



Scrutiny Programme Board

Date:	Wednesday, 12 December 2012
Time:	6.00 pm
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

1. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members of the Committee are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non pecuniary interests, in connection with any application on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

Members are reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they are subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)

To receive the minutes of the special meeting held on 18 July 2012.

3. WORK PROGRAMMES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (Pages 5 - 28)

- Council Excellence
- Children and Young People
- Economy and Regeneration
- Health and Well Being
- Sustainable Communities

4. REVIEW OF SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Programme Board is requested to consider whether any matters should be added to its Work Programme for the remainder of the municipal year, having regard to its terms of reference and available timescales.

5. COMMITTEE REFERRAL - ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Pages 29 - 30)

Minute 24 of the Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee is attached for information.

6. COMMITTEE REFERRAL - WELFARE REFORM (Pages 31 - 44)

Further to the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5 November 2012, the Scrutiny Programme Board is asked to look into the issue of a cross-cutting scrutiny review in respect of the implications of the welfare reforms, particularly in relation to housing matters.

For further information the minute of the Economy and Regeneration Committee of 14 November 2012 is attached together with the report and the scope document which were discussed at the meeting.

7. FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the period December 2012 to March 2013 has now been published on the Council's intranet/website and Members are invited to review the Plan prior to the meeting in order for the Scrutiny Programme Board to consider, having regard to the work programme, whether scrutiny should take place of any items contained within the Plan and, if so, how it could be done within relevant timescales and resources.

8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR

SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD

Wednesday, 18 July 2012

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	A Hodson (Chair)	
	Councillors	A Sykes S Kelly P Glasman	J Stapleton S Whittingham KJ Williams
<u>Deputies:</u>	Councillors	M Hornby (In place of C Blakeley) S Foulkes (In place of W Smith)	

5 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non pecuniary interests in connection with any items on the agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they were.

Members were reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they were subject to a party whip in connection with any items to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

No such declarations were made.

6 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Programme Board held on 30 May 2012 be amended as follows:

That the following sentence be added to the last paragraph of the preamble:-

“to enable Members to be involved in the improvement of the Forward Plan and structure”.

7 WORK PROGRAMMES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The Acting Director of Law, HR and Asset Management reported upon the work programmes of each of the five themed Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Members discussed the work programmes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, made suggestions regarding the review of each Committee and expressed concerns regarding duplication of work. Members commented upon the

work carried out at some of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees which had been well received.

Members also discussed the Council's Forward Plan to ensure that they were involved in its improvement and that it was effective.

Resolved -

(1) That:

- 1. Every Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairperson shall meet, as soon as possible, with the other two party spokespersons of their Committee and:**
 - a. Review the work programme of their Overview and Scrutiny Committee (whether planned or being undertaken) for this Municipal Year, and prioritise the work (with assistance of relevant Council officers) consistently with the Council's Corporate Plan approved by Council on 16 July 2012;**
 - b. Consider the work programmes of all other Overview and Scrutiny Committees and identify (with assistance from relevant Council officers) areas of work that involve (or may involve) cross-cutting issues and/or clear synergies (whether in law, fact or issue) with areas of work falling within their own Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme.**
 - c. The Acting Director of Law, HR and Asset Management (or his nominee) shall report the outcome the meeting(s) referred to above to the Scrutiny Programme Board at its next meeting.**
- 2. The Improvement Board be reminded and asked to note that:**
 - a. the Scrutiny Programme Board offers its assistance with regards to taking forward any improvement action, initiative or area of work that the Improvement Board considers appropriate; and**
 - b. the Scrutiny Programme Board is, as part of its work programme, reviewing the Council's Forward Plan (which includes its structure and any work undertaken to date) to it to ensure the Plan is effective in delivering its objectives and purpose.**
- 3. Relevant Council Officers involved in overview and scrutiny work shall review all the work programmes of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and identify any areas of duplication (or potential duplication) whether in relation to the work that is planned (or already being undertaken) or in relation to the resources being expended (or likely to be expended) in undertaking the work programmes.**

The Acting Director of Law, HR and Asset Management (or his nominee) shall present the findings of the review to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(2) That training be delivered to Members from the Centre of Public Scrutiny.

8 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR - BUSINESS PLANNING AND CONSULTATION PROCESS**

This matter was accepted by the Chair as a matter of other business.

The Acting Director of Law, HR and Asset Management reported upon a request received from the Corporate Policy Manager to hold a series of scrutiny workshops to review background information and options and to invite additional stakeholders and experts as appropriate.

Resolved - That the request that Council officers work with scrutiny chairs and members to deliver these workshops as part of individual work programmes be agreed.

9 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS - VASCULAR SERVICES**

A member of the public attended the meeting and expressed concern regarding the decision to move the Vascular Services from Arrowe Park Hospital to the Countess of Chester.

Resolved -

That the Leader be requested to write to the Secretary of State for Health regarding the decision to move the Vascular Services from Arrowe Park Hospital to the Countess of Chester.

