

**WIRRAL COUNCIL**  
**PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE**  
**7 JANUARY 2020**

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>EMERGING WIRRAL LOCAL PLAN – WORKING DRAFT POLICIES: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE &amp; BIODIVERSITY</b>
<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>INTERIM COPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC AND HOUSING GROWTH</b>

**1.0 REPORT SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Council is in the process of preparing policies for the emerging Local Plan, which is scheduled for submission to the Secretary of State in November 2020.
- 1.2 The Planning Sub Committee was established by Planning Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 to make recommendations, in consultation with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to the Cabinet on the policies that will be included in the Local Plan for the Borough.
- 1.3 A series of meetings have been scheduled to consider working draft policies for the emerging Local Plan.
- 1.4 The purpose of this meeting is for Members to consider the contents of the initial working draft policies that would include criteria for green infrastructure, recreation, open space, & biodiversity, which are enclosed in Appendix 1.

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Planning Sub Committee considers the content of the initial working draft policies: Requirements for Green Infrastructure, Recreational Land & Buildings, Recreational Open Space in New Residential Developments, Biodiversity and Geodiversity set out in Appendix 1, and decide if there are matters that should be given further consideration by officers before reports for Cabinet are finalised.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **2.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

2.1 To assist in the preparation of the Local Plan.

### **4.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

4.1 The Council is currently preparing its Local Plan for submission to the Secretary of State in November 2020. A key aspect of this work is the review and development of Development Management (DM) policies, which upon the adoption, will be used to determine planning applications.

4.2 There are a number of tasks, which include:

- 1 Reviewing existing DM policies.
- 2 Revising these policies to ensure that they are up to date and take account of current and emerging agendas, for example, climate change.
- 3 Writing new policies to ensure that the Council is able to effectively manage development in the Borough.
- 4 Regularly review policies to ensure they remain relevant, up to date and represent best practice.

4.3 These tasks are urgent and need to be completed within the timescales set out for the submission of the Local Plan as the council is still under threat of intervention by Government if it does not meet the timescales.

### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no financial implications from this report.

### **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Local plans must be positively prepared, justified, effective and based on up to date relevant evidence about the economic, social, environmental characteristics and prospects for the area consistent with national policy in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The emerging Local Plan cannot be formally adopted as part of the statutory Development Plan unless it is found to be legally compliant and sound following independent examination.

6.2 Approval of the final Draft Local Plan will require a resolution of Council before it can be published and submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination.

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

7.1 This sub-committee will be supported by the Council's existing planning staff.

### **8.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

8.1 If the work set out in this report is delayed, the Council may not be able to meet its timetable for submission of the Local Plan, which could result in Government intervention.

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## **APPENDICES**

- 1. Initial Working Draft Policies:** Requirements for Green Infrastructure, Recreational Land & Buildings, Recreational Open Space in New Residential Developments, Biodiversity and Geodiversity.

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Planning Committee</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> July 2019</b>
<b>Planning Sub Committee</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> September 2019</b>
<b>Planning Sub Committee</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> October 2019</b>
<b>Planning Sub Committee</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> November 2019</b>
<b>Planning Sub Committee</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019</b>