



POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 28th July, 2021

REPORT TITLE:	THE WIRRAL PLAN 2021-2026
REPORT OF:	PAUL SATOOR, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report presents The Wirral Plan 2021-26. This is the overarching plan to make Wirral a great place to live, work and prosper. The Plan sets out the vision and key priorities for the Borough over a 5-year period from 2021 to 2026.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Policy and Resources Committee is recommended to:

1. Consider the contents of the Wirral Plan set out in Appendix 1 to this report and refer to Full Council in September; and
2. Agree that further engagement and discussion with relevant Committees takes place to shape the underpinning delivery plans and work programmes required to implement the Wirral Plan; and
3. That P&R approve the approach for the development of delivery planning and corporate change programme to support implementation.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The Wirral Plan is a key policy document for the Borough, and drives the high level priorities, ambition, and key deliverables for the organisation. The Plan reflects what people have told us is important to them and will be used to help all staff understand their role in helping to deliver our corporate priorities.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Wirral Plan is a key policy document and is vital for the Council's planning and development in the coming years. No other options were therefore considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In October 2019, The Wirral Plan 2025 received cross party support and was approval by Full Council. At that time, the Plan was designed to take full account of one year of activity in 2020 as well as shaping some well-informed long-term objectives.
- 3.2 However, the social, economic, and political landscape in the borough has significantly changed during 2020. There is no doubt that COVID-19 is having a significant impact on Wirral residents and businesses and will continue to do so for the coming months. We have therefore reviewed the 2025 Plan to make sense of the radically changed world that we find ourselves in.
- 3.3 High level thematic priorities remain broadly the right ones, but there are some immediate, short term actions that must be delivered in parallel with longer term aspirations and ambitions. Detailed delivery actions will be determined through further engagement and discussion with relevant Committees and with partner agencies.
- 3.4 The refreshed Wirral Plan 2021-26 has been developed to build on the five thematic priorities from the previous Plan. The thematic priorities are high level, focus on changes for whole population groups, and can only be delivered by working with partners.
- 3.5 The vision for the Wirral Plan 2021-26 is:
Equity for People and Place: To create equity for people and place and opportunities for all to secure the best possible future for our residents, communities and businesses.
- 3.6 The thematic priorities for the Wirral Plan 2021-26 are:
- A thriving and inclusive economy, creating jobs and opportunities for all.
 - A clean-energy, sustainable borough, leading the way in tackling the environment crisis.
 - Brighter futures for all regardless of their background.
 - Safe and pleasant communities that our residents are proud of.
 - Healthy and active lives for all, with the right care, at the right time.

- 3.7 The Plan is built on a detailed evidence base including the Strategic Needs Assessment drawing on the latest local and national data sources of the key challenges and opportunities facing the Borough.
- 3.8 During Summer 2020, a programme of partnership engagement was undertaken to help shape the content of the new Plan. This approach confirmed that there remains a strong appetite across the public, private and voluntary sectors for a shared strategic plan that supports collective ambitions.
- 3.9 As a result, the Plan brings together a number of organisational and partnership plans into a single coherent document and highlights the 'must do' priorities for the next 5 years. The Wirral Plan 2021-26 enables strong partnership working across Wirral, and promotes a collaborative and joined up response.
- 3.10 The Wirral Plan provides the policy framework for Council activity in the coming year. There is a need for a series of delivery plans against each of the Council plan priorities. Delivery plans are being developed which will define how the in-year priorities will be achieved. Delivery plans will need to align with the achievement of in-year budget efficiencies and be cognisant of emerging budget planning for 2022/23. It is proposed that draft delivery plans are reviewed by policy and service committees through dedicated sessions and budget workshops during the summer. This will align with the timetable to bring the Wirral Plan to Council in September.
- 3.11 This approach will ensure alignment with the Medium Term Financial Plan, any requirements MHCLG place on the Council in relation to the request for exceptional financial support, and any investment in change identified. The delivery plans will reflect activity delivered through Directorate operations, existing in-flight projects as well as new activities developed as part of a corporate programme of change. All new programmes and projects will be subject to business case approval through relevant policy and service committees. Details of the proposed change programme structure and governance will be confirmed following the approval of the Wirral Plan and associated delivery plans.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Wirral Plan is designed to align with and inform the budget setting process for the next five years.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Legal implications relating to the actions set out in the Wirral Plan will be addressed by directorates as appropriate.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The Wirral Plan is a key strategic document to determine Council business planning and delivery resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Corporate Risk Register is being refreshed in line with the new Wirral Plan to

ensure that any risks to delivery are understood and mitigating actions are put in place as appropriate.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

The Wirral Plan reflects what people have told us is important. Ongoing engagement will continue with staff, residents, businesses and partners as part of a collaborative approach to implementing the Plan.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The fundamental purpose and core of the Wirral Plan is to tackle inequalities and improve equity for all our residents. It will address the existing socio-economic and health inequalities in the Borough, to do things differently and make a fairer, more inclusive Wirral. Equality Impact Assessments will be carried out as the priorities within the Plan are implemented.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The Wirral Plan reflects the Council's strong commitment to improve the environment, with clear actions to address environment and climate emergency.

REPORT AUTHOR: Carly Brown carlybrown@wirral.gov.uk
Rosemary Boylan rosemaryboylan@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: The Wirral Plan 2021-2026

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Wirral Plan 2021-2026

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council	14 th October 2019