

# News

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## Major Wirral regeneration moves a step closer

The regeneration of Birkenhead town centre and other areas of Wirral moved a step closer today, following the signing of legal agreements between Wirral Council and Muse Developments to form a new 50:50 joint venture, Wirral Growth Company.

Following a major competition, the council selected Muse as its preferred development partner in March 2018 for the 10 year partnership with the potential to extend for a further five years.

One of the first projects for Wirral Growth Company will focus on Birkenhead town centre, where the new venture will look to develop a new business district of grade A offices, alongside new retail / leisure space and extensive public realm improvements.

Mike Horner, development director at Muse Developments, said: "We're delighted to have reached this milestone with Wirral Council and officially form Wirral Growth Company. This is the first step of a long journey to bring high-quality development and sustainable, transformational regeneration to the peninsula.

"We look forward to further strengthening our partnership with the council, as well as engaging with residents, businesses and other stakeholders as plans progress."

Alongside Birkenhead, Wirral Growth Company will also look to bring forward schemes in areas such as Bebington, Moreton and Bromborough through a range of commercial, retail, leisure and residential developments.

Leader of Wirral Council, Cllr Phil Davies, welcomed the news. He said: "This is a momentous occasion for the borough. Getting Wirral Growth Company officially off the ground, after months of detailed negotiations, is fantastic news for all our residents.

"We can now get on with the job of building the homes, offices and leisure developments which will transform our local economy and create thousands of opportunities for local people and businesses. I can't wait to get started."

The next step for Wirral Growth Company will be a full public consultation on initial plans, including traders' and residents' events, which is due to begin in May 2019.