

## LGA Wirral Improvement Board

### Key Messages

The Cabinet lead for the Improvement Board, Councillor Ann McLachlan, update the Board on progress as follows:

- The Corporate Peer Challenge was recently completed and confirmed that the Council had adopted an appropriate framework for improvement.
- The outcome of the 'What Really Matters' consultation was reported to Cabinet on the 8<sup>th</sup> November.
- The members planning event 'The shape of thing to come' which took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> November was well attended by members and supported by the Local Government Association. This event re-emphasized the commitment of engagement with all members.
- The progress of the improvement plan will be reported to Cabinet on the 29<sup>th</sup> November and circulated to the Board

The Acting Deputy Chief Executive provided an update on the Senior Management restructure and budget process. The Board noted that although Wirral was behind other authorities in addressing the budgetary challenges this did present opportunities to learn from others.

The Board received a report on the draft Communications and Engagement Strategy and stressed the importance of aligning activity with the Cultural Change Programme and other plans. In particular a focus on the importance of forging a new relationship with residents and reflecting the future shape of the council in plans moving forward.

A report was received of the current budget process, progress on investigating shared services and the future Information Technology Strategy. The Board expressed its concern with the current in year budget overspend and the potential impact this could have on future plans. The Board welcomed the new approach, however stressed the importance of transparency and clarity of the current position and the need for 'cash limited' budgets in the future. In reviewing the Officer Budget Options the Board expressed some concerns that there were not higher savings identified from back office functions, specifically Information Technology, Asset Management and Procurement. Members of the Board from the LGA offered assistance in these areas.

An overview report was provided on the ongoing work to review the Councils Scheme of Delegations. The Board stressed the importance of greater transparency in decision making and noted that that an effective and operational Constitution and Scheme of Delegations would be a key success measure for the Improvement Plan.

An outline Change Management Strategy was discussed by the Board and it was agreed that an integrated and pragmatic approach to change management was required. A report will be brought forward to the Board in the New Year which will address this area.

The Board agreed that now Wirral was implementing much of the Improvement Plan that in future meetings would be held every two months with a clear focus on improvement progress. Dates of future meeting in 2013 were agreed by the Board. The next meeting would be the 1st February 2013

Key themes throughout the meeting were the importance of accountability and improved values and behaviours. The Board welcomed the outcome of the Peer Challenge and stressed the importance of using the outcomes from this as a tool for further progress.