of events with over 60 young people involved. Young people from Woodchurch attended positive activity sessions to divert them from anti social behaviour. "Bike it", a Project held on 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> April in Woodchurch where over 40 young people & parents took part in a Intergenerational project between the Outreach Team & the Police resulting in young people building & repairing confiscated bikes for community use that were donated to the community via the Police. The result was a proven reduction in anti social behaviour over the Easter period in the Upton ward.

**Greasby Youth Club** Greasby Youth Club has taken part in a series of workshops around relationships and sex education, healthy eating, drug and alcohol misuse and bullying. They have just completed the Silver Award on Health Promoting Youth Units. The Pavilion is currently being made ready for use after a fire earlier in the year. The Pavilion is used for structured group work and for young people who do not want to access the youth club. With the lighter nights coming workers can utilise provision within the park, such as the football and basketball courts.

**Fender Youth Club** Fender Youth Club - Due to vacancies the Club is having some difficulties with low staff numbers. Therefore, the West Wirral Hub Manager and District Youth Worker have been working with the remaining club staff to deliver provision in the club on a Monday evening. Since January this evening has been attracting 25-45 young people. Young people attending have been made aware of other agencies and projects in the district, attempting to break the barriers of engagement from other projects outside the Woodchurch estate. The computer room has been open and the young people are looking in to what needs updating within the unit.

# Wirral University Teaching Hospital

The Trust is pleased to be able to participate in the Local Area Forums and welcomes the opportunity to brief Wirral residents and our partner organisations on topical issues. Representing the Trust at each Forum will be an Executive Director or Senior Manager and the elected Public Governor for the host constituency. This report sets out the main challenges and opportunities for the Trust over the coming months and highlights achievements and service developments:

## 1. Treating you well into the future

On May 9<sup>th</sup> the Trust launched a widespread staff and public engagement programme, called *Treating you well into the future*. This is the title of a 28 page staff and public engagement document and a four page summary, both of which are published on the Trust's website at: [www.whnt/nhs.uk/treatingyouwellintothefuture/](http://www.whnt/nhs.uk/treatingyouwellintothefuture/)

The aim of *Treating you well into the future* is to ensure a vibrant future for both Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge Hospitals whilst continuing to deliver safe, high quality patient care and services in the years to come. The Trust needs to make the best use of these hospitals, avoiding duplication of services and working more efficiently.

We are therefore proposing changes to some services at both hospitals and are actively seeking the views and opinions of everyone with an interest in local hospital services including staff, patients and carers, Foundation Trust Members and Governors, partners, statutory and voluntary organisations and the general public.

These proposals are **not** about closing Clatterbridge Hospital. Nor are they about cutting services or costs. On the contrary, the level of investment needed to develop the proposals would be between £12.8 million and £28 million.

The *Treating you well into the future* document sets out the reasons why the Trust needs to make changes to some services. These range from clinical and quality issues - the Trust's top priority - to estates and financial considerations. The document also highlights three options and two sub options for change along with their anticipated benefits, an analysis of their strengths and weaknesses and their projected costs.

The document also sets out the ways in which staff and public can express their views and we would urge everyone with an interest to make their views known by answering the eight engagement questions. Responses can be made either on-line via the website (as above) or by completing and returning the form in the document, via the freepost address provided. The Trust's Board of Directors are committed to taking everyone's views into account before a final decision is taken on the way forward at the end of June. **The closing date for the receipt of comments is 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011** and the outcome will be widely communicated during July.

The engagement documents may be obtained on request in different formats - including hard copy, easy read, audio, large print or other languages - by

- emailing: [wih-tr.engagement@nhs.net](mailto:wih-tr.engagement@nhs.net)
- phoning: the Communications and Marketing Team on 0151 604 7003

Hard copies of the documents will be available in local authority one stop shops, libraries and GP surgeries.

