

WIRRAL COUNCIL

Policy and Performance Coordinating Committee

15 January 2014

SUBJECT:	Scrutiny Review Good Practice Guidance
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	Director of Public Health/Head of Policy & Performance
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Cllr Ann McLachlan (Governance and Improvement)
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This reports sets out some draft guidance for the setting up and operation of Scrutiny Review Panels to ensure there is a consistency of approach to task and finish work across the four Policy and Performance Committees.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 Changes to the Council's Scrutiny Function were introduced at the start of the municipal year through the creation of four Policy and Performance Committees. Staff support for scrutiny was also increased with the Scrutiny Support Team being brought up to full complement.

2.2 All of the Policy and Performance Committees have set out their work programmes for the year. There are now significantly more scrutiny reviews being undertaken and more Members engaged in this work than ever before. As such guidance has been produced to support the process of setting up and managing scrutiny review panels.

2.3 In response to issues highlighted by a number of Members, further work will be progressed in the New Year to develop a consistent mechanism for monitoring the implementation of actions and recommendations arising from Scrutiny Reviews.

3.0 SUMMARY OF GUIDANCE

3.1 The draft guidance is included as Appendix 1. It is recognised the approach to scrutiny reviews needs to be flexible and tailored to the nature of the topic in question. However, the guidance is intended to promote good practice and a consistency of approach for the operation of Scrutiny Review Panels.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

4.1 There are none directly relating to this report.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 N/A

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 N/A

7.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

7.1 N/A

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 N/A

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

9.1 N/A

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 N/A

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(c) No because of another reason which is

The report is for information to Members and there are no direct equalities implications at this stage.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1 N/A

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 N/A

14.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 Members are requested to consider the draft guidance provided and make any observations or comments.

15.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

15.1 To ensure there is a consistent approach to the delivery of scrutiny reviews and the operation of task and finish groups.

REPORT AUTHOR: Michael Callon
telephone (0151) 691 8379
email michaelcallon@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Wirral Council’s Preparations for Individual Electoral Registration
Scrutiny Review