

## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### TRANSFORMATION & RESOURCES POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

29 JANUARY 2014

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>FINANCIAL MONITORING 2013/14 MONTH 8 (NOVEMBER 2013)</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES</b>

#### **1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report sets out the financial monitoring information for this Committee to ensure consistency across the Policy and Performance Committees and aims to give Members sufficient detail to scrutinise budget performance for the Directorate. Financial information for Month 8 (November 2013) reported to Cabinet on 16 of January is included.

#### **2 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 2.1 Members of formed Policy and Performance Committees have requested that financial monitoring information is provided as a standard item at each Committee.
- 2.2 Since September 2012 monthly revenue and capital monitoring reports have been submitted to Cabinet as a means of providing regular, detailed updates on budget performance.
- 2.3 At its meeting on 3 September 2013, the Policy and Performance Coordinating Committee reviewed the most recent revenue and capital monitor reports submitted to Cabinet in July.
- 2.4 The Coordinating Committee agreed that in order to fulfil its corporate and strategic scrutiny role, it will continue to review the full versions of the most up to date monitor reports at its future scheduled meetings.

#### **3 PROPOSED REPORTING TO POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEES**

- 3.1 It is proposed that for the three Policy and Performance Committees aligned to the Directorates, the relevant sections from the most recent revenue and capital monitoring reports are summarised into a bespoke report for each of the Policy and Performance Committees. This will include the following:
- Performance against revenue budget
  - Performance against in year efficiency targets
  - Performance against capital budget

3.2 The following sections have been extracted from the Financial Monitoring reports presented to Cabinet on 16 January 2014.

### PERFORMANCE AGAINST REVENUE BUDGETS MONTH 8 (NOV 2013)

### 3.3 CHANGES TO THE AGREED BUDGET

#### 3.3.1 2013/14 Original & Revised Net Budget £000's

	Original Net Budget	Approved Budget Changes Prior Mths	Approved Budget Changes Month 8	Revised Net Budget
Transformation & Resources	12,424	5,275	-	17,699

#### 3.3.2 Changes to the Budget agreed since the 2013/14 Budget was set

Items	£m
Corporate and Democratic Services to be grouped within the Transformation and Resources Directorate where Direct management control for these areas lies	+4.639
A support post has also been transferred from Transformation and Resources to the Chief Executive's Directorate.	-0.037
A number of training and legal posts have been transferred from Children and Young People to Transformation and Resources	+0.353
Transfer of staffing budgets from DASS in Families & Wellbeing to Financial Services within Transformation & Resources	+0.170
Transfer from Transformation and Resources to the Chief Executive for community engagement	-0.025
Realigning of the call centre recharge relating to the new garden waste service from Environment & Regulation to Transformation and change.	+0.009
Staff transfer from CYPD to Financial services following recent restructure.	+0.044
Transfer of advertising budget from Transformation and Resources to Chief Executive Dep.	-0.020
Movement of Chief Executive non pay budget from Transformation and Resources to Chief Executive Dep.	-0.008
Strategic Director post moved to Transformation and Resources from Chief Exec Dep.	+0.150

3.3.3 All of the budget changes have been virements to reflect the re-alignment of functions, and the related budgets, between the Transformation & Resources Directorate and other Directorates the Chief Executive's Department. There have been no changes approved by Cabinet which increase the Directorate and Council spending.

### 3.4 VARIATIONS

3.4.1 The report will use RAGBY ratings that will highlight under and overspends and place them into 'risk bands'. The 'risk band' classification is:

- Extreme: Overspends - **Red** (over +£301k), Underspend **Yellow** (over -£301k)
- Acceptable: Amber (+£141k to +£300k), Green (range from +£140k to -£140k); Blue (-£141k to -£300k)

### 3.4.2 2013/14 Projected Budget variations £000's

Directorate	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	(Under) Overspend Month 8	RAGBY Classification	Change from prev mnth
Transformation & Resources	17,699	17,450	-249	B	-

### 3.4.3 RAGBY full details

Department	Number of Budget Areas	Red	Amber	Green	Blue	Yellow
Transformation & Resources	7	1	0	5	0	1

3.4.4 A £249K underspend is currently forecast (unchanged from Month 7), as a result of savings on the Insurance Fund contracts and Capital Financing savings agreed as part of the completion of the 2012/13 accounts which resulted in a permanent budget saving.

3.4.5 The red rated business area relates to Transformation and Resources Business Processes. This is currently forecast at £700,000 overspent (net of any other compensatory saving measures) due to forecast unachieved savings of £1.3 million relating to court costs income. The £700,000 will be funded from savings within other staffing and Treasury Management budgets within Transformation and Resources.

## 3.5 IMPLEMENTATION OF 2013/14 SAVINGS

### 3.5.1 Budget Implementation Plan 2013/14 Transformation only £000's

BRAG	Number of savings Options	Approved Budget Reduction	Amount Delivered at Nov	Still to be Delivered
B - delivered	10	12,448	12,448	0
G – on track	10	11,201	5,226	5,975
A - concerns	4	5,120	3,019	2,101
R - failed	1	2,429	1,129	1,300
P – replacements for Red	1	0	866	434
<b>Total at M8 Nov</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>31,198</b>	<b>22,688</b>	<b>9,810</b>

3.5.2 The Savings Tracker is Annex 5 of the Cabinet report and appended to this report details those areas classed under Transformation & Resources which are actually wider than the Directorate's area of responsibility and cover a number of cross-authority savings such as the Terms & Conditions savings.

The red rated option is:

- Council Tax: Court Costs

Amber rated options relate to:

- Transforming Business Support
- Reducing the numbers of Agency workers
- Procurement
- Workforce Conditions of Service

The directorate is forecasting an underspend with savings elsewhere covering any budgetary shortfall from any non-delivery of savings options.

### 3.5.3 Budgetary Issues £000's

Description	£000	Action
Facilities Management	250	Agreed can be met from permanent budget reduction
Market Supplements funding from central budget for pay growth (page 7) Budget Book	490	Funding from central budget for pay growth (page 7) Budget Book
Terms & Conditions 2012/13	200	Part funding from central budget for pay growth (page 7) Budget Book
Terms & Conditions 2012/13 part £100k, Transforming Business Support £300k Terms & Conditions 2013/14 £472k	872	Funded from increased balances forecast in M8 monitor
Council Tax Court Costs	1,300	2013/14 compensatory savings from T&R staffing and treasury Management, growth request/budget adjustment 2014/15 +

3.5.4 At this stage the issues that have been identified of concern are reported at Annex 12 Budgetary Issues of the Cabinet report and this identifies solutions to those savings were delivery is not anticipated in 2013/14.

## 3.6 INCOME AND DEBT

3.6.1 The Transformation & Resources Directorate includes Business Processes which collects income on behalf of the Council. This is detailed in Annex 9 of the Cabinet report and appended to this report. Revenue and Income falls into the four broad areas shown below for reporting purposes:-

### Amount to be collected in 2013/14 £000's

	2013/14	2013/14	
	Collectable	Collected	%
	£000	£000	
Council Tax	135,526	99,252	75.1
Business Rates	70,007	54,218	77.5
Fees and charges – Adults	54,424	26,647	50.0
Fees and charges – all other services	43,667	35,585	81.5

3.6.2 A high risk income item is that required from residents who previously paid no Council Tax. The Council Tax Support Scheme was introduced in April. As this involves billing a large number of properties who have not previously paid Council Tax, having previously received benefit at 100%, an overall collection

rate of 75% generating £2.25 million has been assumed. The forecast is that £1.98 million (66%) will be collected by 31 March with recovery actions post 31 March increasing the collection to the target figure. At 30 November collection was 39.1% equating to £1,199,000 and is still ahead of the profiled target.

