

WIRRAL COUNCIL

COUNCIL EXCELLENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12TH JULY 2012

SUBJECT:	OFFICE RATIONALISATION
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL WARDS
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW, HR AND ASSET MANAGEMENT
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR ADRIAN JONES CORPORATE RESOURCES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Phase II proposals of the Office Rationalisation Project.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Members note the contents of this report.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 This update is provided at the request of the Committee

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 Recent Activity

4.1.1 Westminster House has been vacated and being prepared for Sale

4.1.2 The Old Courthouse. Discussions are ongoing to relocate into a suitable building that meets the needs of the Service.

4.1.3 Willowtree. Work is ongoing to prepare the Former Pensby Park Primary School into office accommodation which will allow staff currently based at Willowtree to vacate.

4.1.4 The baseline information of building occupancy is being updated to reflect the position following the VR/VS exercise.

4.2 Phase Two

4.2.1 The following buildings have been identified as options for closure once Staff and Services have been relocated into suitable alternative accommodation.

- Liscard Municipal Offices
- Bebington Town Hall
- Bebington Town Hall Annexe

4.2.2 Options will be presented that seek to define what Services should be present within the Wallasey Complex. The main Town Hall will benefit from a Fire Safety Capital Improvement Scheme and a Business Case will be presented on the Options for North Annexe.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

5.1 Risk management for office rationalisation takes place within the governance arrangements of the Strategic Change Programme.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 Options for accommodation change are developed and considered within the Strategic Change programme.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Consultation is an on-going process with Services affected by these proposals.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 There are no implications in this report for voluntary, community or faith groups.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

9.1 Financial – The rationalisation programme will proceed in line with available capital and revenue resources.

9.2 IT Implications. Weekly meeting coordinate the deployment of IT Resources.

9.3 Staffing – none beyond those referred to in the body of this report

9.4 Asset Management implications are dealt with in the body of the report.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no specific legal implications associated with this report.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed for each building identified for closure

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 Closure of buildings will reduce the Council's CO2 emissions.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no specific Planning and Community Safety implications associated with this report.

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APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet – Transforming Wirral – Strategic Asset Review	15th January 2009
Council Excellence Overview & Scrutiny Committee Office Rationalisation	18th November 2010
Cabinet – Office Rationalisation	25th November 2010
Cabinet – Capital Programme	21st February 2011
Council Excellence Overview & Scrutiny Committee Office Rationalisation and Agile Working	31st January 2011
Council Excellence Overview & Scrutiny Committee Office Rationalisation	16th March 2011