

**COUNCIL**  
**14 MARCH 2016**

**CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>Councillor Phil Davies</b>
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>Leader of the Council</b>
<b>CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>Eric Robinson, Chief Executive</b>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

**1. WIRRAL PLAN: 2020 VISION**

In July when we launched the Wirral Plan, and the 20 Pledges we will deliver over the next five years, we immediately set to work on making them a reality. Within three months, we had established the Wirral Partnership and agreed the first-ever joint Wirral Plan: a shared set of priorities and goals which the Council, the private, public and voluntary sectors had committed to develop and deliver together. This was a huge step forward and demonstrated that Wirral is beginning to lead the way in transforming public services.

In July when we launched the Plan, and the 20 Pledges we will deliver over the next five years, we immediately set to work on making them a reality. I am delighted that we have now published our first Annual Report, to demonstrate the progress we have made and to provide real examples of where our pledges have started to make a difference.

In July, I called the Wirral Plan ‘our contract with the people of Wirral’. I am proud that we are meeting that commitment, and confident that by continuing to talk, share ideas and work hard, we are well-placed to meet the pledges we have made to Wirral residents. I am determined that we provide regular updates on the progress that we are making in partnership to deliver the Wirral Plan pledges in order we can evidence to our residents, local businesses and others with an interest in Wirral the outcomes that are being achieved.

**2. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION AND DEVOLUTION**

We continue to move forward rapidly to implement Phase 1 of the devolution deal that was agreed with Government back in November. This brings some significant opportunities for helping us to deliver the Wirral Plan and our 20 pledges, and our role in the wider City Region in terms of increased powers and resources for:

- Economic development and energy;
- Transport infrastructure;
- Housing development and planning for growth; and
- Employment and skills

At the same time work is underway to agree the detail of Phase 2, including a specific focus on Health, Wellbeing and Social Care.

In recent years the City Region has emerged from a period of decline to achieve some significant new economic, political and cultural successes. We know we need to build on this, to be ambitious and aim even higher to achieve our goals and potential. This message was highlighted very clearly with the recent launch of the 'State of the City Region' report by the University of Liverpool and Liverpool John Moores University.

This independent and comprehensive report assesses where we are now, where we should go next, how to get there and how devolution might help.

These are exciting times with considerable changes and some fantastic opportunities for our residents and businesses. I will continue to ensure that Wirral plays a key role in driving this forward, and bring back regular updates on this fast moving agenda.

### **3. COUNCIL BUDGET**

The 2016/17 Budget was prepared against the most difficult financial backdrop this Council has ever faced. Ongoing, draconian reductions in funding and a lack of support from Central Government require this Council to make tough decisions.

Once again this Council delivered the most far-reaching consultation and engagement exercise of any authority in the UK. Over 10,000 local people took the time to let us have their views and – as we have demonstrated every year – we carefully considered those views as we set our Budget.

It is important to remember that despite the cuts to our Budget, in 2016/17 this Council will invest more than £250million into improving residents' lives – protecting the vulnerable, improving our environment and encouraging growth.

I am proud that our Administration has once again met its duty to the people of Wirral – taking tough decisions in setting the Budget, identifying innovative solutions to provide sustainable outcomes and is getting on with the job of delivering our 20 Pledges to create a better Wirral for all of our residents.