

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. GREATER JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Over the last year we have successfully commissioned and launched a suite of programmes to support our residents into employment as a result of successfully winning Government and European funding.

- The Wirral Ways to Work Programme will support almost 3,500 residents over the next two years offering job search, coaching and mentoring, paid work experience, training and skills development, and information, advice, and guidance. Over 600 people have already been engaged since its launch in summer 2016 with more than 100 finding work or training.
- The Health Related Worklessness Programme opened its doors last month and will support almost 2,000 residents over the next two years, tackling social isolation and mental health/wellbeing, offering creative interventions leading to greater readiness for work.

We are ahead of target for the creation and safeguarding almost 1000 jobs this year with just under 750 recorded by December 2016. We continue to support projects from businesses leading to expansion and employment growth, with five key projects progressing through the City Region Single Investment Fund process representing a total public and private investment potential in excess of £50m for the borough.

2. WORKFORCE SKILLS

Through our Devolution Deals with Government we have launched a 'Skills for Growth' Advisor programme across the City Region to work alongside our Business Growth Hub Advisors, providing businesses with tailored advice and funding on skills for their workforce, including advice on the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy.

We have worked with our city region partners to conduct a comprehensive review of post-16 provision across the 6 authority areas to ensure the long term financial stability of colleges to meet the challenges and demands of the current and future workforce. Following on from

this we will be setting up a Skills Commission this spring to oversee a city region skills strategy which will inform future commissioning of our devolved adult education budget.

Locally, we continue to build on our excellent skills infrastructure supporting key capital investments for the Wirral Met Stem Centre and the Engineering College; and developing new capital proposals in support of the advanced manufacturing and maritime sectors for the Maritime Knowledge Hub and MEA Park in the Wirral Waters Enterprise Zone.

3. INWARD INVESTMENT

We have consulted with businesses and designed 'Wirral Well Made' to promote the borough to investors, and worked with our city region partners to showcase our key sectors, generate international leads, and promote our customs warehousing opportunity, which has resulted in growing investor interest from foreign markets. This month we will launch a series of consultations to support the creation of a Strategic Regeneration Framework to promote our vision for Wirral, and showcase our investment opportunities at MIPIM Cannes to attract further investment in our borough.

We have supported Dong Energy to develop a £10m Operations and Maintenance Base at Kings Wharf, Seacombe which will create up to 75 jobs during the construction phase, with 45 permanent jobs once the site is operational. We have launched the Wirral Waters Investment Fund and agreed a pipeline of priority new developments to be supported over the next three years, starting with the Wirral Waters Health Faculty, Maritime Knowledge Hub and Tower Road Office development.

4. THRIVING SMALL BUSINESSES

We have redesigned our business support offer and have just completed a competitive procurement exercise to select a partner to deliver a comprehensive new service which will launch in June, including support for start-ups; growth; sector networks; relocations and workforce development.

5. VIBRANT TOURISM ECONOMY

Following last year's detailed visitor research study, the development of the Wirral Visitor Economy Strategy is underway, led by a private/public sector steering group including the Wirral Visitor Economy Network, Wirral Chamber of Commerce, LEP & Wirral Council. Wirral already has the fastest growing visitor economy in the LCR; latest figures also show the borough had the highest average hotel occupancy in the LCR in 2016, however the strategy will identify and help maximise Wirral's new opportunities to attract more visitors in order to achieve the Wirral Plan tourism pledge of £450m by 2020.

The 2017 Wirral Tourism Awards have been launched, and over 300 nominations have already been received, with the awards taking place on the 12th April.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

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

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

The Floral Pavilion's pantomime achieved the highest attendance recorded since its re-opening in 2008, 32,170 visitors enjoying the show. The Floral Pavilion also held its first Autism Friendly Performance. Ensuring accessibility for all and providing entertainment for all generations over the festive period has been a success which will hopefully be built on with shows throughout the year.

Work has also begun on a Digital Marketing Strategy for the venue in the hope to refine, engage and promote digital technologies in a commercial environment. Development of this strategy will help ensure customer growth throughout the programme and how it contributes to our Wirral Plan pledges and the Medium Term Financial Plan.

