



Policy and Resources Committee

Date: Wednesday, 21 October 2026

Time: 6.00 p.m.

Venue: Wallasey Town Hall

Contact Officer: Anna Perrett
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This meeting will be [webcast](#)

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**
2. **APOLOGIES**
3. **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

4. **MINUTES (Pages 1 - 6)**

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2026.

5. PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

5.1 Public Questions

Notice of question to be given in writing or by email by midday, Friday 16 October 2026 to the Council's Monitoring Officer (via the online form here: [Public Question Form](#)) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 10.

Please telephone the Committee Services Officer if you have not received an acknowledgement of your question by the deadline for submission.

For more information on how your personal information will be used, please see this link: [Document Data Protection Protocol](#)

5.2 Statements and Petitions

Notice of representations to be given in writing or by email by midday on Friday 16 October 2026, to the Council's Monitoring Officer.

To register your intention to give a statement please do so via this link: [Public Statement Notification](#), and will be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 11.1.

Petitions may be presented to the Committee if provided to Democratic and Member Services no later than 3 working days before the meeting, at the discretion of the Chair. The person presenting the petition will be allowed to address the meeting briefly (not exceeding three minutes) to outline the aims of the petition. The Chair will refer the matter to another appropriate body of the Council within whose terms of reference it falls without discussion, unless a relevant item appears elsewhere on the Agenda. If a petition contains more than 5,000 signatures, it will be debated at a subsequent meeting of Council for up to 15 minutes, at the discretion of the Mayor. Please give notice of petitions to committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

Please telephone the Committee Services Officer if you have not received an acknowledgement of your statement/petition by the deadline for submission.

5.3 Questions by Members

Questions by Members to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Orders 12.3 to 12.8.

SECTION A - KEY AND OTHER DECISIONS

6. ACQUISITION OF HOMES FOR SOCIAL RENT (Pages 7 - 12)

SECTION B - WORK PROGRAMME / OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

7. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 13 - 24)

Policy & Resources Committee Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for this committee can be found at the end of this agenda.

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POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 9 September 2026

Present:

Councillor P Basnett (Chair)

Councillors	J McManus	T Murphy
	R Molyneux	M Skillicorn
	S Mountney	G Jenkinson
	K Hodson	E Lamb
	S Bennett	M Booth
	A Davies	J Johnson
	S Foulkes	P Gilchrist
	H Raymond (in place of C Carubia)	V Wilson (in place of I Lewis)
	N Graham (in place of J Bird)	P Jobson (in place of S Powell-Wilde)

37 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting as well as those watching the webcast.

38 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received by Councillors Chris Carubia, Ian Lewis, Jo Bird, and Sue Powell-Wilde.

Councillors Helen Raymond, Naomi Graham, Vida Wilson and Paul Jobson were in attendance as substitutes.

39 **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Naomi Graham declared a personal non-pecuniary interest by virtue of working for an organisation that rented property from the Council.

40 **MINUTES**

Councillor Simon Mountney requested that the attendance record be amended to note the apologies of Councillor Ian Lewis and the attendance of Councillor Jeff Green as substitute member.

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2026 be approved as a correct record with the above amend.

41 **PEAK CLUSTER - LICENCE AGREEMENT TO ACCESS COUNCIL LAND**

The Assistant Director: Property and Investment reported that the Council had been approached by Peak Cluster, who proposed to capture carbon at four major cement and lime manufacturing facilities in Derbyshire and Staffordshire, requesting that the Council grants a licence to allow them and their agents to conduct surveys over Council land. Due to the resolution of Council of 9th March 2026, the matter had been referred to the Committee to consider.

During the debate, members highlighted public concern about the project, the large volume of correspondence received from residents, concerns about environmental, safety and visual impacts, and the importance of reflecting the strong opposition previously expressed by both the Council and local communities. Members acknowledged that refusing the licence would not materially delay the project but agreed that doing so would send a message of opposition and demonstrate solidarity with residents affected by the proposals.

