

WIRRAL COUNCIL

TRANSFORMATION AND RESOURCES POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

4 FEBRUARY 2015

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

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report updates Members on the current position regarding the work programme for the Transformation and Resources Policy & Performance Committee.

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.

3.0 TRANSFORMATION AND RESOURCES POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

3.1 The work programme was presented to the Transformation and Resources Policy and Performance Committee held on 16 September 2014. The work programme was subsequently approved and is attached as Appendix 1.

4.0 PREVIOUS / CURRENT SCRUTINY REVIEWS – UPDATE

4.1 Local Welfare Assistance Scheme

At the Transformation and Resources Policy & Performance Committee meeting held on 16 September 2014, a recommendation was made in relation to the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme Task & Finish Review. This recommendation was:

“That this Committee recognises that given Central Government has cut the money for the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme it is necessary to review how it can continue, and Committee recommends that Cabinet ensures that this money is spent to deliver for those people that the Local Welfare

Assistance Scheme was initially established. A suggestion of how this might be achieved is a Task and Finish group.”

The minute and resolution from the Cabinet meeting held on 6 November 2014 is detailed below:

“Councillor Phil Davies informed the Cabinet that he considered it to be absolutely outrageous that the Government was cutting the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme which helped the most vulnerable people in society, those who were in dire need. He reported that the Council had approximately £600,000 set aside to help. A national consultation was underway on this and he considered it imperative that the Cabinet sent a clear message that it condemned the Government for making these cuts. He also proposed that the Council await the outcome of the consultation exercise before deciding how to allocate the funds still available within its budget.

RESOLVED: That

*(1) the Cabinet condemned the Government for cutting the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme; and
(2) the outcome of the Government’s current consultation exercise be awaited before decisions are made on the allocation of the funding available in the Council’s budget.”*

Members of the Transformation and Resources Policy & Performance Committee should consider whether the Local Welfare Assistance Task & Finish Review should continue or whether it should be removed from the work programme.

5.0 PROGRESS IMPLEMENTING PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Freedom of Information Scrutiny Review

At the agenda setting meeting held on 13 November 2014, it was agreed that a report providing an update to all the recommendations made in the Freedom of Information Scrutiny Review that was completed in April 2014 would be presented to the Committee meeting scheduled for 21 April 2015.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Members are requested to approve the Transformation and Resources Policy & Performance Committee work programme for 2014/15 as shown in the appendix, making any necessary amendments.

REPORT AUTHOR: Michael Lester
telephone (0151) 691 8628
email Michaellester@wirral.gov.uk