

POLICY INFORM:

Environment

Policy Inform- January 2017

The Policy Inform briefings will provide an overview of ongoing and recent national legislation, bills presented to Parliament and emerging policies.

The Policy Inform briefings have been produced specifically to inform Portfolio Holders and Elected Members and will be taken to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees for discussion.



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INTRODUCTION

The Wirral Plan:

A 2020 Vision which sets out a shared partnership approach to improve outcomes for Wirral residents.

The Plan focuses on three key theme areas:



The Wirral Plan Environment Theme states:

“Wirral has an attractive and sustainable environment, where good health and an excellent quality of life is enjoyed by everyone who lives here.”

Environment Policy Briefing:

This policy briefing focuses specifically on policies and legislation relating to the Environment Theme and is intended to provide Members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the latest position on emerging policy and legislative developments to support the committees work programme and future scrutiny work.

The following table outlines the timetable for the preparation and reporting of policy briefing papers:

Overview & Scrutiny Briefings	
July 2016	The first policy briefing focused predominately on the Queen’s Speech, which will establish the Government’s legislative programme for the parliamentary year ahead.
September 2016	The second policy briefing was produced in September; it will provide an update on policy and legislation and will focus on Wirral Implications relevant to the government’s programme of legislation as outlined in the previous policy briefing.

January 2017	The third policy briefing will focus on the Autumn Statement which sets out how Government money will be allocated. The policy briefing will provide an update on policy and legislation and will consider relevant implications for Wirral.
May 2017	The fourth policy briefing will focus upon the 2017 Chancellor of Exchequers Budget. The policy briefing will provide an update on policy and legislation and will consider relevant implications for Wirral.

The January policy briefing focuses on the key announcements from the Autumn Statement and provides an update on policy and legislative developments that have been aligned to the Wirral Plan pledges.

The Committee may wish to identify specific policy areas to focus upon which are in line with the Committee's work programme. Detailed briefing papers can be prepared for these subject matters at the request of the Committee which would be in addition to the regular policy briefing papers outlined above.

QUEEN'S SPEECH 2016 – DESIGNATION TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

On Wednesday 18th May 2016, the Queens Speech was delivered, outlining the Government's programme of legislation and policies for the coming year.

Below is a list of each individual Bill that will have implications for local government that was announced during the speech, including those Bills carried over from the 2015-16 session. The list identifies the Overview and Scrutiny Committee remit that the legislation most closely aligns:

Legislative Plans	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Prison and Courts Reform Bill	Environment
Investigatory Powers Bill	Environment
Policing and Crime Bill	People and Environment
Soft Drinks Industry Levy	People and Environment
Lifetime Savings Bill	People and Environment
Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill	Business and Environment
Children and Social Work Bill	People
Education for All Bill	People
Higher Education and Research Bill	People
National Citizen Service Bill	People
Finance Bill	People and Business
Bus Services Bill	Business
Local Growth and Jobs Bill	Business
Digital Economy Bill	Business
Modern Transport Bill	Business
High Speed Rail Bill	Business
Better Markets Bill	Business

Additional Bills that have been announced are outlined below. These will be monitored in relation to any emerging implications for Local Government and reported to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee as appropriate.

Additional Legislative Plans
Wales Bill
Bill of Rights
Criminal Finances Bill
Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding Bill
Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill
Small Charitable Donations Bill
NHS (Overseas Visitors Charging) Bill

The Bills relevant to the Environment priority are discussed in further detail in this paper.

AUTUMN STATEMENT

'The Autumn Statement prioritises investment to improve productivity and ultimately living standards.' Gov.uk

Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond delivered his first Autumn Statement to the House of Commons on the 23rd November 2016; setting out the new administration's spending plans and priorities for the coming year.

The key announcement themes relevant to local government include:



The Chancellor did not however mention, or offer clarity to local government in relation to the following within the Autumn Statement:

- About the role of local government in allocating and spending the National Productivity Investment Fund.
- About devolution beyond the major cities.
- About funding for social care.
- About how business rate retention is going to work and how local government will be financed in the medium to long term.

KEY ANNOUNCEMENT THEMES:

Local Government	Tax	Devolution
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £1.8bn will be provided to England regions from the Local Growth Fund.• The government will give mayoral combined authorities powers to borrow for their new functions, subject to agreeing a borrowing cap with HM Treasury.• The government will also consult on lending local authorities up to £1 billion at a new local infrastructure rate of gilts + 60 basis points for three years to support infrastructure projects that are high value for money.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To promote 'simplicity' within the tax system, the government intends to move towards having a single major fiscal event each year.• Following the spring 2017 Budget and Finance Bill, Budgets will be delivered in the autumn.• Personal tax free allowance will go up to £12,500 by end of Parliament.• The taper rate at which Universal Credit is withdrawn as earnings rise to be reduced from 65p to 63p from April.• Tax savings on salary sacrifice and benefits in kind to be stopped, with exceptions for ultra-low emission cards, pensions, childcare and cycling.• Employee and employer National Insurance thresholds to be equalised at £157 per week from April 2017.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The government has published a strategy setting out an overall approach to building the Northern Powerhouse.• The British Business Bank will make its first investments from the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund in early 2017, to support local SMEs.• The government remains committed to devolving powers to support local areas.• The government will begin talks on future transport funding with Greater Manchester.• The government will transfer to Greater Manchester the budget for the Work and Health programme, subject to certain conditions.• The government will award £1.8bn to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) across England through a third round of Growth Deals.• £556 million of this funding will go to the North of England. Awards to individual LEPs will be announced in the coming months.

Vulnerable



- No plans for welfare savings measures in this parliament beyond those already announced.
- The government will shortly publish a consultation on options to tackle pension scams.
- Government commitment to a further £10 million over two years to the Rough Sleeping Fund.
- Support for refugees – refugees and their family members will be exempted from the Past Presence Test

Childcare



- Tax-Free Childcare will be introduced gradually from early 2017, with roll out beginning upon completion of the trial. The government will review its operation to assess the benefit it is delivering for working parents.

Housing



- £2.3bn in new Housing Infrastructure Fund to help provide 100,000 new homes in 'high-demand areas'. Allocated to local government on a competitive basis, will provide infrastructure targeted at unlocking new private house building.
- £1.4bn will be made available to deliver 40,000 extra affordable homes.
- Restrictions on government grant relaxed to allow providers to deliver a wider range of housing types.

