

**BUSINESS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 24th JANUARY 2017**

REPORT TITLE:	BUSINESS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME REPORT
REPORT OF:	THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

REPORT SUMMARY

The Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in cooperation with the other two Overview & Scrutiny Committees, is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual work programme. This report provides an update regarding progress made since the last Committee meeting held on 29th November 2016.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1. Members are requested to approve the proposed Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2016/17, making any required amendments, including suggestions for additional items.
2. Members are requested to approve the proposal to convene a dedicated session in February to review the service development proposals for Access Wirral. Also to give delegated authority to the Chair and Party Spokespersons to approve and refer any report arising from this session directly to Cabinet.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure members of the Committee have the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of the annual scrutiny work programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND THE WIRRAL PLAN

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

- The Wirral Plan pledges
- The Council's transformation programme
- The Council's Forward Plan
- Service performance information
- Risk management information
- Public or service user feedback
- Referrals from Cabinet / Council

3.2 PRINCIPLES FOR PRIORITISATION

3.2.1 Good practice suggests that, in order to maximise the impact of scrutiny, it is necessary to prioritise proposed topics within the work programme. Members may find the following criteria helpful in providing a guideline towards ensuring that the most significant topics are prioritised:

Principles for Prioritisation	
Wirral Plan	Does the topic have a direct link with one of the 2020 pledges?
	Will the review lead to improved outcomes for Wirral residents?
Public Interest	Does the topic have particular importance for Wirral Residents?
Transformation	Will the review support the transformation of the Council?
Financial Significance	Is the subject matter an area of significant spend or potential saving?
	Will the review support the Council in achieving its savings targets?
Timeliness / Effectiveness	Is this the most appropriate time for this topic to be scrutinised?
	Will the review be a good use of Council resources?

- 3.3.2 By assessing prospective topics using these criteria, the Committees can prioritise an effective work programme that ensures relevance and the highest potential to enhance outcomes for residents.

3.3 DELIVERING THE WORK PROGRAMME

- 3.3.1 The work programme consists of a combination of scrutiny reviews, standing items and requested officer reports. Regular work programme update reports will provide the committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

The work programme will be delivered through a combination of:

- Scrutiny reviews undertaken by task & finish groups
- Evidence days and workshops
- Committee reports provided by officers
- Standing committee agenda items, for example, performance monitoring and financial monitoring

3.4 UPDATE ON CURRENT SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

3.4.1 Tourism Task & Finish Scrutiny Review

The scrutiny review has now been completed following a number of evidence sessions. The final report is included as a separate item on this agenda.

3.4.2 Resident Parking Task & Finish Scrutiny Review

The Task & Finish Scrutiny Review is progressing. The objective of the review is for the Review Panel to understand the issues around the current policy on new and existing resident parking schemes and to consider any options which could be taken forward as improvements to the policy. The Review Panel has now met for its first evidence session, speaking to key Council officers and a number of residents to further understand the issues with the existing resident parking scheme.

3.4.3 Supporting the Creative Sector Scrutiny Review

At the previous committee meeting held on 28th November, a Review Panel for the Task & Finish Scrutiny Review was agreed and this included Councillors, Christine Spriggs, Dave Mitchell, Warren Ward and Julie McManus. An initial scoping meeting for the scrutiny review has now been scheduled 30th January.

3.4.4 Budget Scrutiny

A Cabinet report of 8th December presented a proposed budget for 2017/18 as part of a four year Financial Strategy to set a balanced budget for the subsequent three years to 2020/21. A workshop has now been held with relevant officers being invited to provide an overview and to answer questions on these proposals. The final report which captured Member comments on each of the proposals is included on this agenda.

3.5 SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS – ACCESS WIRRAL

- 3.5.1 Following the Customer Contact update report to the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13th September 2016, the timescales for the Access Wirral project have been expedited to support the savings required by the Council. The service development proposals for Access Wirral will go to Cabinet for approval on the 27th March 2017.
- 3.5.2 An approach to pre-decision scrutiny of Transformation Programme projects was reported to this Committee on 12th July 2016. In line with this approach, it is proposed the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee convenes a bespoke session in early February to review proposals for the Access Wirral Project prior to Cabinet taking a decision on 27th March. The session would be open to all Members of the Committee.
- 3.5.3 The next regular Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting is scheduled for 29th March. Therefore, it is also proposed that Committee gives delegated authority for the Chair and Party Spokespersons to approve and refer any report arising from the session directly to Cabinet.

3.6 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS

The following items for the 2016/17 Committee work programme have been identified and will be scheduled for future Committee meetings:

Item	Format	Approximate timescale
Supporting the Creative Sector Scrutiny Review	Task & Finish	Commencing January 2017
Budget Scrutiny	Workshop	Reporting to Committee on 24 th January 2017
Disaster Recovery Scrutiny Review follow-up report	Officer Report	To be confirmed
Access Wirral – Service Development Proposal	Workshop	Early February
Transforming Wirral – Further business cases	Workshops	To be confirmed
Welfare Reform (including Local Welfare Assistance Scheme)	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
Other Pledge Strategies	Committee presentation	To be confirmed

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

The delivery of the scrutiny work programme will be met from within existing resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

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APPENDICES: **None**

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date