

## **COUNCIL**

**14 OCTOBER 2013**

### **CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR PAT HACKETT</b>
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR</b>	<b>ECONOMY</b>
<b>CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>KEVIN ADDERLEY, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR REGENERATION &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b>

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

#### **1. HOYLAKE GOLF RESORT**

Work is progressing well through a competitive dialogue process in identifying a partner for June 2014 to take forward the golf resort. Interest from developers remains strong and the OJEU notice seeking proposals will be issued on October 4, 2013.

#### **2. BROADBAND UK (BDUK)**

A contract has now been signed with BT to deliver this project across Merseyside and the detailed implementation programme is now being finalised.

#### **3. BIRKENHEAD TOWN CENTRE**

A 12 month lock out agreement is being finalised with Neptune Developments to enable them to progress the development of a master plan for the town centre. When completed, this master plan will come back to Members for consideration.

Significant progress has been achieved in the delivery of the Investment Strategy including contributing to and leading several key City Region developments. Key programme development includes the next European Programme Investment Strategy, contribution towards the LCR Growth Plan and Wirral led the development of a Youth Unemployment Task Force Report.

#### **4. OTHER PROGRESS**

- Apprenticeship Programme – Approval for the continued delivery of an apprenticeship programme was given in August and work is starting on the recruitment of at least 50 new apprentices into placements in Wirral businesses

- Development of an Offshore Survival Centre – Officers continue to progress the plans for the development of an offshore wind survival centre in Wirral, based on the growth of the offshore wind industry but in response to the needs of the maritime sector overall.
- Enterprise Zone (Wirral Waters) – significant remediation work is expected to start within the last quarter of 2013/14, following a successful £8m Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF) bid to Government in June. The clearance of the former Mobil site at the West Float will mark an exciting period of development across a site under utilized for most of the last 30 years. This work links to the development of several key projects, including the development of a focal point for hosting International Festival of Business events in Wirral during June/ July 2014.
- Local Asset Backed Vehicle – work has begun to scope the development of a Local Asset Backed Vehicle (LABV) for the Council to look at new ways of working for the Council in delivering key capital regeneration schemes. An options appraisal will be presented back to Cabinet later in the year.
- Regional Growth Fund – progressing the delivery of the Councils successful £5m RGF bid with the first award being made to a local engineering company. We now also have agreement to work with companies to offer financial assistance from the £15m LEP RGF programme. A significant pipeline of proposals is in place and Officers will now progress these through the appraisal process.
- Youth Unemployment Task Force – Wirral has seen a reduction of almost 15% in youth unemployment over the last year with 2,335 18-24 year olds now claiming Jobseekers Allowance in the borough. Building on good progress, Wirral Council will now drive forward the recommendations of the Liverpool City Region Youth Unemployment Task Force successfully led by Wirral. City Region partners will use this report to support identification of resources for Youth Unemployment initiatives.