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COUNCIL EXCELLENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

SUGGESTED ADDITIONS TO WORK PROGRAMME - 2012/2013

Topic Description	“Task & Finish” Review Group	Future Agenda Reports	Other	Complete / remove from suggested additions
Freedom of Information		x		
IT Strategy with ref to Asset Management / office rationalisation		x		
Asset Management Strategy Report update		x		
Understand what contributions/ benefits to Wirral the Local Area Agreement Partnership Board, Liverpool City Region and Local Government Association bring		x		
Corporate Governance and Decision making		x		
Corporate Plan – how does Council work with and fund Voluntary Sector, Community and Faith Groups		x		
Establish Democracy Working Group			x	
Establish a budget strategy			x	
Gifts and Hospitality report		x		

COUNCIL EXCELLENCE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
REPORT ON “TASK & FINISH” SCRUTINY REVIEWS

Title of Review	Completed	Review of report recommendations	Requested update / review date
None			

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME – 2012/2013

Topic description	“Task & Finish” Review	Future Committee Reports	Other	Progress / Complete?
Special Educational Needs - an update requested 21/03/12.		X		
Serious Case reviews and the relationship with Safeguarding Board			Training Sessions	Complete (11/09/12)
Scrutiny Review with a focus on work undertaken in Year 7 (due to secondary schools reporting poor literacy skills at transition)	X			
Children with Child Protection Plan numbers		X		Complete (11/09/12)
Sickness Absence – Children’s Social Care		X		
Post 16 Standards Report		X		Complete (12/11/12)
Raising Participation Age		X		
Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service –Update		X		Report received 12/11/12. Further case studies requested for future meeting.
Family and Friends Policy		X		Referred to Corporate Parenting Group

Topic description	“Task & Finish” Review	Future Committee Reports	Other	Progress / Complete?
Tackling Sexual Exploitation/Children missing from Care		X		
Childminding and the private sector		X		Report received 21/03/12
Outcomes for Looked After Children	X			
Child Poverty Strategy		X		Report received 12/11/12 - Ongoing
Children Who Go Missing		X		Further report requested by Committee on 11/09/12
Standards at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, including 100 Club		X		
The EQ (Education Quality) programme		X		
Support to Primary Schools regarding SEN		X		
IFIP (Intensive Family Intervention Programme)		X		
Behaviour Support Strategy		X		
Wirral Youth Zone		X		
Youth Parliament Planning		X		
Annual Complaints Report		X		
Report back on Commissioning Process		X		

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT ON “TASK & FINISH” SCRUTINY REVIEWS

Title of Review	Completed	Review of report recommendations	Requested update / review date
Report on the support given to schools pre and post Ofsted Inspection	2007	Implementation of recommendations to be monitored by Standards subcommittee.	
Scrutiny of Youth outreach	2009	03/2010	
Scrutiny of the outcomes of Children in Foster Care	2008	01/2010	
Literacy Levels in schools at the end of Key Stage 2	2009	11/2011	11/2012
Outcomes for Looked After Children (Review has commenced November 2012)			

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**UPDATE ON WORK PROGRAMME : ECONOMY & REGENERATION
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 16th JANUARY 2013**

Reports to assist in monitoring the Committee's work programme

It was agreed by the Scrutiny Chairs Group in September 2008 to use the following reports to monitor the work programme for each Scrutiny Committee. The last item on each Scrutiny Committee agenda should be 'Review of the Committee Work Programme'.

Report 1 - Monitoring Report for Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

This report will list all items that have been selected by the Committee for inclusion on the work programme for the current year.

It will also include items, such as previous Panel Reviews, where recommendations have been made to Cabinet. It is important that the implementation of these recommendations is monitored. Otherwise there is no measure of the success of scrutiny.

For each item on the work programme, the report will give a description, an indication of how the item will be dealt with, a relative timescale for the work and brief comments on progress.

Report 2 - Suggestions for Additions to Work Programme

The Work Programme for the Committee should be reviewed at each meeting. This will enable members to ask for new Items to be added to the programme. This report will list any newly suggested items. Committee will then have the opportunity to agree (or not) for them to be added to the programme.

Report 3 - Proposed Outline Meeting Schedule for the Municipal Year

The report will, for each scheduled Committee meeting, list those items which are likely to be on the meeting agenda. This will give the opportunity for Committee members to take a greater lead in organising their work programme.

Report 4 - Progress Report on In-Depth Panel Reviews

This report will give a very brief update on progress / timescales for in-depth panel reviews which are in the 'ownership' of the Committee.

REPORT 1
MONITORING REPORT FOR SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
ECONOMY & REGENERATION : 16th JANUARY 2013

Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Complete Date	Comments on Progress	Complete?
06/06/11	Green Growth – Motion agreed at Council in April requesting this Scrutiny Committee to “investigate and draw up a report for Cabinet on the best ways to create and support a ‘cluster’ of companies to lead the way in driving a Green economy on Wirral and across the country”.	In-depth Scrutiny Review by Working Group of Members	December 2011	<p>This item was proposed by members for inclusion on the work programme at the committee meeting on 06/06/11.</p> <p>Scope document for the Review agreed by Committee on 05/09/11. The final report for the review was presented to Committee on 08/03/12 and was referred to the Cabinet meeting held on 12th April 2012. Cabinet also received a departmental report providing a response to the recommendations of the scrutiny review.</p> <p>An officer / member working group, the Green Economy Working Group, has been set up to lead the implementation of the recommendations.</p> <p>An update report regarding progress of the Working Group and the impact of the review’s recommendations will be provided to Committee in March 2013.</p> <p>Due to the impact of budget reductions on the implementation of the scrutiny review’s recommendations, Committee agreed, on 14/11/12, that the Working Group will no longer meet as planned.</p>	

Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Complete Date	Comments on Progress	Complete?
06/06/11	The implementation of affordable housing policies	Report to Committee		<p>During the discussion on the 'End of Year Performance Report' on 06/06/11, members requested a report on this item. Report on Affordable Housing presented to Committee on 05/09/11. A further report on Mortgages / Affordability was provided on 08/03/12. Cabinet (12/04/12) was requested to consider the creation of a LA Mortgage Scheme.</p> <p>The outcome of the Cabinet debate was reported back to Committee on 07/06/12. It was agreed that the item should be retained on the Committee's work programme.</p>	
06/06/11	<p>Business Start Programme</p> <p>The Programme has performed well but:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are we supporting businesses for the future? • What size of business is supported? • How long have supported businesses remained in business? <p>Were businesses satisfied with the support?</p>	Report to Committee		<p>This item was proposed by members for inclusion on the work programme at the committee meeting on 06/06/11.</p> <p>Report presented to Committee on 07/11/11. Agreed that a further report on the future options for a business start-up programme be brought to a future meeting.</p> <p>Progress report presented to Committee on 08/03/12. The views of Committee were referred to Cabinet on 12/04/12. The outcome of the Cabinet debate was reported back to Committee on 07/06/12.</p>	

Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Complete Date	Comments on Progress	Complete?
06/06/11	Inward Investment	Report to Committee		This item was proposed by members for inclusion on the work programme at the committee meeting on 06/06/11. Report presented to Committee on 05/09/11. Agreed that a further report will be provided once the Inward Investment Manager is in post. An update report was provided to Committee on 05/09/12.	
05/09/11	Fair Trade	Mark Johnston		The Chair provided a verbal report to Committee on 05/09/11 regarding the work undertaken by him as Fair Trade Champion. In future, this work will be organised by the Economy & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee (rather than by Champions). A further report will be provided to a Committee meeting in the future (possibly November 2012).	
07/11/11	Child Poverty Strategy	Officer Reports (Jane Morgan)		A progress report on the Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan was presented to the Committee on 07/11/11. Agreed that regular updates will be brought to Committee in the future. Progress report provided to Committee on 08/03/12. Further Progress reports will be provided to Committee. Committee agreed, on 05/09/12, to retain this item as part of the work programme.	

Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Complete Date	Comments on Progress	Complete?
07/06/12	Visit to regeneration and housing sites, for example, housing schemes, Wirral International Business Park, Wirral Waters	Members visit to be arranged by Kevin Adderley / David Ball		Tour of sites took place on 03/07/12.	Complete
07/06/12	Housing Welfare Reform - The impact of Welfare Reform on both private and social housing sectors, and particularly on under occupation in the social sector.	To be agreed	Final Report due to be presented to Committee on 7 th March 2013	This topic was suggested by the Economy & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, 8 th March 2012. On 05/09/12, Committee agreed "Further scrutiny work being undertaken on the impact of Welfare Reform on both private and social housing sectors and, in particular, on under-occupancy in the social sector". A special meeting of members was held on 18/10/12 to discuss the scope for a planned scrutiny review. The draft Scope document was agreed by Committee on 14/11/12. Evidence Days will be planned for January 2013.	
07/06/12	Wirral Trade Centre – Referral from Council Council agreed a motion on 16 th April 2012 which included: "Council calls on the three Parties to agree membership for a 1:1:1 Member Working Party, reporting to the Economy and Regeneration OSC. This Working Party will scope a project leading to recommendations to ensure this Council and its partners are Trade Centre ready and able to embrace all opportunities for development through its growing links with China and other countries and that potential barriers to businesses and investors are identified and recommendations made as to how these can be overcome".	In-depth Scrutiny Review by Working Group of Members	End of 2012	This item was proposed by members for inclusion on the work programme at the Committee meeting on 07/06/12. The final report from the Working Group was agreed by the Committee on 14/11/12. The report was referred to a future Cabinet meeting. An update report regarding the implementation of the recommendations will also be presented to a future meeting of this Committee.	

Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Complete Date	Comments on Progress	Complete?
05/09/12	Budget Consultation – Scrutiny Workshop	Workshop		A Scrutiny Workshop regarding the budget and future priorities was held on 25/09/12. A further special meeting was held on 06/11/12 to discuss the outcomes of the 'What Really Matters' Consultation process. A further meeting to discuss Budget Options has been arranged for 05/12/12.	
05/09/12	The effect of the economy on youth unemployment in Wirral	Report to Committee	Jan 2013	A report to Committee is due in January 2013.	
05/09/12	Sub-Regional Choice Based Lettings Scheme	Report to Committee		A report to Committee is due in January 2013.	
05/09/12	Deep Clean scheme in town centres	Report to Committee		Further to a report to Committee regarding 'Town Centres Update' on 05/09/12, a future report on the Deep Clean scheme was requested. Due to the impact of budget reductions on future services, Committee agreed, on 14/11/12, that this report was no longer required.	Closed
05/09/12	The operation of the Free after Three parking scheme	Report to Committee		Further to a report to Committee regarding 'Town Centres Update' on 05/09/12, a future report on the Free after Three parking scheme was requested. Due to the impact of budget reductions on future services, Committee agreed, on 14/11/12, that this report was no longer required.	Closed

Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Complete Date	Comments on Progress	Complete?
05/09/12	An evaluation of projects for Empty Shops funding	Report to Committee		Further to a report to Committee regarding 'Town Centres Update' on 05/09/12, a future evaluation report of projects for Empty Shops funding was requested. The report is to be delivered approximately 12 months after the funding was provided. Due to the impact of budget reductions on future services, Committee agreed, on 14/11/12, that this report was no longer required.	Closed
05/09/12	Progress reports regarding the Shopping Centre Action Plans	Report to Committee		Further to a report to Committee regarding 'Town Centres Update' on 05/09/12, a future report on the Shopping Centre Action Plans was requested.	
14/11/12	Digital Inclusion	Presentation (Rose Boylan)		A presentation is planned for the Committee meeting due to be held on 07/03/13.	

