

COUNCIL

14 OCTOBER 2019

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Anita Leech
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Local Plan and Deputy Leader of the Council

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Local Plan to Members of the Council on matters relevant to the portfolio.

Wirral's Local Plan will set out the vision for future development in the borough up to 2035. Every area in England and Wales should have an up-to-date Local Plan in place and should review it at least every five years.

The Council is currently making excellent progress in preparing the new Local Plan for Wirral which will set out how the Borough should be developed over the next 15 years, in line with National policy and legislation.

Local Plans are used to help decide on planning applications and other planning related decisions, helping to guide what can be built where, shaping infrastructure investments and determining the future pattern of development in the borough.

This is even more important now than ever before as we move ahead with development at Wirral Waters, push forward the regeneration of Birkenhead's town centre and continue to work to attract investment into the borough. The most important element of the local Plan is that it works for the people of Wirral now and into the future, and it will play a key role in meeting the authority's pledges relating to people, business and the environment. The Local Plan presents an opportunity for regeneration in the borough, tackling inequality and in doing so improving the health and lifestyle of the residents of the borough as well as encouraging inward investment and boosting employment opportunities.

Last month the Cabinet approved the Local Development Scheme which sets out the Council's programme for producing key planning documents which underpin Wirral's Local Plan.

We are now close to the stage where we will be looking at asking the Council to approve consultation on our preferred option. This will be a "first draft" of the plan and follow on from the work carried out last year and the extensive consultation done then.

If agreed by Council, we intend to start formal consultation as soon as possible and are preparing a number of events to be held across the borough early in the new year.