Councillor Kathy Hodson made a declaration that she was pre-determined in relation to this matter so did not take part in the vote.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Skillicorn it was,

Resolved (18:00) – that the Policy and Resources Committee does not agree the granting of a licence to Peak Cluster to progress a number of surveys on land set out in appendix 1 of the report.

42 **REVENUES & BENEFITS – REPLACEMENT OF ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EDMS) AND FUTURE PROCUREMENT APPROACH FOR THE REVENUES & BENEFITS CORE SYSTEM**

The Head of Business Applications stated that the existing contract for the Revenue and Benefits Document Management System was due to expire in December 2027, shortly followed by the core Revenue and Benefits System in March 2028.

As part of the ongoing Business Application review linked to the Council's Digital Transformation priorities including a cloud first approach, a requirement had been identified to replace the existing document management system as it was approaching end-of-life and has no cloud-native upgrade path.

This provided the opportunity to review the end-to-end system offer for Revenue and Benefits and a Soft Market Testing exercise had been undertaken to enable better understanding of the current market offer for an

integrated Revenues and Benefits and Electronic Document Management System.

Members were informed that two market leading suppliers offered an integrated end-to-end solution encompassing both the core Revenue and Benefits functionality and document management requirements which had engaged and provided detailed responses as part of the Soft Market Testing. These had demonstrated a strong alignment with the Council's objectives for cloud adoption, automation, customer self-service, document management and service transformation.

The market engagement exercise had reinforced the need and benefit of replacing the current document management system and reviewing core capabilities to ensure an enhanced digital customer experience, reducing the requirement for manual processing which could cause delays and impact recovery.

Members sought assurance that the proposed migration of the revenues and benefits document management system would be delivered securely, without loss of data or disruption to services, while officers highlighted the benefits of moving to a single supplier, including improved integration, easier upgrades, stronger contract management and support for wider digital transformation.

The committee also discussed future IT strategy, staffing impacts, project resources and cost controls, ultimately agreeing to proceed with the procurement process subject to further details being reported to the Finance Working Group.

Resolved – that the Director of Corporate Services be authorised to undertake a procurement process to award a new contract for an integrated Revenues and Benefits System covering the core processing activity and document management.

The award will be via a compliant framework for an initial 5-year contract term with 2 further options to extend in each case for 3 years at an estimated contract value totalling an estimated £4.825m being an estimated contract value of £400k p.a. and one-off implementation expenditure estimated at £0.425m for the full 11-year contract term, plus in-year contract inflation, and as detailed in section 4 – financial recommendations.

43 **CORPORATE RISK REGISTER UPDATE**

The Insurance, Risk and Business Continuity Manager provided an update on the Corporate Risk Register (CRR), which has been reviewed following internal assessments and audit recommendations. Key changes include

clearer roles and responsibilities, improved processes for escalating risks, alignment with strategic objectives, and new guidance on the use of AI in risk management, while further work is underway to refine the council's risk appetite and bring updated proposals back to the committee.

Members noted the report and were advised that risk management training is available to all councillors.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

44 RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND RISK APPETITE UPDATE

The Insurance, Risk and Business Continuity Manager provided an update on the council's Risk Management Framework, highlighting revisions to strengthen risk governance, including clearer roles and responsibilities, enhanced risk escalation processes, alignment with strategic objectives, and new guidance on the use of AI in risk management. Members were advised that further work is underway to refine the council's risk appetite and that updated proposals, along with any consequent amendments to the framework, will be brought back to the committee following consideration by the Executive Leadership Team.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

45 COMPLIANCE IN THE ESTATE - UPDATE

The Assistance Director for Property and Investment introduced a report which provided an update for the Committee relating to the Council's land and property following submission of a report to the committee in March.

