

**Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday, 21 September 2016**

REPORT TITLE:	Wirral Plan Overview Report: 2016-17 Quarter 1 – Environment Theme
REPORT OF:	Assistant Chief Executive

REPORT SUMMARY

The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision provides the joint partnership strategic planning framework to improve outcomes for Wirral residents over a five year period. It outlines 20 Pledges to residents based around the three themes of People, Business and Environment.

This report provides the Wirral Plan Overview Report which describes performance at Quarter 1 (April to June 2016). It is focused on high level population measures which describe progress towards making a difference to the lives of Wirral residents.

Through the Wirral Plan Performance Management Framework the Wirral Partnership has a robust approach to performance management ensuring that planned activity is monitored and reviewed. Underpinning this Overview Report are more detailed reports for each of the Pledges which are reported at Pledge Steering Groups and published on the Council website. These reports can be included in future quarterly performance updates and the committee may want to identify specific pledges to review in greater detail at future meetings.

Quarter 1 Progress Summary

Delivery of the Wirral Plan is driven by all partners working together with residents to make a difference. In quarter one performance highlights include:

- There has been a 9.5% increase in the number of people with disabilities in employment since the Wirral Plan was agreed, and that is in part due to the innovative work being done by the Wirral Partnership and Wirral Evolutions - the Council-owned company providing day services to vulnerable adults. The employment rate for disabled people in Wirral is now greater than the North West average and we will continue to seek significant progress in helping people with disabilities to live more independent lives.
- The Wirral Plan sets a target for all children to be educated in schools rated good or better by Ofsted by 2020. Encouraging progress is being made, with six schools being upgraded from 'requires improvement' to 'good' during the first quarter. Today, 9 out of 10 primary school pupils and 8 out of 10 secondary school pupils in Wirral attend a school which is rated at least 'good'. The Council continues to work alongside teachers and educators to

make sure every school is supported to improve and to ensure we continue providing young people with an excellent education.

- The Council has appointed 6 'Future in Minds' workers as part of a new initiative to support young people who may be experiencing mental health issues, Our early-years' service has also entered into a partnership with Job Centre Plus to run a programme helping new parents get back into the employment market.
- Good progress is being made in ensuring Wirral's neighbourhoods are safer, with a 2% reduction in the total number of crimes compared to this time last year. The council is working at a local neighbourhood level with partners including the police, local residents groups and the business community to ensure crime reduction resources are focussed where and when there is greatest need.
- Reports of anti-social behaviour are also declining with a 13% reduction in the number of incidents reported to the police compared to the same period last year. This drop in anti-social behaviour is testament to the success of the Plan's approach to integrate Police and Community Support Officers with the borough's Community Patrol and Anti-Social Behaviour Officers into one team.
- The Wirral Partnership has agreed a new approach to give victims of Domestic Violence greater confidence to report incidents and this approach has seen a successful increase in reporting compared to the same period last year. Meeting our pledge of zero tolerance to Domestic Violence relies on a joint approach with partners and communities working together to tackle domestic abuse in all its forms, and we are grateful for the efforts and work carried out by numerous partners across Wirral on tackling this worrying issue.
- The Council continues to work well with Wirral Chamber of Commerce and local businesses on a range of economic and employment issues. We are seeing greater job opportunities for Wirral residents being delivered with an increase in the employment rate of 3% compared to the start of the Wirral Plan, and an increase in the number of new jobs created compared to the same period last year. Wirral also remains the fastest growing tourism economy in Merseyside with an 8% increase in visitor numbers resulting in an additional £31million being spent in our visitor economy compared to the previous year.
- Tackling the problems residents face in finding appropriate housing is also a key goal of the Wirral Plan. We are on track to achieve our target of bringing 1,250 empty properties back into use by 2020 and at the time of writing, 388 empty properties have been identified, improved and brought back into use. 760 other properties have also been adapted or improved to help vulnerable people live with greater independence.
- Issues such as dog fouling remain a high priority for our residents. A new enforcement policy was launched in May 2016 and has immediately delivered

positive results. Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued to irresponsible dog owners in the first quarter equal the total number issued in the whole of the previous year. Coupled with our continued clampdown on littering, where 2631 FPNs were issued in this quarter, these results show the Council and its partners are serious about protecting our environment.

- Healthy life expectancy at birth in Wirral is lower than both national and regional figures, and recent Wirral results show an improvement for men but a decrease for women. Work is underway through delivery of the Wirral Plan including the healthier lives pledge with a particular focus on alcohol and tobacco use. This measure is a long term outcome measure which will require significant behavioural change from residents in order for long term improvement to be achieved.

Delivery of Outcomes for Residents

The Quarter One Environment Theme Overview Report is included at Appendix 1. It provides a summary of progress against all pledges and a high level summary from the Environment Pledge sponsors providing context about how the partnership is working together to deliver the projects identified in the Pledge strategies.

Data for the identified indicators is released at different times throughout the year as a result not all Pledges will have results each quarterly reporting period. Some indicators can be reported quarterly and some only on an annual basis, with annual figures reported in the quarter they become available.

At quarter one 15 indicators are available to be reported across the 20 pledges and 4 within the Environment pledges. Progress can be assessed by:

- A direction of travel which illustrates for each indicator whether performance is improving, deteriorating or sustained compared to the previous relevant figure, either from the start of the Wirral Plan (June 2015) or the same period in the previous year.
- Performance against targets set at the start of the year. For each indicator, a Red, Amber, Green or Blue rating is assigned depending on the performance level against the target with Blue noting overachievement.
- Where it is available benchmarking data to support comparison of performance with other areas is also provided for review.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee are requested to note the content of this report and highlight any areas requiring further clarification or action.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure Members have the opportunity to monitor the performance of the Pledges under the Wirral Plan environment theme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None, the report follows a standard format in line with the performance management framework for the Wirral Plan.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Wirral Plan Performance Management Framework has been developed to ensure robust monitoring arrangements are in place. Underpinning this report performance reports are available for the Pledges which provide more detailed information regarding projects being delivered and supporting measures to monitor improved outcomes for residents.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are none arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are none arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

The performance management framework is aligned to the Council's risk management strategy and both are regularly reviewed as part of corporate management processes.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

The priorities in the Wirral Plan and underlying pledges were informed by a range of consultations carried out in 2015 and 2016 including the Wirral resident survey.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality? No because the report is provided for information. The Wirral Plan equality impact assessment can be found at:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2014-15/chief>

REPORT AUTHOR: *Mike Callon*
Team Leader – Performance and Scrutiny
telephone: (0151) 691 8379
email: michaelcallon@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Wirral Plan Overview Report 2016-17 Quarter One.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date