

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

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

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

We continue to make progress to deliver the ambitions set out in the Wirral Plan and our 20 pledges. A progress report has been prepared for consideration by Council to outline what has been achieved since we approved the plan in June 2015. We have also developed in partnership a set of strategies to provide the detailed delivery arrangements for our 20 pledges.

It is also a year since we held the inaugural Wirral Partnership Summit in July 2015 which marked a significant change to our partnership arrangements and established a commitment to a shared vision for Wirral, a set of shared priorities through the Wirral Plan and a pledge to continue to work together to improve outcomes for residents. A second Partnership Summit will take place on 20th July 2016 to celebrate the progress we have made and discuss our future plans.

Members are invited to review our progress towards the 20 Pledges within the Wirral Plan through reviewing the Wirral Plan 2020: Progress Review appended to this report.

2. NEW OPERATING MODEL

The new operating model was launched by the Chief Executive on 20th June and is currently out for consultation. The proposed structure is to set up three main functions – Strategic Hub, Business Services and Delivery.

The proposal has been designed to ensure we have the right people, in the right place and to improve how we do business. It is about putting in place a new, stronger culture focussed on accountability, delivery and innovation.

There will be a meeting of the Employees & Appointments Committee on 25th July 2016 to consider the proposal.

3. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION AND DEVOLUTION

The Combined Authority recently held its second AGM on 17th June 2016, when it considered the significant progress, developments and achievements since the Combined Authority was established in April 2014.

This includes the successful negotiation of a ground breaking devolution deal for the City Region with increased powers and resources including:

- Single investment fund worth £½bn over 5 years initially
- Responsibility for multi-year local transport budget and franchised bus services across the City Region
- Increased powers over strategic planning, including Mayoral Development Zones
- Responsibility for area review of 16+ skills provision
- Joint responsibility to co-design employment support for residents with complex barriers to finding work

As part of the implementation of the devolution deal, and to establish the elected Mayor for the City Region in 2017, a review of the Combined Authority's functions and governance arrangements is taking place. This will include a **public consultation** on the proposed new arrangements, which is legally required because additional powers are to be conferred on the Combined Authority.

The public consultation was launched on 24th June 2016, and will run for a six-week period to 5th August 2016. Wirral residents, elected members, businesses and stakeholders can respond directly into the consultation with their views.

4. INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF BUSINESS

The International Festival for Business (IFB) has been taking place in the Liverpool City Region during June. The IFB is a globally-significant event, with three weeks of conferences, investment tours and networking opportunities.

Over 100 delegations from 95 countries representing around 800 companies visited the Liverpool City Region during the festival.

2014's inaugural International Festival for Business resulted in £280 million of trade and investment deals, as well as strengthened commercial relationships.

During the festival I addressed audiences made up of industry leaders in the offshore wind, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing sectors, welcoming them to the borough and promoting investment opportunities in Wirral and the wider city region.

The second week began with a joint announcement by Dong Energy and Wirral Council that the offshore wind company would build a new operations and maintenance facility in Seacombe, to service its two offshore windfarms.

Week three focused on the creative and digital sectors and saw Wirral and Liverpool jointly announce the creation of a pilot Social Stock Exchange, the first of its kind outside London, which will facilitate investment into local businesses that display ethical characteristics in their operating models.

The IFB continues to be a an exciting global event, bringing unparalleled opportunities to the Liverpool City Region to grow its economy, bringing new businesses and jobs to residents across the entire region.