



ECONOMY REGENERATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday 20 JUNE 2022

REPORT TITLE	ESTABLISHMENT OF REGENERATION PROGRAMME WORKING GROUP
REPORT OF	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to enable Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee to review the continuing need for the Active Travel Working Group and, subject to that, to appoint Members to serve on it.

The Wirral Plan 2021-2026 sets out the Council's 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 and is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee is recommended to:

1. Determine whether there is a continuing need for the Regeneration Programme Working Group; and
2. If the Committee considers that there is a continuing need, approve that the Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of 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 The recommendations will enable the Committee to consider if it needs to set up the 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.

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.
- 2.2 The Committee could determine that the Working Group is no longer required and if so could consider utilising informal workshop meetings of the Committee to enable detailed consideration of pertinent aspects of the Council's Regeneration Programme.

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 The Working Group has had one meeting in the municipal year 2022/23.

3.4 **Current Membership:**

Councillor Tony Jones
Councillor Andrew Hodson
Councillor Judith Grier
Councillor David Mitchell

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

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