The implementation of the Corporate Landlord Model along with other work has revealed several key issues within the estate that needed to be addressed. The report provided an update on the actions taken to address these issues.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

46 UPDATE ON LEASING OF SOLAR CAMPUS TO OASIS CHARITABLE TRUST

The Head of Service for 14-19 Strategy presented a report which provided an update on the transfer of the Solar Campus site, Leasowe Road, Wallasey ("the Solar Campus") to Oasis Charitable Trust.

The Policy and Resources Committee – 11th March 2026 – supported the decision to declare the Solar Campus a surplus asset and to progress

negotiations to transfer the site including granting early access from April 2026.

The Oasis Village Wirral would see the creation of a multi-agency education, health and community hub designed to support children and young people struggling with attendance, behaviour, SEMH needs (Social, Emotional, and Mental Health), and those at risk of exclusion. Wirral faced persistent challenges such as low educational outcomes, high SEMH demand, pupil exclusions, and significant child poverty.

The proposed approach would see the Oasis Charitable Trust develop and operate a Wirral Village at the Solar Campus on an initial temporary 2-year lease, followed by a further longer-term lease.

Members welcomed the project, recognising its potential to improve outcomes for vulnerable young people and deliver savings to the council, and agreed to support the proposals subject to further financial and business case details being reported to the Finance Working Group.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

47 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee reported that the Committee, in co-operation with the other Policy and Service Committees, was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. The work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which are within the remit of the Committee.

The committee the work programme, noting a correction to a report date and requesting further information on the Housing Strategy Implementation Plan, the Target Operating Model and the Corporate Risk Register, with updates to be added to the future work programme.

Resolved – the report be noted.

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POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday 21 October 2026

REPORT TITLE:	ACQUISITION OF HOMES FOR SOCIAL RENT
REPORT OF:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - HOUSING SERVICES

REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks approval to acquire 38 new-build homes for social rent at the Northstone development in Bromborough. The homes form part of Phase 1 of the Merse scheme, with the first handovers expected from October 2026. The proposal would increase the Council's approved acquisitions programme from 30 to 38 homes. This requires the inclusion of £1,700,779 of ring-fenced Section 106 affordable housing contributions, capital receipts and eligible external grant contributions to be included within the Capital Programme. The proposal would provide eight additional homes beyond the original programme and would still impact on a reduction of households in higher-cost temporary accommodation by providing settled social rented housing, reducing financial pressure on the Council.

This proposal is aligned to the Council's current Wirral Plan and the draft Wirral plan 2027 to 2031 four long term aims, to provide reliable everyday services, connections and resilience, proactive help for people and growth for Wirral.

This proposal affects the Bromborough Ward. This is a Key Decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Policy and Resources Committee is recommended to approve:

1. the inclusion of £1,700,779 of ring-fenced Section 106 affordable housing contributions, capital receipts and external grant within the Council House Acquisitions Programme to support the acquisition of 38 homes at the Northstone development in Bromborough;
2. that the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Director of Legal Services to approve the finalised terms for the acquisition of 38 homes for social rent at the Northstone development in Bromborough from Magenta Living at cost of £11,253,491
3. that the Head of Legal Services be authorised to negotiate, agree and complete all legal, contractual, grant transfer and ancillary documentation necessary to give effect to the recommendation 2 to this report

