



**COUNCILLOR
GEORGE DAVIES**

**HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
SAFETY**

CABINET

4 SEPTEMBER 2017

**Making Wirral's Communities Safe -
The Safer Wirral Hub**

Councillor George Davies, Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety said:

“Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, making sure Wirral residents feel safe and are safe, could not be more important. Our residents have told us repeatedly that this should be among our top priorities and I am delighted and proud we have been able to create such an innovative and potentially powerful new approach.

For many years, we have worked in close partnership with our colleagues at Merseyside Police and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service – working together to prosecute offenders, to tackle problem areas and issues, and doing all we can to make our communities safer places to live and visit. Last year we launched the Wirral Plan and two of its twenty pledges laid out ambitious five year strategies to tackle Domestic Violence and to ensure our neighbourhoods are safe.

Now, we are going much further, and creating a fully integrated Police and Community Safety service – the Safer Wirral Hub. The first of its kind in our region, our new combined unit will allow for more visible presence in communities, more joined up approaches to tackling issues such as domestic violence, anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood nuisance.

I believe this is a hugely important step. It will help make Wirral safer, it will help tackle the issues our residents tell us are a problem, and – even in times of continuing austerity and cuts to resources – it is an imaginative and radical plan to deliver a better service to our residents.”

REPORT SUMMARY

Success in building safer neighbourhoods is beyond the ability of the police or the council alone and requires an even greater partnership approach within and across all partner agencies and communities” (Ensuring Wirral’s Neighbourhoods are Safe, March 2016)

The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision sets out a shared partnership vision to improve outcomes for Wirral residents. Delivery of the priorities and outcomes described in the plan are underpinned through the development and implementation of a set of key strategies and a delivery plan.

The communities of Wirral are increasingly diverse and complex, which require a more sophisticated response to the challenges faced both now and in the future. Whether it is child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, cybercrime or new and emerging threats from serious and organised crime such as human trafficking or terrorism, the leaders of the Wirral Partnership acknowledge that if they are to meet their community’s needs, they must continue to review and adapt available resources to ensure the maximum benefit to its citizens.

This report provides Cabinet with the Safer Wirral Hub Full Business Case, a key community safety document which articulates how Wirral’s community safety and safeguarding partners will come together to provide services which are critical to supporting the delivery of the Wirral Plan, specifically, but not exclusively Pledge 7 (Zero tolerance towards domestic abuse) and 19 (Ensuring Wirral’s neighbourhoods are safe).

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults will be a key part of the project, providing much-needed support to children adults and families at a critical time.

This matter affects all wards within the borough and is therefore a Key Decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Cabinet is requested to:

1. Approve the Safer Wirral Hub Full Business Case outlined in this report with a planned ‘go live’ date for the new model of 1 October 2017; and
2. Instruct officers from the Strategic Hub to investigate further opportunities to develop the new model under the next phase of the project and report back to a future meeting.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

The Safer Wirral Hub partnership model has been developed to ensure the most effective delivery of the Wirral Plan pledges on community safety and safeguarding.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

(See Safer Wirral Hub Full Business Case Appendix 5 (page 54) for full range of options considered.)

1. Do nothing: Delivering effectively under existing and projected financial pressures, not feasible without a partnership approach.
2. Joint Venture: Politically and financially risk-laden and weak on delivery.
3. Transfer the function to another provider: Political and financial risks - single provider unlikely to have the full range of skills/expertise required.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Safer Wirral Hub has been developed over a 12 month period. Wirral Council and Merseyside Police have been the main drivers of this transformation.

The Safer Wirral Hub (SWH) will provide an effective multi-agency response to vulnerable people, victims of crime and anti-social behaviour through the alignment of the operational services of the local authority, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and other partner agencies including those from the third sector in order to improve customer satisfaction, reduce demand and improve the efficiency of all organisations.

Through closer partnership working the Safer Wirral Hub will deliver the following:

- Reduce first time entrants to the criminal justice system
- Improve safeguarding for vulnerable residents
- Tackle anti-social behaviour and crime
- Establish a multi-agency management hub at Solar Campus
- Establish one contact number for all Safer Wirral Hub services

The project will be delivered in two phases, Integration (bringing partners together) and 'Transformation' (developing those partnerships and ways of working better together).

The first phase of Integration has been on a 'lift and shift' basis and as such there are no job losses or TUPE implications resulting from this project.

In terms of governance arrangements, partners will report into Safer Wirral Partnership Board. The board will be a Wirral Council controlled body chaired by the Cabinet Member with senior representatives from the Children's Safeguarding Board. Wirral Adult Safeguarding is now formally led via a joint board with LCR partners. In order to ensure further alignment with the

Liverpool City Region Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) Group a Strategic Lead/Commissioner from the Safer Wirral Hub will sit on the PVP.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In 2018/19 it is anticipated that a one-off £50k will be required to fund the cost of additional Lead Commissioner resource to progress the next phase of the project however this will be funded from the overall project savings.

The Full Business Case is expected to deliver net financial savings of at least £100k pa revenue from 2019/20 onwards.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council retains liability for its staff, estates and other assets. Partner organisations retain liability for their respective staff and assets. A joint Memorandum of Understanding (see Appendix 4) was signed by Wirral Council and Merseyside Police in February 2017 and going forward this will be an approach adopted by all partner organisations.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

There are minimal staffing implications as existing Council staff will simply move under the new Safer Wirral Hub structure based within the Council.

To ensure the successful delivery of the new model going forward, a new Lead Commissioner resource will be required in the Strategic Hub and it is proposed that this role is covered by an existing staffing resource.

Any asset/ IT resource costs have been catered for as part of the estates rationalisation programme.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

1. Insufficient executive leadership to meet objectives – mitigated by collective accountability, Memorandum of Understanding and regular planned meetings to ensure synergy of approach.
2. Lack of stakeholder buy-in – mitigated by involving stakeholders in developing case study evidence, regular thematic workshops and lead officers engaging with voluntary and third sector partners to share the mutual benefits of collaborative partnership working.
3. Failure to find suitable accommodation – mitigated by securing accommodation and undertaking the necessary refurbishment/IT works at Solar Campus.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

The Safer Wirral Hub is a direct response to Wirral Residents Survey (2015) - the number one priority for residents being to feel safe and to be free from the risk of crime and/or anti-social behaviour.

Stakeholder consultation has included all key partners across the private, statutory and voluntary/third sector.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(a) Yes and impact review is attached:

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010-0>

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Safer Wirral Hub - Full Business Case

REFERENCE MATERIAL

All reference material is included within the Full Business Case

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Project update)	28 th March 2017