- 3.6.3 Recovery from non Council Tax Support recipient debtors is continuing as normal. Action taken to recover from those of Working Age that previously received Council Tax Benefit is ongoing. Repayment plans offering weekly/fortnightly instalments were offered to those contacting the Council, 5,054 applications for Deduction of Benefits have been made since July, 82% higher than last year.
- 3.6.4 Business Rates income collection was 77.5% during November. This is higher than the 76.4% collected at the equivalent period in 2012/13. Comparisons are difficult as large increases/decreases in Rateable Values are reflected in the collectable amount. The taxbase change has resulted in an extra £1 million to be collected in the first 8 months of this financial year. The timing and amounts of refunds may also affect the comparison. Recovery procedures have been tightened with debt being pursued earlier and the position is being closely monitored.
- 3.6.5 Issues regarding the collection of sundry debt were reported to Cabinet on 23 May 2013.

### 3.7 PERFORMANCE AGAINST CAPITAL BUDGETS MONTH 8 (NOV 2013)

#### 3.7.1 Table 1: Capital Budget

	Capital strategy	Changes approved by Cabinet	Reprofile to be approved	Other changes to be noted or approved	Revised Capital Programme
Trans & Res -Finance	210	0	0	0	210
Trans & Res - Asset Mgt	315	1,844	0	0	2,159

Significant variations to be approved or noted by Cabinet for Period 8 are set out in Table 1. The majority of changes approved are made up of slippage from 12/13.

#### 3.7.2 Table 2: Spend to date November (8/12 = 66.6%)

	SPEND TO DATE		COMMENTS ON VARIATION RAG
	£000	%	
Trans & Res -Finance	55	26	Green -acceptable
Trans & Res - Asset Mgt	1,145	53	Green -acceptable

Expenditure on capital to date is compared to budget in Table 2.

#### 3.7.3 Table 3: Projected Outturn compared to Revised Budget £000's

	REVISED	PROJECTED	VARIATION
	BUDGET	OUTTURN	
Trans & Res – Finance	210	210	0

Trans & Res - Asst Mgt	2,159	2,159	0
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3.7.4 The main schemes are for alterations to Wallasey Town Hall and the Rock ferry Centre which are on site and progressing. The other planned schemes are at the West Kirby and Conway Centre One Stop Shops.

#### **4 RELEVANT RISKS**

4.1 There are none relating to this report.

#### **5 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 Any option to improve the monitoring and budget accuracy will be considered.

#### **6 CONSULTATION**

6.1 No consultation has been carried out in relation to this report.

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

7.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

#### **8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL, IT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

8.1 In respect of the Revenue Budget the Transformation & Resources Directorate is projecting an under spend of £249,000 as at the 30 November 2013.

#### **9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

#### **10 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The report is for information and there are no direct equalities implications at this stage.

#### **11 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

#### **12 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

#### **13 RECOMMENDATIONS**

13.1 Members are requested to review the information presented to determine if they have any specific questions relating to the budget for the Transformation & Resources Directorate.

## 14 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

14.1 To ensure Members have the appropriate information to review the budget performance of the directorate.

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### APPENDICES

Extracted from the Revenue Monitoring report to Cabinet on 16 January 2014:-

Annex 5 Savings Tracker  
Annex 9 Income And Debt  
Annex 12 Budgetary Issues

### SUBJECT HISTORY

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Monthly financial monitoring reports for Revenue and Capital have been presented to Cabinet since September 2012.	

