

# North West Employers Scrutiny Network

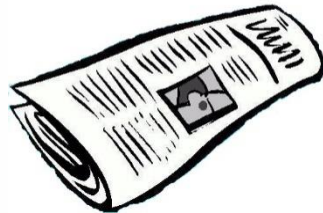
17 October 2023 – Finance

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Resources (and S.151 Officer)



# Stop Press!... Read All About it!

- “Birmingham declares itself bankrupt after equal pay deals drain resources”
- “Bankrupt Croydon council wants £500 million government bailout”
- Thurrock – “Council of secrecy and contempt”
- “Northamptonshire’s cash crisis is a taste of things to come”
- “Woking BC declares effective bankruptcy over £1.2 billion hole in budget”
- “At least 26 English councils ‘at risk of bankruptcy in next two years’”



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# How did we get here?

- 2010 – The decade of austerity...
- Commercialism
- The abolition of the Audit Commission in 2015
- A succession of one year settlements
- The pandemic and cost of living crisis
- Watering down of the 'Protected Officer' status

# Your council needs you!



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Together we make a difference....

# Getting to know your council...

- What are the council's key achievements over the last 12 months?
- What are the main areas of concern over the next 12+ months – horizon scanning?
- Key documents – Corporate Plan, Statement of Accounts, Value for Money Commentary, Budget setting - Medium Term Financial Plan, Efficiency Plan

The image shows the cover of the Wyre Council Business Plan 2019-2023. It features the council's logo and a vision statement: "Our Vision: Wyre - proud, ambitious and thriving... Together we make a difference". The plan is organized into three main strategic areas, each with a specific ambition and success measures:

- People and Communities:** Ambition is "EMPOWERED HEALTHIER AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES". Success measures include increasing the number of people engaged with health programmes, reducing the percentage of adults that are physically inactive, and providing 600,000 annual visits to our leisure centres.
- Growth and Prosperity:** Ambition is "A STRONG LOCAL ECONOMY". Success measures include supporting job creation within the Enterprise Zone, increasing the number of businesses supported in the borough, and increasing the number of visitors to the borough each year.
- Environment and Climate:** Ambition is "A CLEANER, GREENER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT". Success measures include reducing the council's and wider borough's emissions by at least 30% by 2020, and delivering 11,000 homes protected from flooding by October 2024.



Together we make a difference...

# How does scrutiny work...

- Leave politics at the door...
- The role of the Chair and support
- Pre-meetings
- Prominence of the Work Programme
- Is it strategic? Does it add value?
- Themed meetings
- Invite the Executive... not just officers