

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 WATERS HEALTH CAMPUS – INCREASING SKILLS

Wirral Met College has been awarded £2.2m from the Liverpool City Region’s Skills Capital Investment Fund towards the construction of a new facility at Wirral Waters. Working with Peel and Chester University the facility will deliver nursing and other vocational NHS careers training. This will directly support the pledge within the Wirral Plan of ensuring that our workforce skills match business needs. The Wirral Waters University Health Campus will be located next to Wirral Met College’s facility within the Wirral Waters EZ.

The funding award is part of the Liverpool City Region’s £232 million Growth Deal secured from Government and will support the demand for skilled staff whilst also providing opportunities for Wirral residents who want to work in a variety of health care roles.

2. WIRRAL WAYS TO WORK PROGRAMME

Supporting our residents to find employment underpins the Wirral Plan pledge to provide Greater Job Opportunities in Wirral. In March 2016 members were informed that funding had been secured to support adults and young people into employment as a result of a successful Liverpool City Region Combined Authority application to the European Social Fund Programme. Wirral’s local delivery model includes a combination of in-house delivery and three contracted services. Following procurement the Council awarded contracts in July as follows:

- Worklessness Support Service. Delivered by Involve Northwest this service will engage 3,000 adults and support over 1,200 into employment by December 2018.
- Youth Employment Gateway Service. Delivered by People Plus this service will engage over 700 young people and support over 400 into employment by July 2018.

- Careers Information Advice and Guidance Service. Delivered by Career Connect this service will engage 850 people and support over 350 into employment, education, training, or gaining a qualification by July 2018.

The Council's 14 to 19 team commenced delivery of Wirral's ILM programme in April 2016. This programme will support 167 young people into employment by July 2018, with a focus on supporting the most vulnerable young people including care leavers, those with special educational needs and young offenders.

3. PROMOTING TRADE AND INWARD INVESTMENT

Reflecting the Wirral Plan pledge to increase inward investment we are working with partners across the city region to identify those markets and sectors most likely to deliver investment and trade opportunities for the borough and putting activity in place to maximise those opportunities. Against the backdrop of Brexit there is an impetus to progress this work and the recent Government signing of the Hinckley Point contract supports the development of links with China as one of the key foreign markets for trade and investment. There are up to £11bn of contracts available to UK companies as part of the Hinckley Point development.

Working at a city region level spreads our reach further and a joint Wirral / Liverpool civic and business delegation will be visiting cities in South West China in late October. This will build on contacts made through the Liverpool China Partnership, through the IFB 2016 which attracted some 20 Chinese delegations and by follow up work undertaken by the Council and partners across the city region. The delegation will take advantage of the identified business and investment leads and develop new business and investment collaborations.

4. THE MARITIME SECTOR

In May 2016 Cammell Laird successfully secured a £200m contract to build the Sir David Attenborough polar research ship. The contract will secure around 400 jobs and a further 100 jobs in the local supply chain, thereby providing greater job opportunities but also supporting the Wirral Plan pledge to encourage small businesses to thrive and to provide a fantastic boost to the Wirral economy. The contract showcases the world class marine engineering capabilities that we have here in Wirral and across the Liverpool City Region. The forthcoming Keel laying ceremony will start the formal recognition of the ships construction and as Leader of the Council I am delighted to be attending this event to support Cammell Laird and their continued innovation and development

5. HOYLAKE GOLF RESORT

The proposals for the golf resort are progressing with talks taking place with one of the biggest names in golf, Celtic Manor, to manage the resort. Having appointed the high profile Nicklaus group as the preferred development partner this demonstrates Wirral's ambition and pledge to support a thriving tourism economy.