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 On 23 February 2026 this Committee approved the inclusion of £5.316m into the capital programme to enable the purchase of 30 additional homes for use as Council housing. The reason for this was to generate a regular long term rental income for the Council and to create savings in terms of housing benefit subsidy loss. The proposed acquisition provides an opportunity to secure 38 new-build homes for social rent through a single transaction.
- 1.2 The timing of the opportunity is important. The first homes are expected to be available from October 2026 and would allow the Council to move households from higher-cost forms of temporary accommodation into settled social rented housing more quickly. This would support earlier cost avoidance, reduce Housing Benefit subsidy loss and ease pressure across the wider homelessness system.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Council could seek to acquire 30 individual properties for temporary accommodation in accordance with the decision of this Committee of 23 February 2026 as referred to in paragraph 1.1 of this report. This would retain the original focus of the approved programme but would take longer to deliver because suitable properties would need to be identified and purchased individually. The Council would therefore be less able to reduce reliance on higher-cost temporary accommodation, and the associated financial pressure on the Council, at the same pace. This would not enable the acquisition of an additional eight units beyond the programme anticipated as part of the approved Capital Programme or the Homes England grant linked to the scheme.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 An opportunity has arisen to acquire 38 new social rented homes as part of Phase 1 of the Merse scheme at the Northstone development in Bromborough. Twenty homes are expected to be handed over to Magenta on a phased basis from mid-October to December 2026, with the remaining 18 expected to complete before March 2027. A subsequent transfer of ownership will then occur between the Council and Magenta.
- 3.2 Magenta Living is contracted to acquire 38 homes as part of Phase 1 of the wider development on the site. Homes England grant of £4.237 million has now been secured for all 38 properties and Homes England has confirmed its support 'in principle' for the grant to transfer to the Council. Magenta Living is prepared to release these homes to the Council at the negotiated price and instead acquire a further 38 properties within Phase 2 of the development.
- 3.3 Rather than acquiring 30 homes for use as temporary accommodation, this opportunity enables the Council to acquire 38 new-build homes for social rent. This represents a significant benefit against the original capital programme by providing eight additional homes for the additional funding requested.

- 3.4 Although the properties would not increase temporary accommodation in Wirral directly, they would create permanent move-on opportunities and improve throughput across the homelessness and rehousing system. Allocations would be prioritised first to households living in bed and breakfast accommodation, followed by households in dispersed temporary accommodation, and then priority homeless households known to services who are at risk of needing bed and breakfast accommodation. This approach would enable the homes to still reduce the use of higher-cost emergency accommodation and associated financial pressures as quickly as possible. It will also generate a gross rental income which will benefit the council, estimated to be in the region of £282,000 per year less management costs.
- 3.5 The proposal builds on the work already being undertaken to eliminate the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for families unless it is absolutely necessary, for example safety reasons. It would also increase the Council's portfolio of social rented homes, provide a longer-term asset while supporting the immediate objective of reducing temporary accommodation and bed and breakfast pressures.
- 3.6 The opportunity is time limited because of the proposed handover programme and Magenta Living's wider development programme. It provides an opportunity to secure additional Council-owned social rented homes, make effective use of the existing acquisitions budget and establish a first phase from which the Council could develop a wider programme of Council-owned social housing.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Homes England grant of £4.237 million has now been secured for the Merse development. Homes England has also confirmed its support in principle for the grant to transfer from Magenta Living to the Council, subject to completion of the required grant and acquisition arrangements.
- 4.2 The transfer of grant will be progressed with Magenta Living and Homes England alongside completion of the necessary legal, financial, valuation and technical due diligence. The current scheme costs are set out below:

Item	Amount
Total Scheme Cost	£11,253,491
Homes England Grant secured	£4,237,000
Residual Council Contribution	£7,016,491
Existing Capital Programme Funding Available	£5,315,712
Additional S106 Funding/external grant available	£1,700,779

- 4.3 The funding package includes an additional £1,700,779 of ring-fenced Section 106 affordable housing contributions, capital receipts and external grant, which requires approval for inclusion within the Capital Programme.