Transport



- £23bn national productivity investment fund over five years.
- £1.1bn extra investment in English local transport networks.
- £390m investment in low emission vehicles and the development of connected autonomous vehicles. To "build on our competitive advantage" in these areas.
- £450m investment to trial of digital signalling on railways. Aim to achieve a 'step-change' in reliability.
- The government will invest £100 million to improve the resilience of roads to flooding.
- The government will invest £50 million for rail resilience projects to flooding.
- £80 million will be allocated to accelerate the rollout of smart ticketing including season tickets for commuters in the UK's major cities.

Leisure and Culture



- The government will support a Royal Society of the Arts pilot to promote cultural education in schools.
- £7.6 million will be provided for urgent repairs at Wentworth Woodhouse country house in Rotherham.
- The Autumn Statement confirms the government's contribution of up to £15 million towards the costs of hosting the 2021 Rugby League World Cup, and £10 million towards legacy infrastructure.

Business



- Additional funding will be allocated to increase research capacity and business innovation.
- The statement announces a reduction in business rates by £6.7 billion over the next 5 years.
- National Living Wage will increase from £7.20 to £7.50 in April 2017.
- To remove inconsistency between rural rate relief and small business rate relief the government will double rural rate relief to 100% from April 2017.

Digital



- The government will invest over £1 billion by 2020-21, including £740 million through the NPIF.
- £400 million of this for a new Digital Infrastructure Investment Fund, at least matched by private finance, to invest in new fibre networks over the next 4 years.
- 100% business rates relief for new full-fibre infrastructure for a 5 year period from 1 April 2017 to support roll out to more homes and businesses.
- This is targeted at supporting roll out of full-fibre connections and future 5G connections.

Research



- The government has selected 8 areas for the second wave of Science and Innovation Audits, including: Liverpool City Region and the Bioeconomy of the North of England.

Productivity



- National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) announced targeting four areas: Housing; Transport; Digital communications and Research and development.
- The NPIF will provide for £23 billion of spending between 2017-18 and 2021-22.
- The NPIF will take total spending on housing, economic infrastructure and R&D to £170 billion over the next 5 years.

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR OUR PARTNERS:

NHS

- An additional student loan outlay allows the government to fund up to 1,500 additional medical training places each year, from the 2018-19 academic year onwards.

Police & Justice

- The government will provide up to £500 million of additional funding across the period to the Ministry of Justice. This will enable the recruitment of 2,500 more prison officers to improve prison safety. It will also fund wider reforms to the justice system.
- Ministry of Justice will reduce the 'unacceptably high' number of whiplash claims.

Schools and Apprenticeships

- Government will provide £50 million of new capital funding to support the expansion of existing grammar schools. This has been budgeted for 2017-18 through to 2020-2021.
- Proposals for further reforms set out in the consultation document 'Schools that Work for Everyone.'

IMPACT ON WIRRAL:

- Departmental spending plans set out in the 2015 Spending Review to remain in place. This implies that the Councils projections are in line with what the Government has already announced. However further details on the local government finance settlement including schools have yet to be released, although it is known the 97% of Councils including Wirral have accepted the Four year funding offer. The Government has made a commitment to protect budgets for key public services, defence, overseas aid and the pension "triple lock" until the end of this Parliament.
- There have been no announcements on further funding for social care or the NHS whether through the Better Care Fund or the Council Tax Precept despite the pressures in these areas being highlighted prior to the Statement's announcement.
- The Statement includes details on investment in roads infrastructure but the amount that may come to Wirral is not yet known.
- The Statement includes details on housing infrastructure and affordable housing but the amount that may come to Wirral is not yet known.
- The Living Wage is set to increase from £7.20 per week to £7.50 per week. This is in line with the previous announced level of increase. The Council has factored into its budget projections increases in the living wage.
- High level figures have been announced for the Growth Fund including LEP however there are no details for the LCR announced yet.
- The change in the Universal Credit taper reducing from 65% to 63%
- Further details will be made by the various government departments over the coming weeks.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE AUTUMN STATEMENT ON THE NORTH WEST:

- The Government's Northern Powerhouse (NPH) strategy reaffirmed commitments to the NPH including:
 - £13bn for transport in the North over the course of this Parliament;
 - £70 million for the Northern Powerhouse Schools Strategy;
 - £60m development funding for Northern Powerhouse Rail; and
 - A number of investments in Greater Manchester including the £235 million to the Sir Henry Royce Institute, £78 million for the Factory theatre and £38 million for the National Graphene Institute.

- The Chancellor announced that £556 million of the total £1.8 billion fund available for Growth Deals to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) will go to the North of England: the allocation for individual LEPs will be announced in the next few weeks.

- The Government has committed to giving mayoral combined authorities such as Greater Manchester and Liverpool powers to borrow for their new functions allowing them to invest in economically productive infrastructure, subject to agreeing a borrowing cap with HM Treasury.

- The government has also selected eight areas for the second wave of Science and Innovation Audits, aimed at boosting economic growth in the knowledge sector. Liverpool City Region + was one of the successful areas and its audit will exploit synergies and identify collaborations, investments and interventions to strengthen and attract businesses.

- It is estimated that at least 134,300 people in the North West stand to gain from the decision to increase the national living wage from £7.20 to £7.50.

- The reduction in the Universal Credit taper rate from 65% to 63% could potentially affect a substantial number of the 37,700 people in work who receive Universal Credit in the North West.

- The budget for the forthcoming national Work and Health Programme will be devolved to Greater Manchester. The government will also begin talks on future transport funding.

- Documents published alongside the Autumn statement confirm major new investments in the region's roads:
 - A66 Penrith to Scotch Corner will be duelled;
 - Improvements will be made to the M60 North West quadrant;
 - Connectivity between Sheffield and Manchester will be improved; and
 - Four Northern transport projects were awarded business case developmental funding from the Local Majors Fund, including the Warrington Waterfront western link.

