

**Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday, 30 November 2016**

REPORT TITLE:	2016/17 Quarter 2 Wirral Plan Performance - Environment Theme
REPORT OF:	Strategic Commissioner for Environment

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the 2016/17 Quarter 2 (July – September) performance report for Wirral Plan pledges under the Environment theme. The report, which is included as Appendix 1, provides a description of the progress in Quarter 2 as well as providing available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

At quarter 1, a range of feedback was provided by each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the reports provided. Following this, officers have met with the Committee Chairs and Spokespersons to review report provision. This report pilots an approach agreed at that session to provide more detail in terms of performance against each of the pledges that fall within the remit of the Environment Committee.

Quarter Two Performance Summary

The key performance highlights for quarter 2 include:

- September saw a number of successful events such as the Festival of Transport in Birkenhead Park and the Wirral Golf Classic held in Hoylake. As well as fulfilling the objectives of our leisure and culture strategies, these events have also contributed to Wirral's visitor economy.
- Latest figures published for 2015/16 indicate that the volume of cyclists on Wirral's roads increased by 14% compared to the previous year. This growth leads to improved outcomes in relation to healthy lifestyles and clean transport.
- The latest data on smoking in Wirral shows a mixed picture with smoking prevalence showing an increase, but with smoking levels in pregnancy showing a significant decrease. Of the 440 people supported through our stop smoking service between April and June, 224 were not smoking after 4 weeks of their involvement in the programme. A Smokefree Strategy is being developed with partners to develop an integrated approach to reduce smoking levels.
- The Takeaway for a Change initiative is progressing well in promoting healthy eating options with five schools now on board. Alongside this, 89 takeaway

businesses have signed up to the Eat Well Wirral scheme this year and are now taking steps to improve their healthy eating offer.

- Latest housing figures show the continuation of strong performance. At Quarter 2 there had been 759 homeless preventions against a target of 624, up 27% up on the same time last year. We have delivered 1,529 home adaptations to support people to live independently and this is up 11% on last year. We have also exceeded target bringing 446 empty properties back into use against a Quarter 2 target of 409.
- In terms of community safety, the overall number of crimes and reports of anti-social behaviour have continued to fall in Wirral and have met and exceeded their targets respectively. The greatest reductions have been in the crime hotspots such as Birkenhead where a coordinated partnership approach and targeted intervention work have led to reduced crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Street cleansing performance remains very high with our local environmental quality scores successfully exceeding targets again in Quarter 2.
- The latest data in relation to the recycling of domestic waste has fallen short of target. Performance in this area has levelled out which is a trend reflected nationally. The full business case in relation to future domestic refuse collection arrangements has been developed to support the Council in meeting its 2020 target.
- We continue to see strong performance in littering enforcement with the number of fixed penalty notices and the number of prosecutions exceeding and meeting target respectively. Over 5,700 fixed penalty notices have been issued for littering offences with over 1,900 prosecutions being referred to the courts, out of these 1,398 were successful in bringing about a conviction. Whilst the equivalent enforcement in respect of dog fouling has fallen short of target, performance has increased significantly from the previous year.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the content of the report and highlights any areas requiring further clarification or action.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to scrutinise the performance of the Council and partners in relation to delivering the Wirral Plan.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This report has been developed in line with the approved performance management framework for the Wirral Plan. As such, no other options were considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Wirral Plan is an outcome-focussed, partnership plan which has 16 supporting strategies that set out how each of the 20 pledges will be delivered. For each pledge, a partnership group has been established to drive forward delivery of the action plans set out in each of the supporting strategies.
- 3.2 A Wirral Plan Performance Management Framework has been developed to ensure robust monitoring arrangements are in place. The Wirral Partnership has a robust approach to performance management to ensure all activity is regularly monitored and reviewed.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 For each of the indicators a RAGB (red, amber, green, blue) rating is provided against the target and tolerance levels set at the start of the reporting period, with blue indicating performance targets being exceeded. There is also a trend key which shows whether performance has improved, remained static or deteriorated since the start of the Wirral Plan.
- 3.5 Work on the pledge community services are joined up and accessible is embedded across the range of Wirral Plan pledges so no individual pledge report is provided.
- 3.6 All Wirral Plan performance reports are published on the performance page of the Council's website. This includes the high level Wirral Plan overview report and the detailed pledge reports which include updates on progress with all activities set out in supporting strategy action plans.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 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

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

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 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>

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Wirral Plan Environment Theme – 2016/17 Quarter 2 Pledge Reports.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	21 September 2016