PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Tuesday 29th June 2021

REPORT TITLE:	**PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**
REPORT OF:	**DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE**

REPORT SUMMARY

The Partnerships Committee, in co-operation with the Policy and Service Committees, is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme.

The Council has a number of statutory scrutiny functions including matters relating to the health of the authority's population, the activities of those responsible for crime and disorder strategies, as embodied by the Safer Wirral Partnership, under the Police and Justice Act 2006 and flood risk management and coastal erosion management functions which may affect the local authority's area. These overview and scrutiny functions are to be carried out by the Partnerships Committee, which will also scrutinise the functions and responsibilities undertaken by other public bodies within the Borough.

It is envisaged that the work programme will be formed from a combination of 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 Partnerships Committee is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are invited to note and comment on the proposed Partnerships Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

1.1 To ensure Members of the Partnerships Committee have the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of the annual work programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 A number of workplan formats were explored, with the current framework open to amendment to match the requirements of the Committee.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The work programme should align with the priorities of the Council and its partners. The programme will be informed by:

- 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 Council

3.2 Terms of Reference

3.3 The principal role of the Partnerships Committee is to look outwards to the Council's functions as the area's democratically elected local government, representing the people and businesses of the Borough. In terms of reviewing the decisions of relevant partner authorities on health service provision, on crime and disorder and on flood risk management, this role extends to include a statutory role and powers given by Parliament to the Council. The Committee can produce reports to which a relevant partner authority must have regard in the exercise of its functions.

3.4 The Committee is established by Council to fulfil those functions as an overview and scrutiny committee, not undertaken by the Decision Review Committee, provided under Part 3 of the 2012 Local Authorities (Committee System) (England) Regulations. The Committee is charged by full Council to:

(a) undertake reviews and make recommendations on services or activities carried out by external organisations which affect the Borough of Wirral or any of its inhabitants, including the review and monitoring of the contractual and operational performance of shared service partnerships, joint ventures and outside organisations to which the Council makes a resource contribution, focussing on examination of the benefits of the Council's contribution and the extent to which the body concerned makes a contribution to achievement of the Council's priorities;

(b) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options and to investigate, take evidence and consult upon issues within their remit;

(c) undertake responsibility for the Council's responsibilities for scrutiny as stated in the Police and Justice Act 2006, the Health and Social Care Act 2006 as amended, the Local Government Act 2000 as amended, the Localism Act 2011 and the subsequent Local Authority (Committee System) (England) Regulations 2012, which includes

(d) in respect of the Health and Social Care Act 2006, the functions to:

(i) investigate major health issues identified by, or of concern to, the local population.
(ii) consult, be consulted on and respond to substantial changes to local health service provision, including assessing the impact on the local community and health service users.
(iii) scrutinise the impact of interventions on the health of local inhabitants, particularly socially excluded and other minority groups, with the aim of reducing health inequalities.
(iv) maintain an overview of health service delivery against national and local targets, particularly those that improve the public's health.
(v) receive and consider referrals from local Healthwatch on health matters.

(e) in respect of the Police and Justice Act 2006, the functions to:

(i) review or scrutinise decisions made or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions; and

(ii) make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions

(f) in respect of Section 9JB of the Local Government Act 2000, the functions to review and scrutinise the exercise by risk management authorities of flood risk management and of coastal erosion management functions which may affect the local authority's area; and

(g) undertake responsibility for those overview and scrutiny functions provided for under Part 3 of the 2012 Local Authorities (Committee System) (England) Regulations. not otherwise fulfilled.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This report is for information and planning purposes only, therefore there are no direct financial implication arising. However, there may be financial implications arising as a result of work programme items

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. However, there may be legal implications arising as a result of work programme items.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no direct implications to staffing, ICT or Assets.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The Committee's ability to review decisions made by relevant partner authorities and the performance of these organisations may be compromised if it does not have the opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

8.1 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Not applicable.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

This report is for information to Members and there are no direct equality Implications.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

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

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Partnerships Committee workshop report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=8578

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Partnerships committee	9th November 2020