## **2. Providing Excellence in Healthcare**

We are pleased to announce that three of our services have recently been acknowledged as amongst the best in the North West or in the country:

### **Stroke Services in the Top Ten**

- Services for Wirral people who have suffered a stroke are amongst the best in the country according to the Care Quality Commission.
- Services provided from both Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge Hospitals and in the community across Wirral were judged to be 'best performing' and ranked in the top 10 in the country for primary care trust areas.
- Our Early Supported Discharge Team has been especially praised for the support it gives to stroke patients and their families.
- The work of the Team complements the other high quality services provided for stroke patients on Wirral including preventative work undertaken by GPs and the speed at which thrombolysis (clot-busting drugs) are given at Arrowe Park Hospital to patients whose stroke is caused by a clot, rather than a bleed.

### **Community Midwives**

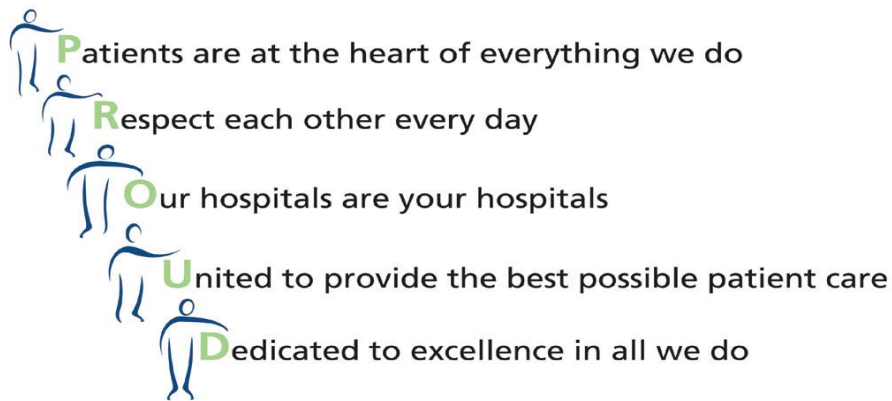
- The Birkenhead Community Midwife Team scooped one of the UK's top midwifery prizes, the 'Innovation in Midwifery' Award, for their 'Mums and Midwives' shop project, at the recent Royal College of Midwives Annual Awards.
- Opened in 2009 and based in The Grange and Pyramids Shopping Centre in Birkenhead, the 'Mums and Midwives' shop is open five days a week. Staffed by a team of community midwives, it provides local women with an easily accessible place in the community where they can get advice on a range of pregnancy and postnatal issues.

### **Oxygen Services**

- The Cardio Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), pulmonary rehabilitation and home oxygen service based at Victoria Central Health Centre has also just scooped a prestigious award. The community based team, comprising staff from our Trust and NHS Wirral, was a winner at the first NHS North West Respiratory Awards in the category of Best Oxygen Service.
- The service was launched in autumn 2009 with the aim of improving the quality of care for patients with COPD and patients in need of home oxygen. So far more than 1,300 patients have benefited from the service and focus groups have shown that patients are extremely satisfied with the service

## **3. Our Core Values**

Our Trust has adopted a set of core values to help shape our culture and character and guide decision-making.



4. Controlling Infection

**The Trust is committed to reducing the incidence of healthcare associated infections. We are one of the few trusts nationally to screen admitted medical & surgical patients for MRSA (meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus). This has reduced the risk of those patients who carry the germ harmlessly from developing an infection and reduces the risk of cross-infection to other patients.**

We have implemented improved antibiotic prescribing practice and increased our isolation facilities. We also investigate **all** serious infections so that we can learn from them and take action to improve practice where necessary. We routinely publish our infection rates on our website and information can also be found on the Health Protection Agency's website [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)

- **MRSA Bacteraemias** – we are pleased to be able to report that there have been NO cases of MRSA bacteraemia across the Trust since September 2010. This has been achieved as a result of many new trust-wide initiatives that all staff have incorporated within their daily practices.
- The incidence of **Clostridium Difficile** has also significantly reduced over recent months and we are well below the threshold number set by the Primary Care Trust.

