

## COUNCIL

15 OCTOBER 2018

### CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

<b>REPORT OF</b>	Councillor Phil Davies
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO</b>	Leader of the Council
<b>CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Eric Robinson, Chief Executive

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

#### 1 **IMAGINE WIRRAL: A YEAR OF CULTURE, CREATIVITY AND IDEAS**

I want to use this update to Council to highlight the spectacular success of our Imagine Wirral programme. At the outset of this initiative we wanted to put Wirral on the map, to create a calendar of events which would attract thousands of visitors to our borough and give our residents the chance to make fantastic memories. I hope the Chamber will agree with me that we have delivered everything we have promised and much more.

At the time of writing, we are making the final preparations for ‘Liverpool’s Dream’ – the final outing for the Giants anywhere in the world and the first time they have crossed the River to Wirral.

We are thrilled to have been able to play host to the Giants for this historic event. Working with our colleagues in the Liverpool City Region to bring major events like the Giants to our shores is exactly the kind of thing we should be doing. These events attract thousands of visitors to our region, boosting local businesses and helping local people and families create memories which will stay with them forever.

This event will be one of the most highly anticipated weekends of the year. Bringing it to our side of the River Mersey adds an extra, exciting dimension to the event and I am so proud we have been able to make it happen. I’d like to thank our colleagues in the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Arts Council England and – of course – the creators of the Giants at Royal De Luxe for everything they have done to make this possible.

To read much more about our Giant visitors, Members can check [Wirral View](#) or click the link for the [wider media coverage](#).

The visit of the Giants comes hot on the heels of another event which saw large visitors on our shores, when tens of thousands of people descended on New Brighton and throughout the borough to see the triumphant return of the Tall Ships.

As part of the Tall Ships Regatta, a family-friendly line-up of events took place in New Brighton and Birkenhead across the whole Bank Holiday weekend. One of the highlights was Animated Square on Sunday evening which saw Birkenhead Town Hall burst into life in a dazzling display of light and sound. Hamilton Square was

transformed with circus activities, street performers and circus entertainers in the build-up to the main event. The crowd were spellbound throughout the 3D projection onto the Grade II\*-listed building which told the story of the town's people, places and history.

Read the full coverage of this fantastic event by [clicking the link](#).

During the summer we were also a key partner in the 'Lost Castles' event, which captured the imagination of the entire Liverpool City Region and even made an appearance on BBC's 'The One Show'.

An army of volunteers assembled for this unique arts project in West Kirby. Over 250 volunteers came together to prepare and build an enormous Viking stave church entirely from cardboard and tape in Ashton Park and thousands of people came to see it!

Although downpours and breezy conditions eventually proved too much for the structure, it provided a dramatic backdrop for family activities. Renowned French artist Olivier Grossetête designed a monumental structure for each of the six boroughs based on medieval forts or historic buildings which were in the region at one time or inspired by each borough's history.

More on the Lost Castles can be found [here](#).

The finale of our Imagine Wirral programme this year will be the return of the River of Light in November, as confirmed recently by the [Wirral Globe](#).

River of Light: The Elements will see the return of Titanium Fireworks, who wowed crowds last year with a jaw dropping display on Sunday, November 4. Titanium Fireworks took over co-ordinating the event last year and have previously worked on national events including the Mayor of London's New Year's Eve party, Edinburgh's Hogmanay and the opening ceremony for the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Finally, I am delighted to inform Council that Wirral has been chosen as 'Borough of Culture' in the Liverpool City Region for 2019. Our ambition is to use the year to build on the success of Imagine Wirral and boost the borough's profile locally, nationally and internationally.

The programme will create a sense of possibility, wonder and adventure in Wirral with unforgettable moments in all four seasons and will have the following themes at its heart: Discovery, Exploration and the Great Outdoors.