

**CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>Councillor Ann McLachlan</b>
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR</b>	<b>Transformation, Leisure and Culture</b>
<b>CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>Mark Smith, Strategic Lead - Environment</b>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

**1. LEISURE & CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL**

It's been a busy few months with plenty going on for everyone across Wirral. September saw various events such as the Festival of Transport in Birkenhead Park and the Wirral Golf Classic held in Hoylake. For those of us who enjoy art and creativity, the Wirral Arts Festival took place during the first two weeks of October and for wildlife enthusiasts, the Wirral Wader Festival took place at the start of the month.

During November, the International Guitar Festival of Great Britain (formerly the Wirral International Guitar Festival) returned to the stages of the Floral Pavilion for three weeks of musical entertainment. The council also worked in close partnership with colleagues in Liverpool to create the 'River of Light' firework display, with over 50,000 people attending the event just on the Wirral side of the River Mersey.

Extensive work continues to improve our leisure facilities. The project to move the gym to the top floor at the Oval and double its size is due for completion in early December and phase 2, which will see the addition of 3 new fitness studios, will be complete in January. Based upon previous success at both Guinea Gap and West Kirby Concourse we anticipate significant increase in usage.

Leisure Services will be taking a more targeted approach to encouraging people to become more active by targeting our 4 key products - Invigor8, Swim Wirral (Learn to Swim – primarily children), Tennis and Golf. A specific leisure marketing strategy is being developed and more social media and technology will be utilised over the next 2 years.

47 young people took part in the Autumn National Citizen Service organised by officers within the Sports Development Unit. The young people went on to deliver a number of social action projects including the 'Homelessness awareness' sleep-out on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November. One dozen young people and staff were joined by Councillors Warren Ward and Thomas Usher. Following an evening of handing our food and hot drinks, the team then slept outdoors at the rear of a property in Grange Road West. The two councillors have since been 'tweeting' about their experiences.

## **2. TRANSFORMATION**

The Peer Review made clear that we lacked the capacity and capability to deliver change. We now have a transformation programme – one which will adapt to the emergence of new opportunities when they come to light – and governance arrangements in place in order to manage what, in the past, were seen to be a number of discrete projects.

The Transformation Programme will play a vital part in both delivering our pledges and contributing to the Medium Term Financial Plan. In order to move the work forward we need capacity to deliver. We initially did this with external support but now have a transformation office which means that, unlike many authorities, we no longer need a transformation partner. We do, however, require specialist help to deliver changes and, periodically, will need additional capacity to support the change process, in HR for example.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the Council has appointed Paul Satoor to the position of Transformation Director. Paul brings with him a wealth of experience from the private and public sector and will be taking up his position on 30 January next year.