WIRRAL PLAN ENVIRONMENT PLEDGES- POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

GOOD QUALITY HOUSING THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS

A safe and secure home is vital to all Wirral residents. We are working to improve the quality and supply of Wirral's housing stock, providing more affordable homes and specialist housing solutions, including extra care homes and supported living accommodation

Our Pledge Ambition:

We will build and improve 7,000 houses over the lifetime of this five year plan. Our plans include building 3,500 new homes, improving 2,250 private sector properties and bringing 1,250 empty homes back into use by 2020. We will also continue to tackle the challenges and causes of homelessness in Wirral.

Outcome Strategy:

Wirral Housing Strategy Priorities: 1 Building more homes in Wirral to meet our economic growth ambitions 2. Improving the quality of Wirral's housing offer for our residents 3. Meeting the housing and support needs of our most vulnerable people to enable them to live independently



Associated Legislation:

Neighbourhood Planning Bill

Reporting stage: The Bill was presented to Parliament on Wednesday 7th September 2016. The Bill's second reading debate took place on Friday 10 October 2016. The Bill was passed through third reading on Tuesday 13 December 2016. The Bill's first reading in the House of Lords took place on the 14 December 2016. The Bill's second reading is scheduled for 17 January 2017.

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Support the Government's ambition to deliver one million new homes, whilst protecting those areas that we value most including the Green Belt;
- Deliver the homes and infrastructure that this country needs; and
- Transform the way we plan for major infrastructure projects in this country.

Concerns and progress so far:

What was going to be the Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill has now been published as the Neighbourhood Planning Bill and no longer contains reference to the National Infrastructure Commission. In response to the Bill, Wirral so far has four designated neighbourhood forums, working on their own local planning proposals, with one adopted neighbourhood plan, another plan past referendum and at least two other groups expected to apply.

Associated Legislation:

Renters' Rights Bill (HL)

Report Stage: Bill presented to the House of Lords on the 10th June 2016. The Bill's Committee Stage took place on the 18th November, with a date for its report stage yet to be scheduled.

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Make the provision for tenants' access to database of rogue landlords and property agents;
- the end of certain letting fees for tenants;
- the implementation of mandatory electrical safety checks; and
- the prevention of rogue landlords from obtaining an HMO licence.

Concerns and progress so far:

The Bill's primary focus is to amend the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 in order to forbid lettings agents from charging tenants a multitude of fees. The Bill has received strong support in the House of Lords but as it is a Private Members' Bill, its future progression through parliament is questionable. Its progress has though been boosted by a petition named 'Making Renting Fair in England', which has now gained over 250,000 signatures. The Bill will undoubtedly receive additional momentum thanks to announcement in Chancellor Phillip Hammond's Autumn Statement, pledging to abolish upfront letting agents' fees in England 'as soon as possible'. There has, though, been some criticism of the Bill, which claims that it unfairly penalises small firms who charge 'fair' fees, as well as the possible resulting increase in rents as the cost implications of the Bill are passed from landlords to tenants.

Associated Legislation

Housing Standards (Preparation and Storage of Food by Tenants in Receipt of Universal Credit or Housing Benefit) Bill

Second Reading Debate Stage: The Bill was presented to parliament on the 20th October 2016. Its second reading debate has been delayed twice, and is now expected to take place on the 20th January 2017.

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Require landlords of tenants in receipt of Universal Credit or Housing Benefit to ensure that their rented accommodation meets minimum standards for the hygienic storage and preparation of food;
- To ensure such rented accommodation contains adequate appliances, equipment and utensils for the cooking of food.

Concerns and progress so far:

This Private Members' Bill seeks to prevent vulnerable families being left hungry due to their property lacking basic cooking facilities, and has so far received cross-party support. Prior to the Bill's second reading, the Bill's sponsor, Frank Field Labour MP for Birkenhead, wrote to Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid MP, asking him to consider adopting it as a government Bill.

Associated Legislation:

Homelessness Reduction Bill

Committee Stage: The Bill was presented to parliament on the 29th June 2016. The Bill had its Second Reading debate on 28 October 2016. The Bill has now been committed to a Public Bill Committee. The Public Bill Committee will meet next on a date to be announced.

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Make provision about measures for reducing homelessness, specially the reform of current homelessness legislation contained in Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 ;

Concerns and progress so far:

The Private Members' Bill has received government backing, with Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid MP, saying on the 24th October 2016: "No one should have to sleep rough on the streets. We want to build a country that works for everyone, not just the privileged few..... This government is therefore, very pleased to support Bob Blackman MP's Private Members Bill, with its ambitious measures to help reduce homelessness." However, the Bill will place additional responsibilities on local councils if it becomes law, which the LGA has criticised. Lord Porter from the LGA has said 'Simply adding more duties to councils is not the answer to tackling homelessness.' The LGA has also stressed that any changes in the duties of councils brought about by the Bill must be fully funded by the government, alongside existing commitments. On the 14th November 2016, a money resolution was passed on the Bill. On the 7th December 2016, a briefing from the LGA stated that the Bill is 'far more workable than the original draft' following engagement of councils and the LGA, and the LGA 'supports the intent of many of the amendments proposed by MPs'. The LGA are not seeking to obstruct the passage of the Bill through Parliament.

Associated Emerging Policy:

Supported Housing Cap

LGC, 15/09/2016

Summary- Ministers have conceded a ring-fenced fund to take supported housing out of the local housing allowance cap system. In a parliamentary statement, work and pensions secretary Damian Green said he would defer application of the allowance cap to supported housing until 2019-20, when "we will bring in a new funding model which will ensure that the sector continues to be funded at current levels". For rents above the cap the government would devolve funding in England to councils to 'top up' funding to supported housing providers with higher costs. "In recognition of the need to manage the transition to a new funding regime carefully, we will ring-fence the top-up fund to ensure it continues to support vulnerable people," Mr Green said.

Brief Analysis- The supported housing cap has been controversial, as applying the cap would have hit some of our most vulnerable residents and jeopardized many of the supported housing schemes that were due to be developed. The LGA also argued that the proposed cap on benefit paid to support rents in each area would not have covered the extra costs to supported housing providers of specialist equipment and adaptations. It is therefore positive that the Government has listened to the concerns councils had over the risks of applying the Local Housing Allowance cap to supported accommodation.

