

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## CABINET

10<sup>th</sup> April 2014

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Update on the Community Budgets/Public Service Transformation Project</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>Head of Neighbourhoods and Engagement</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER</b>	<b>Leader of the Council</b>
<b>KEY DECISION</b>	<b>No</b>

### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report updates members on the Public Service Transformation (PST) initiative that Wirral is part of. Members are asked to comment on the latest developments and agree a number of proposed actions as the project moves into implementation from April 2014.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to:

- (a) Comment on the proposed direction and focus of the Public Service Transformation initiative:
- (b) Identify any issues, barriers or support required in order for it to progress; and
- (c) Agree that the Chief Executive enters discussions with Government to request that any public sector financial savings delivered by the PST projects can be retained in Wirral.

### 3.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

3.1 Members will be aware that the Council has embarked on a significant agenda of strategic change. Together with our partners, we are committed to new ways of working, to deliver public service transformation across the Borough based on the clear principle of finding local solutions to local problems.

3.2 One strand of activity within this agenda is Wirral's role in the Public Service Transformation (PST) Network. Public Service Transformation aims to build on the opportunities created by Community Budgets around the country, leading to more joint working and shared services and a new way for local public service providers to work together to meet local needs. The Community Budgets Pilots, initially launched in 2011, aimed to encourage public service partners to share budgets, improving outcomes for local people and reducing duplication and waste in order to:

- make better use of their resources by establishing joint budgets and sharing local knowledge, community assets and voluntary effort;

- flex central rules and regulations so local partners can provide better services that suit their area;
  - give people greater control over their local public services; and
  - establish local partnership & governance arrangements to create a unified approach
- 3.3 During 2012, four areas in England (Cheshire West, Essex, Greater Manchester, and in London the Tri-borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster) began piloting Community Budgets as a mechanism for tackling some of their biggest local challenges, from domestic violence to skills and employment. In each of those four localities, public services, business and the voluntary sector have been working together to develop new joint responses to those challenges. See link for further detail. <http://communitybudgets.org.uk/>
- 3.4 Building on this approach, in July 2013, the Government announced that Wirral was one of the nine new areas that had been selected to be part of the Public Services Transformation Network as set out below:
- Bath and North East Somerset
  - Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset
  - Hampshire
  - Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark
  - Sheffield
  - Surrey
  - Swindon
  - the West London Alliance (Barnet, Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon and Hounslow)
  - Wirral
- 3.5 Following on from the initial announcement, Wirral's broad approach to the Public Sector Transformation initiative was set out within the Joint Statement of Intent (JSI), in October 2013. Wirral's Public Service Board (PSB) is providing the overarching direction for Public Sector Transformation activity, and partners have now developed a number of workstreams as part of this.
- 3.6 Wirral's JSI highlighted a number of priority themes, each with a specific workstream focus as set out below. Each workstream has a project lead and a detailed project plan, currently being developed, which sets out the specific activity that will take place in the coming months.
- 3.7 PUBLIC SERVICE TRANSFORMATION WORKSTREAMS**
- The detailed focus for how Wirral's Public Service Transformation initiative will be delivered has now been brought together into an outline Business Plan (attached as Appendix 1). This includes a number of priority themes and workstreams which are summarised below. Appendix 2 sets out further detail about the Health Related Worklessness project.

<b>Priority Theme</b>	<b>Workstream Focus</b>
Addressing Health Inequalities	Wirral Food Plan
Driving Economic Growth	Tackling Health Related Worklessness
Increasing Neighbourhood Resilience	Increasing Neighbourhood Resilience
Data sharing and improved intelligence	Mapping public sector investment into Early Years 0-5 services

#### **4.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

N/a

#### **5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

N/a

#### **6.0 CONSULTATION**

6.1 .All of the PST projects involve extension consultation and engagement with residents, partners and stakeholders.

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

7.1 A key principle running through all of the PSTN project is the commitment to share local knowledge, community assets and voluntary effort, and to inspire communities to come together to find the right solutions to address local need. The voluntary sector are a key part of this through the development and delivery of new joint approaches.

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

8.1 In March 2014, Ministers approved catalytic funding to support local authorities participating in the Public Service Transformation Network with on-going co-design work. Wirral is set to will receive £75,000 of this total amount which will help to develop and implement business cases in 2014/15, and scale up transformation projects that have been successfully piloted.

8/2 In addition, on 1st April, the Network informed partners of a one-off additional resource for Local Authorities to invest in their local service integration and transformation. Wirral's allocation is £563,984.

#### **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None arising from this report

#### **10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no direct equalities implications at this stage. Detailed Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are being developed for each project workstream.

#### **11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

N/a

## **12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

N/a

## **13.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

13.1.1 Wirral Council has embarked on an ambitious programme of transformation and remodelling within the Future Council initiative. The Public Service Transformation project is one part of that approach, and this report outlines the key developments and proposed activity as the Public Service Transformation project workstreams move into implementation from April 2014.

### **REPORT AUTHOR:**

Rose Boylan, Chief Executive's Office

Tel 0151 691 8037

Email [rosemaryboylan@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:rosemaryboylan@wirral.gov.uk)