



Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee 5 July 2017

REPORT TITLE:	ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE
REPORT OF:	THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE, COUNCILLOR PAUL STUART

REPORT SUMMARY

This report explains the process of developing and managing the scrutiny work programme for the municipal year. The Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in cooperation with the other three Overview & Scrutiny Committees, is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual scrutiny work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the Wirral Plan pledges which are within the remit of the Committee.

It is envisaged that the work programme will be formed from a combination of scrutiny reviews, 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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are requested to:

1. Approve the proposed Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2017/18, making any required amendments.
2. Nominate the Chair and confirm membership of the task & finish group for the Modern Slavery Act scrutiny review.
3. Nominate cross-party Members of the Wirral Flood and Water Management Partnership.
4. Committee is requested to support a proposal to convene a dedicated work programme planning session, open to all Members of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The purpose of the session is to give further detailed consideration to the Committee's work programme prior to the next scheduled Committee meeting in September.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure members of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of the annual work programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND THE WIRRAL PLAN

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

The specific Wirral Plan pledges and associated strategies of particular relevance to the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee are:

Pledge	Strategies
Leisure and cultural opportunities for all	Wirral's Leisure Strategy Wirral's Culture Strategy
Wirral residents live healthier lives	Wirral's Residents Live Healthier Lives Strategy
Community services are joined up and accessible	Wirral Together Strategy (in development)
Good quality housing that meets the needs of residents	Housing Strategy
Wirral's neighbourhoods are safe	Ensuring Wirral's Neighbourhoods are Safe Strategy
Attractive local environment for Wirral residents	Managing our Waste Strategy Loving our Environment Strategy

3.2 PRINCIPLES FOR PRIORITISATION

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?

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

3.3 DELIVERING THE WORK PROGRAMME

It is anticipated that 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
- Spotlight sessions
- Standing panels (where deemed necessary)

As some of the selected topics may well cut across the Wirral Plan themes, it is anticipated that some of the scrutiny topics may be of interest to members of more than one committee. In these circumstances, opportunities for members of more than one committee to work jointly on an item of scrutiny work will be explored.

Regular work programme update reports will provide the committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

3.4 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS

Modern Slavery Scrutiny Review

A scoping meeting for the scrutiny review of the implications of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 was held on 27th March. The Panel formulated and agreed the scope of the review, which is attached as an appendix to this report. Although a number of contacts have been made with leading regional organisations in this field and evidence sessions were scheduled for April and May, the election period and changes to Committee membership have delayed further progress with this review. The remaining panel members, Cllrs Carubia, Muspratt and Pilgrim intend to continue with this review and will conduct the first evidence session in the coming weeks.

Members are requested to nominate the Chair and confirm membership of the task & finish group.

Flood Risk Standing Panel

At a meeting of the Wirral Flood and Water Management Partnership (WFWMP) in May 2017, it was agreed that the WFWMP would provide an appropriate forum for this Committee to carry out its statutory scrutiny of flood and water management arrangements. It was further agreed that the three elected representatives on the WFWMP should be members of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The WFWMP Terms of Reference are currently being revised to reflect the strengthened scrutiny role. These will be agreed at the next WFWMP meeting and presented to the following meeting of Committee for approval.

Members are requested to nominate three cross-party Members of the Wirral Flood and Water Management Partnership.

Further Development of the Scrutiny Work Programme

In consideration of how best to further develop the work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year, it is proposed that a dedicated work programme planning session is arranged before the next Committee meeting in September. This session will be open to all Members of the Environment O&S Committee. Members not able to attend are invited to suggest possible topics for inclusion in the work programme. The session will be supported by lead officers for each of the Committee pledges to provide further detailed input to the work programme's development.

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:

Appendix 1: Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work programme

Appendix 2: Modern Slavery Act scrutiny review – scope document

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date