## EXTRACT FROM FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT MONTH 8 (DEC 2013)

### Annex 5 SAVINGS TRACKER

#### TRANSFORMATION AND RESOURCE

Saving	Target £000	Comments / progress on implementation	BGAR	Amount delivered at M8 Nov 13 £000	To be delivered £000
Efficiency Investment Fund	4,400	Savings achieved	B	4,400	0
Treasury Management	1,700	Savings achieved	B	1,700	0
Revenues and Benefits	550	Savings achieved	B	550	0
Information Technology Service	210	Savings achieved	B	210	0
Marketing and Public Relations	167	Savings achieved	B	167	0
Tranmere Rovers Sponsorship	135	Savings achieved	B	135	0
Power Supplies - Contract Saving	11	Savings achieved	B	11	0
Area Forum Funding	391	Savings achieved	B	391	0
Council Tax Increase	2,600	Savings achieved	B	2,600	0
Council Tax: Discounts and Exemptions	2,284	Savings achieved	B	2,284	0
Reduction in External Audit Fees	140	The budget has been reduced to reflect the new contract and is expected to be fully realised in year.	G	0	140
Local Council Tax Support Scheme	2,785	Scheme introduced and progress being monitored as per section 7.3 above	G	0	2,785
Reducing Council Management	5,000	Savings profile weighted towards increased delivery in 2nd half of year reflecting date of leavers Vacant posts are being pro rata'd over the year.	G	2,672	2,328



Trade Union funding	-270	The funding for the Trade Unions has been built in with the costs to still be recharged across business areas at the end of the year.	G	-270	0
Reducing the Cost of Democracy	100	The cost of the Members Allowances has been reduced and the saving is expected to be achieved in this area.	G	0	100
The Mayor of Wirral	50	It is expected that Civic Services will be able to achieve this saving from June 2013 and there will be a drive to reduce overtime and supplies to achieve the saving.	G	0	50
Libraries and One Stop Shops	391	Staff savings at the budget level are evident in April monitoring.	G	391	0
Housing Benefits – Maximisation of Grant	2,000	Saving has been incorporated into the budget and is expected to be achieved.	G	2,000	0
Service Restructures	905	Broken down as: £50k Asset Mgmt – delayed restructure but the full £100k should be achieved during 2013-15 £292k HR delayed restructure but it is envisaged that the full saving of £584k will be achieved over the course of 2013-15. £263k related to RHP £300k for Legal Services, of which £100k relates to employees which is expected to be achieved through compensatory budgets with the restructure helping to achieve the £200k that is currently set aside Legal/Court costs which are a very volatile area.	G G G A	333	572

Better Use of Buildings	100	Details as to how this saving will be achieved are to be finalised as there are also savings that have rolled forward from previous years relating to assets.	G	100	0
Transforming Business Support	500	Saving has been incorporated into the budget. Staff savings are expected and some have already been achieved. Further work is taking place to develop saving.	A	169	331
Reducing the numbers of Agency workers	500	The current saving in year is £71k up to September 2013. However, there are plans to bring a significant number of current contracts to an end later in year. Challenge is around how savings are allocated across departments.	A	71	429
Procurement	320	This saving has not progressed as anticipated, but compensatory savings are expected to be made during the year.	A	312	8
Workforce Conditions of Service	3,800	Negotiations with TUs are concluded Target saving likely to be £3.7 million. Slippage depending upon agreement is likely. Challenge is around how savings are allocated across departments.	A	2,467	1,333
Council Tax: Court Costs	2,429	Current projections show full saving will not be delivered. 1.3M Compensatory savings will be made from staffing budgets (0.8M) and Treasury Management Budgets (0.5M) within Transformation and Resources.	R	1,129	1,300

## EXTRACT FROM FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT MONTH 8 (DEC 2013)

### Annex 9 INCOME AND DEBT

#### Council Tax

The following statement compares the amount collected for **Council Tax** in the period 1 April 2013 to 30 November 2013 with the amount collected in the same period in 2012/13:

	<b>Actual 2013/14 £</b>	<b>Actual 2012/13 £</b>
Cash to Collect	<b>135,525,770</b>	125,771,529
Cash Collected	<b>99,252,118</b>	94,509,367
% Collected	<b>73.2%</b>	75.1%

Council Tax benefits has been abolished and replaced by Council Tax support and the numbers and awards as at 30 November 2013 are as follows:

Number of <b>Council Tax Support</b> recipients	<b>38,089</b>
Total Council Tax Support expenditure	<b>£27,842,000</b>
Number of pensioners	<b>16,274</b>
Number of vulnerable	<b>7,213</b>
Number of working age	<b>21,815</b>

The level of collection reflects the increased charges to those charge payers now in receipt of Council Tax Support and having to pay a minimum of 22% of the annual charge as well as the increased charges in respect of reduced discounts and exemptions. Overall there is an extra £10 million to be collected for 2013/14. Council Tax Support claimants of Working Age total 21,818, this includes 6,668 who receive maximum support leaving 15,150 paying at least 22%. This Council Tax Support debt is £3,065,591.