REPORT 2
SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO WORK PROGRAMME
ECONOMY & REGENERATION : 16TH JANUARY 2013

Topic Description	Topic suggested by	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Completion Date

REPORT 3
PROPOSED OUTLINE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR
ECONOMY & REGENERATION : 16TH JANUARY 2013

Meeting Date	Topic Description
07/06/12	Presentation and discussion – Dave Furlong & Lisa Thompson, Mole Group Terms of Reference for the Committee – Presentation (David Ball) Role of Scrutiny – Presentation (Alan Veitch) Green Growth in Wirral – – Feedback from referral to Cabinet, 12 th April 2012 Wirral Trade Centre – Notice of Motion – Referral from Council, 16 th April 2012 Affordability and Mortgages including First-Time Buyers – Feedback from referral to Cabinet, 12 th April 2012 Business Support – Feedback from referral to Cabinet, 12 th April 2012 Equality Impact Assessments – Referral from Scrutiny Programme Board, 28 th February 2012 Regeneration Tour, 3 rd July 2012 Scrutiny Work Programme Forward Plan Regeneration Update
05/09/12	Presentation and discussion – David Downing, Chairman of Drivecompare Trade Centre Scrutiny Review: Update (Report of Working Group – Cllr Mark Johnston, Chair) Performance Monitoring Report – Quarter 1 (Kevin Adderley) Feedback from the Member’s Regeneration / Housing Tour held on 3rd July Shopping Centre Regeneration – Update (David Ball) Investment Manager’s post – Update (David Ball – verbal report) Budget Consultation – Scrutiny Workshops Scrutiny Work Programme Forward Plan Regeneration Update
25/09/12	Budget Consultation – Scrutiny Workshop
06/11/12	Outcomes of the ‘What Really Matters’ Consultation process.
12/11/12	Presentation and discussion – Rebecca Owens, Recipro UK Trade Centre Scrutiny Review – Final Report Welfare Reform and under-occupation – Draft Scope document for future scrutiny review Scrutiny Work Programme Forward Plan Regeneration Update
05/12/12	Consultation – Budget Options

Meeting Date	Topic Description
21/01/13	Presentation and discussion – CETCO The effect of the economy on youth unemployment in Wirral Sub-Regional Choice Based Lettings Scheme (Ian Platt) Progress reports regarding the Shopping Centre Action Plans (David Ball) Performance Monitoring Report – Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 (Kevin Adderley) Draft Housing Needs Assessment (Kevin Adderley) Fair Trade (Cllr Mark Johnston) Scrutiny Work Programme Forward Plan Regeneration Update Plus other items to add.....
18/03/13	Presentation and discussion – Member of the Business Community Green Growth Working Group – Update report (This item may be deferred) Digital Inclusion – Presentation (Rose Boylan) Welfare Reform and under-occupation – Report from the Member's Working Group Scrutiny Work Programme Forward Plan Regeneration Update Plus other items to add.....
Outstanding items – yet to be allocated to a specific meeting	Child Poverty Strategy - Update

REPORT 4
PROGRESS REPORT ON IN-DEPTH PANEL REVIEWS
ECONOMY & REGENERATION : 16TH JANUARY 2013

Title of Review	Members of Panel	Progress to Date	Date Due to report to Committee
Trade Centre Scrutiny Review	Cllr Mark Johnston (Chair) Cllr Jean Stapleton Cllr Andrew Hodson	<p><u>As at 02/07/12:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Working Group has met to discuss the draft scope for the review. • The Scope for the review will be finalised and will be reported to Committee in September • A meeting at the Confucius Centre (Calday Grange Grammar School) has been arranged. • Further meetings with Council officers and members of the business, voluntary and community sectors will be arranged as the evidence-gathering for the review continues. <p><u>As at 09/10/12:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several further evidence-gathering meetings have taken place. • Members have met to discuss draft recommendations for the review. • The final report for the Trade Centre Scrutiny Review is due to be submitted to Committee on 14/11/12. <p><u>As at 20/11/12:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final report for the Trade Centre Scrutiny Review was submitted to Committee on 14/11/12. 	End of 2012
Welfare Reform and under-occupation	Cllr Mark Johnston (Chair) Cllr Rob Gregson Cllr Denise Realey Cllr Jean Stapleton Cllr Mike Sullivan Cllr Janette Williamson	<p><u>As at 20/11/12:</u> The Scope for the Review was discussed / agreed by the Committee on 14/11/12. Evidence Days will be organised. These are likely to be held in January 2013.</p>	

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HEALTH AND WELL BEING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

SUGGESTED ADDITIONS TO WORK PROGRAMME - 2012/2013

Topic Description	“Task & Finish” Review Group	Future Agenda Reports	Other (eg visits etc)	Complete / remove from suggested additions
Medicine Management in Hospital Trusts		X		
AKA Report		X		
Vascular Services update		X		
Ambulance Service Report re loading/waiting times		X		
Disabled toilet facilities at hospitals		X		
Wirral Maternity Services		X		
Public Health update		X		
Impact of welfare reform		X		
Key organisations – Health Trusts /Public Health		X		

HEALTH AND WELL BEING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT ON “TASK & FINISH” SCRUTINY REVIEWS

Title of Review	Completed	Review of report recommendations	Requested update / review date
Wirral Hospital Discharge Review	2009	10.11.2009 25.03.2010 01.11.2010	
The care of people with Dementia in an acute hospital setting	2011	12.03.2012	
Panel on Domestic Violence		Interim Report – March 2011 NO FINAL REPORT	
Transforming Adult Day Centres/Services		NO FINAL REPORT	