5. Patient Environment Action Team (PEAT) Assessment Results 2011

- The Trust has just received it's 2011 PEAT assessment results for environment, food and privacy and dignity for each hospital as follows:

Site Name	Environment Score	Food Score	Privacy & Dignity Score
Arrowe Park Hospital	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Clatterbridge Hospital	Good	Excellent	Excellent

6. Assembly of Governors

The Trust's Assembly of Governors meets in public at least 4 times year. Both Public and Staff Members of the Trust and members of the public are welcome to attend. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 6.00pm in the Education Centre, Arrowe Park Hospital. Further details about this meeting or about how to become a Foundation Trust Public Member, is available from the Membership Office at Arrowe Park Hospital ☎ 0800 012 1356

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**Our easy access website can provide lots of useful information for patients, the public, staff and GPs about the Trust and its services. Go to [www.whnt.nhs.uk](http://www.whnt.nhs.uk)**



The website is speech enabled for browsers with sight related problems and the easy click, 'email a patient' facility continues to be a popular feature

Come and Join Us!

As a Foundation Trust we want to involve our Public Members in helping us to shape future services – we currently have 8,500 Public Members and are keen to recruit more. Public Members can get involved as much or as little as they like – from just receiving 'Public Membership News', our regular newsletter, to participating in surveys or standing for election as a Public Governor. To join on-line go to [www.whnt.nhs.uk](http://www.whnt.nhs.uk) or complete the form enclosed in this information pack and return it to the freepost address given.

## **WIRRAL BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **ALCOHOL SCRUTINY REVIEW**

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

This report provides background information regarding the Final Report of the Alcohol Scrutiny Review. It is provided to the Area Forum meeting for information purposes only.

#### **Background**

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Programme Board, held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009, members agreed to undertake an in-depth scrutiny review regarding progress towards implementation of the Alcohol Strategy in Wirral. The Board members agreed that volunteers should be sought from among scrutiny members to form a Panel.
- 1.2 Subsequently, the following members volunteered to be members of the Panel:
  - Councillor Dave Mitchell (Chair)
  - Councillor Sue Taylor
  - Councillor Chris Meaden
  - Councillor Ann Bridson

#### **2. Focus for the Review**

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Programme Board agreed the Scope for the review in January 2010. Due to the enormous breadth of the topic, it was agreed to focus on specific areas, concentrating particularly on those issues which are within the direct responsibility of the Council. The panel members proposed that, due to the high profile and significance of excessive drinking among young people, the central focus of the review should be the "access to alcohol by young people in Wirral".
- 2.2 The main issues for the review were identified in the Scope document as:

- What is the impact of alcohol on young people in Wirral?
- What is the impact of young people drinking alcohol having on other residents of Wirral?
- What is already being done to enable young people to make good choices regarding alcohol?
- What are the key issues relating to access and availability: Where? Price? Promotions?
- What restrictions of access to alcohol exist at present?
- What additional restrictions of access are available and which have been successfully used elsewhere?
- Can Council policies be sensibly amended relating to the access and availability of alcohol, particularly with respect to young people?

### **3. Evidence Gathering and the Report**

The Panel have used a number of methods to gather evidence for the review:

- Meetings with key officers
- Visits by panel members to local communities accompanied by Youth Outreach workers
- Written evidence

### **4. Scrutiny Review Recommendations**

In considering the evidence found during the review, the Panel Members formulated the recommendations listed below:

#### **A. Wirral Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy as a Council priority**

It is recognised that 'Tackle alcohol harm' is a Priority for Improvement in the Council's Corporate Plan for 2010/11 and an Aim for 2008-2013. Given the statistical evidence of alcohol harm in Wirral, the Cabinet is encouraged to ensure that alcohol misuse remains a priority among the Council's objectives for the foreseeable future. Financial support for the service should follow its recognition as a priority service.

#### **B. Funding**

In the past, the alcohol harm reduction services have been provided from a variety of short-term funding streams. This does not promote long-term stability in service provision. In the future, Cabinet is urged to promote long-term planning for the delivery of service by encouraging budgeting for the service over a longer time-frame.

#### **C. Performance Management**

Cabinet is urged to support the implementation of a series of performance indicators which will measure the outcomes of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, including the preventative aspects of the work and the impact on young people. Further development of suitable data-sharing arrangements among the partners, using a single set of data wherever possible, would be beneficial.

