



Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 29 March 2017

REPORT TITLE:	2016/17 Quarter 3 Wirral Plan Performance - Business Theme
REPORT OF:	Executive Director for Strategy Director for Business Services (Assistant Chief Executive),

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the 2016/17 Quarter 3 (October – December 2016) performance report for Wirral Plan pledges under the Business theme. The report, which is included as Appendix 1, provides a description of the progress in Quarter 3 as well as providing available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

Quarter Three Wirral Plan Performance Summary

The key performance highlights for quarter 3 include:

- The number of jobs created/safeguarded continues to exceed target and Wirral Council supported the submission of 11 Single Investment Fund applications to the City Region in December 2016 to support our jobs growth pledge.
- Whilst the quarter 3 employment rate data (69.0%) falls short of the target of 70.6%, performance remains significantly improved since the Wirral Plan start (66.7%).
- The Wirral Ways to Work Programme has engaged almost 600 clients since starting in April 2016 with over 100 people finding work or training which is supporting our pledge to link our residents to economic growth.
- Through our Devolution Deals with Government we have launched a 'Skills for Growth' Advisers programme across the City Region to work alongside our Business Growth Hub Advisers. This will provide businesses with funding and advice on skills to support our Workforce Skills Match Business Needs pledge.
- We delivered our first ever River of Light firework display with Liverpool City Council which attracted over 50,000 visitors to Wirral's coast, supporting our Vibrant Tourism Economy pledge.
- Wirral received a National Highways and Transport (NHT) Network award at the NHT Annual Conference in recognition of being the only authority in England who

has shown significant improvement in all the Road Safety elements of the Public Satisfaction Survey.

- We have slightly improved all aspects of our residents overall satisfaction with our highways and transportation services and walking/cycling facilities – the figures being all equal or above the national averages.
- The roll out of superfast broadband was completed at the end of October 2016 ahead of schedule and resulted in the deployment of 494 superfast structures offering services to an additional 60,120 premises across Merseyside.
- The formal Bus Alliance has now been signed across the Liverpool City Region which will focus on growing the number of fare paying passengers, improving customer satisfaction and driving up investment for the benefit of all who use bus services.
- The Travel Solutions' Programme to support residents to access employment and training continues to gain strength with 1,250 referrals being handled between April and December 2016. The project is supporting Wirral residents to overcome barriers to accessing employment and over 75% of residents who are assisted are still in employment 6 months after receiving support.
- Although most performance indicators are making good progress, the number of road traffic collisions resulting in death or serious injury being reported at this time is slightly higher than we anticipated. However, it is likely the year-end figure will have reduced bringing it in line with the hopes of the Road Safety Partnership.

RECOMMENDATION/S

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

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Wirral Plan is an outcome-focussed, partnership plan which has 16 supporting strategies that set out how each of the 20 pledges will be delivered. For each pledge, a partnership group has been established to drive forward delivery of the action plans set out in each of the supporting strategies.

- 3.2 A Wirral Plan Performance Management Framework has been developed to ensure robust monitoring arrangements are in place. The Wirral Partnership has a robust approach to performance management to ensure all activity is regularly monitored and reviewed.

- 3.3 Data for the identified indicators is released at different times throughout the year; as a result not all Pledges will have results each quarterly reporting period. Some indicators can be reported quarterly and some only on an annual basis with annual figures reported in the quarter they become available.

- 3.4 For each of the indicators a RAGB (red, amber, green, blue) rating is provided against the target and tolerance levels set at the start of the reporting period, with blue indicating performance targets being exceeded. There is also a trend key which shows whether performance has improved, remained static or deteriorated since the start of the Wirral Plan.

- 3.5 All Wirral Plan performance reports are published on the performance page of the Council's website. This includes the high level Wirral Plan overview report and the detailed pledge reports which include updates on progress on all activities set out in supporting strategy action plans.

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/council-performance>

- 3.6 Each of the Wirral Plan Pledges has a Pledge Sponsor. The Pledge Sponsors under the Business theme are as follows:

- Greater job opportunities in Wirral – Alan Evans

- Workforce skills match business needs – Alan Evans
- Increase Inward Investment – Alan Evans
- Thriving small businesses – Alan Evans
- Vibrant Tourism Economy – Alan Evans
- Transport and technology infrastructure fit for the future – Mark Smith
- Assets and buildings are fit for purpose for Wirral's businesses – Alan Evans

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

The performance management framework is aligned to the Council's risk management strategy and both are regularly reviewed as part of corporate management processes.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

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

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The Wirral Plan equality impact assessment can be found at:

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

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Wirral Plan Business Theme – 2016/17 Quarter 3 Pledge Reports

REFERENCE MATERIAL

N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	13 September 2016
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	29 November 2016