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

Title:	Department:	Comments/Justification:
<p>26 June 2012:</p> <p>Highway & Engineering Services Contract – 3rd Annual Review</p> <p>“Reducing the Council’s Carbon Footprint” Progress Update</p>	<p>Technical Services</p> <p>Law, HR & Asset Management</p>	<p>Progress report and formal presentation – items requested by Cabinet and O&S</p> <p>Corporate ‘goal’ annual progress report</p>
<p>26 September 2012:</p> <p>Notice of Motion “Increase Recycling” Response (including Levy Review progress update)</p> <p>Library Strategy</p> <p>Empowerment Partnership</p>	<p>Technical Services</p> <p>Finance</p> <p>Law, HR & Asset Management</p>	<p>Progress report</p> <p>Review of Library Strategy including evening opening hours</p> <p>New approach to link Trading Standards with communities</p>
<p>21 November 2012:</p> <p>“Have a safe and well-maintained highway network for all users” – Progress Update</p> <p>Highway Maintenance Processes/ Treatments and National Pothole Review</p> <p>Street Lighting Connections – Progress Update</p>	<p>Technical Services</p> <p>Technical Services</p> <p>Technical Services</p>	<p>Corporate ‘goal’ annual progress report</p> <p>Requested by Committee Members</p> <p>Progress Update</p>

Pavement and Verge Parking Review	Technical Services	Requested by O&S Committee
SLA with UU re manholes - Update	Technical Services	Requested by O&S
Wirral University Teaching Hospitals (WUTH) NHS Foundation Trust – Travel Plan Review 2012	Technical Services	Progress report
Parks Modernisation Programme	Technical Services	Progress report
Domestic Homicide	Law, HR & Asset Management	Report provided as part of the Committee's scrutiny function for the Community Safety Partnership
29 January 2013:		
Streetscene Environment Services Contract – Sixth Annual Review	Technical Services	Progress report & presentation on the strategic contract with Biffa
'Minimise waste by encouraging waste reduction and recycling' – Progress Update	Technical Services	Corporate 'goal' annual progress report
'Have high standards of environmental quality across Wirral' – Progress Update	Technical Services	Corporate 'goal' annual progress report
Bridges Management	Technical Services	Raising awareness of the condition of the stock and progress in maintaining
Streetscene Enforcement Campaigns	Technical Services	Progress on Campaigns and successes/ lessons learned
Wirral Flood & Water Management Partnership – Progress Update	Technical Services	Progress report as requested by O&S Committee & to comply with legislation
Heritage Strategy – Progress Update	Technical Services	Progress Report

National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme	Law, HR & Asset Management	Progress report after the introduction of the new scheme
Tackling Dog Fouling	Law, HR & Asset Management	Progress report on topic raised as an issue by 8 of 11 Area Forums
Doorstep Crime	Law, HR & Asset Management	Progress report
Reducing the Council's Carbon Footprint - Progress Report N ^o . 6	Law, HR & Asset Management	Corporate Goal Progress Report
Wirral Climate Change Group Annual Report	Law, HR & Asset Management	Annual Report
12 March 2013:		
'Provide high quality, value for money leisure and cultural facilities for Wirral residents' – Progress Update	Technical Services	Corporate 'goal' annual progress report covering Sport & Recreation, Museums & Heritage and Floral Pavilion
'Provide and maintain high quality parks and opens spaces in partnership with local communities' – Progress Update	Technical Services	Corporate 'goal' annual progress report
Review of Golf Service	Technical Services	Review of service including control of income
Coastal Management Issues	Technical Services	Report to include Beach Management & control of grasses
Shellfish Farming – Progress Update	Law, HR & Asset Management	Progress report on shellfish farming
Wirral Approved Trader Scheme	Law, HR & Asset Management	Progress report on the development of the scheme

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 SEPTEMBER 2012

EXTRACT

24 REVIEW OF SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN

Further to minute 12 (7 June 2012), the Chair indicated that he had sought the views of Members as to what issues should form the basis of the Committee's work programme and he outlined the issues that had already been identified for scrutiny.

He referred also to minute 7 of the Scrutiny Programme Board held on 18 July 2012, which requested Scrutiny Chairs and spokespersons to review their work programmes to prioritise work consistently with the Council's Corporate Plan, and to consider also, the work programmes of other scrutiny committees to identify areas of work that involved, or potentially involved, cross-cutting issues and/or clear synergies (in law, fact or issue) with areas within their own work programme. The Chair commented that the only area he had identified as a cross-cutting theme was in relation to the Child Poverty Strategy and he sought the views of Members as to whether it should be undertaken by the Children and Young People O&S Committee. However, the Director commented that economic issues were a key contributory factor to child poverty.

The Forward Plan for the period September to December, 2012 was published on the Council's intranet/website and Members had been invited to review the Plan prior to the meeting in order for the Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider, having regard to its work programme, whether scrutiny should take place of any items contained within the Plan and, if so, how it could be done within relevant timescales and resources.

Resolved –

- (1) That the Work Programme for the remainder of the municipal year be agreed, subject to the inclusion of the following items –**
 - **Further scrutiny work being undertaken on the impact of Welfare Reform on both private and social housing sectors and in particular, on under-occupancy in the social sector (minute 49 (8 March 2012) refers).**
 - **A further update upon the effect of the economy on Youth Unemployment.**
- (2) That the Scrutiny Programme Board be thanked for its referral and be advised that the potential cross-cutting theme of Child Poverty should remain within the remit of the Economy and Regeneration O&S Committee. (10:0)**
- (3) That the Forward Plan be noted.**

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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 NOVEMBER 2012

EXTRACT

26 **WELFARE REFORM**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Adult Social Services outlining the significant impact of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 which legislated for the biggest change to the welfare system for over 60 years.