Associated Emerging Policy

£40 million homelessness Prevention Programme

[Gov.uk, 17/10/2016](#)

Summary- The government announced on the 17th October 2016 their new homelessness prevention programme which will tackle the issue by focusing on the underlying issues which can lead to somebody losing their home.

Brief Analysis- The programme contains £20 million of funding for local authorities to pilot new initiatives to tackle homelessness in their area, responding to the specific needs in their communities and focusing on prevention at an earlier stage. It also provides for a £10 million investment in targeted support for those at imminent risk of sleeping rough or those new to the streets, and finally a £10 million investment in Social Impact Bonds to help long-term rough sleepers with the most complex needs stop returning to the streets, the underlying reasons for which could range from potential mental health illnesses or substance abuse problems.

Associated Emerging Policy

£18 million Capacity Fund

[Gov.uk, 11/11/16](#)

Summary- The Housing Minister, Gavin Barwell, announced on the 11th November 2016 a new fund to accelerate house building in the UK. Councils can now bid for a share of the 'capacity fund' to tackle planning issues that can cause delay and prevent builders from getting on site and starting work quickly.

Brief Analysis- A key measure in the scheme includes the creation of another six new housing zones across the UK, one of which being the Wirral Waters housing zone on the existing regeneration site. These housing zones will support development on brownfield land with huge housing potential through local councils working in partnership with private developers in order to provide a total of 10,000 homes. Councils within these housing zones can now apply for investment from the capacity fund with the aim of speeding up house building on the most challenging sites. Other new sites that have been granted 'housing zone' status include Sheffield Housing Zone and Sandwell Housing Zone in the West Midlands.

Associated Emerging Policy

Government Housing White Paper

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid, is due to release his White Paper in January 2017, having been delayed from December 2016, as confirmed during Chancellor Phillip Hammond's autumn statement on the 23rd November. The White Paper will focus on housing supply and proposals designed to speed up house building, with measures set to include a £2 billion investment to encourage new developers to build at up to double the rate of traditional house builders.

Associated Emerging Policy

Autumn Statement 23/11/16

Regarding housing policy, Chancellor Phillip Hammond announced during his autumn statement that he will invest £1.4 billion to provide 40,000 affordable homes, as well as £2.3bn in housing infrastructure fund to help provide 100,000 new homes in high-demand areas. In line with a key focus of the Renters Rights Bill put forward in the House of Lords on the 10th June 2016, the Chancellor also pledged to abolish upfront letting agents' fees in England 'as soon as possible'. Such fees are currently unregulated and can often total over £1000 in some areas of the country, in particular London. Further development regarding housing can be expected in Mr Sajid Javid's housing White Paper due for publication in December.

Associated Emerging Policy

Possible Fines for Housing Developers

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid, hinted on the 7th November 2016 during the Conservative Party Conference that he would consider fining developers who do not build on land quickly enough after having received planning permission. He accused large developers and house-builders of deliberately restricting housing supply, to keep prices high and so boost profits. In England alone, there is now planning permission available for 476,000 homes that remain unbuilt, which is a record high. Expect to see more on this matter in Mr Javid's housing White Paper due in December.

Potential implications for the Wirral Plan as a result of emerging legislation and policy:

Housing Standards (Preparation and Storage of Food by Tenants in Receipt of Universal Credit or Housing Benefit) Bill 2016-2017.

Frank Field MP presented the above Bill to Parliament on 20th October 2016 as one which would require 'all landlords in receipt of Universal Credit or Housing Benefit (social or private) to provide basic facilities, which would include a fridge and a cooker as minimum standards for the hygienic storage and preparation of food, and contains adequate appliances, equipment and utensils for the cooking of food'. Inclusion of these items provide the ability for the tenant to be able to cook and store food, which would assist them to manage better on welfare benefits or with food received from food banks, which has proved to be an issue for some. This would assist some vulnerable people to be able to sustain a tenancy

Providing appliances and utensils would represent a shift in the responsibility of the landlord along with the repairing obligations of the appliances. Providing these items poses a potential issue for private rented deposits because if cooking appliances and utensils are included, and become broken or damaged (it could be the end of life for the item), it may be taken from any deposit paid, which could result in the tenant being unable to move on to other private rented accommodation as they may not have enough for a new deposit. This may free up Wirral's Local Welfare Assistance funding which is currently available to those eligible to purchase this equipment.

Potential implications for the Wirral Plan as a result of emerging legislation and policy:

Homelessness Reduction Bill 2016-17

The Homeless Reduction Bill represents a key shift in homelessness legislation and local practice, particularly in widening advice and assistance to all households and indicating a move away from an assessment of 'priority need'. This is coupled with a proposed duty to assist households now threatened with homelessness within 56 days. If enacted, the Bill will require further investment in local homeless services in order to provide specific, high quality information tailored to meet individual needs. The Bill would significantly increase the volume of households with a legal right to high quality, personalised housing advice and support. In order, to meet the expectations within the Bill to prevent homelessness, wider specialist service areas are required such as money/ debt advice or legal advice/ representation. Wirral Council would have to seek to engage or commission such services to assist in supporting households that are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

The Bill also seeks to assist Council's to discharge their homeless duties by amending the current 12 month tenancy condition to a 6 month tenancy. This area of the Bill would support further work to expand access to the private rented sector and assist the effective move-on of homeless households. In addition, the Bill includes a duty to provide grant or loan assistance, and will be required to address a higher number of households. This proposal may have implications for the future use of the homeless prevention fund which had expenditure of £10,800 in 2015/16. Furthermore services which administer key local resources such as Discretionary Housing Payments, and Local Welfare Allowance may be impacted by the proposed Bill.

Early intervention, as set out in the Bill, has positive social and economic benefits and reduces costs to services such as Public Health, Criminal Justice and other public bodies. The Government has indicated that additional funding for homelessness may be made available upon royal assent of the Bill. Wirral needs to ensure that local services are sufficiently resourced and a strong network of partnership services in place to meet any new statutory obligations that the Bill would enforce.

Extension of HMO Licensing Scheme

The government is currently consulting on the detail of provisions to extend the mandatory HMO licensing scheme from just 3 storey HMOs as it is at present, to all HMOs. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has released its latest consultation paper on Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and residential property licensing reforms which includes proposals to extend mandatory licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation following the Government's technical discussion paper published in November 2015.

