

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018

## REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN

### WIRRAL TRADED SERVICES FOR SCHOOLS

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#### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a brief update on Wirral Traded Services for schools.



#### 2. BACKGROUND

Wirral Council operates a range of traded services to its schools and beyond. The current range of Wirral Traded Services for 2018/19 includes:

- Construction and Facilities Management
- Data Protection Officer
- Distribution Services
- Educational Social Welfare Service
- Financial Support for Schools
- Health & Safety
- HR Consultancy Services
- Independent School Appeals Clerking (Admission and Exclusions)
- IT Services for Schools
- Legal Services
- Minority Ethnic Achievement Service (MEAS)
- Occupational Health
- Payroll & Human Resources Administration
- Risk and Insurance
- Software Support
- Schools' Library Service
- Wirral Community Patrol
- Wirral Printing Services

Some of these services, such as Educational Social Welfare Service and the Minority Ethnic Achievement Service provide their service almost exclusively for schools. Others, such as Payroll & Human Resources Administration and Health & Safety are integrated into providing their services for other customers such as the Council.

Wirral Traded Services is coordinated by a Senior Manager and for 2018/19, a Wirral Traded Services brochure was produced and sent out to all schools on Wirral. This included a summary of each of the annual service level agreements (SLA) on offer from the services. New for this year was an online sign up process which was generally well received by schools.

New offers from Wirral Traded Services for 2018/19 included:

- Independent School Appeals Clerking (Admission and Exclusions)
- Legal Services
- Wirral Printing Services
- Data Protection Officer offer covering GDPR
- New offer from Financial Support for Academy Schools
- New offer from School Library Service for Special Schools and Year 7 Transition Service
- New On-line Management Information Tool (Insight) on offer from Payroll & Human Resources Administration
- New pricing model from Wirral Community Patrol
- New separate stand-alone asbestos cover from Construction and Facilities Management

WESCOM contains the full SLAs for each of the services. The brochure was also put online at <http://www.wirraltradedservices.org.uk/> to gain an internet presence for the services.

There was a successful launch event attended by over 60 school colleagues in January 2018 at the Floral Pavilion.

Overall Wirral Traded Services generated income in 17/18 of around £4.5 million. All of the services look to at least break even so that their income at least matches their expenditure. Collectively they employ nearly 150 Wirral Council staff (around 120 FTE).

For 2018/19 the level of annual buyback for schools has held up across most of the traded services with some services winning back school customers. Legal Services have gained 23 schools this year for their new offer, whilst 32 schools have signed up for the new Data Protection Officer service. Projected income figures for 18/19 suggest that income will be up across Wirral Traded Services on the previous year by about 2%. This is partly down to increasing the range of products with new services for schools. This increase in income has been achieved despite increased competition and also greater financial challenges for schools with their budgets.

Every maintained and academy school across Wirral buys at least one of the annual SLAs on offer. There are over 1000 individual SLA agreements from Wirral Traded Services across Wirral Schools.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Forum notes the report.

**Paul Boyce**  
**Corporate Director for Children**