As part of the MacMillan Cancer Project we are currently preparing a bid in conjunction with the CCG/NHS for a quarter of a million pounds, to deliver an activity programme to help cancer patients. Training has been funded and already completed by staff within Leisure Services.

The 'Fit and Fed' Pilot was commissioned by Birkenhead Constituency in response to growing levels of anti-social behaviour in Birkenhead North; a range of sporting diversionary activities have now started. The first session commenced in February at Gautby Road where the Sports Development team delivered a range of sporting activities. 57 young people took part in the first session which will now run for a number of weeks. The session concluded with all young people being served a dinner together.

2. TRANSFORMATION

The Transformation Programme includes extensive work to integrate services between social care and health. These projects will help the Council and the NHS to provide a more joined up and seamless services to people, help manage demand and use

resources effectively across health and care to deliver better outcomes for the people of Wirral. A March report to Cabinet will provide an update on the work.

Another form of integration, this time with our community safety staff and the police, is making good progress. Again, this is about improving the quality of service to meet public demand through the pooling of staff and targeted priorities.

Leisure, Culture and Parks and Libraries is another key project which, like the previous projects mentioned, aims to redesign services to make sure they better meet the needs of our residents. Our advisors, BWB, have a wealth of experience in working in this field, applying their skills in a social and ethical way. Work is progressing and the first phase of the work will be reported to Cabinet in March.

The Access Wirral project is aimed at vastly improving customer service across key areas of Council services, focussing on Council Tax and Housing Benefit applications initially. Scrutiny sessions were held with the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February. A full business case will be submitted for consideration by Cabinet in March.

COUNCIL
20 MARCH 2017

REPORT OF	Councillor George Davies
CABINET PORTFOLIO	Housing and Community Safety
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Mark Smith, Strategic Lead - Environment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1. GOOD QUALITY HOUSING THAT MEETS RESIDENTS NEEDS

Housing services continue to ensure the accommodation and support needs of vulnerable adults and children are met.

The Disabled Adaptations Service has already exceeded its annual target of delivering 2,000 home adaptations to disabled children and adults and continues to work closely with, and support Health and Social Care partners in regard to the delivery of Hospital and Intermediate Care Discharge initiatives. The Homelessness and Housing Options Team is currently preparing for the introduction of new homeless legislation (*The Homeless Reduction Bill*) which will fundamentally change how Councils respond to the issue of homelessness and, similar to the Adaptations Service, has exceeded its target with over 1,000 households having been prevented from becoming homeless.

The Council was successful in both its Liverpool City Region Starter Homes bid and Housing Zones Status Bid to help deliver its housing growth aspirations. The Housing Zone status will help in Wirral being given a greater priority to access government funding opportunities available to help accelerate new build in the borough. This has commenced with the Council awaiting the outcome of a recent bid under the capacity and enabling fund, which is anticipated by the end of February.

Wirral has also had its announcements under the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme where some 285 units have been identified on named schemes and further capacity of up to 440 indicative units of accommodation which could be secured for the area. We have currently identified a pipeline of priority sites to be developed in the Borough and we are working with Registered Providers and developers to bring forward proposals for the development of housing on these sites.

Progress towards the target of bringing 250 empty properties back into use in 16/17 is good, with 249 achieved by the end of Quarter 3. It is likely this target will be exceeded. 36 Empty Property Grants had been completed by the end of Quarter 3

and we remain on target to complete in the region of 50 grants by the end of the year.

A telephone survey of empty property owners has provided a wealth of intelligence which will inform future interventions to bring empty properties back into use. One of the main findings was a general lack of awareness of the assistance and advice available from the Council and as a result a plan of action will be implemented to raise awareness over the coming months.

Programmed work continues to be primarily focussed on the Council's 4 Selective Licensing Areas where a marketing campaign to raise awareness of the assistance available to empty property owners was started in January 2017. In addition an enforced sale policy has been prepared to inform actions to force the sale of certain longer term problematic empty properties on a case by case basis.

