

**Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee**  
**Wednesday, 27 November 2019**

<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Wirral Growth Company – Pre-decision Scrutiny</b>
<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>Alan Evans – Corporate Director of Economic and Housing Growth</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report sets out proposals for the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the Wirral Growth Company Partnership Plan and associated Business Cases. This work is time sensitive with a scheduled Cabinet Decision early in 2020. The approach set out in this report will enable the Committee to review the proposals and submit any comments to Cabinet to inform the decision.

The report supports the Council Plan outcome - A prosperous, inclusive economy where local people can get good jobs and achieve their aspirations. The report affects all wards within the borough but with particular emphasis on Birkenhead Town Centre.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee be recommended to convene a workshop to review the Wirral Growth Company Partnership Plan and associated Business Cases.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the Wirral Growth Company Partnership Plan and Associated Business Cases.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 The 'do nothing' option would not provide Members of the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to scrutinise the scheduled Cabinet decision. The proposals set out in this report, provide a sufficient timeframe for the Committee to review the decision in advance.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Wirral Growth Company has been established as a Joint Venture (JV) with partner Muse Developments. The JV provides the opportunity for the Council to regenerate key sites across Wirral creating jobs and investment.
- 3.2 Significant work has been undertaken with Muse to develop the Wirral Growth Company Partnership Business Plan which sets out the timeframe for development of priority sites. A key priority site within the plan is the Birkenhead Commercial District. On 26 November 2018, Cabinet approved a Draft Business Case for Birkenhead Commercial District and initiated an extensive public consultation programme to inform the proposals to be brought forward. The Partnership Business Plan is scheduled to go to Cabinet for approval early 2020 along with related full business cases for Birkenhead Commercial District and Birkenhead Market.
- 3.3 Consideration has been given to enable Members of the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review these proposals in advance of a Cabinet decision. In line with established practice for pre-decision scrutiny, it is suggested that a dedicated workshop is set up for Committee Members to review the proposals. The session will involve an overview of each of the reports followed by a question and answer session. Members' feedback and comments will be compiled in a report of the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee and included in the Cabinet report pack in February. It is proposed that Members of Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee are also invited to the workshop session.
- 3.4 The timing of the workshop will be constrained by the preparation and availability of the Cabinet reports. All reports will include some commercially sensitive information and will be exempt from publication. In the event of a tight turnaround in getting committee's feedback report to Cabinet, it may be necessary to seek approval of the report by the Chair and party spokespersons.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising as a result of this report.

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising as a result of this report.

## **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

6.1 There are no resource implications arising as a result of this report.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 There are no risks arising from this report. In line with good programme and project management practice, a detailed register of risks is maintained and regularly reviewed in support of the Wirral Growth Company programme.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

8.1 A detailed programme of consultation has been delivered in support of the emerging proposals for Birkenhead Commercial District.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no equality implications arising as a result of this report.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no environment or climate implications arising as a result of this report. The development of the Birkenhead Commercial District will, in due course, have significant environmental and climate implications with opportunities to reduce carbon emissions through the creation of modern, efficient buildings. These implications will be monitored as part of the on-going development of the scheme.

**REPORT AUTHOR: Mike Callon**  
**PMO Manager**  
Telephone: (0151) 691 8379  
E-mail: michaelcallon@wirral.gov.uk

**APPENDICES - N/A**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS - N/A**

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Strategic Options Report to Cabinet	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
Property Company Full Business Case to Cabinet	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
Wirral Growth Company: Preferred Bidder Report	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
<u>Draft</u> Full Business Case FBC	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2018