A Council Tax Discretionary Relief policy was agreed by Cabinet in October and funded to a maximum of £50,000. An application form has been placed on the web. No awards have been made to date. I will report, next month, in a similar way to the Discretionary Housing Payment report shown later.

## Business Rates

The following statement compares the amount collected for **National Non-Domestic Rates** in the period 1 April 2013 to 30 November 2013 with the amount collected in the same period in 2012/13:

	<b>Actual 2013/14</b>	<b>Actual 2012/13</b>
	£	£
Cash to Collect	<b>70,006,814</b>	68,207,306
Cash Collected	<b>54,218,007</b>	52,136,990
% Collected	<b>77.5%</b>	76.4%

## Accounts Receivable

The table below shows the new department names and the split at what stage of the recovery cycle they are:

Description	Less than 28 days	1st reminder	2nd reminder	3rd reminder	Total at 30.11.13
Chief Executive	<b>£63,466</b>	<b>£46,746</b>	<b>£3,238</b>	<b>£576,305</b>	<b>£689,755</b>
Neighbourhood	<b>£10,401</b>	<b>£2,617</b>	<b>£462</b>	<b>£23,997</b>	<b>£37,477</b>
Transformation	<b>£435,269</b>	<b>£3,139,183</b>	<b>£27,082</b>	<b>£461,924</b>	<b>£4,063,458</b>
Families	<b>£4,231,430</b>	<b>£927,548</b>	<b>£774,028</b>	<b>£19,525,332</b>	<b>£25,458,338</b>
Regeneration & Environment	<b>£634,661</b>	<b>£118,393</b>	<b>£129,614</b>	<b>£2,514,382</b>	<b>£3,397,050</b>
Policy and Performance	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£159,632</b>	<b>£159,632</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£5,375,227</b>	<b>£4,234,487</b>	<b>£934,424</b>	<b>£23,101,940</b>	<b>£33,805,710</b>

The above figures are for invoices in respect of the period up to the end of November 2013. Payments as well as amendments such as write-offs and debts cancellations continue to be made after this date on all these accounts. There is a further deduction of £561,234 to be made for unallocated payments leaving a balance of **£33,244,476**.

## BENEFITS

The following statement details the number of claimants in respect of benefit and the expenditure for Private Tenants and those in receipt of Council Tax Support up to 30 November 2013:

	2013/14	2012/13
Number of <b>Private Tenant</b> recipients	<b>31,700</b>	31,616
Total rent allowance expenditure	<b>£93,957,542</b>	
Number under the <b>Local Housing Allowance</b> Scheme ( <i>included in the above</i> )	12,243	11,975
	£37,676,273	
Number of <b>Council Tax Support</b> recipients	<b>38,112</b>	
Total Council Tax Support expenditure	<b>£28,094,943</b>	
Total expenditure on benefit to date	<b>£122,052,486</b>	

The following statement provides information concerning the breakdown according to client type as at 30 November 2013 and gives the early year numbers to show the shift in sector by benefit claimants during the year.

	30.11.13	1.05.13
<b>Private Tenants</b>		
Claimants in the Private Rented Sector	<b>14,730</b>	14,451
Claimants in the Social Rented Sector	<b>16,970</b>	16,765
Owner Occupiers	<b>10,410</b>	10,738
Total claimants by age group		
- under 25 years old	<b>2,582</b>	2,728
- 25 – 60 years old	<b>22,055</b>	21,741
- over 60 years old	<b>17,473</b>	17,623

There are **42,110** benefit recipients in Wirral as at 30 November 2013.

