

ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The overview and scrutiny committee will:

(i) review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of the Council's functions;

(ii) make reports and/or recommendations to the Council and/or the Cabinet and/or any joint or area committee in connection with any policy or the discharge of any functions;

(iii) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants; and

(iv) exercise the right to call in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Executive; and

within the following terms of reference of the Cabinet portfolio(s) indicated:

Regeneration and Planning Strategy

- (1) matters relating to the economic and urban regeneration of Wirral
- (2) the economic regeneration strategy for Wirral.
- (3) all economic regeneration programmes including European programmes, any other Council programmes and residual issues in relation to the Single Regeneration Budget.
- (4) consultation and liaison with all organisations involved in regeneration in Wirral, including NWDA, English Partnerships, GoNW, Learning and Skills Council, Greater Merseyside Enterprise, Wirral Metropolitan College, trade unions, the private sector, the voluntary sector, etc.
- (5) all matters in relation to European issues.
- (6) the promotion of Wirral as a premier location for inward investment through the work of Wirral Direct and other organisations; in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism and Leisure in the case of tourism initiatives.
- (7) to ensure that an adequate supply of sites and premises is provided in order to cater for the needs of local businesses and to help attract new businesses.
- (8) financial support, where appropriate, to businesses, co-operatives and other profit making and non-profit making ventures for the benefit of Wirral.

- (9) provision of a comprehensive business support service to local companies.
- (10) the development of community employment and training initiatives and other initiatives designed to strengthen the economy of local communities and combat disadvantage including the development of a comprehensive “pathways to Integration” strategy for Wirral.
- (11) monitoring economic trends in Wirral and identifying examples of good practice elsewhere in the field of urban policy and economic regeneration from which Wirral can benefit.
- (12) Lobbying Government and other agencies nationally, regionally and internationally, to ensure that Wirral achieves its economic regeneration objectives.
- (13) Welfare to Work.
- (14) the Development Plan and related plans and policies.
- (15) national, regional and strategic issues, including green belt policy.
- (16) the designation and preservation of conservation areas and liaison with conservation bodies.
- (17) the application of the Planning Acts in relation to:
 - preservation of general amenity
 - shopping improvement areas
 - derelict sites
 - building regulations
 - mineral planning issues
 - contributions to the Council’s urban regeneration initiatives
 - compulsory purchase
- (19) liaison on planning matters with other local authorities and external bodies.
- (20) identification and action in relation to derelict land and building, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for the Environment.

Culture, Tourism and Leisure

- (21) the development, management, implementation and review of all aspects of the Council’s Tourism Strategy. The promotion of Wirral as a location for tourism and in consultation with the Cabinet member for Regeneration and Planning Strategy, to encourage tourism initiatives designed to bring new jobs to the Borough.

Housing and Community Safety

- (22) housing strategy.
- (23) the assessment of housing need including the needs of vulnerable people.
- (24) enabling vulnerable Clients to remain at home, through the provision of low level housing support services (the Supporting People programme).
- (25) the provision of homelessness and housing advice services, including rough sleepers.
- (26) the provision of services to enable access to accommodation.
- (27) the assessment of housing markets.
- (28) housing market restructuring and renewal.
- (29) Housing matters relating to:
- Dealing with unfitness and poor condition
 - Acquisition and clearance
 - Financial policies for home improvement funding
 - Regulation and enforcement of statutory provisions relating to private sector housing
- (30) Housing matters relating to:
- The promotion and monitoring of partnerships to achieve wider strategic housing objectives
 - Monitoring the performance of new Housing Stock Transfer organisations
 - The accreditation and licensing of private landlords
- (31) monitoring and responding to the needs of gypsies and travellers.

All portfolios

- (32) those parts of the Corporate Plan within the remit of this Committee,
- (33) to seek to achieve continuing and improving performance, better value for money and customer satisfaction in respect of those services provided through these areas.
- (34) to support the Council's equal opportunity policies by promoting and monitoring initiatives to encourage equality of opportunity amongst disadvantaged groups including: the disabled, ethnic minorities, the long-term unemployed, the poor, and women;
- (35) to scrutinise Local Area Agreements that fall within the areas set out above and to hold partners to account.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES - TERMS OF REFERENCE

The specific terms of reference for each overview and scrutiny committee are set out below. Their general functions are as follows:

(a) Policy development and review - Overview and Scrutiny committees may:

- (i) assist the Council and the Cabinet in the development of the budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
- (ii) conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- (iii) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
- (iv) question members of the Cabinet and committees and chief officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area; and
- (v) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area (whether national, regional or local) to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.

(b) Scrutiny - Overview and Scrutiny committees may:

- (i) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Cabinet and committees and Council officers, both in relation to individual decisions and over periods of time;
- (ii) review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
- (iii) question members of the Cabinet and committees, and chief officers, about their decisions and performance, whether generally or in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
- (iv) make recommendations to the Cabinet or appropriate committees of the Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
- (v) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the overview and scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance; and,
- (vi) question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).

(c) Best Value - Overview and Scrutiny Committees will:

- (i) recommend the terms of reference for best value reviews to the Cabinet;
- (ii) receive progress reports on best value reviews;
- (iii) recommend the final report and improvement plans to Cabinet.

- (d) **Finance** - Overview and Scrutiny Committees may exercise overall responsibility for any finance made available to them.
- (e) **Annual Report** - Overview and Scrutiny Committees may report annually to the Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amend working methods if appropriate.
- (f) **Officers** - Overview and Scrutiny Committees may exercise overall responsibility for the work programme of any officers employed to support their work.

SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD

The Scrutiny Programme Board will:

- (i) approve and co-ordinate the work programme for the five themed overview and scrutiny committees including resolving any conflict between such committees;
- (ii) allocate work to (or remove work from) any of the five overview and scrutiny committees
- (iii) review or scrutinise decisions made or other actions taken in relation to any executive functions, particularly (but not exclusively) in relation to cross-cutting issues or matters not within the terms of reference of any of the five themed overview and scrutiny committees.
- (iv) consider any call-in notices in relation to any executive functions and determine such notices or allocate them to one or more of the five themed overview and scrutiny committees as it considers most appropriate.
- (v) be responsible for the development and monitoring of an annual scrutiny work programme;
- (vi) undertake scrutiny in its own right with regard to cross-cutting or strategic issues not covered by other overview and scrutiny committees;
- (vii) identify and share good scrutiny practice across all overview and scrutiny committees.