Wirral's Selective Licensing Scheme has now licensed 1270 properties which represents over 99% of known licensable properties. The majority of landlords understand that the objectives of the scheme however the remaining landlords or agents are now subject to court action to ensure that all properties are licensed.

The Council has recently prosecuted a number of landlords and agents for avoiding applying for a license and have been successful in twenty prosecution cases for Housing Act offences against both landlords and managing agents. One of these landlords who was found guilty by Liverpool Magistrates court for failing to obtain a licence, providing false and misleading information and not producing certain documents, was ordered to pay £37,120 in fines and costs.

The HMO team have also stepped up on action against rogue landlords. A local letting agent who managed a House in Multiple Occupation in Wallasey pleaded guilty at Wirral Magistrates Court for multiple offences relating to poor management standards under the Housing Act 2004 and a further landlord was prosecuted for operating an unlicensed HMO over the last quarter.

2. ZERO TOLERANCE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Tomorrow's Women Wirral Peer Mentor Project, a highly effective community based support programme for survivors of domestic abuse. The programme is being managed by Wirral Connect and has established a Peer Mentor Support Group. In addition Tomorrow's Women Wirral (TWW) has been commended by the Butler Trust for their work on a Community Payback project commissioned to address Domestic Abuse and Harmful Practices. The results are impressive, with breach rates low and the majority of the women completing their hours and achieving additional qualifications. TWW are due to receive their commendation from HRH Princess Anne in March 2017.

I'm also happy to report there have been a number of successful bids to provide specialist supported accommodation for victims of domestic abuse have been made, in partnership with Liverpool City Council and Sefton Council.

3. ENSURING WIRRAL'S NEIGHBOURHOODS ARE SAFE

I am pleased to announce the Chief Constable and the Councils Chief Executive signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the creation of a Safer Wirral Hub on the 10th February 2017. The Hub will bring together community safety related services and the police, fire service and other key partners into a single integrated resource. Its aims will be to provide a greater resource to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour across Wirral and also deliver reductions in demand management for the statutory front line services. This is an exciting beginning to enhanced collaborative working where Council resources will be managed and deployed by lead officers from other agencies.

Anti-social behaviour reported to the Police continues to fall year on year and the emphasis put on restorative justice practises, hate crime and domestic violence is helping to support the most vulnerable victims and reduce repeat victimisation.

The Police 'Community First' reorganisation is now fully implemented, with teams based on function rather than location. The Local Policing Team will continue to deliver excellent services alongside it's crime reduction partners exploiting insight and intelligence to overcome the challenges in hard-pressed communities.

Other initiatives carried out include an initiative to target cybercrime, using a social media campaign which will formed part of the global 'Safer Internet Day' on the 7th February 2017. A consultation for a Cumulative Impact Policy for the Central Birkenhead area will be completed by the end of February 2017 which, if implemented, will lead to alcohol licensing applications in the area being rejected unless a strong case can be made. This has the potential to make a marked improvement for members of the community in an area that has been the crime hotspot for Wirral for 30 years and has the highest rate of alcohol fuelled crime and disorder, and to reduce workloads for crime prevention agencies.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Bernie Mooney
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Environment
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Mark Smith, Strategic Commissioner - Environment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1. ATTRACTIVE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

The Loving our Environment strategy sets out the journey we have embarked on working with partners and residents to drive behaviour change and tackle key environmental issues.

Highlights this quarter include the following:

- Over 98% of the street cleanliness target has been achieved, supported by 20 out of 28 identified hot spots being cleared. Clearances have been achieved in the main through working with private landowners and the results have been the provision of a much better environment for our residents to enjoy.
- Environmental enforcement remains a high priority to the Council and we continue to exceed targets relating to littering. Within the first year of their work to enforce against dog fouling we have so far achieved a 78% improvement when compared to the same period last year.
- Local areas are benefitting from the increased cleanliness and fewer concerns are being raised by residents. The longer term goal is to encourage behavioural change and more involvement by people in their neighbourhood.
- During the last quarter we have been able to support community events where local people have got involved in their local area to improve the environment, for example work undertaken by volunteers from HYPE (Helping Young People Everywhere) who transformed a memorial garden back into use on the Woodchurch estate that had previously fallen into disrepair.

