

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday, 28 March 2018

REPORT TITLE:	2017/18 Quarter 3 Wirral Plan Performance
REPORT OF:	Strategic Commissioner for Environment

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the 2017/18 Quarter 3 (October - December 2017) performance report for the Wirral Plan pledges under the remit of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report, which is included as Appendix 1, provides a description of the progress in Quarter 3 as well as providing available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

Quarter Three Wirral Plan Performance Summary

- 317 events have been held in Wirral's parks, beaches and open spaces so far this year compared to 292 at this stage last year, indicating we are on track to increase the number of events held compared to the previous year.
- The percentage of Wirral Residents who say they use the boroughs parks and green spaces at least once a month decreased slightly from 67% reported in the previous survey in 2016. A marketing plan commenced in January 2018 including promotion of events, facilities and volunteering programmes in place at a large number of our parks, coasts and countryside sites.
- The number of national quality awards for Wirral's parks and outdoor spaces has increased to 29 in 2017/18 with Birkenhead Park receiving the World Urban Parks Gold Award following the success of the World Urban Parks Congress.
- In November, the second River of Light Festival was held in New Brighton. 54,000 people enjoyed a world-class display of fireworks and complimentary events such as street performers and food and drink with very positive feedback through social media.
- At the end of quarter 3 our Stop Smoking Service helped 1454 people to stop smoking, including 75 pregnant women, with 672 still quit at 4 weeks and is on track to improve on last year.
- The "Drink Less, Enjoy More" campaign successfully reduced the number of bars in the project found to be serving "drunks" from 90% to 35%. Further engagement is underway to improve practice in the remaining establishments.

- 70 retail outlets are complying with the “Reducing the Strength” project which means that Super Strength Lager/Cider is no longer being sold in Birkenhead Town Centre. Some retailers have become agents for harm reduction in their communities by offering “Identification and Brief Advice” to any customers they have concerns about regarding alcohol abuse. The scheme is now being spread out to new areas.
- The 2017 Wirral Residents Survey reported 24% of people regularly volunteer/ support community groups at least once a month which is 2% lower than the previous 2015 resident survey. Community Action Wirral and Wirral Chamber of Commerce are now collaborating on a new local authority funded Third Sector Support contract which will drive forward volunteering in Wirral in partnership with the public sector and local businesses.
- A further 60 properties have been brought back into use during Quarter 3 and we remain on track to achieve our goal for the year and overall target by 2020.
- Positive progress is being made in new home building with 490 housing completions up to quarter three including 181 new affordable homes, funded by a mix of the Government’s Help to Buy initiative, the Council’s Affordable Homes Programme and the resources of Registered Providers of social housing.
- Homelessness prevention performance has decreased compared to the same period last year. There has been an increase in the number of clients with complex issues and the effect of welfare reforms and reduced access to accommodation provision whilst refurbishment works are underway have impacted the service provision this quarter.
- For Community Safety although significant success has been achieved at Quarter 3 with an 11% reduction of anti-social incidents compared to the same time last year there has been an increase by 16% of the number of crimes reported to the Police. Despite this, Wirral has maintained the lowest crime rate in Merseyside.
- For recycling of domestic waste performance has been lower than expected, with both the quantity of garden waste and dry recycling collected less than the same period last year. The tonnage of general (non-recycling) waste is still increasing. Over half of the local authorities in North West have also seen a decrease in recycling compared with last year. We are building on the campaign from Recycling Week to help our residents understand that their recycling does make a difference.
- The increase in the number of people who think dog fouling is a problem in their local area (62% in 2017 compared to 56% in 2015), reflects the heightened awareness associated with dog owners not picking up after their dog. The Council has been receiving less complaints or reports about dog fouling from residents and our own environmental monitoring arrangements conclude that dog fouling instances are not increasing. The Council has

embarked on a long term targeted approach to achieving behaviour change amongst dog owners who don't pick up after their dog.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the content of the report and highlight any areas requiring further clarification or action.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to scrutinise the performance of the Council and partners in relation to delivering the Wirral Plan Environment Theme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This report has been developed in line with the approved performance management framework for the Wirral Plan. As such, no other options were considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Wirral Plan is an outcome-focussed, partnership plan which has 18 supporting strategies that set out how each of the 20 pledges will be delivered. For each pledge, a partnership group has been established to drive forward delivery of the action plans set out in each of the supporting strategies.
- 3.2 A Wirral Plan Performance Management Framework has been developed to ensure robust monitoring arrangements are in place. The Wirral Partnership has a robust approach to performance management to ensure all activity is regularly monitored and reviewed.
- 3.3 Data for the identified indicators is released at different times during the year. As a result of this, not all Pledges will have results each quarterly reporting period. Some indicators can be reported quarterly and some only on an annual basis. Annual figures are reported in the quarter they become available against the 2017/18 year end column.
- 3.4 For each of the indicators, a trend is shown (better, same or worse). In most cases, this is determined by comparing the latest data with the previous reporting period i.e. 2016/17 year end. In some cases, i.e. where data accumulates during the year or is subject to seasonal fluctuations, the trend is shown against the same time the previous year. This is indicated in the key at the end of the report.
- 3.5 For some indicators, targets have been set. Where this is the case, a RAGB (red, amber, green, blue) rating is provided against the target and tolerance levels set at the start of the reporting period, with blue indicating performance targets being exceeded.
- 3.6 All Wirral Plan performance reports are published on the performance page of the Council's website. This includes the high level Wirral Plan overview report and the detailed pledge reports which include updates on progress on all activities set out in the supporting strategy action plans. The link to this web page is set out below:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/council-performance>

3.7 Each of the Wirral Plan Pledges has a Lead Commissioner responsible for overseeing effective delivery. The Lead Commissioners for the Pledges in the report at Appendix 1 are as follows:

- Leisure and culture opportunities for all – Mark Smith
- Wirral residents live healthier lives – Julie Webster
- Community services are joined up and accessible – Julie Webster
- Good quality housing that meets the needs of residents – Graham Hodgkinson
- Wirral's neighbourhoods are safe – Mark Smith
- Attractive Local Environment for Wirral residents – Mark Smith

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The performance management framework is aligned to the Council's risk management strategy and both are regularly reviewed as part of corporate management processes.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The priorities in the Wirral Plan pledges were informed by a range of consultations carried out in 2015 and 2016 including the Wirral resident survey.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Wirral Plan equality impact assessment can be found at:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2014-15/chief>

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Wirral Plan – 2017/18 Quarter 3 Pledge Report

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	21 September 2016
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	30 November 2016
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	28 March 2017
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	4 July 2017
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	21 September 2017
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	30 November 2017