- 4.4 The proposal provides an opportunity to reduce expenditure across the homelessness system by increasing the availability of permanent social rented housing for households who would otherwise remain in, or be at risk of requiring, temporary accommodation. Based on current modelling, the potential financial benefit associated with reduced temporary accommodation costs and Housing Benefit subsidy loss could be in the region of £260,000 to £1.1 million. The actual level of savings achieved will be dependent upon the households occupying the properties at the point of acquisition and the extent to which the homes are used to support move-on from bed and breakfast and other forms of temporary accommodation. In addition, the scheme is forecast to generate annual rental income in excess of £282,000 less management fees, creating an ongoing revenue stream for the Council. The acquisition will support the Council's objective of reducing reliance on higher-cost emergency accommodation, improve throughput across the homelessness system and help mitigate ongoing financial pressures. Alongside these revenue benefits, the proposal will increase the Council's long-term housing asset base through the acquisition of 38 new-build social rented homes, creating a lasting strategic asset for the borough whilst delivering improved housing outcomes for residents.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council would acquire the properties from Magenta Living, which is currently contracted to purchase them from Northstone Developments. If the recommendations are approved, the Head of Legal Services will be authorised to negotiate, agree and complete the legal, contractual, grant transfer and ancillary documentation required for the acquisition.
- 5.2 Final approval of the acquisition terms and authority to complete the transaction will be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Head of Legal Services. A contract variation will also be required to include the additional 38 homes within Magenta Living's existing housing management arrangements until the Council undertakes the planned re-procurement of the service in line with the current timetable. This management contract includes day to day management of the tenancies as well as repairs and maintenance. The variation does not alter the nature, specification or duration of the existing service and relates solely to an increase in the maximum number of properties managed, from 75 to 108 units. The additional management costs associated with the increase in stock are contained within the current approved contract value and budget provision. The variation is considered necessary to ensure continuity of service and effective management of the acquired homes pending completion of the Council's planned re-procurement exercise, whilst maintaining consistency of management arrangements across the Council's housing portfolio.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The acquisition will be progressed using existing Council staffing resources across Housing, Property and Investment, Finance and Legal Services. The single transaction is expected to require less officer resource than identifying and purchasing the equivalent number of individual properties.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The principal risks relate to completion of the grant transfer, acquisition or transaction costs exceeding current assumptions, defects or other technical issues being identified, and the transaction not completing within the required timescales. Discussions have already taken place with Homes England, which has confirmed that transfer of the grant is possible and has been undertaken previously. The risk associated with the grant transfer is therefore considered low. There is a risk to not moving forward this proposal in that the Council will not be able to reduce on its commitment to reduce the use of Bed and Breakfast for families.
- 7.2 Buying units on a single scheme allows better management of risk. The Council will be able to benefit from new build warranties and conduct a single due diligence exercise. Undertaking single transactions in the market increases the risk and workload required to secure the acquisitions. Risk will be regularly monitored as discussions continue and timeframes are firmed up.
- 7.3 There is a future risk that some properties may become eligible for Right to Buy where tenants meet the statutory qualifying criteria, including the current three-year public sector tenancy requirement. This is the same position for those current 70 properties which the Council currently has in its stock portfolio already or in conveyancing. However, this is considered a longer-term risk rather than an immediate one and will form part of the Service Risk Register. The Government has announced significant reforms to Right to Buy, including proposals to exempt newly built social housing for 35 years and strengthen protections for public investment in new homes. These measures, together with the Council's ability to use the homes in support of homelessness prevention, temporary accommodation reduction and wider housing needs, significantly mitigate the strategic impact of any future Right to Buy sales. This risk will be monitored within the departmental risk register and periodically reviewed.
- 7.4 All risks will continue to be managed through legal, financial, valuation and technical due diligence, confirmation of the grant arrangements and agreement of final terms before completion.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 There are no engagement/consultation implications arising out of this report.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The proposal relates to the acquisition of additional social rented homes and does not change eligibility for services, reduce provision, or adversely affect any protected group. The acquisition is expected to have a positive impact by increasing the availability of affordable housing and supporting households in housing need. Consequently, no significant adverse equality impacts have been identified and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not considered necessary at this stage. Equality considerations will continue to be monitored as the homes are brought into use.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The homes have been designed to provide a high level of energy efficiency. All 38 properties are predicted to achieve a high Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band B, with a minimum Standards Assessment Procedure (SAP) rating of 86, and will include solar photovoltaic panels and air source heat pumps. These measures will reduce reliance on fossil-fuel heating, support lower carbon emissions and help residents manage energy costs. The acquisition itself is not expected to create additional construction impacts because the homes are already in development.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The acquisition would retain investment within the borough, increase the Council's stock of social rented housing and support delivery through an established local housing partnership. The additional homes would provide long-term affordable housing for Wirral residents and contribute to wider social and economic outcomes.