- Wirral Council was nominated for a "Most Improved" Council award at the end of 2016 for Street Cleansing, and while we did not win the category it was an acknowledgement of our endeavours to provide excellent and wide ranging frontline services and recognised our continuous improvement.

This year we have put in a lot of work to determine the best option for domestic refuse collection arrangements in the future. We have prepared a detailed appraisal of options to

deliver the transformation and also considered ways of working more closely with the City Region's other authorities.

Waste management highlights from this quarter include the following:

- We continue to work with Wirral's young people through the Eco Schools programme; this quarter we delivered the 'Lights Out' project, with nine schools reusing some of the Council's old bell light fixtures, to produce sculptures to highlight British species in decline due to climate change and urbanisation.
- We have collected more recycling at the kerbside this quarter than the same period last year and remain positive that by year-end we will achieve our goals.
- I am delighted to inform Council that Waste & Environmental Services were shortlisted for three categories (Quality Improvement, Partnership and Local Authority of the Year) in the annual Keep Britain Tidy Awards.
- The 'Good to Know' recycling campaign continues, with particular emphasis this quarter on paper and card, helping to clarify which items can be collected for recycling in the grey bin.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Christine Jones
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Adult Social Care
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Graham Hodgkinson, Director of Adult Social Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1. OLDER PEOPLE LIVE WELL

This winter has seen unprecedented demand across Health & Social Care services, with major issues including;

- An increase in ambulance call-out of 20 per day, compared to the same period last year
- Referrals to social care almost doubled, with people significantly more poorly. We have seen a 45% increase in demand for resuscitation over the last 12 month period.
- More frail people with long term conditions are being managed within the community with an aim to keep them supported locally.

Care funding and investment through the Better Care Fund have been focussing upon developing robust 7 day services. We are making key changes in our approach to supporting people to reduce hospital stays and ensure people are supported at home wherever possible. Our re-ablement service, delivered by an independent sector provider, has been key in providing individualised re-ablement support at home. Our intermediate care and discharge to assess services have also proved pivotal to enable individuals to leave hospital as soon as possible and receive appropriate assessment and support from an integrated Multi-Disciplinary Team.

Consultant geriatricians, GP's, Nurses, Therapists, Social Workers and Health & Care staff work collaboratively to achieve the best outcomes for the individual. The team take referrals from GP's and clinicians in the community. They also support WUTH and A&E using the process for "home first" assisting to identify patients who do not require an admission to hospital but do require some enhanced community and therapy support to enable them to return home.

Following the Great Wirral Door Knock pilot in Eastham in September 2016, another successful door knock was held in Woodchurch across three days in December.

Building on the strong partnership approach, Merseyside Police Cadets, Magenta Housing and members of the local community joined the existing team of door knockers with Asda Woodchurch Community Team providing food hampers where needed.

Across the three days, the team knocked on 895 doors and made 98 referrals for residents to receive further advice or support, and identified 6 people who would have been alone on Christmas Day. These people were booked onto Christmas day meals and were also given information about weekly luncheon clubs available locally. Following the event, a follow-up coffee morning was held in Woodchurch Library where some of the residents who identified themselves as feeling lonely came along and were able to make connections with others. As a result of this meeting, a few ladies discussed creating a weekly reading group.

A further door knock will take place 27 - 29 March in Rock Ferry. This door knock will be attended by the Chair of Government's Ageing Better Programme Lord Filkin.

2. PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LIVE INDEPENDENTLY

The residential service at Girtrell Court has now transferred to Sanctuary, as of 6 February 2017. Other service provisions are being utilised by people, these include, other residential establishments, including specialist autism placements, services for older people, and homes local to where people live. People are also opting to take up activity style breaks, like the ones provided at Barnstondale, and also taking direct payments to book supported or accompanied holidays. A scrutiny review of peoples experience related to the re-commissioning of respite provision will take place between March and September 2017, with a report to Committee in September 2017.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Janette Williamson
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Public Health
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Fiona Johnstone Director of Health and Wellbeing

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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1.0 WIRRAL RESIDENTS LIVE HEALTHIER LIVES PLEDGE

I am delighted to announce a new information and advice service to be delivered from the 1st April 2017 by a local 3rd sector partnership led by Wirral CAB (partners including Age UK, Wirral MIND and Wirral Change). This is a joint commission between Wirral Council and Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group to provide a general advice and information service easily accessible by local people and will be called 'Ask Us Wirral'.

The service will provide increased availability of high quality advice, with an emphasis on digital support for those who need help. It will also provide easy access for service users to get the right advice in the right way for them in order to tackle immediate debt problems and support them to be more resilient in the future.

The service will provide support to over 30,000 people with a range of issues to support them to be more independent e.g. help on managing finances, homelessness. Over the three period of the contract the development of online information and advice services will be developed to provide capacity for current and future needs of local people.

Telephone and face to face support will be available for the most complex cases.

I am also pleased to say we have now put in place a network of 13 **Community Connectors** led by Involve North West. The service started on 1st February, 2017 and aims to engage people who are socially isolated to engage with community activity to improve their wellbeing and lead to greater readiness for work. This commission is based on local insight work and driven by the high rates of health related worklessness and social isolation in the East of the Borough. By January 2019, 1015 people aged over 18 and who are workless as a result of their health will be supported to be work ready. 75% of the cohort will be residents of Birkenhead.

Another new service called “**Move on Up**” started on 1st February 2017 to increase the availability of non-medical recovery services for low level mental health conditions. The service will add to the existing limited service provision and support for participants who are workless as a result of their health to manage their mental health/wellbeing and as a result to improve their readiness for employment and move towards more mainstream services specifically employment support programmes. By January 2019, 150 people aged over 18 and who are workless as a result of their health will be supported to be work-ready. 75% of the cohort will be residents of Birkenhead.

We recently had the good news that we were successful in our submission to the Home Office/PHE to become a Local Alcohol Action Area, with a focus on reducing alcohol related health harms by improving the collection, sharing and use of data between Accident and Emergency Departments, local authorities and the police. I will look forward to working with partners to take this work forward. Tackling the impact of alcohol remains an important part of our Healthier Lives Strategy.

Blood Pressure

Since my last report, there have been 3 further public blood pressure testing events. These include a Wirral Care Home Managers health and wellbeing event on the 12th January, Birkenhead Market on the 25th January and the Cherry Tree Centre on the 27th January. Around 300-350 people’s blood pressure were checked at these events, with approximately 1 in 3 showing as ‘raised’. At each of the recent events, people have been identified with extremely high blood pressure that had no symptoms, no modifiable lifestyle issues and normal weight. At the Birkenhead Market event for example, 3 people fell into this category; each of these had a family history of stroke; all were referred for urgent medical treatment. This is an example of why it is so important for everyone to know and understand their blood pressure. In line with the local Blood Pressure Action Plan, the intention is now to try out a larger-scale public testing event, the first of which is likely to be at a Tranmere Rovers match.

Seasonal Flu

In my last report I highlighted the work that we have been doing, working with colleagues across health and social care, to increase uptake of flu vaccination particularly amongst groups who are most at risk of developing serious complications from flu. This work has resulted in an uptake of vaccination across all groups and there has been a substantial increase in uptake amongst health professional staff. This work illustrates the benefits of working together to focus on an important issue which, as well as protecting people, mitigates increased pressures on the NHS at this very busy time.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

I’ll be continuing to support the campaign to reduce overuse, and inappropriate use, of antibiotics. This is an important issue for Wirral as we have very high levels of antibiotic prescribing which if not addressed will drive antibiotic resistance making antibiotics less likely to work in the future. This month Public Health England (PHE) have launched a

pilot awareness campaign across the Granada TV region to support national efforts to reduce inappropriate prescriptions for antibiotics. The key aims of the pilot are to:

