



ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Monday 19 June 2023

REPORT TITLE:	APPOINTMENT OF PANELS, STATUTORY / ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES 2023/24
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to enable Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee to review the continuing need for various panels, statutory / advisory committees and working parties, and to appoint Members and named deputies to serve on those (including the statutory committees and panels) that are to be retained in 2023/24.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough and is not a Key Decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Committee is requested to authorise the Monitoring Officer as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Active Travel Forum, the Wirral Climate Change Group and the Hilbre Island Management Committee 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 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The Committee is required to appoint the membership of various panels, statutory / advisory committees and working parties, which fall under its remit at the start of each Municipal Year.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Active Travel Forum

- 2.1 Potential options which the Committee could investigate, and potential consequences, include:
- 2.1.1 Not continuing the Forum, but it currently allows a wide range of stakeholders to engage in round-table discussions about potential and planned schemes and developments. This has the benefit of allowing external stakeholders to be aware of and influence Council plans.
- 2.1.2 Not include Members on the Forum. If this option were followed, the Forum could produce a regular report to be presented to the Members Working Group and/or the Chair of the Forum be invited to present to Members on a regular basis.
- 2.1.3 To vary the numbers of Members.

Wirral Climate Change Group

- 2.2 Potential options which the Committee could investigate, and potential consequences, include:
- 2.2.1 Not support the Partnership. This group started life as a 100% Council body (originally called the Nottingham Declaration Group). It has evolved over time, with Council support, to a partnership with a more independent voice. The original Cool strategy (2014-19), endorsed by Council, included an objective to this end. It's no longer in our gift to disband the body and as a partnership the other partners might choose to carry on without us, but if both officers and Members were withdrawn, that would likely result in the demise of the partnership.

However, that would not be inevitable and it could well carry on without us and evolve further. It is conceivable that without our influence/support it might continue 'as is' or evolve into something different e.g. a hostile advocacy group. By ending our relationship we would lose the opportunities it currently presents, notably to tackle the climate crisis in a joined up way, to add value greater than the sum of the parts, to help secure resources to address common issues that we might be excluded from accessing directly, to share good practice and experience, and gather wider information about local action and its impact.

In the light of the Council's climate commitments, withdrawing from the partnership at this stage would run counter to the Council's direction and its stated policy intent "to support positive engagement with partner organisations and residents". It would

likely be perceived negatively and could damage relationships and our reputation. Other local authorities who recently declared climate emergencies, but stopped supporting such bodies in the past, are now setting up such partnerships again. Climate change is a 'more than Council' problem which tends to promote such 'more than Council' approaches.

- 2.2.2 Vary the numbers of Members. That is a decision to be made by this Committee and would then require a change to the Council's Constitution.

Hilbre Island Management Committee

- 2.3 For the Hilbre Island Nature Reserve Management Committee, potential options which the Committee could investigate, and potential consequences, include:

- 2.3.1 Not being involved in the Committee, although it does provide an opportunity for stakeholders to meet to discuss issues regarding the island.
- 2.3.2 Not include Members on the Committee, although the inclusion of Members allows the Committee to ensure that any developments are in line with the wider aims of the Council.
- 2.3.3 To vary the numbers of Members. That is a decision to be made by this Committee and would then require a change to the Council's Constitution.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The following bodies were retained or created in 2022/23 to assist the Committee in its work.

Active Travel Forum

Role

- 3.1.1 A joint forum bringing together Health and Transportation colleagues with interested public and private organisations and individuals, to support active travel as a simple, low cost and effective way for people to access life opportunities whilst increasing levels of physical activity in their day to day life.

The Forum's role is to ensure ideas are put forward regularly so that relevant schemes are developed that respond to and meet local needs, taking into account the wider City Region priorities. An annual workshop will be held to update members on the context of these priorities and present and future funding streams. The forum is comprised of 4 Members, this has previously been 1 representative from each political group.

Vision

- 3.1.2 To improve the health of Wirral residents by promoting active travel modes as the natural choice for shorter journeys, or as part of a longer journey in Wirral – regardless of age, gender, fitness level or income.

3.1.3 Objectives

- (1) To be a Wirral wide forum to consider the positive and collective roles of walking and cycling in our future integrated transport system, and their role in delivering Public Health outcomes.
- (2) To provide a holistic view to enable active travel journeys in Wirral by supporting promotional and behavioural change programmes as well as capital infrastructure programmes.
- (3) To encourage and promote increased levels of active travel in Wirral by collectively addressing barriers to active travel, including attitudes, knowledge and awareness, social and cultural norms and habits.
- (4) To facilitate the exchange of ideas and best practice between pedestrians and cyclists in general to encourage and promote increased levels of active travel, and achieve health outcomes in order to improve quality of life for all.
- (5) To promote a Wirral wide forum to support a strategic approach to facilitating active travel across the Borough as part of the delivery of Merseyside's Local Transport Plan for Growth, including linkages to the public transport network.
- (6) To support agencies and individuals to enable Wirral to be a safer place for all users of active travel modes.
- (7) To support Officers in the delivery of proposals, schemes and policies (including road safety) that may impact upon active travel users in the Borough and the development of a strategic active travel delivery plan/strategy as part of building an evidence base and business case for future funding applications as appropriate.
- (8) To provide a collective voice to responding to consultations on policies and proposals that will impact upon pedestrians and cyclists in Wirral, and wider Liverpool City Region as appropriate.

