



## **ECONOMY REGENERATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY 13 JUNE 2022**

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| <b>REPORT TITLE</b> | <b>ESTABLISHMENT OF REGENERATION PROGRAMME WORKING GROUP</b> |
| <b>REPORT OF</b>    | <b>DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE</b>                        |

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek agreement to terms of reference to the Working Group and to seek appointment of members to it.

The Wirral Plan 2021-2026 sets out the Councils vision to secure the best possible future for our residents, defined by the community prosperity we create and supported by our excellent people and services. This proposal directly supports the following key themes within that plan:

- A prosperous inclusive economy where local people can get good jobs and achieve their aspirations; and
- Safe, vibrant communities where people want to live and raise their families.

This matter has no ward implications.

This is not a key decision. The report is provided to enable the Committee to have oversight of progress on various major regeneration projects.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee is recommended to:

- (1) confirm that the Regeneration Programme Working Group be appointed for 2022/23 with terms of reference identified in paragraph 3.3 of this report;
- (2) agree the size of the Regeneration Programme Working Group;
- (3) authorise the Monitoring Officer as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members and named deputies to the Regeneration Programme Working Group and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 Agreeing the Terms of Reference will allow the Working Group to have a clearly defined scope for the review topic having regard to the request from Committee. This will allow officers to better understand the desired outcomes and present more timely and pertinent information to the Working Group.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 The Committee could seek changes to the Terms of Reference of the Working Group, and it has discretion as to the size of the Working Group.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 On 26 January 2022 the Economy Regeneration and Development Committee upon consideration of a report into Legal Input into Major Regeneration Projects resolved amongst other matters as follows

“Given the importance of the regeneration programme to Wirral in respect of achieving financial stability and sustainability for the Council, as well as other accepted benefits, a working group of elected members comprising the Chair and Spokespersons of Economy Regeneration and Development Committee, with the Chair and Spokespersons of Audit and Risk Management Committee also invited, along with an observer from the current Independent Panel, to oversee the performance of legal support to the regeneration programme, with partners invited when necessary; and

The working group is in acknowledgement of concerns raised by both Committees and will allow for scrutiny of the legal process that will include feedback from partners where needed as an assessment of the performance of the Council legal practice as it relates to the regeneration programme. Its purpose is not to micromanage the process but to allow scrutiny and offer assurance to elected members across both Committees and the wider Council chamber.”

- 3.2 On 23 March 2022 the Economy Regeneration and Development Committee resolved amongst other matters to amend the working group arrangements as follows:

“... a Working Group be established to look at the performance of the Regeneration Programme. Along with the Chief Executive, Director of Regeneration and key officers, members from Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee will meet with the Council’s development and funding partners regularly to discuss the performance of the regeneration programme for the Borough. This group will look at the performance of specific projects or schemes within that programme that have been reported by exception as experiencing delays or issues against the expected timeframes.

The second part to the Working Group will be to meet with lead Officers from the key service areas (i.e. the Regeneration Project Manager or lead officers from finance, legal, procurement to consider any matters raised by the Council's Development or Funding Partners). This will provide the opportunity for Members to hear from Officers (and any external support that may be procured) to support the reasons for project being reported by exception and the mitigating actions being implemented. Issues raised by Development and Funding Partners can also be raised and explored.

The Working Group will report their findings and any recommendations to the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee. Additionally, any significant financial risks will be referred to Audit and Risk Management Committee for its consideration and action.”

- 3.3 It would be appropriate for the Committee to agree Terms of Reference for the Working Group and agree its size and membership. The purpose of this report is to seek agreement to terms of reference to the Working Group (as set out in Appendix 1 to this report) and to seek appointment of members to it.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There will be minimal costs arising from setting up the Working Group.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 In June 2021 the Constitution and Standards Committee resolved to approve the Guidance Principles for establishing a Working Group. The guidance was for all Policy and Service Committees and in summary it states amongst other matters that, if a Committee is of the view that a Working Group is the mechanism to provide the best outcomes for a given topic, it should ensure that the Working Group scope has been clearly defined. The document also provides that consideration should be given to:

- Appointment of the Chair and Members of the Group. The Chair can either be appointed by the parent committee or at the first meeting of working group/task finish;
- Agreeing the Scope of the Working Group; and
- Number and frequency of meetings.

- 5.2 On completion of its work the panel should produce a final report with clear recommendations to present to the relevant Policy and Service Committee for consideration.

- 5.3 Whilst there is no legal requirement for the Working Group to be politically proportionate members may wish to have regard to proportionality with reference to the allocation of seats on Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee.

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

- 6.1 There are no substantive ICT Staffing and Assets implications arising out of the proposals set out within this report.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 The management of risks to the Council in respect of its Regeneration Programmes come in the form of managing the risks to delivery, as well as managing the commercial and financial risks and the risks for proper governance and legality
- 7.2 The Working Group can gain further insight into the risks and relevant mitigations of risk as part of its work.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 Consultation has not been undertaken on the proposals given that the purpose of the Working Group has already been determined by a previous Committee decision.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.
- 9.2. Whilst there are no equality implications arising from this report, the associated actions arising from the project and programmes that Council are involved with may need to be assessed and any equality issues mitigated in terms of any negative impact that may emerge.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no environment or climate implications arising from the proposals set out within this report.

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING**

- 11.1 There are no Community Wealth Building implications arising from the proposals set out within this report.

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 Terms of Reference of Working Group

## **APPENDIX 1**

### Purpose of the Regeneration Programme Working Group

To enable detailed consideration, guidance and support for the Council's Regeneration Programme and to aid greater understanding of the key issues arising from it and the reasonable options that exist to address those issues

### Role of the Regeneration Programme Working Group

1. As part of the first phase, along with the Chief Executive, Director of Regeneration and Place and key officers, to meet with the Council's development and funding partners to discuss the performance of Wirral's regeneration programme. Furthermore, to look at the performance of specific projects or schemes within that programme that have been reported by exception as experiencing delays or issues against the expected timeframes.
2. As part of a second phase, to meet with lead Officers from the key service areas (i.e. the Regeneration Project Manager or lead officers from finance, legal, procurement) to consider any matters raised by the Council's Development or Funding Partners. This will provide the opportunity for Members to hear from Officers (and any external support that may be procured) to support the reasons for project being reported by exception and the mitigating actions being implemented. Issues raised by Development and Funding Partners can also be raised and explored.
3. The Working Group will report their findings and any recommendations to the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee. Additionally, any significant financial risks will be referred to Audit and Risk Management Committee for its consideration and action.

### Membership of the Regeneration Programme Working Group

1. The Working Group comprise xx members
2. The Council's Substitution Scheme will apply
3. The Chair of the Working Group will be selected by the Group from amongst its number.
4. The Working Group meetings must have at least 3 members to be quorate.

### Regeneration Programme Working Group Arrangements and Principles

1. The Members will be supported by officers as appropriate.
2. The Working Group has no decision-making powers. Its purpose is to aid greater understanding of issues, desires, and policy development.
3. The focus of the Working Group is on key issues the Council's Regeneration Programmes not all related detailed issues.

4. Meetings to be held on an 'as required' basis.
5. Meetings are not open to the public, but outcomes from the Working Group will be made available to all Members as appropriate.
6. The Working Group will cease upon it concluding its work and reporting its findings to the Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee.