

## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides a brief update on Wirral Traded Services for schools.



## **2. BACKGROUND**

Wirral Council operates a range of traded services to its schools and beyond. The current range of Wirral Traded Services includes:

- Cash Collection for Schools
- Construction and Facilities Management
- Educational Social Welfare Service
- Financial Support for Schools
- Health & Safety
- HR Consultancy Services
- simpliciT including ITSOS
- Minority Ethnic Achievement Service (MEAS)
- Occupational Health
- Payroll & Human Resources Administration
- Risk and Insurance
- Software Support
- Schools' Library Service
- Wirral Community Patrol

Some of these services, such as Educational Social Welfare Service and the Minority Ethnic Achievement Service provide their service almost exclusively for schools. Others, such as Payroll & Human Resources Administration and Health & Safety are integrated into providing their services for other customers such as the Council.

Wirral Traded Services is coordinated by a Senior Manager and for 17/18, a Wirral Traded Services brochure was produced for all the traded services listed above and sent out to all schools on Wirral. This included a summary of each of the annual service level agreements (SLA) on offer from the services. Also within the brochure:

- MEAS was included with their full annual offer.
- School Library Service offered a new premium service to primary schools.

A new version of WESCOM was also launched early in 2017 and this includes the full SLAs for all the services. The online presence for Wirral Traded Services is being developed for 17/18.

There was a successful launch event attended by over 80 school colleagues in January 2017.

Overall the value of Wirral Traded Services in 16/17 was around £4.5 million. All of the services look to maintain a break even position so that their income at least matches their expenditure. Collectively they employ nearly 150 Wirral Council staff (around 120 FTE).

For 17/18 the level of annual buyback for schools has held up across most of the traded services with some services winning back school customers.

A number of school traded services that the Council had offered previously were transferred across to Edsential in December 2015 and these included EQ, Metro Catering, Metro Cleaning, Music and Oaklands. Wirral Traded Services continues to work alongside Edsential to ensure there is an effective, comprehensive offer of support services to schools and academies.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Forum notes the report.

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