



**CABINET**

**8 DECEMBER 2016**

**WIRRAL PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE:**

**2016/17 QUARTER 2**

**Councillor Ann McLachlan, Cabinet Member - Transformation, Leisure and Culture (and Joint Deputy Leader of the Labour Group), said:**

‘The Wirral Plan was created to change people’s lives for the better: the 20 Pledges are our contract with the people of Wirral, and we will deliver as promised. Combined, they will have a huge impact, improving the quality of life every one of our residents can enjoy.

‘We are now well into the delivery phase of our Plan, and we are seeing some real results – concrete evidence which demonstrates the impact we are having all across the borough. We are also clear about where our challenges still exist.

‘We promised Wirral residents we would be open and honest with them about our progress and this report is an important part of this process.’

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report provides a progress update on the ongoing delivery of the Wirral Plan and 20 Pledges. It focuses on key activities and successes in Quarter 2 (July to September 2016) and the progress which has been made.

This report affects all wards within the borough. It is not a key decision.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

Cabinet is requested to note the contents of this report.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 To ensure Cabinet has the opportunity to review progress towards achieving the Wirral Plan.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 The Wirral Plan was agreed at Council in July 2015, creating a long-term vision for the borough alongside 20 Pledges which would be delivered by 2020. This report provides Cabinet with an update on the progress towards those pledges and therefore no other options were considered.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 This report provides a summary update of progress in delivering the Wirral Plan. Performance of the Wirral Plan is monitored by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Wirral Plan Partnership Delivery Group.
- 3.2 A Wirral Plan Performance Management Framework has been developed to ensure robust monitoring arrangements are in place. Information available to these groups each quarter include a Wirral Plan Overview Report and detailed reports associated with each Pledge are available for review.

### **Performance Highlights – Quarter Two**

Delivery of the Wirral Plan is driven by all partners working with residents to make a difference. The points highlighted below provide some examples of where work towards the 20 Pledges is driving improvements in the lives of Wirral residents.

This list is not exhaustive, nor does it cover all 20 Pledges. More substantial performance data and key information related to the 20 Pledges is reported through the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

#### **Performance Highlights: Business**

- Strong economic performance continues in Wirral, with the number of jobs created continuing to be above target and the overall employment rate has increased by 2.3% since the last comparable period in 2015. The innovative 'Wirral Ways to Work' Programme has also supported more than 200 residents since July, seeking to help them find employment and training opportunities.
- The Wirral Waters Investment Fund is now fully up and running, and will help kick start projects within the Enterprise Zone to deliver jobs and investment. It is anticipated the Fund will receive its first applications in the next quarter.
- The condition of the Borough's A, B and C roads have returned to an excellent position with targets for 2016/17 being exceeded. This means Wirral has some of the best roads when compared to all other councils in England.
- During quarter 2 the Wirral Property Board (One Public Estate Group) has been established. This group creates input from a wide range of public sector

agencies and an increased focus on asset strategy within the wider Wirral partnership to enable the delivery of value for money for our residents.

### **Performance Highlights: People**

- A pilot approach to identify socially isolated older people has been completed in Eastham. The event was led by Age UK Wirral and resulted in 76 people being referred to services across the Wirral Partnership to receive the help and support they need.
- The take up of the 2 year old offer has improved from 72.2% at quarter one to 74.1%. There is a continuing challenge to ensure all eligible children take up their education places. The underlying data tells us Birkenhead has the highest number of eligible children but has the lowest percentage take up. A new approach to tackle this is being developed and will be rolled out over the remainder of the reporting period.
- All measures in relation to the people with disabilities live independent lives pledge are showing strong performance. Employment data for people with disabilities has significantly exceeded the target.
- In line with our strategy to address under-reporting and reduce incidents of repeat domestic abuse, the number of referrals continues to increase in quarter 2 and repeat victimisation has reduced. There remains a challenge to address the perceived under-reporting in households with children. The Tomorrow's Women Wirral Peer Mentor Project has proved to be a highly effective community-based support programme for survivors of domestic abuse. It has resulted in peer mentors being trained up to champion domestic abuse support in order that more victims have the confidence to come forward.

### **Performance Highlights – Environment**

- September saw a number of successful events across Wirral, 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- We continue to see strong performance in littering enforcement. 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. Dog fouling enforcement performance has also increased significantly from last year.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **5.0 LEGAL**

5.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION**

8.1 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**

9.1 The Wirral Plan equality impact assessment can be found at:

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

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#### **APPENDICES**

#### **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

#### **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>5 September 2016</b>