12.0 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the recommendations. The homes will be incorporated into the Council's housing management arrangements, including the usual tenancy and neighbourhood management processes.

REPORT AUTHOR: Lisa Newman
Assistant Director - Housing Services

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral's Housing Strategy 2026 -31

Wirral Housing Strategy 2026-31 Implementation Plan

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with the section 1.2 (b) (iv) of its Terms of Reference regarding land and property including major acquisition and disposals, which includes reserved decision making concerning any purchase, sale or transfer of a value in excess of, or likely to exceed, £500,000.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Policy and Resources Committee- Capital Programme Update	23 23 February 2026

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 21 October 2026

REPORT TITLE:	WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE
REPORT OF:	CHAIR OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

REPORT SUMMARY

The Policy and Resources Committee, in co-operation with the other Policy and Service Committees, is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which are within the remit of the Committee.

It is envisaged that the work programme will be formed from a combination of key decisions, standing items and requested officer reports. This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. The work programme for the Policy and Resources Committee is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Policy & Resources Committee is recommended to comment on and note the proposed Policy and Resources Committee work programme.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Policy and Resources committee have the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of the annual work programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Various formats for the workplan were explored. The current format is open to amendment to match the requirements of the committee.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The work programme should align with the priorities of the Council and its partners. The programme will be informed by:

- (i) The Council Plan
- (ii) The Council's transformation programme
- (iii) The Council's Forward Plan
- (iv) Service performance information
- (v) Risk management information
- (vi) Public or service user feedback
- (vii) Referrals from Council

Terms of Reference

The Policy and Resources Committee has two main areas of responsibility, which is to provide strategic direction to the operation of the Council, including making decisions on policies and co-ordinating spend not reserved to full Council, and to maintain a strategic overview of outcomes, performance, risk management and budgets.

The Committee is charged by full Council to:

- (a) formulate, co-ordinate and implement corporate policies and strategies and the medium-term financial plan (budget), which includes responsibility for any decision:
 - (i) that relates to such matters to the extent that they are not reserved to full Council;
 - (ii) on any cross-cutting policies that impact on other committee areas;
 - (iii) on policy matters not otherwise allocated to any other committee; and
 - (iv) to determine any dispute or difference between committees;
- (b) provide a co-ordinating role across all other service committees and retain a 'whole-council' view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management, which includes responsibility for a decision:
 - (i) that has a major impact on a number of Council services or on the Council as a whole;

- (ii) on any virement between Budget funds (revenue) requested by a Committee or officer in excess of **£500,000**;
 - (iii) on any virement between Budget funds (capital) or any amendment to the Capital Programme requested by a Committee or officer in excess of **£500,000**;
 - (iv) regarding land and property including major acquisition and disposals, which includes reserved decision making concerning any purchase, sale or transfer of a value in excess of, or likely to exceed, **£500,000**; unless the Committee has delegated this function in relation to a specified area or business plan as the Committee may determine.
 - (v) regarding companies or limited liability partnerships including acquisition and disposals; and
 - (vi) which is deemed significant in terms of impact on the Council's revenue or capital (to be determined by the Head of Paid Service and/or Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Leader);
- (c) without limiting the generality of responsibility for cross-cutting policies (at (a) above), lead on behalf of the Council:
- (i) in matters concerning relationships with HM Government, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and other major public and non-public bodies;
- (d) appoint Council representatives as required;
- (e) nominate councillors and other persons to outside bodies; and
- (f) undertake responsibility for developing and monitoring the enabling corporate services, including, finance and investment, project support and risk management, strategic procurement and commercial strategies, ICT, property and asset management, human resources and organisational development, law and governance, communications and public affairs, emergency planning and business continuity.

