

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

8 OCTOBER 2015

SUBJECT:	EMPOWERING LOCALLY / NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING TO DELIVER THE WIRRAL PLAN 2020
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL WARDS
REPORT OF:	GRAHAM HODKINSON, DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES, NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING AND ENGAGEMENT
KEY DECISION?	YES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The five-year Wirral Plan sets out a clear vision of how the public services across the area will work together to deliver a better life for local people.
- 1.2 One of the four key themes of this work is the principle of empowering locally: giving back power and responsibility to communities and tailoring public services to meet the unique needs of local areas and neighbourhoods.
- 1.3 This report seeks Cabinet approval for the further development of the neighbourhood working model in order to support the effective delivery of the Wirral Plan 2020 outcomes at a local level.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The Council's current neighbourhood working model was established in May 2013, establishing 4 Constituency Committees, 4 Constituency Teams, 4 Local Public Service Boards, and 4 Constituency Plans based upon local priorities.
- 2.2 But the Wirral Plan recognises that the area is changing and that now and in the future people will be leading different lives, and will want more freedom, responsibility and control over how they live and work. This has major implications for all public services and the way we work in neighbourhoods.
- 2.3 A fundamental principle of delivering the Plan will be working with residents to address issues and needs at the most local level possible. We must also look beyond our organisational and geographic boundaries to work on shared priorities with public, voluntary and private partners at the most local level, as well as borough-wide and regionally (**please see Appendix A**).

2.4 It is proposed to establish new key outcomes and principles for the Council's neighbourhood working model, i.e.

Key Outcomes:

- More independent and resilient citizens and communities who are able to support each other.
- Revitalised communities with a focus on individual wellbeing, greater local control and influence, and control in relation to assets, open spaces and the place.
- A changing role for the Council from being a traditional deliverer of services to becoming a leader and commissioner locally to improve outcomes for residents.
- Released capacity, knowledge, assets and expertise from and to local communities.
- Councillors as civic and community leaders, resolving issues at a local level with constituents.
- Citizens working with the commissioners to co-design solutions to improve outcomes in their local area in the context of reducing resources.
- Citizens involved in local decisions relating to priorities in their area, and already thriving communities realising their full potential and unlocking their skills and expertise to deliver more for themselves, their neighbours and their communities.
- Joined up and accessible services, focussed on delivering the right outcomes and provided at the right level for our citizens and communities.
- Constituency Committees focussed on driving and delivering the Wirral Plan, with the freedom to utilise resources accordingly.

Key Principles:

- Offer citizens and communities a greater say, more control, and responsibility in relation to their communities.
- Create an environment where volunteering / neighbouring is the cornerstone of resilient local communities.
- Release leadership potential through development activities (for individuals families and communities).

2.5 It is proposed to develop a Neighbourhood Working Development Plan by December 2015, with key partners, utilising 4 work streams; (i) operational integration (**please see Appendix B**), (ii) process planning (e.g. Neighbourhood Plans and Asset Transfers), (iii) resources (e.g. transition phases), and (iv) community development models. The Neighbourhood Working Development Plan will also include:

- Clarity of purpose for Constituency Committees and Members in order to provide more leadership locally.
- Clarity of purpose for Constituency Managers in order to harness the collective power locally to tackle issues and improve lives.
- How resources will need to be realigned to give back responsibility and power to communities and to ensure our support is tailored to the unique needs of local areas and neighbourhoods.

- How resources need to be pooled and shared, and how we need to make the best use of assets and buildings for the benefit of local people.
- A transition process highlighting where the support of constituencies is needed in order to achieve the Wirral Plan 2020 outcomes.
- The need for Neighbourhood Plans to be linked to the Wirral Plan 2020 outcomes, and are planned, agreed and delivered at a local level.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 By not establishing an appropriate neighbourhood working model, and by not changing the way the council does things to respond to the new needs of residents, then the Council will fail in its duty to the communities it serves.
- 3.2 By not establishing an appropriate neighbourhood working model, the Localism Act 2011 will not be implemented and communities will not be empowered to take action in order to gain sustainable change.
- 3.3 By not establishing an appropriate neighbourhood working model, the Wirral Plan 2020 outcomes may not be achieved.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 This report proposes the development of a Neighbourhood Working Development Plan which will consider best practice options for neighbourhood working.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 This report proposes the further development of an appropriate neighbourhood working model with partners.

6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

- 6.1 None

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 7.1 The social sector has well established working relationships with the public sector, and has a flexible and responsive approach to the changing needs of individuals and communities. The Council is committed to working with the social sector to focus on achieving the right shared outcomes for residents.

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

- 8.1 There are no direct costs associated with the content of this report. However, the proposed new Neighbourhood Working Development Plan will highlight where any potential initial investment may be required.

