

WIRRAL COUNCIL

ECONOMY & REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 8TH MARCH 2012

SUBJECT:	Q3 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	KEVIN ADDERLEY – ACTING DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION, HOUSING AND PLANNING
KEY DECISION:	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report sets out performance of the Council's Corporate Plan 2011-14 for October to December 2011, and provides members with an overview of performance, resource and risk monitoring. The report details the performance of projects and performance indicators which are relevant to Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee, under the Corporate Plan themes of 'Your Economy' and 'Your Neighbourhood'.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 Performance Summary

This report provides an overview of quarter three performance in detail including corrective action for relevant performance issues.

2.2 Your Economy

What's working well:

- **Wirral Apprentice Programme Award** – the programme celebrated its second anniversary by winning a prestigious Equality and Diversity award at the Northwest Employers Awards 2011.
- **Tourism boost for Wirral's economy** - The Wirral peninsula was boosted by a successful programme of tourism events in 2011 that generated £3.5m as the Borough's visitor economy continued to go from strength to strength. In addition to this, the latest tourism economic impact figures revealed a 3% increase to £268m for the Borough's economy.
- **819 jobs were created or safeguarded**, 126 above target, via support of the Invest Wirral Relationship Managers and projects supported by the Business Investment Fund.
- **167 businesses were assisted**, 92 above the target, with a few new tourism businesses coming on stream, including New Brighton, boosting business assists by the Partnership officer for quarter three.

- **LGC Awards 2012 - Wirral's Investment Strategy** - an ambitious, innovative and extremely effective approach to supporting / developing the local economy, endorsed by local business testimonials has been shortlisted for an award.

Performance against Corporate Plan project(s):

All of the Corporate Plan projects within this theme are ON TARGET.

Performance against Strategic Change project(s):

There are no projects falling within this theme in the Strategic Change Programme.

2.3 Your Neighbourhood

What's working well:

- Secured a £2.7m allocation from the HCA Transition Fund to assist in the completion of acquisitions of properties remaining in our former HMRI areas,
- 2,310 home insulation measures have been installed this quarter as part of the Wirral Free Insulation Scheme,
- Secured an allocation of £218,000 from the Homes Community Agency to invest in the refurbishment of 10 empty homes to bring them back into use for first time buyers,
- Work has now commenced on site for the provision of 62 new homes for rent and sale by Keepmoat in Phase 1 of the redevelopment works in North Birkenhead.
- 93 Healthy Homes Surveys have been completed this quarter providing a wide range of support for some of Wirral's most vulnerable households living in poor condition housing.

Performance against Corporate Plan project(s):

The following project within this theme has been assessed as **amber**:

Portfolio	Key project	Status			Corrective Action
		Q1	Q2	Q3	
Housing & Community Safety	Implement proposals to reduce under occupation in social housing by August 2011	Green	Amber		Working with Registered Social Landlords to finalise proposals and agreement to take pilot forward.

3.0 FUTURE CHALLENGES / RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 Growth in Wirral's economy will make it easier for the Council to deliver its vision of a more prosperous and equal Wirral.
- 3.2 The Wirral Waters scheme continues to progress with permission having been granted for the International Trade Centre. A delegation has been to China during the last

quarter to help develop economic links and to promote the International Trade centre. This should bring substantial future benefits for the area.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 Not applicable

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 Consultation in relation to Wirral's Corporate Plan 2011-14 engaged individuals and organisations from across Wirral's diverse communities and this is reflected in the plan.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

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

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

7.1 Particular pressures within this area relate to planning and building control income with an underachievement of £0.5 million possible.

7.2 A number of initiatives are being progressed including through the business support programme and empty shops scheme. The Wirral Waters scheme continues to progress which will bring significant financial benefits to the area.

7.3 The capital programme forecast outturn has reduced by £0.9 million due to slippage on improvement to stock schemes although progress continues on these schemes. Four grants were made to companies through the Think Big Investment Fund during the period. Going forward additional grant approval has been received for future years relating to former HMRI areas.