The report indicated that the Act introduced a wide range of reforms contained within the Coalition Agreement to make the benefits and tax credits systems “fairer and simpler” by:

- Creating the right incentives to get more people into work
- Protecting the most vulnerable in society
- Delivering fairness to those claiming benefit and to the taxpayer

Members were asked to consider some of the implications for vulnerable local residents and also for health and social care services; and to agree what actions were required to respond to those.

Rose Boylan, Principal Economic Officer, gave a presentation on the welfare reforms and elaborated in respect of the changes, including:

- Housing Policy, Housing Benefits and Under Occupation
- Localised Council Tax Support
- Local Welfare Assistance
- Benefit Cap Thresholds
- Personal Independent Payment (PIP)
- Universal Credit

Responding to Members’ comments, Rose Boylan informed the Committee that PIPs would contain a daily living element and a mobility element. Changes would be made in how assessments were carried out although final details of these were yet to appear from the Government. In relation to changes to Local Welfare Assistance, a Wirral scheme was currently under development. There would be a certain amount of start up and management costs and delivery and administration issues were being worked up in advance of the April 2013 implementation date.

Rose Boylan commented that she would circulate further detailed information in response to Members’ questions in respect of the PIP medical assessment, Under-occupancy and older people and LHA and private landlords.

The Chair suggested that visits could be undertaken to other Pilot authorities who were further on with implementation; or that a member of staff could be embedded within another Pilot authority for a period, to learn from that authority's experiences.

The Director suggested that the Committee would need to consider how it monitored and responded to the impact of the reforms.

With regard to the housing changes, there would be a need to establish the scope of the review which was already being undertaken into this aspect of the reforms by the Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

On a motion by the Chair, duly seconded, it was -

Resolved – That

- (1) Cabinet be requested to ensure that the Council had enough resources to work through the reforms from January.**
- (2) The Scrutiny Programme Board be asked to look into the issue of a cross-cutting scrutiny review in respect of the implications of the welfare reforms, particularly in relation to housing matters.**
- (3) The report outlining the significant impact of the Welfare Reform be noted.**
- (4) Further updates be brought back to the Committee as specific social care policies are developed in response to the changes outlined within the report and the Chair and Spokespersons meet with the Director of Adult Social Services and Rose Boylan to discuss the impact in relation to this Committee's scrutiny role.**

14 NOVEMBER 2012

EXTRACT

30 **WELFARE REFORM AND UNDER OCCUPATION
- DRAFT SCOPE DOCUMENT FOR FUTURE SCRUTINY REVIEW**

Further to minute 24 (5 September 2012), the Chair provided an update on progress with the Benefit Reforms and Under-Occupation Scrutiny Review and presented a detailed Scope for the review, which was agreed by a Task and Finish Group of Members of the Scrutiny Committee on 18 October 2012. The proposed focus of the review was to investigate the impact of changes to housing benefit and the welfare reforms specifically related to under occupation in both the public and private housing sectors. Key issues for the review would be:

- The impact of the introduction of the Housing Benefit Cap;
- The impact of changes to the Local Housing Allowance, with special reference to the Shared Accommodation Rate for under-35's;
- The allocation process for Discretionary Housing Benefit;
- The impacts of the reforms relating to Under-occupation and how this affects households and communities;
- The impact of the reforms on the Social Housing sector (Housing Associations).

The Chair commented also upon the Select Committee-style of evidence gathering that was to be used for the Scrutiny Review and he set out proposed guidelines to be adopted for the Evidence Gathering Days, which he envisaged would be held in January 2013. Additional evidence-gathering would take place in late January and early February 2013, if necessary, with a final report presented to the Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 7 March 2013, prior to its referral to Cabinet. In response to comments from Members on the impact of Universal Credit, the Chair indicated his willingness for additional people to be added to the list of invitees to the Select Committee sessions. However, so as to ensure that the scrutiny review was completed before the end of the municipal year, he believed that the review should focus upon its previously agreed scope. At the present time, full details of Universal Credit were not known and he suggested that it could form the basis of a separate scrutiny review, when more precise information was available.

Resolved –

- (1) That the Scope for the Benefits Reform and Under-Occupation Scrutiny Review, as detailed in Appendix 1, be approved and the progress to date, be noted.**
- (2) That the proposed guidelines for the Evidence Day(s) and the indicative timescale for the review, be noted.**

- (3) That, in addition to the list of invitees to the Select Committee Session, the Task and Finish Group be requested to obtain evidence from representatives of the following organisations –**
- The Probation Service**
 - Wirral Homes**
 - HM Armed Forces**
 - The Adaptation s Team**
 - The Director of Wirral YMCA (to be accompanied by a client affected by the Government proposals)**
- (4) That officers be requested to undertake further planning of the review, in consultation with members of the Task & Finish Group and that an easy to use questionnaire be developed to facilitate evidence gathering.**

WIRRAL BOROUGH COUNCIL

ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14 NOVEMBER 2012

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIR, CLLR MARK JOHNSTON

BENEFIT REFORMS AND UNDER-OCCUPATION SCRUTINY REVIEW - PROGRESS REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on progress with the Benefit Reforms and Under-occupation Scrutiny Review.

1. Background

- 1.1 At previous meetings of the Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, members have reported considerable public concern regarding the impact of changes to housing benefit and welfare reforms specifically relating to under-occupation in both the public and private housing sectors.
- 1.2 At the meeting of the Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, held on 5th September 2012, members agreed to:
“Further scrutiny work being undertaken on the impact of Welfare Reform on both private and social housing sectors and in particular, on under-occupancy in the social sector”.
- 1.2 All members of the Committee were invited to volunteer to join a Task & Finish Group to undertake detailed scrutiny work of this topic. Subsequently, a number of members attended a meeting held on 18th October 2012 at which the detailed Scope for the review was discussed.
- 1.2 The members who have volunteered to be part of the Task & Finish Group are:
 - Councillor Mark Johnston (Chair)
 - Councillor Rob Gregson
 - Councillor Denise Realey
 - Councillor Jean Stapleton
 - Councillor Mike Sullivan
 - Councillor Janette Williamson

2. Scope of the Review

- 2.1 A draft Scope Document, agreed by the Task & Finish Group members, is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. Committee members are requested to consider this draft document for approval.