Membership comprises of one Member from each group and is not politically proportionate.

Membership for 2022/23 comprised of,

Councillor Liz Grey
Councillor Leah Fraser
Councillor Harry Gorman
Councillor Allan Brame

Wirral Climate Change Group (now known as The Cool Wirral Partnership)

Purpose

3.2.1 The Cool Wirral Partnership exists as a forum to champion and help co-ordinate action in Wirral to tackle the climate crisis.

Scope of work

3.2.2 To:-

- Develop the local strategic approach to climate change in Wirral;
- Help co-ordinate local climate-related action;
- Seek investment to help meet local climate-related goals;
- Monitor and report progress;
- Act as a local independent 'voice' for climate-related action;
- Encourage a wide range of stakeholders to engage in climate action in support of agreed local strategic objectives
- Act as point of contact for those with an interest in climate action in the wider community
- Act as a forum to share good practice and foster learning between partners;
- Assist Wirral Council to fulfil its commitments concerning climate change.

Principal activities

3.2.3 To:-

- Oversee the development, progress, and review of local strategy to tackle the climate crisis
- Help to grow a wider network in support of local climate objectives working to raise awareness and encourage wider action
- Promote action in support of the strategy across Wirral, encouraging all those who support the strategy to identify their 'Locally Determined Contributions' and to share these action plans publicly
- Help progress joint actions to accelerate delivery of the strategy where action together can have more value and impact than action by a single organisation (initially focused on the 'early steps' identified in the Cool strategy).
- Gather and present data to inform action
- Produce annual reports on local progress that consider both actions taken in partnership and the 'Locally Determined Contributions' shared - and crucially any gap between actual and necessary reductions in emissions
- Organise a public annual climate emergency forum to report progress, share experience and encourage further action
- Arrange citizen panels on climate strategy topics where progress is limited. These panels will review the evidence and make further recommendations for action
- Help develop and support bids for funding to support implementation of climate strategy related actions

- Raise local climate change-related matters as necessary with other strategic bodies and partnerships in Wirral and the wider Liverpool City Region to help highlight links with other strategic priorities and help overcome barriers to progress
- Respond to related consultations to influence wider policy and practice; and
- Maintain a meeting programme to enable the exchange of good practice and learning and to oversee progress across all activities

Membership comprises of one Member from each group and is not politically proportionate.

Membership for 2022/23 comprised of,

Councillor Liz Grey
 Councillor Andrew Gardner
 Councillor Allan Brame
 Councillor Naomi Graham

Hilbre Island Nature Reserve Management Committee

3.3.1 Scope - To manage the nature reserve and to make appropriate recommendations for its preservation and maintenance. It usually met every 3-4 times a year before the COVID pandemic but has not met since. It is formed of key stakeholders and Councillors.

3.3.2 The committee is comprised of 9 Members and is not politically proportionate. The membership for 2022/2023 was as follows:

Councillors Tony Jones, Jerry Williams
 Councillors Tony Cox, Jeff Green, Andrew Hodson, Alison Wright
 Councillor Harry Gorman
 Councillors Allan Brame, Chris Carubia

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There is a requirement under the Council's Constitution to appoint Members to various panels, advisory committees and working parties. The Active Travel Forum, the Wirral Climate Change Group (now known as The Cool Wirral Partnership) and Hilbre Island Management Committee are not statutory, but are considered good practice for an authority to have a mechanism for engaging stakeholders.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are none arising directly from this report as the Group and Forum are arranged and serviced using existing staff resources.

6.2 If any of the options in section 2 were progressed this may increase the resource implications.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 As these are non-statutory meetings, no risks have been identified from the recommendation.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 It is for political groups to decide how they wish to allocate their Committee places.

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.

9.1.2 There are none arising directly from this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

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APPENDICES

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Previous reports on the appointment of panels, statutory / advisory committees and working parties and amendments made during the year and the Council's Constitution.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE	20 June 2022
Council (APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS TO	28 September 2020

OTHER BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS) Council (APPOINTMENT OF PANELS, STATUTORY / ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES; AND MISCELLANEOUS APPOINTMENTS 2019 / 2020)	14 May 2019
Council (APPOINTMENTS TO STATUTORY AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND PANELS 2018/19)	15 May 2018