

WIRRAL COUNCIL

TRANSFORMATION AND RESOURCES POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

16 SEPTEMBER 2014

SUBJECT:	<i>COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE</i>

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report updates Members on the current position regarding the Committee's work programme. Consideration is given to the need for flexibility in the work programme, particularly in terms of scrutinising options arising from the Future Council Programme in September.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 The Transformation and Resources Policy & Performance Committee is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual work programme. This 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 Cabinet or Council.

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

2.3 In determining items for the Scrutiny Work Programme, good practice recommends the following criteria should be applied:

- Public Interest – topics should resonate with the local community
- Impact – there should be clear objectives and outcomes that make the work worthwhile
- Council Performance – the focus should be on improving performance
- Keeping in Context – should ensure best use of time and resources

3.0 WORK PROGRAMME OF THE TRANSFORMATION AND RESOURCES POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

3.1 A meeting of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Group Spokespersons was convened to develop the work programme for the municipal year. It was subsequently proposed and agreed with the Strategic Director of Transformation and Resources that senior officers would provide a brief overview of services and issues relating to the Directorate to this committee. This would allow all Members to engage with senior officers to determine appropriate items for the work programme. A draft work programme for this Committee is attached as Appendix 1.

3.2 As part of the 2013/14 Work Programme, a Task & Finish review of Sickness Absence was approved by the Committee to be included as part of the 2014/15 Work

Programme. At the meeting of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Group Spokespersons, it was proposed that this review should not commence at this time due to no perceived value being provided at a time when the Council is delivering the Future Council project. It is proposed that this is removed from the work programme.

- 3.3 An update on the proposed arrangements for the scrutiny of Future Council options is elsewhere on the agenda of this meeting. It is anticipated that this detailed scrutiny work will be carried out during September and October, reporting back to the meeting of this Committee on 5 November 2014.

4.0 PREVIOUS / CURRENT SCRUTINY REVIEWS – UPDATE

4.1 Local Welfare Assistance

A meeting of the Task & Finish panel was convened on 6 August 2014 to determine the scope of this review. However, it transpired that there was uncertainty in regards to the unspent grant funding from previous years. It was agreed with the Chair of this Committee and the Members of the review panel that the review should be suspended until any Cabinet decision on the unspent grant funding was clear as it would not be possible to establish an appropriate scope for the review at this time.

5.0 Spotlight Sessions

- 5.1 During the previous municipal year, Committee Members of the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee benefited from a number of sessions led by health partners who described the services provided by their organisation and the key challenges faced.
- 5.2 It is therefore proposed that this Committee considers introducing sessions during the municipal year for Members to meet in an informal setting if a need has been identified. These sessions, titled 'Spotlight Sessions', will enable a topic to be explored with relevant officers or organisations in greater detail than time would allow during a formal Committee meeting. However, a short summary of the session would be provided to the next available Policy & Performance Committee meeting allowing any formal discussion and resolutions to be agreed.
- 5.3 Appropriate topics can be identified through formal Committee meetings or through the Committee's agenda setting meetings, held with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Group Spokespersons. Topics can include, for example, an overview of relevant legislation or specific service provision.

6.0 PROGRESS IMPLEMENTING PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The outstanding recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews for this committee relate to the following Reviews completed in the previous municipal year:
- 6.2 Freedom of Information
The recommendations made in the Freedom of Information Scrutiny Review and how these will be monitored will be discussed at a future Chair, Vice-Chair and Party Spokespersons meeting.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Members are requested to consider and approve items for the Transformation and Resources Policy & Performance Committee work programme for 2014/15 as shown in Appendix 1, making any necessary amendments.
- 7.2 Committee is requested to approve the proposal for Spotlight Sessions to be provided as the need is identified by Members.

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