The Government proposes to extend the definition on mandatory licensing from 2017, subject to Parliamentary approval. At present, the requirements state that any property which:

- comprises of 3 or more storeys; and
- has 5 or more occupiers living in 2 or more single households; and
- contains shared facilities such as a kitchen, bathroom or toilet must be licenced.

The proposals seek to remove the "3 or more storeys" requirement so that any HMO with 5 or more occupiers, regardless of how many floors, will fall within the scope of mandatory licensing.

Potential implications for the Wirral Plan as a result of emerging legislation and policy:

Extension of HMO Licensing Scheme (Cont.)

In addition, the Government intends to extend mandatory licensing to flats which are occupied by five or more persons living in 2 or more households if it is in a converted building where part of a building is used for commercial or other non-residential purposes. It is estimated that the current proposals will make an additional 174,000 HMOs subject to mandatory licensing nationally.

If the proposals are brought into force then there will be a six month grace period for landlords to comply with the new requirements. Failure to obtain the correct license after the end of the grace period would allow the local authority to initiate criminal proceedings with unlimited fines imposed on those found guilty of an offence and the possibility of rent repayment orders being made. Once the new Housing and Planning Act comes into full effect in early 2017 this would also allow for fixed penalty notices of up to £30,000 to be made as well.

Officers are currently looking at the impact of this legislation which is likely to double the number of HMOs in Wirral which will be included in the extended mandatory licensing scheme. This will have resource implications for the HMO Team which is currently being reviewed. Timescales are not clear about when this is likely to come into force but it could be as early as April 2017.

Funding for Supported Housing – Consultation

This consultation concerns how supported housing will be funded in the future in light of the fact that the Local Housing Allowance cap will apply to all tenants in supported and sheltered housing from April 2019. This funding is critical to Wirral's proposals to expand its Extra-care provision in the borough and the outcome of this consultation will inform how this programme progresses.

While housing costs will continue to be paid through the benefit system up to LHA level, there will be a local authority top-up, with ring-fenced funds transferred across from the Department for Work and Pensions and allocated by the Department for Communities and Local Government. The Government believes a different system needs to be worked out for short-term transitional services and it will consult on this. The 1% rent cut will apply to supported and sheltered housing from April 2017 for the next three years with the exception of refuges, alms houses and co-ops. There will not be a shared accommodation rate for supported housing, just the one-bedroom LHA rate.

The consultation seeks views on the design of the government's new housing costs funding model for supported housing, as well as views on how funding for emergency and short term placements should work. The consultation seeks view on fair access to funding and the detailed design of the ring fence of the top-up fund and whether other protections are needed for particular client groups to ensure appropriate access to funding, including for those without existing statutory duties.

The new model will give local authorities in England an enhanced role in commissioning supported housing in their areas. In addition, local partnerships could combine this funding with existing care, support and supervision funding to commission services. This could be helpful in encouraging local authorities to consider all supported housing funding in the round. It should incentivise efficiencies and join up existing care and support funding.

Potential implications for the Wirral Plan as a result of emerging legislation and policy:

Funding for Supported Housing – Consultation (Cont.)

Providers have told DCLG that within a localised funding model they would prefer a degree of standardisation with regards to the administration of a local top-up as well as the underpinning framework for reaching a funding decision – for example, via a national statement of expectations or a national commissioning framework. This is particularly important for larger providers who operate across many different local areas and would welcome a degree of standardisation and consistency.

While DCLG are confident that the local top-up model will meet the needs of the majority of the sector, they recognise some particular challenges, such as the monthly payment of Universal Credit, which may remain for very short term accommodation, including hostels and refuges. They will work with the sector to develop further options to ensure providers of shorter term accommodation continue to receive appropriate funding for their work.

Opportunity to shape national legislation and policy:

The Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Communities and Local Government are currently running an open consultation looking into new funding models for supported housing. The areas covered in the consultation are: devolved top-up funding to local authorities in England and funding for emergency and short term supported housing placements across Great Britain.

The consultation closes on 13th February 2017 at 12am and can be accessed [here](#).

LEISURE AND CULTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

We will encourage more people to enjoy the wide range of leisure, culture and sporting opportunities on offer across Wirral. We will listen to residents' ideas and requests, and by 2020, will have increased access to events and activities to all our residents, regardless of age or income.

Our Pledge Ambition:

We will review the borough's leisure and cultural offer to make it fit for the future, and optimise the use of public spaces, parks and gardens across Wirral as community assets.

Outcome Strategy:

Wirral Leisure Strategy Priorities: 1. Promote and celebrate Wirral's parks, coast and countryside for leisure activities 2. Encourage people to take part in sports, leisure and social activities 3. Increase pride in Wirral's communities and encourage more residents to volunteer

Wirral Culture Strategy Priorities: 1. Develop creative partnerships and a cultural events programme to promote arts, culture and heritage in Wirral 2. Increase resident and visitor participation in Wirral's arts, culture and heritage offer to promote its educational, social and wellbeing benefits 3. Promote Wirral on a global stage as part of the Liverpool City Region to attract world class arts, culture and heritage events and exhibitions 4. Maximise the contribution of the arts, culture and heritage to the local economy.



Associated Legislation:

Betting Licences Bill (Category B2 Gaming Machines) [HL]

Second Reading Debate Stage: The first reading of the Bill took place on the 13th June. A date for its second reading debate is yet to be scheduled.

Purpose of the Bill is to:

- To make provision for licensing authorities to restrict the number of Category B2 (fruit machines, slot machines) gaming machines which may be authorised under a betting premises licence.

Concerns and Progress so far:

The Bill's content has been published and seeks to update section 172 of the Gambling Act 2005. The specifics of the Bill include that no machine of this category may allow a single charge of more than £10, and that the number of machines in this category must not exceed the number for which the premises holds a licence.

Associated Legislation:

National Citizen Service Bill [HL]

Reporting Stage: The first reading of the Bill took place on the 11th October 2016. The report stage of the Bill took place on the 7th December 2016. After passing third reading in the House of Lords, the Bill's first reading in the House of Commons took place on 14 December 2016. The second reading is due on 16th January 2017.

Purpose of the Bill is to:

- To secure the future of the NCS and make the NCS Trust accountable to Parliament and the public.

