

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## CABINET

8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2011

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>CORPORATE PLAN 2012-13</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>CLLR STEVE FOULKES</b>
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	<b>YES</b>

### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report presents the Council's draft Corporate Plan for 2012-13 at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The draft Corporate Plan reflects the needs of Wirral and priorities for local people. It also puts in place a clear commitment and actions to ensure that the Council's corporate governance failings are addressed through engaging the entire organisation in the challenge and opportunities this presents.
- 1.3 The Corporate Plan provides a clear framework for budget and departmental planning for 2012-13. The plan will directly inform the Council's budget for 2012-13 and departments will prepare individual business plans, which will set out in more detail how the actions in the Corporate Plan will be delivered.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approves the draft Corporate Plan to be referred for adoption by full Council on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011 for implementation from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012.

### **3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 On 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011, the Council agreed a three year Corporate Plan for 2011-14, with a focus on the activity that would be delivered during the current year (2011-12). In line with best practice, and to ensure that the changing needs and priorities of local people are addressed alongside the corporate governance challenges and opportunities faced by the Council, the Corporate Plan has been fully reviewed and refreshed to ensure that it is fit for purpose for 2012-13.

### **4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The draft Corporate Plan at Appendix 1 describes the challenges for the Council and how we will address these.

4.2 The draft Corporate Plan demonstrates how the Council will respond to a number of key drivers. These are:

- The findings of the independent report considered by Cabinet on the 22nd September 2011 entitled 'Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council's Corporate Governance Arrangements: Refresh and Renew' and the subsequent development of a robust work programme and identification of key lines of enquiry to address these findings;
- The recent consultation undertaken across Wirral to inform the development of Neighbourhood Plans for each of the Council's eleven Area Forum areas;
- The development of a child and family poverty strategy for Wirral;
- The Council's revitalised Investment Strategy;
- The effective integration of the Public Health function and new leadership role for local authorities in health and wellbeing

4.3 Subject to approval by Cabinet and Council, the Corporate Plan at Appendix 1 will provide a clear framework for the Council's budget and departmental delivery plans for the period April 2012-13. The timetable for the production of departmental plans and the agreement of the Council's budget is set out in the appendix to the Comprehensive Work Programme report considered by Corporate Governance Committee on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011. Action is now being undertaken in line with this timetable to ensure that departmental plans and the Council's budget are in place by January 2012 and February 2012 respectively. The You Choose Consultation took place between 19 August 2011 and 30 November 2011 and is one element of the ongoing consultation process for setting the 2012/13 Budget. An overview of the process and a summary of the responses are the subject of a separate report on this agenda.

4.4 Prior to the commencement of the 2012-13 financial year, Cabinet is requested to note that the work being undertaken to review and improve the Council's arrangements for policy, corporate and business planning and performance management will impact on the way the Corporate Plan is monitored in 2012-13, for example in respect of the frequency and content of reports to Cabinet and/or Scrutiny Committees, and the way in which corporate and business planning will be delivered in future years. This work, and related recommendations, will be considered by Cabinet as appropriate and in line with the governance arrangements established in respect of the Corporate Governance Committee.

## **5.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

5.1 The corporate risk register will be revised in line with the draft Corporate Plan for 2012-13 to ensure that any risks to delivering the Council's goals are understood and mitigating actions put in place as appropriate.

## **6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

6.1 Not applicable

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 As indicated in 4.2, consultation with local people about their priorities for services has been undertaken through the recent consultation on Neighbourhood Plans. This process engaged individuals and organisations in all areas of Wirral.
- 7.2 The draft child and family poverty strategy which has informed the Corporate Plan is based on consultation with local stakeholders about the needs of children and families in Wirral.

## **8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

- 8.1 The draft Corporate Plan sets out actions in relation to working with voluntary, community and faith sector organisations to improve outcomes for local people.

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

- 9.1 The Corporate Plan informs the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Annual Budget which seek to allocate available resources to deliver the priorities as set out in the Plan. By 10 March each year the Council has to agree a Budget, and set Council Tax levels, for the following financial year.

## **10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 Legal implications relating to the actions set out in the draft Corporate Plan will be addressed by departments as appropriate.

## **11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 2.
- 11.2 In developing individual business plans, departments will also be expected to address equalities implications as appropriate, including through undertaking Equality Impact Assessments in line with corporate requirements.

## **12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 Carbon reduction is a specific goal in the draft Corporate Plan. Any carbon reduction implications relating to other goals and actions will be addressed by departments as appropriate.

## **13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 Planning and community safety implications relating to the actions set out in the draft Corporate Plan will be addressed by departments as appropriate.

**REPORT AUTHOR:     Jim Wilkie**  
**Chief Executive**

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Draft Corporate Plan 2012-2013

Appendix 2: Equality Impact Assessment

## **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

Previous Council and Cabinet reports as detailed in the subject history below

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

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Corporate Plan 2011-2014</b>	<b>Cabinet – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011</b> <b>Council – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011</b>
<b>Independent Review</b>	<b>Cabinet – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011</b>
<b>Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan – Progress Report</b>	<b>Cabinet – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011</b>
<b>Neighbourhood Plans and Area Forum Funding</b>	<b>Cabinet – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011</b>