- Alert the public to the issue of antibiotic resistance
- Reduce public expectation for antibiotics – i.e. encourage patients to stop asking for antibiotics inappropriately
- Support healthcare professional (HCP) change– by increasing understanding amongst patients about why they might not be given antibiotics and by boosting awareness of/ support for alternatives to prescriptions

Locally we will be supporting and complementing this work building on the local AMR strategy developed in partnership with Wirral CCG. To illustrate my commitment to this issue I have pledged to become an antibiotic guardian. Anyone can sign up to support this campaign via the following web link; [www.http://antibioticguardian.com](http://antibioticguardian.com)

High Streets in Our Communities

High streets play a hugely important role in our communities, providing places to shop, work and for people to meet. The Wirral Plan recognises this and the positive impact high streets can have on the local area, the economy and health and wellbeing. Since November a research team, including 14 local people, and local residents have been exploring each of the first four high streets (Laird Street, New Ferry, Liscard and Upton) getting feedback and ideas from local residents and businesses about what they want to see changed and improved in their local area. Over the next few months this information will be used to develop a bespoke approach for each area that responds to the needs of each high street community.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Matthew Patrick
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Communications & Engagement
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Fiona Johnstone, Director of Health and Wellbeing

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

I hope to speak to all Members in the coming weeks and months as we review and seek to improve our approach to how constituency committees are delivered and how we can better engage with and support local communities. The outcome of our review will be brought to Cabinet for consideration in the autumn.

It remains important for Council to be aware of the innovative and impressive work being delivered by our communities with support from our staff.

The Wirral South Christmas Together project was delivered, to support people suffering from social isolation. The constituency team supported existing events and developed new ones on Christmas and Boxing Day 2016. Over 75 volunteers ensured that 149 guests did not spend Christmas day alone. Referrals were also made putting guests in touch with the GIFT Network (Wirral South's social isolation contractor) to ensure support was extended beyond the holiday period. All five venues involved have already committed to participating in Christmas Together 2017.

In Wirral West, the team played a major role in delivering the second Great Wirral Door Knock, which has helped more than 200 people from the Woodchurch Estate access help and support which they otherwise would not have been able to get – simply by knocking on their door and talking to them.

The team have also recently evaluated the outcomes of the Magenta Living Your Wirral Fund, which saw 56 projects over the last 2 years by 43 organisations lead to hundreds of people directly benefitting from receiving new services, 13 local community buildings being improved alongside many local parks and open spaces.

Three community pilots are up and running as part of the 'Improving Life Chances' strategy. The pilots are in Seacombe, Birkenhead North End and Beechwood. Including projects to reduce anti-social behaviour, volunteering, clean up days and addressing 'grotspots' and flytipping and much more, the pilots should have a positive impact for residents in a range of areas. The partners have come together in each area and we are working well to achieve outputs for the Improving Life Chances strategy.

In order to help community clean-up efforts, Birkenhead Constituency Committee has provided and planned 77 skips for 2016/7 and given support at various Community Clear Ups and Action Days. While it is difficult to calculate exactly how much waste the constituency team has removed, a rough estimate based on information from the skip hire company and Biffa suggests at least 100 tonnes have been removed. The skip days bring local residents, Councillors, partner agencies like the police together. They improve the environment and provide a platform for closer working.

The Wallasey Constituency Committee allocated £20,000 of small grants to local groups to help the Committee tackle its priorities of improving personal, economic and neighbourhood wellbeing. A large supply of litter picking equipment including high visibility vests and compostable bin bags have been procured, funded by the Committee, to support groups who want to do more to help keep their local areas clean and tidy. This equipment is now available for free hire and means that groups do not have to seek funding for such kit.

The team also continues to support New Brighton Coastal Community Team, a partnership between local businesses, voluntary groups & organisations and Wirral Council. Further work has taken place on New Brighton's planned Mermaid Trail, a colourful tourist trail around the resort. Six identical statues are currently being sculpted by local artist Barry Canning-Eaton who will also decorate one of the statues. The results of a competition have very recently been announced which sees five local schools and groups selected to decorate the remaining Mermaids. These are:

- The Mosslands School, Wallasey
- Wirral Hospitals' School, Cloughton
- St George's Primary School, Wallasey
- St Mary's Catholic College, Wallasey
- Ebb & Flow, a community interest company which works with communities, including New Brighton.