7.4 The Council Budget 2011/12, Schools Budget 2011/12 and Capital Programme 2011/13 have been agreed and support the delivery of the Corporate Plan. Resource implications relating to the delivery of actions in the Corporate Plan have been set out in individual departmental plans.

7.5 The projected general fund balance at 31 March 2012 is £9.7 million as shown below

Details	£million	£million
Projected General Fund balance at 31 March 2012 when setting the budget for 2011/12		6.9
Cabinet decisions		
17 March – Fernleigh retained		-0.5
2 June – New Homes Bonus/ Local Services Grant		+0.5
23 June - Financial out-turn 2010/11 showed a net increase in the balance of £1 million after meeting a net revenue overspend of £0.3 million		+1.0
23 June - Integrated Transport Unit additional funding		-0.3
23 June - EVR/VS scheme funded as part of 2010/11 thereby		+4.4

releasing the requirement to fund in 2011/12.		
21 July – Social Services Reprovision		-3.5
21 July – National Insurance changes		-1.0
21 July – Support for School Pay		-0.2
22 September – Independent Review		-0.3
13 October - Capitalisation of Statutory Redundancy Payments		+2.7
Projected variances / potential overspends		
None declared although pressures identified at the end of September 2011 within:		-
- Adult Social Services	£6.8 million	
-Children and Young People	£1.6 million	
- Regeneration, Housing and Planning	£0.5 million	
General Fund balance at 31 March 2012 based upon the latest projections		9.7

7.6 The Adult Social Services Children and Young People and Regeneration, Housing and Planning Departments have highlighted pressures on their departmental budgets. Any subsequent overspend would impact upon the general fund balances.

7.7 The capital programme is summarised below:

Spend	Original Approval £000	Revised Approval £000	Forecast Sep £000	Forecast Dec £000
Adult Social Services	1,154	2,943	2,943	2,943
Children & Young People	25,889	32,290	24,444	22,953
Regeneration, Housing & Planning	5,181	18,037	13,488	12,571
Finance	1,000	6,728	3,671	6,728
Law, HR and Asset Mgt	8,163	8,879	8,779	8,879
Technical Services	7,872	11,564	11,564	11,564
Total Programme	49,259	80,441	64,889	65,638

Resources	Original Approval £000	Revised Approval £000	Forecast Sep £000	Forecast Dec £000
Borrowing	15,905	32,584	22,819	27,337
Capital Receipts	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Revenue, reserves, contributions	300	2,394	1,434	1,434
Grants - Education	23,441	22,703	21,536	19,084
Grants - Integrated Transport	1,155	1,155	1,155	1,155
Grants - Local Transport Plan	3,095	3,095	3,095	3,095
Grants - Other	2,363	15,510	11,850	10,533
Total resources	49,259	80,441	64,889	65,638

7.8 The outturn forecast for the 2011/12 capital programme has slightly increased since quarter 2. This is mainly due to the additional approval granted following the receipt of permission from the DCLG to capitalise statutory redundancy payments. There has been some re-profiling of schemes within CYP and Regeneration, Housing and Planning.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Corporate Plan has a clear focus on supporting those who are disadvantaged, including the delivery of specific services and through ensuring that all of Wirral's diverse communities are equally able to access services.

9.2 Equalities implications relating to the actions set out in the Corporate Plan will be addressed by departments as appropriate, and details set out in individual departmental plans. This work is also monitored by the Corporate Equalities and Cohesion Group and the Council Excellence Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no relevant carbon reduction implications in this report.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no relevant planning and community safety implications in this report.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 The Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the contents of the report and request any further information or action to be taken.

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REFERENCE MATERIAL

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

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
CABINET – 2011/12 Q2 Performance and Financial Review	03 November 2011
CABINET – 2011/12 Q1 Performance and Financial Review	21 July 2011
CABINET - Delivering the Corporate Plan	17 April 2011
COUNCIL - Adoption of Corporate Plan 2011-14	14 April 2011
CABINET - Draft Corporate Plan for 2011-14	17 March 2011