

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Chris Spriggs
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Delivering Differently
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 INTEGRATION OF HEALTH AND CARE SERVICES

I was heartened by the progress towards delivering a fully integrated NHS and social care service at the Cabinet meeting in February. For too long, navigating between the NHS, social care and other related services has been incredibly complex, frustrating and challenging for people.

We want to deliver Wirral residents a seamless, well designed and joined up NHS and social care service: one which strengthens our NHS, helps stretch our diminishing resources as far as possible and – crucially – provides our residents with a better service.

We will continue to develop our integration programme in the coming months and will share progress with Members regularly.

2 DELIVERING WIRRAL'S CULTURE STRATEGY

In February, we saw the launch of 'Imagine Wirral' – a new, innovative and exciting programme of culture, arts and heritage events which is sure to attract thousands of new visitors to the borough.

Imagine Wirral is the most ambitious and well-designed programme of events we've ever had in our borough. We're able to showcase local talent and our cultural assets like never before. The programme will place Wirral on a world stage, increasing visitor numbers and capturing the creativity of local people. We're really excited about its potential to increase visitor numbers, involve residents and boost our tourism businesses.

Just a few highlights from the Imagine Wirral programme include:

- **Tall Ships Regatta:** The return of the international fleet of Tall Ships to the Mersey over the Bank Holiday weekend, May 25-28. Includes full supporting programme of family friendly festivals and entertainment in and

around the River Mersey celebrating Celtic connections between Wirral and Liverpool, Dublin and Bordeaux.

- **May Weekender:** The May Weekender is set to attract over 50,000 people to Prenton Park, the home of Tranmere Rovers, over the late May bank holiday. The event is the successor to Wirral Live at the same venue in May 2017. Taking to the stage will be artists who cannot be found performing anywhere else in the UK this summer. The May Weekender team will begin announcing the artist line-up for the festival in the coming weeks.
- **New Brighton Revisited:** One of the 'must see' photographic exhibitions taking place anywhere in 2018 will show work by internationally renowned photographers Martin Parr, Tom Wood and Ken Grant. The Northern Narratives exhibition in New Brighton will bring many iconic and influential photographs of the resort together for the very first time and include many previously unseen images.
- **Wilfred Owen Commemorations:** Marking the centenary of the end of WW1, there will be a full week of events in November commemorating the life and death of Wilfred Owen, who lived in Birkenhead before dying in action in the closing days of the war. His work includes some of the greatest war poetry ever written including 'Dulce et Decorum est.' Wirral's rich history and cultural heritage will be celebrated throughout the year through local events and new collaborations, providing inspiring insights into the distant and recent past.

The Imagine Wirral launch at Birkenhead Town Hall included a one-off special live performance by Zuzu, newly signed to Virgin Records, and fresh from her BBC6Music live session. There was also a unique, one-off musical commission for the event from another emerging local musician, St Jude The Obscure. Both artists were arranged by the Wirral New Music Collective.

Wirral Council will be working with some of the biggest names on the local cultural scene throughout the year including Festival of Firsts, Love New Brighton Parade, Floral Pavilion, Secret Gardens of Oxtown, Wirral Open Studios, The International Guitar Festival of Great Britain, 'Be In Birkenhead' festival, Birkenhead Priory, Gladstone Theatre, Port Sunlight Village Trust, Wirral Chamber of Commerce, Williamson Art Gallery and Museum, Lady Lever Art Gallery and West Kirby Arts Centre.

You can find out more on Imagine Wirral through [Wirral View](#) and in the [Wirral Globe](#).

More exciting news was announced this month, with the creation of the Wirral New Music Collective has set up a Live Music Innovation Fund with £500 grants for local musicians, promoters or music lovers to put on innovative live gigs in Wirral this summer (May-September).

The collective is an independent group of record labels, music writers, promoters, visual artists, artist managers, magazine publishers and musicians who 'believe in music's power to shape a new future for Wirral.'

Read more about this in [Wirral View](#).