

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Ann McLachlan
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Transformation, Leisure and Culture
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Joe Blott, Strategic Director Transformation & Resources

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1. TRANSFORMATION

Progress is being made on developing a transformation programme which will deliver our pledges and support the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The governance arrangements were considered by the newly constituted Portfolio (Transformation) Board when it met on July 11 2016.

A number of work streams are now making progress, including the integration of health and social care. I am keen to engage members in the development of proposals, and have requested pre-decision scrutiny is completed prior to proposals and accompanying business cases come to Cabinet for decision.

An event for members to gain a better understanding of the different delivery models and the approach we are taking is scheduled for 20 July 2016.

A Transformation Office is in the process of being set up, to support the programme in order to ensure that there is the capacity and capability to inject the necessary pace required.

2. COMMERCIAL

I am pleased to inform Council that we are making good and speedy progress in developing our commercial strategy. We have now agreed firm principles for our approach which mean that we will be more commercially minded in our business but also ensuring we retain our social and ethical conscience.

We are already underway with Phase Two of our development plan which includes a three year commercial strategy to maximise income and sales so as to reduce financial impacts on services, developing our culture of commercialism in line with our new Operating Model and also

creating strong commercial opportunities to increase investment and growth in Wirral. We will ensure we get the right balance of risk for reward.

3. LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

We have launched Footgolf facilities at Arrowe Park, Kings Parade (adjacent to the Adventure Golf mini golf facility) and at the Warren Golf Course. The new Footgolf facility at Arrowe Park opened on 19th March 2016 and to date, has taken 5 times the annual amount of income that the pitch and putt course would have normally received.

We are seeking 'Expressions of Interest' from groups and individuals in the management and operation of Beechwood Recreation Centre. We are committed to working with local groups to enable them to run and manage their local facilities.

The refurbishment works at West Kirby Marine Lake are progressing as planned. The public toilets associated with the building are being fully refitted and will re-open to the public by mid-July, in time for the school holidays and all the ground works associated with the main contract will be completed before the winter of 2016. The new DDA compliant changing rooms and new glass sail refurbishment works will start in early spring 2017.

The planned refurbishment works at the Oval Leisure Centre – converting the whole top floor in to a new purpose built fitness suite, are currently out to tender and we are hoping to have the new facilities open to the general public by January 2017.

4. LIBRARIES

Wirral Libraries are leading the way in dementia-awareness, holding well-attended coffee mornings, afternoon teas and entertainment from Sing Me Merseyside Choir. A number of care homes are involved and Librarians are showcasing the reminiscence box project. Future working will be with Wirral Dementia Action Alliance. We have received recognition for our work by having articles printed in national libraries magazine.

We continue with our excellent range of children's activities included a well-attended Elmer Day, a national event across the Country. West Kirby Library hosted the launch of National Book start week in 7 June which was attended by the Mayor. Midwives, members of the health visiting team and staff from other organisations attended. Librarians are now working with schools to launch the summer reading challenge.

The opening of a pocket park at the back of Birkenhead Central Library by Frank Field was well attended and shows innovative use of a small space to encourage outdoor activity. We are also working on a book exchange project with Mersey rail and we will be developing this project.