Concerns and Progress so far:

National Citizen Service was first piloted in 2011, and involves a group of 15 to 17 year olds undertaking activities together, including residential activities and a community project, over a 2 to 4-week period. The aim is for the participants to develop the skills they needed to be 'active and responsible citizens'; mix with people from different backgrounds; and get involved with their communities. The National Citizens Service Bill seeks to secure the future of the NCS and make the NCS Trust accountable to Parliament and the public. Notable amendments to the Bill thus far include provision for all 15 to 18 year olds to take part in the scheme with a graduation ceremony afterwards and the provision of sufficient funds to allow for young people with disabilities and those from disadvantaged backgrounds to take part in the scheme. The Bill has achieved cross-bench-support in the House of Lords as peers acknowledged the importance of the NCS Trust's independent status, and the opportunity for more young people, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds to benefit from the scheme. During the Bill's second reading in the House of Lords, several peers highlighted the importance of local authority engagement and the leadership role of the NCS in strengthening the wider youth sector and breaking down siloed working, in the context of national cuts to the youth and voluntary sector.

Associated Emerging Policy:

Cultural Citizens Programme

[Gov.uk](http://gov.uk), 09/08/2016

Summary- The Department for Culture, Media and Sport announced on the 9th August 2016 that they would be piloting schemes whereby 600 children from disadvantaged areas will be offered a range of cultural activities including free visits to local plays or behind the scenes trip to galleries and museums, in order to develop a life-long love of the Arts for children who would have otherwise faced difficulty in accessing such activities.

Brief Analysis- Liverpool has been chosen as one of five areas to pilot the scheme which offers children the opportunity to take part in and enjoy the Arts when they maybe wouldn't have been able to otherwise. In Liverpool, the programme is delivered with Working with Curious Minds, and gives 200 local 11-14 year olds the opportunity to engage with cultural organisations, public art, heritage sites and arts festivals. Young people also work with specially trained Culture Coaches to plan extra-curricular visits to festivals, theatres, galleries and museums such as FACT, Liverpool Everyman, Tate Liverpool and Museum of Liverpool. If the pilot schemes prove to be successful, the aim is to roll out the Cultural Citizens Programme across the country in order to explore how arts and cultural organisations can provide disadvantaged young people with cultural experiences and increase local engagement with the Arts.

Associated Emerging Policy:

Sport England: Towards an Active Nation

Sportengland.org, 15/05/16

Summary- Sport England announced on the 19th May 2016 that they were committed to investing £250 million over 5 years in order to tackle low levels of sports participation in the UK. As well as the continued investment to support people who already play sport, the strategy has a much greater emphasis on groups who are typically much less active such as women, disabled people and those from lower-socio-economic backgrounds.

Brief Analysis- The new strategy will see dedicated funding to get children and young people active from the age of five, including a new fund for family based activities and offering training to at least two teachers in every secondary school in England to help them better meet the needs of all children, irrespective of their level of sporting ability. They have also pledge to introduce, new, more straightforward, application forms to help smaller organisations access funding and encourage more grassroots level sporting activities. Sport England's new strategy is closely aligned with the government's Childhood Obesity Strategy as well as their Sporting Future Strategy, which also aims to also tackle low levels of participation and encourage more grassroots level sporting activities for children of all ages and backgrounds.

Potential implications for the Wirral Plan as a result of emerging legislation and policy:

National Citizen Service Bill

The Bill seeks to establish the National Citizen Service on a more permanent footing with current provision for 16- and 17-year olds in England being extended. As such more Wirral young people and families will have the opportunity to attend NCS Courses.

WIRRAL RESIDENTS LIVE HEALTHIER LIVES

We want all of our residents to have a good quality of life and lead healthy lifestyles in clean and safe environments

Our Pledge Ambition:

We remain committed to addressing health inequalities in Wirral through encouraging residents to lead healthier lifestyles, and promoting physical activity and healthy eating. We will also continue to reduce the prevalence of smoking amongst our residents and the level of alcohol related ill-health and anti-social behaviour through restricting availability of 'super-strength' alcohol. We want to see 30% of Wirral off licences retailers sign up to the council supports 'reduce the strength' campaign.

Outcome Strategy:

Wirral Healthier Lives Strategy Priorities: Reduce the number of smokers in Wirral 2. Reduce the impact of alcohol misuse on individuals and communities 3. Promote healthy eating 4. Support local people to take control over their own wellbeing.



Associated Legislation

Soft Drinks Industry Levy

Announced in the 2016 budget as a part of the government's childhood obesity strategy, the tax will impose a levy on soft drinks with more than 5g of sugar per 100ml from April 2018, equating to 24p per litre for the drinks with the highest sugar content.

The purpose of the levy is to:

- To encourage producers and importers to reduce added sugar in soft drinks;
- to promote diet drinks; and
- to reduce portion size of soft drinks

Concerns and progress so far:

The levy has been called for by Public Health England and the British Medical Association for some time as a means to tackle the UK's obesity epidemic, although it has been met with fierce opposition from industry who are now considering legal action to halt the levy. It is thought that the levy will raise £550 million in its first year, with revenues subsequently dropping as producers modify their behaviour. Funds raised will be spent on investing in physical activity and healthy eating initiatives for school children as a means to reduce rates of childhood obesity. Examples include the £10 million investment per year in school breakfast clubs ensuring children get a healthy start to the day, and doubling Primary PE and Sport Premium helping pupils stay active in school.

The specifics of the levy will be set out in the 2017 Finance Bill. The government ran a consultation period for the levy between 18th August and the 13th October, which sought the feedback of industry and health experts.

Associated Emerging Legislation:

Sugar in Food and Drinks (Targets, Labelling, and Advertising) Bill

Second Reading Debate Stage: Bill presented to parliament on the 14th September 2016, with its second reading scheduled for 13th January 2017.

The Purpose of the Bill is to:

- To require the Secretary of State to set targets for sugar content in food and drinks;
- To ensure that added sugar content on food and drink labelling be represented in terms of the number of teaspoonfuls of sugar; and
- To provide for standards of information provision in advertising of food and drinks.

Concerns and progress so far:

As a private members Bill, there is little information about its contents until close to its second reading, due on the 13th January 2017. The Bill is closely aligned with the Soft Drinks Industry levy which aims to change the behaviour of soft drinks producers to improve the health outcomes of individuals.