- 2.2 The Members are proposing that the focus of the scrutiny review is to investigate the impact of changes to housing benefit and the welfare reforms specifically relating to under occupation in both the public and private housing sectors. Key issues for the review will be:
- The impact of the introduction of the Housing Benefit Cap;
 - The impact of changes to the Local Housing Allowance, with special reference to the Shared Accommodation Rate for under-35's;
 - The allocation process for Discretionary Housing Benefit;
 - The impacts of the reforms relating to Under-occupation and how this affects households and communities;
 - The impact of the reforms on the Social Housing sector (Housing Associations).

3. Evidence Gathering

- 3.1 In the past, similar scrutiny reviews have been undertaken by the members meeting individually with witnesses over a long period of time. The reviews have been found to be time-consuming for members and some have taken place over a long period of time. As an alternative, some Local Authorities employ a Select Committee-style of evidence gathering, whereby the majority of the oral evidence is gathered on one or two days. It is proposed that the Select Committee model of evidence-gathering is used for this scrutiny review.
- 3.2 As there are a relatively large number of witnesses proposed in the Scope document, it is suggested that two Evidence sessions may be more suitable than one. Further thought will be given to this during the planning stage for the review.
- 3.3 It is proposed that the Evidence Days will be organised in line with the following guidelines:
- The Evidence Days will be held in private session. It is suggested that holding the sessions in public may prevent some witnesses from discussing issues freely. The evidence-gathering for all previous scrutiny reviews has been held in private session and conducted in an informal manner.
 - A timetable for the Evidence Day(s) will be prepared.
 - Within the Evidence Day(s), witnesses will be asked to be available at a specific time during the day and only for a particular length of time. It will therefore be important that the timetable is adhered to.
 - Some witnesses may be grouped together and seen together if there is a logical link between them.
 - Prior to the Evidence Day, each witness will be sent a copy of the Scope document plus an indicative list of questions which they will be asked. It will, therefore, be necessary for members to give further thought to the broad subject areas that will be covered with each witness.
- 3.4 Following the Evidence Days, members of the Task & Finish Group will meet to review the evidence. At that point, it may be decided necessary to obtain further evidence prior to a draft report being prepared to reflect the views of the members. The report will be presented initially to the Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and, if approved, to Cabinet.

4. Timescales for the Review

4.1 The indicative timetable for the review is as follows:

- The Scope document is due to be discussed / agreed at the meeting of the Economy & Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 14th November 2012.
- An Evidence Day(s) will be held during January 2013.
- Additional evidence-gathering will take place in late-January and early February 2013, if necessary.
- A report will be presented to the meeting of the Economy & Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 7th March 2013 and subsequently to Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Committee approve the Scope for the Benefits Reform and Under-occupation Scrutiny Review, as detailed in Appendix 1, and note the progress to date.
- (2) Members comment on the proposed guidelines for the Evidence Day(s) and the indicative timescale for the review.
- (3) Officers undertake further planning of the review, in consultation with members of the Task & Finish Group.

Cllr Mark Johnston
Chair of the Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Appendix 1: Scope Document for the Benefit Reforms and Under-occupation Scrutiny Review

Date: 26/10/12

Review Title: Relationship between Benefit Reforms and Under-occupation

<p>Scrutiny Panel Chair: Cllr Mark Johnston</p>	<p>Contact details:</p>
<p>Panel members: Cllr Rob Gregson Cllr Denise Realey Cllr Jean Stapleton Cllr Mike Sullivan Cllr Janette Williamson</p>	
<p>Scrutiny Officer: Alan Veitch</p>	<p>Contact details: 0151 691 8564</p>
<p>Departmental Link Officer: Lisa Newman</p>	<p>Contact details: 0151 691 8197</p>
<p>Other Key Officer contacts:</p>	

1. Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?

The Council's Corporate Plan 2012/13 includes the following statements:

- We will respond effectively to the impact of welfare reform on the availability of and access to housing, including close partnership working with landlords in the borough. (A target in the Corporate Plan is to "Develop an action plan to respond to under-occupation in both the social and private rented sector by summer 2012").
- We will support those who are experiencing or who are at risk of homelessness and we will continue to work hard to improve access to advice and information about the housing options that local people have.

In addition, it should be noted that the reforms have the potential to impact on a range of Corporate objectives, for example, Child Poverty, the Fostering Service and so on.

2. What are the main issues?

The key purpose of this scrutiny review is to investigate the impact of changes to housing benefit and the welfare reforms specifically relating to under occupation in both the public and private housing sectors.

