

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Phil Davies
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Leader of the Council
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	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 WIRRAL: LIVERPOOL CITY REGION BOROUGH OF CULTURE

The past month has seen Wirral become a focus of the sporting world, a fitting and incredibly exciting start to our Borough of Culture year.

We started with the announcement Wirral will play host to the OVO Energy Tour Series and Tour of Britain later this year, with an OVO Energy Tour Series event in May and a full stage of the race held in the borough in September. The events will feature both men's and women's races and will be the first time that the borough has hosted either event.

This is incredibly exciting news. To get the chance to play host to a global sporting event, in the middle of our Borough of Culture year, is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity which we just could not miss. I am delighted we've been able to make it happen.

The Tour of Britain is broadcast around the world and to have Wirral and Birkenhead centre stage is a huge honour. I hope colleagues throughout the Chamber will share my excitement and recognise we have been able to secure an event for our borough which will attract hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Members can read the media coverage of this announcement [here](#).

In February, we received the momentous news that The Open was to return to Hoylake in 2022. The occasion will mark the 13th time that golf's original championship has been played over the famous links where many of the greatest names in the sport have lifted the iconic Claret Jug.

Last time The Open was held in our peninsula, Members will recall the buzz it created as thousands of visitors discovered Wirral for the first time, giving our bars, restaurants and local businesses a huge boost. The economic impact was estimated at the time to be in excess of £70 million.

We are thrilled to be welcoming the world's best golfers back to Wirral and I know I speak on behalf of all Members when I say we will make sure every one of our residents and local businesses benefit from this huge event.

Members can read the global coverage of The Open's return to Hoylake [here](#).

I want to draw Members' attention to the first event in our Borough of Culture year, which is the return of the immensely popular Animated Square. Created by the award-winning Illuminos, Animated Square will project the tale of Birkenhead's history on to the town hall on Saturday, March 23.

The creators attempted to unearth as many stories as they could about the town's past, present and future and even visited the Wirral Archives, Birkenhead Priory, Birkenhead Library, Birkenhead Park, Bidston Windmill and Cammell Laird to hear from historians and archivists.

I would encourage all Members to come along to this free family event and visit www.imaginewirral.com for more information.

2 NEW FERRY

I could not let a Council meeting pass without again referencing New Ferry. New Ferry is a community we will never forget. While the Government have shamefully turned their back, denying them the support they deserve, we remain firmly behind these local people and will continue our drive to regenerate the town.

We have done all we can to support every resident and business affected by the events of March 2017. We are buying up properties, to make sure the rebuilding process happens at pace. We are creating new residential developments in the town, and I am pleased that through our recent budget we have been able to go further.

We are investing £200,000 to help and support the residents and businesses of New Ferry, which will support this community to continue its recovery from a terrible disaster.

3 LEADER'S STATEMENT

Finally, Members will be aware this is my last Council meeting as Leader of Wirral Council. I want to take this opportunity to thank every Member – from every party, regardless of our differences – for their support and kindness to me.

Being Leader of the Council was never an easy job, there were complex and difficult challenges to overcome almost every day. Working alongside colleagues like yourselves, and talented and dedicated officers, have made this an experience I will never forget. Thank you all.