

Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday, 23 January 2020

REPORT TITLE:	BUSINESS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE
REPORT OF:	NANCY CLARKSON, HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER

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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are requested to:

1. Note the contents of the Committee's Work Programme for 2019/20.
2. Consider any additional items to be included on the Committee's work programme for 2019/20 and prioritised as appropriate.

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 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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 Plan
- 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 Wirral Plan pledges 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

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 and Council Plan Priorities	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 cut across the Wirral Plan themes and Council Priorities, it is anticipated they 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 will be explored.

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

4.0 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS

4.1 Camper Vans Task & Finish Scrutiny Review

The Task & Finish group met with senior officers in October to evaluate the initial effectiveness of the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) introduced to prohibit overnight parking of recreational vehicles in the Kings Parade/Coastal Drive area of Wallasey. This order has proven to be a successful response to problematic campervan parking, and a similar order will now be introduced to Pilots Way and parts of Portland Street in New Brighton. The Review Panel will also be looking to engage with residents and stakeholders in due course to address wider issues and solutions regarding campervan parking in the Borough.

4.2 New Ferry Task and Finish Scrutiny Review

The review panel met with residents and traders who received the hardship fund at a public meeting in October. They have also met with residents, traders and senior officers over the last few months. In order to ensure as much feedback from partner agencies, the panel also sent questions to enable them to feed into the review. The full report is included as an agenda item.

4.3 Scrutiny Workshop – Key Regeneration Projects

A workshop will be held in February 2020 to give members the opportunity to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the Wirral Growth Company Partnership Plan and associated Business Cases. This work is time sensitive with a scheduled Cabinet Decision in late February 2020. The report brought to Committee in November and subsequent workshop will enable Members to review the background papers and submit any comments to Cabinet to inform the decision.

4.4 **FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

The governance arrangements of the Council have recently been reviewed and as of May 2020, the current scrutiny model and committee structure will change. The Chairs of all four current Overview & Scrutiny Committees have worked collaboratively to address cross-cutting matters and ensure that the necessary prioritisation and scheduling of Committee work programme items has taken place.

5.0 LCRCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

5.1 The role of the LCRCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to:-

- Scrutinise the decision and actions taken by the Combined Authority or the Metro Mayor;
- Provide a 'critical friend to policy and strategy development;
- Undertake scrutiny reviews into areas of strategic importance for the people of the Liverpool City Region; and
- Monitor the delivery of the Combined Authority's strategic plan

5.2 The Committee is made up of 3 elected Members from each of the constituent Local Authorities of the LCR Combined Authority, along with one elected Member from both the Liverpool City Region Liberal Democrat Group and the Liverpool City Region

Conservative Group. The three Members from Wirral Council are Cllrs. Jean Stapleton, Adrian Jones and Helen Cameron.

- 5.3 The LCRCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee will meet five times during the municipal year with all meetings now webcasted. The work programme for the municipal year will be agreed at the first meeting of the Committee on 19th June. Work programme updates and copies of relevant scrutiny reports will be sent to all Committee Members for information. For information, the meeting schedule and agenda details are available on the link below:

[LCRCA O&S Meeting Schedule and Agenda](#)

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report is for Members information and there are no direct financial implications

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

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

9.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable

10.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

11.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

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

12.0 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****Background Papers****SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

Council Meeting	Date