#### **D. Education of young people**

Council is requested to recognise the importance and continued priority of education for young people regarding the dangers of alcohol misuse. Education is recognised as a cornerstone of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. The support of all agencies, including schools, health authorities, the Police, Fire & Rescue Service and the voluntary sector, as well as Wirral Council, is fundamental to the delivery of this service. There is concern that appropriate alcohol awareness education should be available to young people in Years 5 and 6 at primary school. Research shows children aged ten and eleven are the most vulnerable age group regarding alcohol.

#### **E. Legislative framework**

Wirral Council Cabinet is encouraged to lobby the Home Office for changes in the law aimed at reducing the supply of alcohol to young people by:

- Limiting the promotion of the sale of alcohol, for example, through 'happy hours'
- Restricting the use of alcohol as a 'loss leader' by supermarkets and other retail outlets

- Reducing the promotion of alcohol through advertising
- Reducing the scale of proxy sales by imposing greater fines on those purchasing alcohol on behalf of under-age drinkers

*F. Minimum unit pricing for alcohol*

The Review Panel supports the principle of minimum unit pricing for alcohol. Council is requested to engage positively in the process to introduce a regional minimum price for alcohol in the Merseyside region.

*G. Cumulative Impact Policy*

Council should actively seek to introduce a Cumulative Impact Policy, as has been introduced by Local Authorities such as Liverpool and Brighton, in order to tackle the increase in outlets in specific hotspot areas.

*H. Trading Standards*

The work of Trading Standards is considered an important element in combating the sale of alcohol to young people. An additional £40,000 was included in the 2010/11 budget of the Council to enable Trading Standards to continue tackling under-age sales of alcohol using a number of methods, including test purchasing, which had led to a reduction in sales to under-age young people. Cabinet is urged to retain that financial support.

*I. Alcohol-related hospital admissions*

All agencies, including Wirral DAAT, are encouraged to ensure that the excellent advice services currently available to support young people who are subject to alcohol-related hospital admissions are continued and, if necessary, expanded.

*J. Relationship with Magistrates*

The Council is encouraged to further develop a tripartite relationship with magistrates and the Police in order to cultivate a mutual understanding of issues relating to the application of licensing laws in the courts.

*K. Multi-agency working*

Wirral Council Cabinet is invited to congratulate all of the agencies and staff involved in the delivery of the Wirral Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. Although much progress remains to be made in tackling the problem of alcohol misuse in Wirral, the impressive partnership working already in place provides a firm foundation for future progress. The Outreach Workers are among the key front-line staff who engage directly with young people and are responsible for the delivery of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. In the current difficult financial circumstances for public services, the protection of the front-line staff should be recognised as a priority in the onward delivery of the strategy. The approach of strong multi-agency working should continue to be supported in the future.

## **5. Outcomes of the Scrutiny Review**

In January 2011, the Scrutiny Programme Board approved the Alcohol Scrutiny Review and, among other resolutions, agreed that the report be referred for consideration by each of the Area Forums.

Subsequently, Wirral Council Cabinet, at the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011, resolved the following:

- i. That the Cabinet welcomes the report and notes the hard work put in by the Alcohol Scrutiny Panel and the Scrutiny Programme Board in carrying out the review.
- ii. That the Cabinet expresses its concern about the serious issues for the health, safety and wellbeing of young people that the report raises and all of the recommendations of the Panel be accepted.
- iii. That it be noted that recommendation A is picked up in the Corporate Plan and that recommendation H has already been acted on in the Budget.
- iv. That the Scrutiny Review be referred to the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee, with a request that it gives specific attention to recommendations E, F, G and J.
- v. That the report be referred to the LSP Executive with a request that it gives specific attention to recommendations B, C, D, I and K.
- vi. That the Director of Public Health be requested to be the lead officer for co-ordinating the response of the Council and other agencies to the report.

## **6. Complete Report**

The complete scrutiny report, 'Access to Alcohol by Young People in Wirral', is available at the following link: <http://bit.ly/alcreport>