3.2 The Constitution sets out that the agenda of any Committee or Sub-Committee shall only include those items of business that require a decision, relate to budget or performance monitoring or which are necessary to discharge their overview and scrutiny function. Matters not relating to these functions may be dealt with via task and finish groups, workshops and briefing notes at the request of the Committee.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This report is for information and planning purposes only, therefore there are no direct financial implication arising. However, there may be financial implications arising as a result of work programme items.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. However, there may be legal implications arising as a result of work programme items.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no direct implications to staffing, ICT or Assets.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Committee's ability to undertake its responsibility to provide strategic direction to the operation of the Council, make decisions on policies, co-ordinate spend, and maintain a strategic overview of outcomes, performance, risk management and budgets may be compromised if it does not have the opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Not applicable

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.

This report is for information to Members and there are no direct equality implications.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 This report is for information to Members and there are no direct environment and climate implications.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

- 11.1 This report is for information to Members and has no direct community wealth implications.

12.0 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 This report is for information to Members and has no direct crime and disorder implications

REPORT AUTHOR: **Anna Perret**
 Democracy Business Manager
 annaperret@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Policy and Resources Committee Work Plan

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Council Plan
The Council's Transformation Programme
The Council's Forward Plan

Subject History (last three years)

Council Meeting	Date
Each Policy & Resources Committee meeting	

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POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME 2026/27

DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN IN OCTOBER 2026

Title	Key/ Non-Key	Date	Director/Lead officer
October 2026			
Strategic Housing Acquisitions for Social Rent	Key	October 2026	Assistant Director for Housing
November 2026			
Wirral Growth Company Business Plan, Town Centre Delivery Strategy (Including Price Street & St Werburgh's) and working arrangements for WGC	Key	November 2026	Assistant Director: Chief Regeneration Officer
Hind Street/Borough Yard Main Construction Contract & Appointment of Development Manager	Key	November 2026	Assistant Director: Chief Regeneration Officer
Main construction contract award for Hind Street Primary Enabling Works	Key	November 2026	Assistant Director: Chief Regeneration Officer
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority – Transport for the City Regions Capital Funding Allocation	Key	November 2026	Assistant Director: Chief Regeneration Officer
Community Hubs	Key	November 2026	Executive Director - People
Contract renewal in respect of HR systems	Key	November 2026	Director of Corporate Services

Contract renewal in respect of Finance ERP system	Key	November 2026	Director of Corporate Services
Fleet Management Review	Key	November 2026	Director of Operations
Birkenhead Commercial District - next steps	Key	November 2026	Director of Capital Programmes
2026-27 Capital Monitoring Quarter 2	Key	November 2026	Director of Finance
2026-27 Revenue Budget Monitoring Quarter 2	Non-Key	November 2026	Director of Finance
Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2026-27	Non-Key	November 2026	Director of Finance
Pre-Budget Report	Non-Key	November 2026	Director of Finance
Health & Safety Policy	Non-Key	November 2026	Director of Corporate Services
December 2026			
LOAB		December 2026	
Mayoral Development Corporation	TBC	December 2026	Assistant Director: Chief Regeneration Officer
January 2027			
2045 Vision	Key	January 2027	Assistant Director: Chief Regeneration Officer
Economic Growth Strategy	Key	January 2027	Assistant Director: Chief Regeneration Officer

