

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

22 SEPTEMBER 2014

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

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 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 Regeneration and Environment 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 REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

3.1 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 4 November 2014.

3.2 A meeting of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Group Spokespersons and the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment was convened to develop the work programme for the municipal year. At this meeting, it was proposed that a number of officer reports should be requested and included as an agenda item on future Committee agendas. These reports are detailed below and are included on the work programme (Appendix 1).

### 3.3 Street Cleansing Post Budget Options

An officer report is to be provided on the impact of this budget option, up to date performance figures, information around the new cleansing program and the contractor's performance against the programme. The report should include any issues identified with the performance and how these have been responded to.

### 3.4 Monitoring of the Highways Contract

The Highways contract has been awarded to BAM Nuttall. An officer report is to be provided detailing the contract value and what the contract will specifically deliver including what has been lost from the previous contract with Colas. The report should include the issues relating to the handover from Colas to BAM Nuttall and what outstanding issues remain.

### 3.5 Implications of Benefit Reforms on Under Occupancy

This report should provide an update on all the recommendations made in the 'Implications of Benefit Reforms on Under Occupancy' scrutiny review that was completed in March 2013.

### 3.6 DWP Work Programme

This report will provide details of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Work Programme. Locally DWP has contracted with two 'prime' contractors to deliver this provision which aims to support local people in receipt of DWP benefits into sustainable employment. The report will include latest performance data for delivery in Wirral as published by DWP and will seek to provide comparators where available.

## **4.0 PREVIOUS / CURRENT SCRUTINY REVIEWS – UPDATE**

### 4.1 Review of Apprenticeships

The Apprenticeships Scrutiny Review has now been completed, following a meeting with the Chair of the Review Panel and the respective Portfolio Holders for Economy and Children and Family Services. The final report is covered elsewhere on the agenda for Members to consider.

### 4.2 Review of Car Parking

The Car Parking Scrutiny Review has now been completed, following a meeting with the Chair of the Review panel and the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transportation. The final report is covered elsewhere on the agenda for Members to consider.

## **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 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 Members are requested to approve the Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee work programme for 2014/15 as shown in Appendix 1, making any necessary amendments.
- 6.2 Committee is requested to approve the proposal for Spotlight Sessions to be provided as the need is identified by Members.

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