### Under Occupancy regulations

From 1 April 2013 property size criteria was introduced to working age tenants of social housing (Registered Providers). Where a claimant is deemed to be occupying accommodation larger than they reasonably require, Housing Benefit (HB) levels have been restricted as follows:

- One “spare” bedroom incurs a 14% reduction. In Wirral the current average is £12 weekly and there are 2,892 households affected;
- Two or more spare bedrooms incurs a 25% reduction – the Wirral average is currently £21 weekly and there are 687 affected;
- Out of a total social sector HB caseload of 16,970 - 3,579 are currently affected by this. Numbers have reduced slightly as the reduction has, in some cases, been overridden due to the claimant's circumstances.

## Housing Benefit Fraud and Enquiries – 01 April 2013 to 30 November 2013

New Cases referred to Fraud team in period	923
Cases where fraud found and action taken	41
Cases investigated, no fraud found and recovery of overpayment may be sought	345
Cases under current investigation	261
Surveillance Operations Undertaken	0
Cases where fraud found and action taken:	
Administration penalty	2
Caution issued and accepted	8
Successful prosecution	30
Summons issued for prosecution purposes	35

### Discretionary Housing Payments

The tables below profile the position of Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) administration and associated spend. DHP is not a payment of Housing Benefit and is funded separately from the main scheme. Whilst traditionally it was seen as a short term measure to financially assist those who had difficulty in meeting a rental shortfall, increasingly the nature of awards is changing as the impacts of Welfare Reform roll-out. The Department for Work and Pensions see such awards, for which the Government contribution has increased, in many cases as supporting people through the transition of reform, allowing them time to rebudget, increase their income or to secure a DHP award to help with moving costs.

The Government contribution for 2013/14 is £917,214 with an overall limit of £2,293,035 which the Authority must not exceed. In direct recognition of the impacts of the Reforms, the DWP also made a further £10 million Transitional Funding available for 2013/14, of which Wirral's share is £64,000. Spend is closely monitored, with year end spend forecasted on a monthly basis. Whilst the percentage spend to date, at 54%, is lower than this time 2012/13, the escalating impacts of reforms such as Social Sector Size Criteria and wider increase in people struggling to manage financially as a result of a myriad of change, means that it is expected that Wirral will use up the full government contribution by year end. £35,000 has been allocated to Housing Options to meet rent deposits to enable people to move into sustainable tenancies and they have allocated £11,690 of this to date.

Data @ 31/10/2013										
Month	Claims Considered			DHP Awards in Payment	Current Awards	Committed awards up to 31/03/2014	% spent (committed) of Govt cont	Forecasted Y.E. spend	Annual Total Cont.	Cont remaining
	Total consid	Awarded	Refused							
April	62	26	36	65	£11,674	£16,883	2%	£198,794	£917,214	£888,655
May	228	103	125	136	£27,093	£41,845	5%	£242,440	£917,214	£875,368
June	296	122	174	230	£51,067	£79,329	9%	£314,732	£917,214	£837,884
July	358	143	215	355	£80,470	£122,073	13%	£371,305	£917,214	£795,140
August	387	210	177	680	£188,198	£257,560	28%	£598,786	£917,214	£659,653
September	158	86	72	785	£241,429	£306,388	33%	£611,101	£917,214	£610,825
October	114	78	36	880	£289,841	£351,393	38%	£611,101	£917,214	£565,821
November	371	269	102	1192	£392,925	£492,303	54%	£733,431	£917,214	£424,911
Totals	1,974	1,037	937					Additional	£64,000	£64,000
									£971,214	£488,911

In recognition of the relatively slow rate of expenditure, we are currently looking at those claims which have been refused, to determine whether or not a full or partial award may now be considered appropriate.

