

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## Policy and Performance Coordinating Committee

03 September 2014

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>WORK PROGRAMME REPORT</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Chair of the Coordinating Committee</b>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress made developing the Scrutiny Work Programme for the Coordinating Committee and other Policy and Performance Committees. Members are requested to consider the proposals for the work programme as set out in this report.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 In line with the Council's constitution, the Coordinating Committee is responsible for determining the Scrutiny Work Programme across the four Policy and Performance Committees. The work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council and be informed by service priorities and performance, risk management information, public or service user feedback and referrals from the Executive.

2.2 The work programme is made up of a combination of standing items, officer reports and scrutiny reviews. This provides the committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

2.3 At its last meeting (2 July), Coordinating Committee agreed that the Chair, Vice Chair and Party Spokespersons meet to discuss potential items for this Committee's Work Programme. This approach has also been adopted by the other three Policy and Performance Committees. It was also acknowledged at the last meeting that in the short term, Member and officer capacity should be retained for the scrutiny of the budget options arising from the Future Council Programme.

### 3.0 FEEDBACK FROM CHAIRS / SPOKESPERSONS MEETING

3.1 A meeting of the Chairs and spokespersons was held on 17<sup>th</sup> July to discuss potential items for the work programme. The discussion also reviewed items that were proposed / outstanding from the previous municipal year. A summary of the main points arising from the discussion is set out below:

3.2 **Future Council** – It is suggested the scrutiny of the budget options when these are published in September should be prioritised. There has been agreement at each of the Policy and Performance Committees for a working group of the Chairs and Spokespersons of all committees to agree a consistent approach to scrutinising these.

- 3.3 **Constituency Committees** – It was proposed an officer report setting out the progress with Constituency Committees is brought to the next committee meeting. This report is included as an item elsewhere on this agenda. The item was proposed last year as a potential review to explore how Constituency Committee decision-making is developing and able to be scrutinised.
- 3.4 **Cumulative Impact Policy** – It was proposed that a piece of work be considered later in the year to review what other authorities are doing and how Wirral should take this aspect of planning and licensing forward given its Public Health impacts.
- 3.5 It was agreed the following items outstanding from last year could be covered either at normal committee meetings or through a single ‘workshop’ session later in the municipal year:
- Review the content of the wider scrutiny work programme
  - Quality Assurance of previous Scrutiny Reviews to promote good practice
  - Review the consistency of developing recommendations arising from Reviews.
- 3.6 It was proposed that a further outstanding item from last year, to review the implementation and impact of Universal Credit should be deferred in line with the implementation timetable. It was suggested any review under this heading might better come under the remit of the Transformation and Resources Committee.

#### **4.0 THE WIDER WORK PROGRAMME**

- 4.1 As set out in 2.3 above, work programme meetings have been scheduled with the Chairs and Spokespersons of the other three Policy and Performance Committees. Feedback from these sessions will be reported into each of the Committee meetings in September for work programmes to be approved.
- 4.2 As these meetings follow Coordinating Committee it is not possible at the 3<sup>rd</sup> September meeting to take a collective overview of the wider work programme. It is proposed this review is undertaken by the Chairs and Party Spokespersons of the coordinating committee at a future session in line with 3.5 above.
- 4.3 To ensure the Coordinating Committee are able to reflect on any emerging topics or activity proposed by the other Policy and Performance Committees, it is further proposed the remaining regular Coordinating Committee meetings of the municipal year (in January and April) are re-scheduled to come last in those two cycles of Policy and Performance meetings. It is anticipated this will allow Coordinating Committee to take a more reflective overview in coordinating the wider scrutiny programme.

#### **5.0 PROGRESS IMPLEMENTING PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 The outstanding recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews for this committee are limited to those from the review into the Council’s preparation for Individual Electoral Registration (IER) reported to Committee in January. In line with a specific recommendation of that panel, the transfer to IER has been included on the agendas of the recent round of Constituency Committees to ensure borough wide promotion of this change to arrangements for electoral registration.
- 5.2 In line with a further recommendation of that Scrutiny Review, a report on progress implementing IER is included as an item elsewhere on this agenda.

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 6.1 Members are requested to consider the feedback from the meeting of the Chairs and Party Spokespersons and approve the proposals in respect of the work programme for the Coordinating Committee.
- 6.2 Members are requested to approve the proposals in respect of re-scheduling Coordinating Committee meetings later in the municipal year to follow the meetings of the other three Policy and Performance Committee meetings.

## **7.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 7.1 For Members of the Coordinating Committee to agree the emerging work programme for 2014/15.

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

## **APPENDICES**

N/A