Associated Emerging Policy:

Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation

[Gov.uk, 17,12,15](http://gov.uk)

Summary: More than one in four people in England (28%) do less than 30 minutes of physical activity a week. In order to increase sports participation and tackle these high levels of inactivity in the UK the Department for Media, Culture and Sport published on the 17th December 2015 their ongoing strategy named Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation. It aims to build on the legacy of London 2012 in order to create a more physically active nation, where children and young people of all ages and backgrounds in particular can enjoy the best sporting opportunities available.

Brief Analysis: The strategy is closely aligned to Sport England's new 'Towards an Active Nation' strategy announced in May 2016, which also seeks to tackle low levels of sports participation. The success of the government's Sporting Future strategy will be judged on its impact on five primary outcomes, which are: physical wellbeing; mental wellbeing; individual development; social and community development; and economic development. Key policies in the strategy largely focus on funding sports at a grassroots levels in order to boost participation, and include a £50 million investment to support Bikeability training for school children and the agreed doubling of Premier League funding for community football over at least the next three seasons. As part of their strategy, Sport England has also pledged to invest £30 million in schemes to encourage volunteering in sports as a means to facilitate grassroots level sporting activities.

Associated Emerging Policy:

Childhood Obesity: A Plan for Action

[Gov.uk](http://gov.uk), 18/08/16

Summary: The government announced on the 18th August 2016 their ten year plan for reducing rates of childhood obesity, which currently affects nearly a third of 2 to 15 year olds. The main aims of the strategy are to encourage industry to cut the amount of sugar in food and drinks, and to ensure that primary school children eat more healthily and stay active. The strategy is aligned to emerging legislation such as the planned 'Sugar Tax', or Soft Drinks Industry Levy, the specifics of which will be laid out in the Finance Bill 2017.

Brief Analysis: Alongside The implementation of the Soft Drinks Industry Levy, the primary focuses of the strategy will be challenging the foods and drinks industry to reduce sugar content in products by 20% by 2020, making more healthy products available in the public sector, for example in leisure centers or hospitals, supporting those in most need of assistance with the cost of healthy food, establishing a system of clearer food labelling and finally heavily investing in physical activity and healthy eating initiatives in schools, including a £10 million a year investment in school breakfast clubs providing children with a good start to the day, funded by the revenues raised by the Soft Drinks Industry levy.

Potential implications for the Wirral Plan as a result of emerging legislation and policy:

Soft Drinks Industry Levy

Wirral Context

Sugar consumption is as a major factor in childhood obesity. Sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB) are disproportionately consumed by children and adolescents and are the single biggest source of dietary sugar for children and teenagers. Locally the latest data shows that 22.9% of school children in Reception are overweight or obese rising to 34.4% in Year 6. The consumption of alternative drinks that are lower in sugar can potentially contribute to weight loss. This can indirectly prevent the incidence of other issues associated with obesity such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Excess sugar consumption also negatively impacts on child dental health. Wirral has above average prevalence of decayed, missing or filled teeth in children (aged 0-3) when compared to the rest of England.

Potential Implications

Since the last update the government has published its Childhood Obesity Plan for Action. The soft drinks industry levy is one of a range of actions included within the Plan. The levy, alongside the other actions, will contribute to tackling childhood obesity; diabetes and other cardiovascular conditions as well as to improve dental health. This will also contribute to delivering Wirral's Healthier Lives Strategy.

The levy has a potential dual impact as the revenue generated by the levy will be, it is proposed, invested in primary school PE and sport premium; thereby also potentially improving children's physical activity levels. For those children who are overweight or obese, they will have increased support locally to enjoy physical activity and lose weight. This will also help us to promote a more active culture among children; making a contribution to Wirral's Leisure Strategy.

Continued

In addition to enabling the implementation of the Childhood Obesity Plan for Action at local level it is also important to recognise that the effectiveness of the levy in reducing sugar intake, and consequently contributing to improving health outcomes, will be dependent on a number of factors. These include how producers and retailers respond both in terms of the extent to which manufacturers reformulate drinks, how the tax is either absorbed by producers or passed on to customers and/or if consumer choices change and what they change to. Furthermore, the current proposals for the levy also include a number of exemptions including immunities for small operators, fruit juice and milk based e.g. milkshakes drinks. The design of the tax will therefore be critical in terms of realising the potential health benefits and any contribution to the consultation should address these issues.

The consultation on the levy closed on 13th October 2016. The Director of Health and Wellbeing inputted into the consultation response through the Cheshire and Merseyside Public Health Collaborative (Champs) to ensure a consistent technical approach and response from the sub region.

ATTRACTIVE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT FOR WIRRAL RESIDENTS

We are committed to empowering residents to help them create great neighbourhoods where communities are proud of their area and love where they live. We will work with communities to develop locations, taking advantage of assets and local characteristics to create a sense of identity that people can relate to and want to uphold.

Our Pledge Ambition:

We want to increase residents' pride in their local communities, and increase personal responsibility to keep Wirral 'clean and green'. We will listen to local residents and act on their suggestions to ensure more residents see their quality of life improve over the five years of this plan by supporting communities to deal with local environmental issues such as litter, fly-tipping and dog fouling.

Outcome Strategy:

Wirral Environment Strategy Priorities: 1. Love where you live
2. Driving behaviour change 3. Put resources where they are needed
4. Tackle untidy land



Associated Legislation:

UK Environmental Protection (Maintenance of EU Standards) Bill

Second Reading Debate Stage: The Bill was presented to Parliament on the 13th July 2016. The Bill's second reading debate has been delayed multiple times, and is now expected to take place on the 13th January 2017.

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- To make provision about the safeguarding of standards of environmental protection derived from European Union legislation, including for water, air, soil, flood protection, and climate change, after the withdrawal of the UK from the EU

Concerns and progress so far:

As a private members' Bill, the Bill is currently being prepared for publication ready for its 2nd reading debate on the 16th December, having been delayed. The Bill was well-received by parliament during its first reading, and since there has been development in terms of post-Brexit environmental policy, whereby Theresa May confirmed at the Conservative Party Conference on the 5th October 2016 that the government would still be ratifying the Paris agreement as agreed during the COP21 environmental summit in Paris last December. This signifies a continued commitment to environmental policy post-Brexit.

