

WIRRAL COUNCIL

Policy and Performance Coordinating Committee

15 January 2014

SUBJECT:	WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT
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 updates Members on progress delivering the Scrutiny Work Programme. This includes an update of the work on items included in the Work Programme for this committee, agreed at the last scheduled meeting in September 2013. The report also provides an overview of the wider Work Programme including the other Policy and Performance Committees.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 At their first and second meetings held in July and September, all four Policy and Performance Committees discussed and agreed their work programmes for the municipal year.

3.0 PROGRESS WITH COORDINATING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

3.1 A Work Programme for the Coordinating Committee was approved on 3 September 2013 and is included as Appendix 1. This proposed three pieces of work under the following headings:

- Individual Electoral Registration
- Impact of budget options 2013/14 and options for 2014/15
- Universal Credit

3.2 A brief summary of the work against these topics is summarised below.

Individual Electoral Registration

3.3 A scrutiny review began in October and completed in December 2013. A detailed report setting out the results of this work is included as a separate item on this agenda.

Impact of budget options 2013/14 and options for 2014/15

- 3.4 A Scrutiny Review Panel of seven Committee Members was established to explore this topic. Two meetings have been held in the last two months to try to scope out how best to take this work forward.
- 3.5 The Panel had concerns that the subject had been included on the work but had not been discussed at full Committee and there was some uncertainty about what outcomes the review was intended to achieve. The Panel also noted the budget options had been driven by the Council's three strategic directorates and as such had been reviewed by the other three policy and Performance Committees in November. The Panel agreed to refer this topic back to the wider committee recommending that it is not progressed at this time.
- 3.6 The Panel also discussed the role of the Coordinating Committee itself. There was agreement the committee should focus on reviewing the wider scrutiny Work Programme, providing support and coordination where required as well as filling any gaps. A number of alternative pieces of task and finish work were discussed and it was agreed these should be proposed for the full Committee to consider. These include:
- Reviewing the delivery of the Work Programme with regard to managing capacity across all four committees
 - Developing a mechanism for tracking and monitoring recommendations arising from Scrutiny Reviews
 - Reviewing the Work Programme content to determine if there are any obvious gaps.

Universal Credit

- 3.7 There has been a lot of coverage in the media relating to the implementation of Universal Credit with some parts of the programme being subject to delay. It is recommended that in order to inform the scope for a future Scrutiny Review, an officer report providing a detailed position statement on Universal Credit in Wirral is brought to the next Committee in April.

4.0 PROGRESS WITH ALL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMMES

- 4.1 An overview of all the Task and Finish work completed, in progress or pending is included as Appendix 2. This includes the Members that have volunteered to sit on the respective Scrutiny Review Panels.
- 4.2 A meeting of all the Policy and Performance Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs is scheduled in January. The intention for this meeting is to review the progress made and to look at what has worked well and what needs to be improved to inform the planning of the Scrutiny Work Programme in the next municipal year. It is suggested that a report is brought back to the Coordinating Committee in April highlighting the outcomes of this meeting.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

5.1 There are none directly relating to this report.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 N/A

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 N/A

8.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

8.1 N/A

9.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

9.1 N/A

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

10.1 N/A

11.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 N/A

12.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12.1 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.

13.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

13.1 N/A

14.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

14.1 N/A

15.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

15.1 Members are requested to consider the feedback from the Budget Options Scrutiny Review.

15.2 Members consider the proposals for alternative pieces of Task and Finish work arising from the Impact of Budget Options Panel discussions as set out in paragraph 3.6 above.

15.2 Members give approval for an Officer Report on the implementation of Universal Credit be presented to the April committee meeting as a vehicle for informing a Scrutiny Review in the next Municipal Year.

16.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

16.1 For Members of the Policy and Performance Coordinating Committee to consider the Scrutiny Work Programme and consider what should be the priorities for Task and Finish work for the rest of this municipal year.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Coordinating Committee Work Programme

Appendix 2 – Work Programme of All Policy and Performance Committees