

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Pat Hackett
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Economy
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Strategic Director - Regeneration and Environment

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

The Council is undertaking a competitive dialogue procurement process for the Hoylake Golf Resort. There has been an encouraging response from national and international companies to the initial stage of the process. Good progress is being made to evaluate the shortlisted bids. It is intended to identify a preferred partner by June 2014.

2. BIRKENHEAD TOWN CENTRE

A lock out agreement is now in place with Neptune Development and they have started work on a master plan for the town centre which they hope to complete within the next twelve months.

3. INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL FOR BUSINESS

Wirral will be hosting events for the IFB that support two of the Borough's key growth sectors – offshore renewable energy and the automotive supply chain. These events are planned to take place at Wirral Waters West Float (the site of the proposed Automotive Supplier Park) and will provide the focus for the Low Carbon and Renewables week (week commencing the 14th July) and the Automotive week (week commencing the 9th June). In addition to these key sector events there will be a number of smaller industry focused activities that partners and local companies are seeking to run.

4. REGIONAL GROWTH FUND

A number of business growth grant applications for local businesses with plans for growth are being progressed through the RGF Steering Group and will be taken to Cabinet (or through delegated decision) over the next few months.

Marine Energy Supplier Park – Tranfood site. RGF is being used to bring forward the supplier park and following a tender exercise a development partner has now been identified to progress the development of the site.

5. LCR GROWTH PLAN/NEXT EUROPEAN PROGRAMME

Work continues to progress with local authority partners on the Growth Plan for the Liverpool City Region and also the next European programme. Wirral's key projects are being promoted as appropriate. The Growth Plan is a key component of the development of the Combined Authority for the Liverpool City Region.

6. MERSEY DEE ALLIANCE (MDA)

Wirral continues to play a significant role in the Mersey Dee Alliance (MDA), supporting lobbying for the key transport projects and other key projects. I will take the MDA chair in 2014.

7. WORKLESSNESS SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Council has agreed to extend the successful Reachout Programme which seeks to get people into employment.