Key issues for the review will be:

- Impact of the introduction of the Housing Benefit Cap
- Impact of changes to the Local Housing Allowance, with special reference to the Shared Accommodation Rate for under-35's
- Allocation process for Discretionary Housing Benefit
- Impacts of the reforms relating to Under-occupation and how this affects households and communities
- Impact of the reforms on the Social Housing sector (Housing Associations)

Specific attention will be given to the impact of the reforms on issues such as:

- People who are separated from their partner but share the care of children but are not the 'main carer' for the child or children. Those previously allocated an extra bedroom for this will be affected
- Foster parents
- Children with disabilities or those who need an extra bedroom for medical equipment
- Social Housing Provider's rental income and ability to invest in Wirral
- Impact on HMO's (Houses in Multiple Occupation)
- Impact on homeless services in Wirral

Note: The following reforms are outside the scope of this review:

- Universal Credit
- Localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme

<p>3. The Committee's overall aim/objective in doing this work is: Members have reported considerable public concern regarding the impact of changes to housing benefit and welfare reforms specifically relating to under-occupation in both the public and private housing sectors. This review will investigate the steps which the Council and other partners are already planning to take and consider further actions that may be feasible in order to mitigate against some impacts of the reforms.</p>													
<p>4. The possible outputs/outcomes are: 4.1 To understand the potential impacts of the reforms 4.2 Propose options to alleviate the negative impacts of the reforms 4.3 To understand whether joint work can be done with key partners</p>													
<p>5. What specific value can scrutiny add to this topic? Further scrutiny will give members the opportunity to assure themselves that the Council is taking all possible steps to lessen any negative impact of the reforms. Scrutiny will enable the experience of those directly impacted by the reforms to help identify any recommendations for changes. These recommendations will be referred to Cabinet.</p>													
<p>6. Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work? 6.1 Appropriate Cabinet members and Directors, Wirral Borough Council. 6.2 Partners of the Council, for example, Housing Associations, Private Landlords, Police.</p>													
<p>7. Duration of enquiry?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scope document is due to be discussed / agreed at the meeting of the Economy & Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 14th November 2012. • A Select Committee session(s) will be held during January 2013. • Additional evidence-gathering will take place in late-January and early February 2013, if necessary. • A report will be presented to the meeting of the Economy & Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 7th March 2013. 													
<p>8. What category does the review fall into?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Policy Review</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">X <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 33%;">Policy Development</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>External Partnership</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Performance Management</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Holding Executive to Account</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Policy Review	X <input type="checkbox"/>	Policy Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	External Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	Performance Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Holding Executive to Account	<input type="checkbox"/>		
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External Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	Performance Management	<input type="checkbox"/>										
Holding Executive to Account	<input type="checkbox"/>												
<p>9. Extra resources needed? Would the investigation benefit from the co-operation of an expert witness? The review will be conducted by councillors with the support of existing officers. However, the panel are looking for advice from people with expertise on this topic, such as Shelter.</p>													

10. What information do we need?	
<p>10.1 Secondary information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant Government Departmental reports • Relevant national documents • Previous Cabinet / Scrutiny Committee reports • Briefing paper prepared by Lisa Newman (for meeting held 18th October 2012) • Centre for Public Scrutiny – Policy briefing on Welfare Reform, September 2012 • Report based on research undertaken by Cambridge University • Reports from other Councils into similar topics, for example, Bristol Council 	<p>10.2 Primary/new evidence/information</p> <p>Interviews with key officers</p> <p>Interviews with affected tenants / residents</p> <p>Examples of good practice from other Councils</p> <p>Statistics for Wirral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many people currently get more than £26,000 in benefits (and will therefore be affected by the benefit cap)? • How many people aged under 35 are affected by the Shared Accommodation Rate? • What is the current and future budget Discretionary Housing Benefit?

<p>10.3 Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet portfolio holder, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc). The following will be invited to the Select Committee session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Simpson, Wirral Partnership Homes • Alan Hughes, Wirral Methodist Housing Association • Steve Newsham, Regenda Housing Association • Nigel Hughes, YMCA • Representatives of the Private Landlords Forum (x2) • Malcolm Flanagan, Housing Benefits, Wirral Borough Council • Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) • Welfare Rights, Wirral Borough Council • Shelter • Sheila Khan, Fostering Service, Wirral Borough Council • A foster carer • Tenants representative (aged under 35) • Tenants from the social housing sector (x2) • Inspector Paul Vickers(or Inspector Chris Lucan-Pratt), Merseyside Police • Homelessness Team, Wirral Borough Council • HMO Team, (Homes of Multiple Occupation), Wirral Borough Council 	<p>10.4 What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?</p> <p><u>Social Housing Providers / Landlords</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the impact of Under-occupation on your business plans? <p><u>Housing Benefits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the criteria for allocating Discretionary Housing Benefit and how can this be used to help in alleviating the impacts of the reforms? • What is being done to raise awareness among those people affected? • Are you able to identify those clients who are affected? <p><u>Welfare Rights / CAB / Shelter</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the evidence of increasing hardship? <p><u>Fostering</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will the reforms affect the fostering service? • How will the reforms affect the Council's ability to care for vulnerable children? <p><u>Tenants / Residents</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the impact of the reforms? • How likely are you to move and what are your prospects? <p><u>Police</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have concerns regarding the benefit reforms? • How will your service be affected? <p><u>Homeless Team</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has the reform affected the numbers who are presenting as homeless and how is that likely to change? • What is your ability to respond? • If a client is evicted, what is the cost of temporary accommodation?
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11. What processes can we use to feed into the review? (site visits / observations, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, written questionnaire, etc).

- 11.1 A Select Committee session(s) will be organised at Wallasey Town Hall. All listed witnesses (as in Section 10.3 above) will be invited to attend at a specified time throughout the day(s).
- 11.2 Desktop analysis / research

12. In what ways can we involve the public and at what stages? (consider whole range of consultative mechanisms, local committees and local ward mechanisms).

It is estimated that 3100 households in the social housing sector alone will be affected by these reforms. Therefore, a general call for evidence is likely to lead to a large number of responses. As a result, a more targeted approach is proposed.

- 12.1 A small number of tenants will give evidence during the Select Committee session.
- 12.2 A targeted questionnaire may be possible
- 12.3 Advocacy agencies such as Welfare Rights and CAB are invited to represent the views of their clients.

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