

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## Notice of executive decision by individual Cabinet Member

This notice is made in accordance with Rule 18 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules as contained in Part 4 of the authority's Constitution. Rule 18.4 provides that:

***As soon as reasonably practicable after an Executive decision has been taken by an individual member of the Cabinet or key decision has been taken by an officer, he/she will prepare, or instruct the proper officer to prepare, a record of the decision, a statement of the reasons for it and any alternative options considered and rejected. The provisions of Rules 7 and 8 (inspection of documents after meetings) will also apply to the making of decisions by individual members of the Cabinet. This does not require the disclosure of exempt or confidential information or advice from a political assistant.***

**Decision maker:** Councillor Phil Davies, Leader Wirral Council.

**Decision title:** Hoylake Community Planning Forum – Application for Designation of a Neighbourhood Forum

**Substance of decision taken:**

That the Hoylake Community Planning Forum application, constitution and area boundary are agreed for the purposes of public consultation for a period of six weeks and that officers report back to Cabinet on the results of that public consultation, with a view to designating the Neighbourhood Planning Forum and area boundary.

**Authority under which decision is made:**

In the decision maker's capacity as Leader of the Council.

**Is this a key decision? Yes**

**Statement of the Reasons for the decision:**

The Government's Neighbourhood Planning Regulations require that a Neighbourhood Planning Forum should formally apply to the Council for designation of their area boundary and constitution. It is the Council's duty to then issue the area boundary and constitution for a public consultation period of six weeks.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected.**

No other organisation has come forward to propose a Neighbourhood Forum for Hoylake. Neighbourhood Planning represents a high level of community engagement and it has not been deemed appropriate to pursue an alternative course, such as an Area Action Plan under the Local Development Framework.

## **Legal implications and risks**

The Council has a legal duty to support local communities in their preparation of Neighbourhood Plans. The principal risk for the Neighbourhood Planning process is delay to the Hoylake community's proposals. If the Community Planning Forum maintains a high level of community support then its plan proposals will be robust.

## **Financial implications and risks**

The Council already holds a grant of £20,000 from the Government on behalf of the Hoylake Community Planning Forum, which is used for plan preparation. Government has recently announced that for each Neighbourhood Planning Forum, the Council will also receive a grant of £5,000 at designation and a further £25,000 if the plan advances to independent examination and referendum. This additional £30,000 is to assist the Council with the costs of examination and the referendum.

## **Human resources implications and risks**

As the Council is the accountable body for this project, there are staffing implications of supporting the Hoylake Community Planning Forum so as to ensure that the Council's procedures for effective financial management are complied with. To date, any support work has been absorbed within existing staffing resources. The Forum is led by experienced professionals, business people and community representatives. Therefore the risk of failure is judged to be low.

## **Equalities and social inclusion implications and risks**

The development of the Hoylake Community Planning Forum has involved a wide range of groups within the community. The process is therefore intended to be inclusive and will lead to better understanding and community cohesion.

## **Confirmation of decision**

I confirm that I have made this executive decision, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

**Signed:** .....  .....

**Name of Councillor:** Phil Davies

**Position held:** Leader, Wirral Council

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012

## **Call-in**

This decision may be subject to Call-in within five working days of its publication by the Proper Officer and shall not be implemented during that period.

## **Lodging this Notice**

This Notice must be delivered to the Acting Director of Law HR and Asset Management, as Proper Officer, for publication.

**For use by the Proper Officer:**

I confirm that this Notice was lodged with me on: 19 September 2012



Signed: ..... ..

Name: Surjit Tour

Title: Acting Director of Law, HR and Asset Management and Monitoring Officer