

Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee
4 July 2017

REPORT TITLE:	BUSINESS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE
REPORT OF:	THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE – COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SULLIVAN

REPORT SUMMARY

This report explains the process of developing and managing the scrutiny work programme for the municipal year. The Business 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 Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2017/18, making any required amendments.
2. Committee is requested to support a proposal to convene a dedicated work programme planning session for the Chair, Vice-Chair and Party Spokespersons. 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 Business 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 plans and strategies of particular relevance to the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee are:

Pledge	Plans & Strategies
Greater job opportunities in Wirral	Wirral Growth Plan
Workforce skills match business need	Wirral Growth Plan Skills Strategy (In development)
Increase inward investment	Wirral Growth Plan
Thriving small Businesses	Wirral Growth Plan
Vibrant tourism economy	Growth Plan Wirral Visitor Economy Strategy
Transport & technology infrastructure fit for the future	Transport Strategy Digital Strategy
Assets and buildings are fit for purpose	Asset 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

Supporting the Creative Sector

A Task & Finish Scrutiny Review on how Wirral Council can support the creative sector is underway. The Review Panel comprises three Members of the Committee. These Members are Councillor Warren Ward, Chair of the Review Panel, Councillor Julie McManus and Councillor Dave Mitchell. The objectives of the review are to identify what makes creative industries flourish, understand what the barriers are and to identify what Wirral can do to further support and develop the sector. As part of the scrutiny review, Members of the Review Panel visited Bristol as it was identified as having developed a strong creative sector. The visit allowed Members to meet with key officers, including officers from the Council's property and planning teams.

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 attended by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Party Spokespersons of the Committee and supported by lead Council officers. Members are invited to suggest possible topics for inclusion in the work programme through the Chair, Vice-Chair or relevant Party Spokesperson prior to the session convening.

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: Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work programme****REFERENCE MATERIAL****SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

Council Meeting	Date