The winning designs are distinctive and will remain under wraps until the statues are revealed at the Trail's launch in May 2017.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Stuart Whittingham
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Transport & Infrastructure
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Mark Smith, Strategic Commissioner- Environment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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1. TRANSPORT AND TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE FIT FOR THE FUTURE

I am pleased to report we are working with Merseyside Police and the wider Merseyside Road Safety Partnership to undertake a review of the approach to road safety on our main roads to ensure that we reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads. The Partnership continues to prioritise our most vulnerable road users. The Partnership have worked with the Police to conduct additional enforcement over recent months linked to dangerous activities such as using mobile phones when driving and not wearing seatbelts. Support activities such as issuing lights to cyclists have also been undertaken.

We continue to work with businesses to encourage healthy active travel and support their employees to travel safely to work and numerous events have been held with local employers as well as targeted promotions for major road safety events such as Brake Road Safety Week.

The Travel Solutions project continues to support residents to access employment and training courses. The project supports Wirral residents to overcome transport barriers to accessing employment and I am pleased to report that over 75% of residents who have received support from the project are still in employment after 6 months.

Across the Liverpool City Region we are working to develop standards for the Key Route Network (KRN), which covers our major roads providing key links to employment and opportunities across the Borough. Consistent standards in terms of highway, maintenance and delivery will support the economic growth of Wirral and the wider City Region and ensure that we keep traffic moving safely and efficiently.

The delivery of the Docks Bridges scheme is on track for completion for January 2018 and advance works have commenced on site. Works on A and C bridges on Tower Road will mean that Tower Road is closed to allow works to commence, firstly on C bridge and the

followed by A bridge. Access will be maintained to the Stena terminal at all times and facilities provided for pedestrians and cyclists. The new bridges are designed to a modern standard and will need much less regular maintenance meaning fewer road closures and better traffic flow on this important link.

Phase 1 of the Street Lighting LED roll out has also been completed resulting in the reduction of maintenance costs and carbon tax costs. Further work is also being undertaken to determine the structural condition of Wirral's 28,000 street lighting columns to determine the potential for a second phase of the work.

Work is ongoing to ensure that transport effectively supports the regeneration and economic growth of the Borough. Transport is an enabler and we are working to identify the key infrastructure projects which will be required to support our growth aspirations and enabling the development of an Integrated Transport Infrastructure plan for the borough. Undertaking this work will ensure that we are well placed to access funding opportunities.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Tony Smith
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Children and Families
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Julia Hassall, Director for Children's Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1. VULNERABLE CHILDREN REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

Intensive work continues to improve services for vulnerable children in Wirral. The first recommendation made by Ofsted in their report was that a permanent Head of Children's Social Care should be recruited as soon as possible. Simone White, currently a Senior Ofsted Inspector, was appointed to the newly established post of Deputy Director on 18th January. Simone has a wealth of experience and is ideally suited to this position. I am confident she will support the rapid improvement of social work practice. Simone will start in Wirral on 1 May.

In late January our first two-day Ofsted Monitoring Visit took place. The focus for this visit was the front door into Children's Services. Two inspectors audited the cases of six children who had been referred since 1st December; they also spent time talking to social workers and reviewing their work, focusing in particular on whether they were making a difference, partner involvement and manager's decision making. Inspectors fed back to the Council that we are making progress in improving our services for children in some areas that were considered by inspectors, and that other areas require more work before services for children are good.

During January and February I was pleased to introduce three "Right Service, Right Time" Conferences with attendance of over 450 partners. Led by the Police, Schools, Health and the Council, the Conferences introduced information to support all agencies to make sure children's needs were responded to appropriately (using our thresholds document and tools to assist them) and if not how to escalate concerns. The feedback from the Conferences has been positive, and there is already some evidence of improvement in the quality of referrals being made.