- 8.2 Please note that the new neighbourhood working model will ensure existing resources are realigned to give back responsibility and power to communities and will ensure existing resources can be pooled and shared, and how we need to make the best use of assets and buildings for the benefit of local people.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There will be constitutional elements to the process of further developing the Council's neighbourhood working model which may require changes to the Council's constitution. All proposed changes identified will be agreed by Cabinet and Council.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no equalities implications contained within this report. However, an equality impact will be completed as part of the process of developing a Neighbourhood Working Development Plan.

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 It is envisaged that revitalised communities will be empowered to focus on greater local control and influence in relation to assets, open spaces and the place.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are no implications contained within this report.

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 13.1 Cabinet agrees to the further development of the neighbourhood working model in order to support the effective delivery of the Wirral Plan 2020 outcomes at a local level.
- 13.2 Cabinet agrees to the development of a Neighbourhood Working Development Plan by December 2015, which will be a key component of the Wirral Plan 2020 delivery plan.
- 13.3 Cabinet agrees to the alignment of the delivery of 2020 outcomes to neighbourhood working where this is appropriate to do so, proactively promoting co-location and working across organisational boundaries.
- 13.4 Cabinet agrees to realigning resources required to deliver the Neighbourhood Working Development Plan and Neighbourhood Plans, once these are in place, and to embed this in the Council's 5 year financial plan.
- 13.5 Cabinet agrees to the review of the role of Constituency Committees and Constituency Managers in line with the proposed Neighbourhood Working Development Plan.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

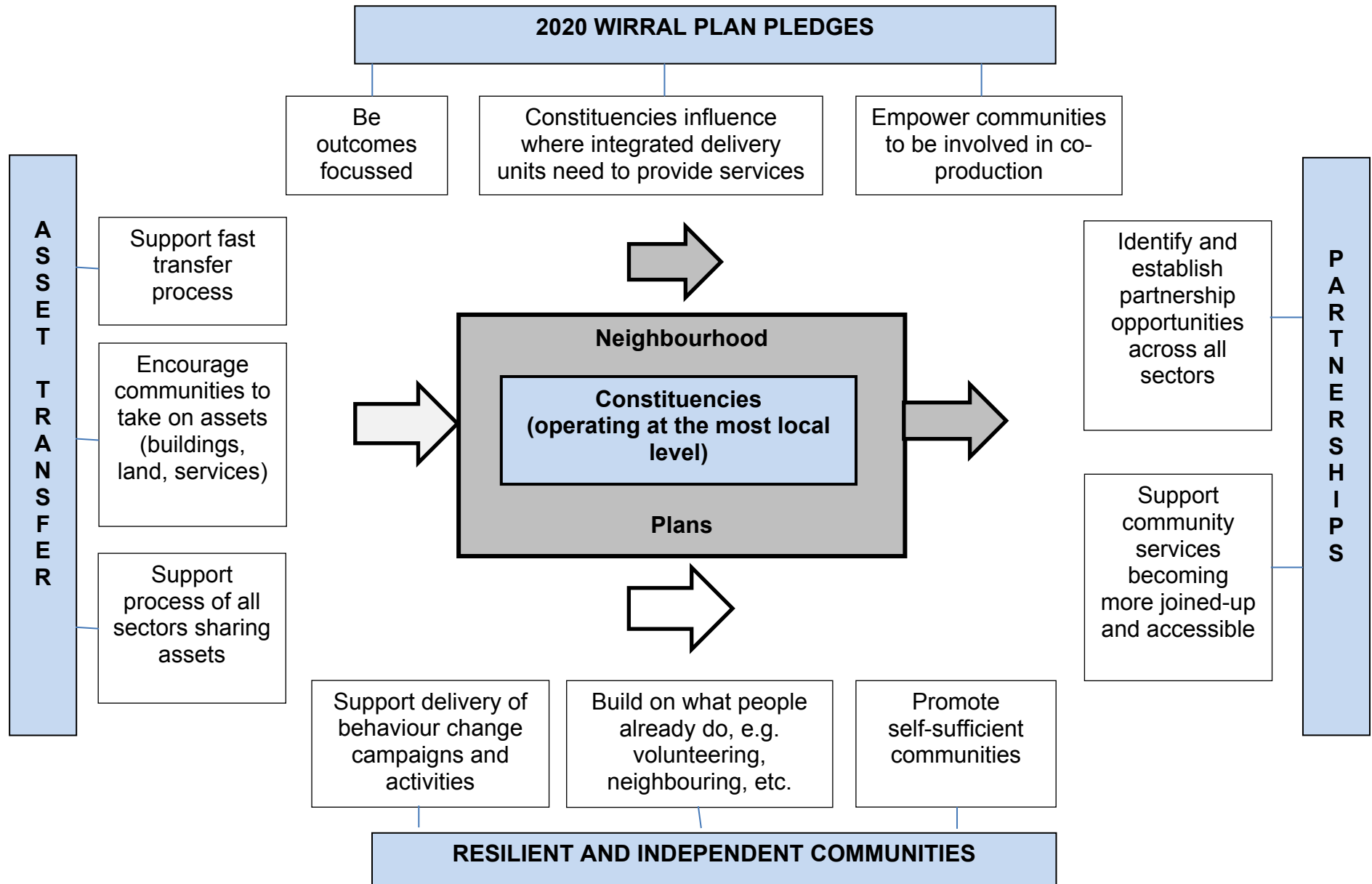
14.1 To further develop the neighbourhood working model in order to support the effective delivery of the Wirral Plan 2020 outcomes at a local level.

