

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Pat Hackett
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Economy
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Kevin Adderley, 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. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

The Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Planning Forum has now submitted its final plan for Council approval prior to statutory public consultation and independent examination.

2. BIRKENHEAD TOWN CENTRE

Neptune developments are continuing with their work to produce a master plan for the town centre which will be available for the Council's consideration in January 2015.

3. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The College development is progressing well at Tower Road and this will be completed by September 2015. Work has also just commenced on a new office development at Tower Wharf.

4. SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

Officers have worked to secure Government investment to deliver a programme to reduce youth unemployment across the city region over the next three years. Knowsley Council will be the accountable body for the funds on behalf of the 6 Local Authority areas in the city region and funds will be allocated to local authority areas based on their levels of youth unemployment. In November, Cabinet authorised Officers to work to appoint a supplier for the Wirral delivery starting in March 2015.

In addition to the funding for youth unemployment, Officers have secured additionally monies from Jobcentre Plus to deliver health related worklessness support to Wirral residents. The Flexible Support Funding will allow the Council to deliver support to help residents to access employment opportunities.

5. MERSEY DEE ALLIANCE

Significant progress has been made in support of the Mersey Dee Alliance. Wirral Council chairs the partnership and has this year presided over a review of priorities and the Alliance is undertaking a number of initiatives to promote the cross border economy across Wirral, Cheshire and North Wales and raising the profile of several key initiatives that will allow better access to employment across the wider travel to work area.