DHP Payment Type	02/05/13	24/05/13	03/06/13	02/07/13	30/07/13	21/08/13	05/09/13	01/10/13	30/10/13	02/12/13
Baby Due	3	5	5	5	5	9	9	9	10	13
Benefit Cap	1	1	1	1	1	5	6	6	11	13
Change of Address	1	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Combination of reforms									1	5
Disability	5	8	8	10	11	16	16	16	11	15
Income Tapers	4	6	6	7	9	14	14	15	15	21
Increase in work related expenses									1	1
Legislation change	4	5	5	7	8	9	11	17	17	28
LHA reforms	22	36	36	44	46	59	60	61	68	84
NDD	2	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	4	4
Reduced HB ent	6	14	14	16	17	20	21	21	23	32
Removal Costs						1	2	2	2	2
Rent deposit	4	8	10	13	16	21	21	24	27	29
Rent restrictions	33	56	61	84	126	152	156	186	209	298
Social Size criteria	2	21	24	87	138	248	263	303	347	457

## Local Welfare Assistance

From April 2013, the discretionary Crisis Loans for Living Expenses and Community Care Grant elements of the Social Fund were abolished and replaced in Wirral by our new Local Welfare Assistance Support Scheme (LWA). For 2013/14 Wirral's scheme is supported by a £1,345,925 Government Grant. Wirral's scheme replaces cash payments in favour of suitable alternatives where at all possible e.g. through the provision of pre payment cards for food and fuel and direct provision of white goods. The scheme is to be reviewed to see how implementation has gone and for possible scheme alterations. The number of applications is rising on a week by week basis.

LWA details for period from 02 April 2013 to 30 November 2013:

Number of awards granted for food	2,296	value	£101,914
Number of awards granted for fuel	1,760	value	£34,338
Number of awards granted for goods	642	value	£156,183

<b>Total number of households receiving an award</b>	<b>2,765</b>	<b>value</b>	<b>£292,434</b>
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Number of claims not qualifying for assistance			2,172
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We have made arrangements for additional publicity to raise awareness of the scheme, particularly to help people experiencing crisis or financial difficulty over the winter months.



**EXTRACT FROM FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT MONTH 8 (NOVEMBER 2013)**

**Annex 12 BUDGETARY ISSUES**

	Service area	Issue	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Resolution
<b>Transformation</b>							
	Market Supplements	Single Status is unimplemented. Until then, grade mismatches can only be 'fixed' by market factors. Estimated has reduced from £1m in M1 to £490k excluding any additional cover.	490	450	450	0	Reduced from £1m M1 Monitor based on latest estimates. From pay growth budget M8
	2012-13 T&C's	Non-achievement; count as part of 2014-15 target	300	0	0	0	2013-14 from forecast savings in M8
	2012-13 Trans Bus S	Non-achievement; count as part of 2014-15 target	300	150	0	0	2013-14 from forecast savings in M8
	2013-14 T&Cs	Shortfall in achievement; count as part of 2014-15 target	472	0	0	0	2013-14 from forecast savings in M8
	Facilities Management	Shortfall in achievement on closure of buildings; count as part of 2014-15 target	250	0	0	0	Agreed can be met from permanent budget reduction
	Council Tax Court Costs	Shortfall on 2013/14 savings option (Red Rated)	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	Compensatory savings from T&R in 2013/14, options being evaluated 2014/15 including possible growth request
<b>Totals</b>			<b>3,112</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>1,300</b>	
<b>Solutions</b>			<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	
	Agreed redns	Facilities Management	-250	0	0	0	Agreed can be met from permanent budget reduction
		Market Supplements funding from central budget for pay growth (page 7) Budget Book	-490	-450	-450	0	Funding from central budget for pay growth (page 7) Budget Book
		T&Cs 2012/13 part funding from central budget for pay growth (page 7) Budget Book	-200	0	0	0	
	Council Tax Court Costs	Shortfall on 2013/14 savings option (Red Rated)	-1,300	-1,300	-1,300	-1,300	Compensatory savings from T&R in 2013/14, options being evaluated 2014/15 including possible growth request
		Remaining issues relating to 2013-14	-872	-150	0	0	Funded from increased balances forecast in M8 monitor
<b>Current additional resource required from savings</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	