

COUNCIL
14 OCTOBER 2019

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Pat Hackett
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Leader of the Council

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Leader of the Council to Members of the Council on matters relevant to the portfolio.

1 WIRRAL: LIVERPOOL CITY REGION BOROUGH OF CULTURE

Wirral has well and truly been placed on the national – and international – map this year after a fantastically successful [Borough of Culture](#), and there is still more to come.

Since the last Council meeting in July we have had the [Future Yard Festival](#), the [OVO Energy Tour of Britain](#) returned for a full day stage (including the astonishing [artwork](#) by Saype at New Brighton), [Wirral Food and Drink Festival](#) was a huge success in Birkenhead Park where we also saw fantastic [outdoor concerts](#), and most recently the high profile [RRS Sir David Attenborough](#) launch. This all followed on from earlier in the year when we had major events such as Animated Square, Radio Local, The Witching Hour, River Festival, plus major exhibitions at the Williamson gallery and Birkenhead Priory.

Still to come is the Museum of the Moon which will be in Birkenhead Town Hall from Friday October 25 and the River of Light on November 3. My thanks to the organisers of all these events and especially those who volunteered their time to ensure they took place so successfully. All of these events have shown what a remarkable place Wirral is and what can be achieved when we work together.

2 NEW FERRY

The £200,000 hardship fund for those residents and businesses who were most affected by the explosion on March 25, 2017 has now been distributed. This is in addition to more than £400,000 which was spent by the Council in the immediate aftermath.

There is room for optimism for the future of the town as we continue to press on with the wider, long-term regeneration plan for New Ferry. This is being supported by the government, through Homes England, for new residential developments and through an investment from the council of £1.3m to undertake an acquisition exercise, buying up a number of the privately-owned properties to speed up the process of regeneration. New Ferry is also on the shortlist for the government's Future High Streets fund, there has also been funding earmarked from the Liverpool City Region.

We will continue to work closely with the local community to help the town in its ongoing recovery from the effects of this terrible disaster.

3 WIRRAL COUNCIL PLAN

The Wirral Council Plan to 2025 sets out what we will deliver over the next five years. These are the things the people of Wirral have told us matter to them. The Plan outlines exactly what we will focus on for Wirral residents in the coming years, how we will do it and what we will achieve. Our ambition is for:

- A prosperous, inclusive economy where local people can get good jobs and achieve their aspirations
- A cleaner, greener borough which celebrates, protects and improves our environment and urgently tackles the environmental emergency
- Brighter futures for our young people and families – regardless of their background or where they live
- Safe, vibrant communities where people want to live and raise their families
- Services which help people live happy, healthy, independent and active lives, with public services there to support them when they need it

If we continue to work collectively, focussing on what unites us rather than divides, then we can achieve our aims for the people of Wirral.