Associated Legislation:

Clean Air Bill

Second Reading Debate Stage: The Bill was presented to parliament on the 6th November 2016. The second reading debate was expected to take place on the 16th December 2016, but is now expected to take place on the 13th January 2017.

The purpose of the bill is to:

- To set, measure, enforce and report on air quality targets;
- to require that vehicle emissions targets and testing reflect on-road driving conditions;
- to make it an offence to remove permanent devices that reduce vehicle emissions;
- to provide powers for local authorities to establish low diesel emissions zones and pedestrian-only areas;
- to restrict the use of diesel vehicles in urban areas; and
- to make provision about the promotion of electric and hydrogen powered vehicles and for the development of sustainable public, private and commercial transport by road, rail, air and sea.

Concerns and progress so Far

As a private members' Bill, the Bill is currently being prepared for publication in advance of its 2nd reading debate on the 16th December. If passed and made law, it will be incorporated into a new Clean Air Act, updating current legislation which is 60 years old. A new Clean Air Act would include provisions to make public transport, cycling or walking the easiest option for urban journeys and a funded diesel vehicle scrappage

Associated Legislation:

Vehicle Noise Limits (Enforcement) Bill

Second Reading Debate Stage: The Bill was presented to parliament on the 4th July 2016. The second reading debate was initially expected to take place on the 2nd December 2016, but has now been delayed to the 13th January 2017.

The purpose of the bill is to:

- Make provision for the enforcement of noise limits for vehicles via automatic monitoring equipment

Concerns and progress so Far

As a private members' Bill, the Bill is currently being prepared for publication in advance of its 2nd reading debate on the 2nd December. At present, vehicle noise limits are defined by Regulations 55-57 of the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986, with breaches of these limits punishable by fine. This Bill seeks to ensure that enforcement of these limits can occur using the existing vehicle enforcement network.

Potential implications for the Wirral Plan as a result of emerging legislation and policy:

UK Environmental Protection (Maintenance of EU Standards) Bill 2016-17

The Bill will have a number of implications for the Council. The full details of these implications will not be available until the Bills second reading and debate to Parliament. Therefore detailed implications for Wirral Council in relation to this Bill will continue to be monitored and included in the next Policy Inform papers produced for Overview and Scrutiny Committees in March 2017.

Clean Air Bill 2016-17

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Vehicle Noise Limits (Enforcement) Bill

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COMMUNITY SERVICES ARE JOINED UP AND ACCESSIBLE

We are already integrating public sector and community services to make sure they are fully joined up, but we will integrate more services with our partners, and work with voluntary and community groups to transfer local assets for them to manage directly, providing the services residents need.

Our Pledge Ambition:

We will enable our already thriving communities to realise their full potential and unlock the skills and expertise within them to deliver more for themselves.

Associated Legislation or Associated Emerging Policy:

At present there are no policy or legislative developments associated with this pledge. We will continue to monitor any developments in legislation or emerging policy.



WIRRAL'S NEIGHBOURHOODS ARE SAFE

Unfortunately, the actions of a small minority can have a negative impact on the majority of residents. We are increasing our efforts to quickly and effectively deal with anti-social behaviour, including street drinking and neighbourhood noise issues.

Our Pledge Ambition:

Over the next five years we will place a greater emphasis on activities which will positively engage young people and communities to prevent anti-social behaviour, and support people that have been affected. We will also look at improving potential licensing and planning enforcement powers.

Outcome Strategy:

Wirral Safer Neighbourhoods Strategy Priorities: 1 Build stronger and more confident communities where people feel safe. 2. Improve Community Safety by tackling the cause and impact of crime and anti-social behaviour. 3. Protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities. 4. Deliver greater integration with all relevant partner agencies to achieve a Safer Wirral.



Associated Legislation:

Policing and Crime Bill

Reporting stage: The Bill was presented to Parliament on February 10, 2016. It passed through Parliament and has passed through the first two readings and Committee stage in the House of Lords. Final changes were made to the bill during the third reading on 19 December. The Bill will now go to the Commons for consideration of Lords amendments.

The purpose of the Bill is to:

1. To make provision for collaboration between the emergency services in order to make services more effective and efficient.
2. Overhaul the police complaints system so that the public have confidence in the police and highest standards of integrity are adhered to.
3. More protections to people under investigations and children and young people from sexual exploitation.
4. Refining police powers under the Mental Health Act.

Concerns and progress so far:

Concerns raised in the Lords debate over aspects of the Bill. The mental health aspect of the Bill, supported in principle, needs to be appropriate commission and provision. LGA supports this and backs Amendment 190 calling for funding to ensure additional places of safety. Concerns from the Lords that the Bill didn't go far enough in making retired police officers accountable for their actions, more has to be done to remove the public perception that officers who have left policing evade accountability. Amendments are to be considered during Report Stage.

Associated Emerging Policy:

Fund Unveiled for 'sink estates'

[LocalGov , 11/01/2016](#)

Summary- The Government launched a £140 million fund to regenerate run down, 'sink' estates. The estates, which have been neglected over the years, have high levels of anti-social behaviour and gang crime. The scheme will transform estates or demolish them and replace them. Around 100 run down estates have been targeted for improvements.

Brief Analysis- It is believed that by regenerating the estates they can become thriving communities again leading to a reduction in anti-social behaviour.

Associated Emerging Policy:

Discussions and research around street furniture and anti-social behaviour

[LocalGov , 01/11/2016](#)

Summary- Local authorities and partners have been researching the impact of street furniture on anti-social behaviour. Research has found that street furniture contributes to the character, appearance and perception of a location, therefore when it is subjected to vandalism or anti-social behaviour it can change the entire population of an area, making people feel unsafe and on edge.

Brief Analysis- Some councils are reviewing whether to rethink the design of their streets in order to reduce anti-social behaviour. Research found that when furniture was placed in areas out of the way or neglected, it appeared to invite vandalism. However when councils planned the environment so furniture blends seamlessly into public spaces people spent more time there and less vandalism occurred. By attempting to create an area that inspires a sense of community, research has shown, a reduction in anti-social behaviour can occur.

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