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS – WAITING TO BE SCHEDULED

Item	Brief Description	Approx. timescale	Lead Officer
Capital Bids	Requested at Committee 26 June	TBC 2026	Director of Finance
Income Maximization	Requested at Committee 26 June	TBC 2026	
Proposed New Operating Model for Wirral Library Service (Referral from TCCL)	On 18.09.2025 TCCL referred this item to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration to ensure the provision of library services is a key component of the proposed community hub model.	TBC	Director of Neighbourhood Services
Progress of the Borough of Sanctuary Pledge (NOM at Full Council on 13 th October 2025)	On 13.10.2025 Full Council passed a Notice of Motion requesting an update on the progress of the Borough of Sanctuary Pledge, setting out practical steps and clear recommendations for both immediate and longer-term actions, to be delivered in collaboration with voluntary and community sector partners	Before the end of the Municipal Year	Director of Regeneration & Place
Performance Management	Request to be added to Work Programme at P&R Committee on 17 th December 2025		Director of Law and Corporate Services

STANDING ITEMS AND MONITORING REPORTS

Item	Reporting Frequency	Lead Officer
Performance Monitoring	6-monthly	Director of Law and Corporate Services
Financial Monitoring	Quarterly	Director of Finance
Work Programme Update	Every Meeting	Director of Law and Corporate Services

WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE COMMITTEE

Item	Format	Requested	Timescale	Lead Officer
Working Groups/ Sub Committees				
Finance Sub Working Group	Working Group		Fortnightly	Director of Finance
Task and Finish work				
Spotlight sessions / workshops				
Progress of the Borough of Sanctuary Pledge (Referral from Council In October 2025)	Workshop	Summer 2025		Director of Regeneration and Place
Briefing Notes				
Housing Strategy Implementation Plan: Officers to circulate further information on the plans' progress, including how it links with the relevant housing committee, housing associations, the memorandum of understanding, funding and borrowing arrangements.	Briefing Note	September 2026		Assistant Director Housing

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Policy and Resources Committee – Terms of Reference

The Policy and Resources Committee has two main areas of responsibility, which is to provide strategic direction to the operation of the Council, including making decisions on policies and co-ordinating spend not reserved to full Council, and to maintain a strategic overview of outcomes, performance, risk management and budgets.

The Committee is charged by full Council to:-

- (a) formulate, co-ordinate and implement corporate policies and strategies and the medium term financial plan (budget), which includes responsibility for any decision:
 - (i) that relates to such matters to the extent that they are not reserved to full Council;
 - (ii) on any cross-cutting policies that impact on other committee areas;
 - (iii) on policy matters not otherwise allocated to any other committee; and
 - (iv) to determine any dispute or difference between committees;
- (b) provide a co-ordinating role across all other service committees and retain a 'whole-council' view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management, which includes responsibility for a decision:
 - (i) that has a major impact on a number of Council services or on the Council as a whole;
 - (ii) on any virement between Budget funds (revenue) requested by a Committee or officer in excess of **£500,000**;
 - (iii) on any virement between Budget funds (capital) or any amendment to the Capital Programme requested by a Committee or officer in excess of £500,000
 - (iv) regarding land and property including major acquisition and disposals, which includes reserved decision making concerning any purchase, sale or transfer of a value in excess of, or likely to exceed, £500,000, unless the Committee has delegated this function in relation to a specified area or business plan as the Committee may determine
 - (v) regarding companies or limited liability partnerships including acquisition and disposals; and
 - (vi) which is deemed significant in terms of impact on the Council's revenue or capital (to be determined by the Head of Paid Service and/or Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Leader);
- (c) without limiting the generality of responsibility for cross-cutting policies (at (a) above), lead on behalf of the Council:
 - (i) in matters concerning relationships with HM Government, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and other major public and non-public bodies;
- (d) appoint Council representatives as required;
- (e) nominate councillors and other persons to outside bodies; and

- (f) undertake responsibility for developing and monitoring the enabling corporate services, including, finance and investment, project support and risk management, strategic procurement and commercial strategies, ICT, property and asset management, human resources and organisational development, law and governance, communications and public affairs, emergency planning and business continuity.