

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## COUNCIL EXCELLENCE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

30 JANUARY 2013

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>                      | <b><i>WIRRAL LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD - UPDATE</i></b> |
| <b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>              | <b><i>ALL</i></b>  |
| <b>REPORT OF:</b>                    | <b><i>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</i></b>                            |
| <b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b> | <b><i>CLLR ANN MCLACHLAN</i></b>                         |

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides an update on the action undertaken by the Chief Executive to initiate the establishment of a Public Service Board for Wirral.

### 2.0 KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The financial challenges faced by Wirral Council have emphasised the need for the local authority to work in partnership with other public sector organisations to maximise the resources available.
- 2.2 On taking up post in September 2012, the Chief Executive initiated discussions with local public service organisations about the establishment of a Public Service Board. Based on these early discussions, an initial meeting of partners took place in November which established a clear commitment to move forward with the establishment of the Board. A formal Terms of Reference is now being developed, which will be focused on members of the Board proactively working together to identify strategic and operational opportunities for collaboration and taking a 'task and finish' approach to partnership issues.
- 2.3 It is anticipated that membership of the Board will be Wirral Council, NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust, Wirral University NHS Hospital Trust, Wirral Partnership Homes, Department for Work and Pensions, Wirral Metropolitan College, Wirral Community NHS Trust and NHS Cheshire, Warrington & Wirral PCT Cluster. Additional partners may be invited dependent where a strategic need to collaborate is identified by the members of the Board.
- 2.4 Partners have agreed in principle that membership of the Board should be based on the ability to make decisions in principle relating to their organisations. Where necessary of course decisions and recommendations made by the Board shall be subject to the relevant decision making and governance arrangements of partner organisations.
- 2.5 It should also be noted that the Public Service Board does not replace the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Executive Board. Wirral has had in place a Local Strategic Partnership for a considerable period of time, with an LSP Executive established in more recent years to oversee the development and delivery of the Local Area Agreement. The abolition of Local Area Agreements from March 2011, along with the abolition of Government Offices and former national performance management

regimes, removed a significant part of the statutory framework for Local Strategic Partnerships and has resulted in areas reviewing their approaches to strategic partnership working. A review is now being undertaken alongside the establishment of the Public Service Board to ensure that the Local Strategic Partnership is now reinvigorated as a mechanism for public services to engage with other key sectors including businesses and voluntary, community and faith organisations.

### **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

3.1 None identified, the establishment of the Public Service Board will help to mitigate shared risks in relation to public sector finance.

### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

4.1 The establishment of the Public Service Board is one aspect of developing a range of options for ensuring that partnership working in Wirral is effective.

### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

5.1 Partners have been consulted as to the approach and consultation with a range of stakeholders will be undertaken as part of the wider Local Strategic Partnership review.

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

6.1 Voluntary, community and faith groups will be consulted as part of the wider Local Strategic Partnership review to maximise opportunities for their full engagement in strategic and thematic partnerships.

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

7.1 There are no resource implications directly arising from this report. The secretariat for the Public Service Board is provided within existing resources in Policy, Performance and Public Health.

### **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

### **9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The formal Terms of Reference for the Board will include a statement on equalities. In addition, an equalities impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the wider review of the Local Strategic Partnership to identify the necessary steps which will need to be undertaken to engage protected groups as part of a reinvigorated and inclusive partnership structure.

### **10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

### **11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

### **12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

12.1 Members are requested to note the initial steps taken to establish a Public Service Board and to receive further updates on the work of the Board and the wider Local Strategic Partnership in due course.

### **13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

13.1 This report was produced in response to a request from this committee.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** *Fiona Johnstone*  
Head of Policy and Performance / Director of Public Health  
0151 691 8152  
email: [Fiona.Johnstone@wirral.nhs.uk](mailto:Fiona.Johnstone@wirral.nhs.uk)