

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Angela Davies
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Transformation
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Paul Satoor – Director for Corporate Services & Reform

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1 WIRRAL GROWTH COMPANY

The Leader of the Council has provided Council with an extensive update on the work towards Wirral Growth Company. This joint venture partnership will put the Council in its strongest ever position to drive forward, and direct, regeneration in the borough – putting us in the driving seat to design what Wirral looks like in the future, and creating thousands of jobs, building hundreds of new homes and revitalising our retail centres along the way.

Some truly exciting, transformative developments are on the way – developments which will shape Wirral for generations to come, and provide a blueprint nationally for how Councils can unlock the potential in their assets, create jobs, drive revenue all while retaining control over the future of their local areas.

I am also delighted that through Wirral Growth Company we have been able to agree detailed policies on hiring local people and using local companies. Making sure the success of this initiative is felt by as many local residents and businesses as possible is vital, and I am proud we have been able to create such an innovative, ambitious and entrepreneurial programme.

More information on Wirral Growth Company is available on www.wirralwellmade.com.

2 LIBRARIES, LEISURE & CULTURE REVIEW

We are continuing an extensive review into our Library, Leisure and Cultural services, seeking to find a new way to provide the services to ensure they are sustainable for the long term and are able to meet our residents' needs.

This work continues. We are determined to find a fair, sustainable solution which provides a set of services which residents need, and which can have both the freedom and ability to attract funding and expand.

As the proposals develop, we will bring further reports to Cabinet and make sure the many residents who have helped us with this work up to now are fully involved as it moves forward.

3 CHILDREN'S SERVICES

I am pleased that the Transformation funding invested within children's services is already paying dividends, with a new recruitment campaign to attract new social workers up and running and many service improvements already being implemented.

It is vital that we all support this work and do all we can to ensure our children's services are able to meet the huge demands being placed on them.

4 ACCESS WIRRAL

Wirral residents are signing up to a new, online system to manage their Council Tax and Housing Benefit payments. Part of the Access Wirral programme, the new system allows people to benefit from paperless bills and also allows businesses and landlords to manage their payments.

More work is being developed to improve our online services and offer, Members will see new services and functions being added to the council's website in the coming months.