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SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet – Neighbourhoods Programme Review	13/03/2014
Cabinet – Progressing Neighbourhood Working	07/11/2013
Cabinet – Proposed Operating Model for Neighbourhood Working	23/05/2013
Cabinet – Neighbourhood Working, Forging a Modern Relationship Between the Council and residents	24/01/2013

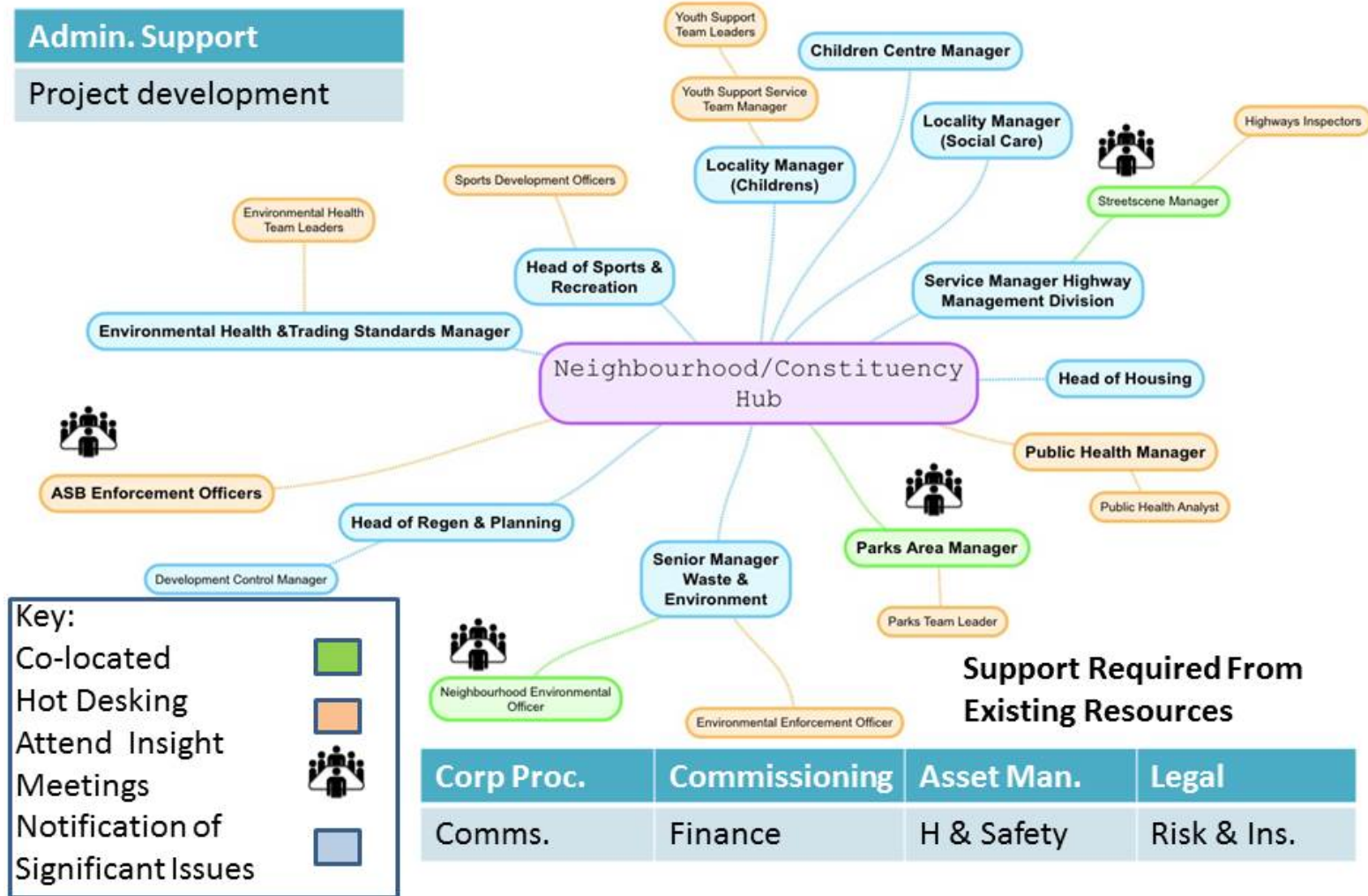
APPENDIX A Proposed Outline for a Neighbourhood Working Model






Appendix B Neighbourhood/Constituency Influence Model (PHASE 1)

Required Additional Resources

- Admin. Support
- Project development



Key:

- Co-located 
- Hot Desking 
- Attend Insight Meetings 
- Notification of Significant Issues 