

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday, 24th September 2019

REPORT TITLE:	ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME REPORT
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE (SCRUTINY TEAM MANAGER) BUSINESS SERVICES

REPORT SUMMARY

The Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in co-operation 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. The work programme for the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are requested to:

1. Approve the proposed Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2019/20, 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
- 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 Update on Scrutiny Work Programme Items

Wirral Flood & Water Management Partnership

At the last meeting of the Committee on 2nd July 2019, three Members of the Committee were selected as representatives for the statutory Wirral Flood & Water Management Partnership. The next meeting of the Partnership is due to take place early in 2020, with all outcomes reported back to the Committee.

Municipal Golf Courses

Following the 'call in' of the decision to commence negotiations regarding a lease transfer of two of Wirral's municipal golf courses, Committee requested that further opportunity was given to Members to consider the detail around the proposal and discuss alternative options. A fact finding visit to all four municipal courses took place on 13th August 2019, with a workshop for all Overview & Scrutiny Members and key stakeholders held soon after. The report of this workshop can be found elsewhere on the agenda.

4.2 Forthcoming Committee Activity

Notice of Motion – Verges and Pollinators

At the Council meeting held on 15th July 2019, a Notice of Motion regarding 'Verges and Pollinators' was submitted, with agreement by Members that a report on creating an attractive visual environment through the planting of native wildflowers and encouragement of pollinators be presented to this Committee. This report will provide detail on the cost and maintenance of this kind of scheme in Wirral, including areas where it might be implemented, and will be presented to Members later in 2019.

West Kirby Marine Lake – Future Management

It is proposed that Committee consideration is given to the future management of the Marine Lake waterspace in West Kirby. Work is underway within the Council to identify key issues with a view to implementing an action plan for this area, with potential for a future agenda item to be presented to Committee.

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.

11.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Not Applicable.

REPORT AUTHOR: Alexandra Davidson

Scrutiny Officer

0151 691 8381

alexandradavidson@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work programme

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	2nd July 2019