

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Matthew Patrick
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Localism & Engagement
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Fiona Johnstone, Director of Strategy & Partnerships

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

For the past few months I have been leading extensive work across the Wirral Partnership, holding discussions with all public agencies in the borough, to develop a new approach for how we work with local communities and encourage resident involvement and participation in decision making and services. I know many Members have contributed to this work and I want to thank everyone for their input. Early in the new Municipal year I will be bringing proposals back to Cabinet for decisions and I look forward to discussing them with all Members.

While this work is ongoing, it is important the ChaPAmer is aware of the continuing good work which is being delivered through our Constituency Teams. Some highlights from the past few months include:

In February 2018, an environmental day was organised by the Rodney Street Resident Association, in partnership with Birkenhead Constituency Committee, Involve Northwest Community Connectors our Waste and Recycling Team, Merseyside Police, Biffa, Councillors and Housing Associations. The volunteers cleared 1.5 tonnes of waste, and Biffa supported through clearing all alleyways in the area.

Birkenhead Constituency team developed and led on an application for funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, securing £7,000 in autumn of last year. The funding was used to support the Pathfinder Project, which is a partnership of Gautby Road Community Centre, Police, Youth Offending Team and Birkenhead Constituency. The project aims to prevent reoffending in young people by providing a range of interventions after a first arrest. Interventions include workshops and gym sessions with inspiring role model Sean 'Masher'

Dodd, a successful boxer from the North end of Birkenhead, visit to HMP Altcourse and training at Fulwood Barracks, support from Youth Offending Team and Positive futures after care.

Free training is being provided throughout February and March by the Alzheimer's Society to small independent businesses to help them better understand customers with dementia. Following the conclusion of the sessions, which are funded by Wallasey Constituency Committee, a further amount of funding will be made available to help businesses make small practical changes to premises for the benefit of people with dementia, helping to reduce social isolation and increase inclusion.

The Wirral South Neighbourhood Team has been working hard to support the community of New Ferry and its various community based organisations on a number of projects. New Beginnings (now a Community Interest Company) Community Hub opened its doors to the public on Saturday 10th March and a suite of community support/development initiatives will be delivered from this exciting new asset, right in the centre of New Ferry.

The team have also been working closely with New Ferry Rangers Football Club and have now secured £19,000 in development funding from phase two of Power to Change's 'Bright Ideas Fund'. Their project aims to provide a community clubhouse in New Ferry, offering community gym and café (luncheon clubs, holiday hunger projects etc.), 3G football provision and subsidised function hire to the local community. The football club and the neighbourhood team are working closely with regeneration consultants and architects to scope and design the new facility. Following public consultation and planning application, discussions will continue with funders across Merseyside, with a view to bringing the project to fruition by summer 2019.

In January 2017, a local community group Flourish at Ford Way (Community Gardening Project) with help from Wirral Met College's Princes Trust Team and support from the Wirral West Constituency team have worked to bring the second Memorial Garden at the junction of Cheverton Close and Hoole Road back into use after it fell into disrepair. The gardens were established to provide a place of reflection for people who have lost loved ones on the estate. The project has seen the site cleared of weeds and overgrowth and new benches and planters being made and installed by the group.