

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Council has appointed Overview and Scrutiny Committees to discharge the functions conferred by section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 or regulations under section 32 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Each 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 the Cabinet portfolio(s) indicated:

ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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
- (18) Liaison on planning matters with other local authorities and external bodies.
- (19) Identification and action in relation to derelict land and building, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for the Environment.

Culture, Tourism and Leisure

- (20) 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

- (21) Housing Strategy.
- (22) The assessment of housing need including the needs of vulnerable people.

- (23) Enabling vulnerable Clients to remain at home, through the provision of low level housing support services (the Supporting People programme).
- (24) The provision of homelessness and housing advice services, including rough sleepers.
- (25) The provision of services to enable access to accommodation.
- (26) The assessment of housing markets.
- (27) Housing market restructuring and renewal.
- (28) 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
- (29) 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
- (30) Monitoring and responding to the needs of gypsies and travellers.

All portfolios

- (31) Those parts of the Corporate Plan within the remit of this Committee,
- (32) To seek to achieve continuing and improving performance, better value for money and customer satisfaction in respect of those services provided through these areas.
- (33) 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;
- (34) To scrutinise Local Area Agreements that fall within the areas set out above and to hold partners to account.