I am constantly reminded of the complexity and volume of the work social workers are dealing with, and how important it is to reduce their caseloads further, which will be made possible through the additional investment from April 2017. There are currently significantly more children becoming looked after which is a trend we want to reduce. We are therefore focusing on how we can develop better services to support children at home in their

community, as well as enabling more children to leave care through returning home when this is safe, or achieving permanence by adoption or special guardianship arrangements.

2. CHILDREN ARE READY FOR SCHOOL

Last time I reported take up of the vulnerable 2 year old offer (for children to attend state funded nursery placements) had improved rapidly to **88.05%** of eligible children and that we needed to understand whether there were improvements in each constituency, and I am pleased to report:

- Birkenhead - increased from 67.15% to **84.76%** in the last term (an increase of 17.61%)
- Wallasey – increased from 77.96% to **89.27%** in the last term (an increase of 11.31%)
- South and West - increased from 72.38% to **90.90%** in the last term (an increase of 18.52%)

This improvement is good, and concerted effort by professionals working with families with vulnerable two year olds as part of the pledge group has contributed to this, however, we must work to ensure all eligible children take up the offer and we understand the circumstances of each vulnerable child who does not.

A new training programme called Cherish has started this month. This is for early years practitioners working with two and three year olds to train them to understand the importance of promoting and developing secure attachments between themselves and children in their setting. Also the sixth programme of the “You in Mind” programme has completed. This eight week group is offered for mothers and babies during their first year where there has been some form of emotional difficulty.

3. YOUNG PEOPLE ARE READY FOR WORK AND ADULTHOOD

I am delighted to report the latest Ofsted published figures confirm 91% of Wirral schools are rated as good or outstanding: a significant improvement of 7% from the previous academic year.

Performance figures for the rate of progress made by students from the end of primary school to the end of secondary schools (Progress 8 score) have also been made available by the DfE. This is a new measure. For the 2015-16 academic year Wirral is ranked slightly below the national average, but compares favourably to North West neighbours, being ranked sixth out of twenty three authorities. Extensive work is underway by the School Improvement Locality Boards to ensure all pupils are able to access the revised curriculum specifications with a view to improve the attainment gap between pupils in receipt of free school meals and their peers.

We are focusing on closer monitoring and reviewing the impact of interventions with our children looked after, through delivering training to designated teachers on the new Electronic Personal Education Plan; and also I am pleased to update that of the twelve care

leavers who enrolled on the Employability Skills programme in September, eight have now completed the outward bound residential element with internship employer placements starting in January.

Work to support children with emotional and mental health problems in our schools is progressing well, with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) workers having now visited most mainstream schools; there is a telephone consultation line available to all schools which has been very positively received and helpful training is being delivered, with more being arranged.

As part of developing the Schools Strategy, a survey was sent to all schools in January 2017 asking schools about the priorities for their children. The major priorities were for children to achieve well and improve outcomes, and the main barriers were identified as issues in the home (56.3%); low expectations from family (47.9%) and mental health issues of parents (39.6%). These findings will inform the delivery of the strategy and wider work to improve outcomes for children

3. REDUCE CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

During the Christmas period various seasonal activities, such as a grotto and Christmas table decoration sessions were held. Over 2,500 Christmas hampers were distributed by volunteers, local groups and various agencies. The hampers provided an excellent means to engage families within the community pilot areas and a booklet of locally available services was included in the hampers to signpost families to available services. The range of partners and activities has continued to expand within the pilot areas, including partnering with the Sports Development Team to provide diversionary activities; 'fit and fed' is aimed at young people who are at risk of anti- social behaviour. Each of the pilot areas has a working group to deliver locally agreed action plans.

The Early Childhood Service partnership framework with DWP is working well. A session was held at the early years centre at Brassey Gardens and 100% of parents that attended engaged with Gingerbread and have accessed their services since the event. The child poverty awareness e-learning is now up and running and being promoted with local organisations to enable more people to signpost families to appropriate services.