

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday, 20 September 2018

REPORT TITLE:	Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme Report
REPORT OF:	The Chair of the Committee – Councillor Tony Jones

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 2018/19, making any required amendments.

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.

4.0 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS

4.1 Scrutiny Work Programme Planning Session

At a scrutiny work programme planning meeting for this committee in July, the Chair and Party Spokespersons considered the work programme for the municipal year. It was agreed that the work programme required capacity to be retained to ensure additional work programmes can be added as appropriate throughout the remainder of the municipal year.

The key outcomes from the work programme session are:

- To undertake a Task and Finish scrutiny review on recycling in Wirral; and
- A presentation to be given by Kingdom Environmental Services who is responsible for delivering the Council's environmental enforcement contract at a future committee meeting.

A recommendation was also made by Public Health as part of its annual report to Cabinet on 16th July 2018 for scrutiny to consider the impact of gambling in Wirral's communities. A further recommendation was made for officers to establish a working group with the Gambling Commission to see how the Council can make best use of its existing powers to minimise harm from gambling. It was agreed that the outcomes of that working group would be considered before any scrutiny activity is undertaken.

4.2 Libraries, Leisure and Cultural Services

At the agenda setting meeting it was proposed that Committee would receive an update on the work being carried out on the Libraries, Leisure and Cultural Services review as part of the agenda for this committee. However, it was reported that there has been no significant progress for committee to note at this time. Scrutiny of the Libraries, Leisure and Cultural Services review will remain on the committee's work programme and further information will be provided to Members when progress has been made.

4.3 Risk Awareness Workshop

A Risk Awareness workshop session for Members has been arranged for Tuesday 2nd October. Although this session is open to all non-executive Members, the main objectives are to raise the profile of risk and to develop Members' understanding of risk and risk management to help strengthen the scrutiny function.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

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

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable

9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

10.0 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

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date