

WIRRAL COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

16 MARCH 2015

SUBJECT:	Policy and Performance Committee Chairs' Reports
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	Policy and Performance Committee Chairs
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Cllr Ann McLachlan (Governance & Improvement)
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides Members of the Council with an update on the work carried out by the Policy and Performance Committees. The report includes contributions from each of the Committee Chairs. Members of Council are requested to note the contents of this report.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 The Policy and Performance Committees were established as part of the constitutional changes agreed by Council on 30 April 2013. There are three committees aligned to the Council's Directorates and a fourth Coordinating Committee which is responsible for corporate oversight and call-ins.

2.2 The committees are responsible for discharging the Council's scrutiny function. Formal meetings include performance management, budget monitoring and policy updates as standing items. Each committee has also developed a work programme which includes a combination of officer reports and scrutiny reviews conducted by smaller, cross-party groups of committee members.

3.0 COORDINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

3.1 We have changed the committee calendar so that Coordinating Committee meets at the end of the Policy and Performance meetings cycle, rather than at the beginning. This enables Coordinating Committee to review the progress and evolving work programmes of the other Policy and Performance Committees.

3.2 There has only been one ordinary meeting of this committee since last Full Council. However, there have been six meetings to deal with call-in hearings. I know this has proved difficult for many members, and I would like to thank members for the work they have put in preparing for these and for attending and engaging in the process.

- 3.3 Other work has included successfully developing a standard approach across the Policy Performance committees to scrutinising the budget proposals. I hope we will be able to refine this further next year so that scrutinising budget options can fit in better with committee work programmes. The committee has also looked at performance across the council and the financial monitoring
- 3.4 We are looking to do more work to undertake increased pre-decision scrutiny in the next municipal year. We will also look at issues where different departments can align their policies more effectively to deal with problems that cause concern to Wirral residents such as alcohol consumption and anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Moira McLaughlin

4.0 FAMILIES & WELLBEING CHAIR'S REPORT

- 4.1 During the last cycle of meetings Families and Wellbeing has continued with its very full agenda, both through the main committee work programme and its sub groups and panels.
- 4.2 Full committee has received reports from Wirral University Teaching Hospital (WUTH) on the recovery plan they have developed to cope with an over spend of £4.2m. We will continue to monitor the impact of that on standards and performance over the coming months.
- 4.3 We have received information on the pressures in Accident and Emergency and will now look at the knock-on effect of that on the North West Regional Ambulance Service. We have also received reports on the Child Poverty Strategy and Youth and Antisocial behaviour as well as looking at data relating to performance in Adult Care, Children and Young People's Department and Public Health.
- 4.4 The Attainment sub-committee has continued to monitor OFSTED reports on local schools, and the Health and Care Performance Panel has looked at how WUTH are planning to improve standards following the recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection report which highlighted the need to improve in a number of areas. In addition, we have looked at how the Quality Assurance Team is monitoring the standards in care of Home Care providers.
- 4.5 Cllr. Wendy Clements and I represented Wirral on a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee for Merseyside and Cheshire to look at the proposed changes of delivery of care at Clatterbridge Cancer Centre. The joint committee, representing eight authorities across Cheshire and Merseyside, unanimously agreed to support the proposed future model of cancer services for Cheshire and Merseyside, including the new site adjacent to the Royal Liverpool University Teaching Hospital.
- 4.6 We are due to complete gathering our evidence for the Review of Safeguarding procedures by the end of March and will produce a report to go to committee at the start of next municipal year. We have also received an initial report on the effectiveness of systems for dealing with the number of hospital admissions. This will lead to us undertaking a piece of panel work commencing in March for completion in the next municipal year.

Councillor Moira McLaughlin

5.0 REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT CHAIR'S REPORT

5.1 Since the last update to Council the Committee has met on two occasions and received reports on the following topics:

- The Department of Work and Pensions work programme – setting out performance data in relation job outcomes and worklessness.
- Dangerous dogs – including the current legal framework, current powers, resource available and recent incidents.
- Investing in Wirral's infrastructure – including recent investment and capital expenditure for roads and footways and comparator information with other authorities.
- The Council's Street Cleansing contract – setting out how the service has been re-designed to realise £1 million worth of savings
- The Council's Highways and Engineering contract – setting out the management arrangements and expected outcomes from the new contract with BAM Nuttall.

5.2 At the next meeting we will be reviewing the Directorate Plan for the coming year as well as the usual standing items.

5.3 In terms of the work programme, the Committee has agreed to prioritise two pieces of task and finish work. The first review relates to the Council's Coastal Strategy following Cabinet approval in October 2013. This review has now commenced with an initial scoping meeting. The second task & finish review will look at the issue of Homelessness and how this is being addressed by the Council. It is anticipated that this will commence in the new Municipal Year.

5.4 Since the last update to Council, Cllr Leech and myself have attended a number of Combined Authority Scrutiny meetings. We are currently involved in a review examining European Funding arrangements.

Councillor Mike Sullivan

6.0 TRANSFORMATION & RESOURCES CHAIR'S REPORT

6.1 The Committee met in February and this has been the only formal meeting since the last report to Council. The committee was presented with a number of reports, which prompted discussion and questions for officers. These included:

- An update report on the current status of Council Tax and Accounts Receivable as at 31 December 2014 compared with 31 December 2013
- A report on the work to implement the Future Council proposals during 2014
- A report to update Members on delivery of the Council's ICT Strategic Implementation Plan.

6.2 It was also agreed in February that a report be brought forward in the new municipal year on the review of office accommodation.

6.3 As part of the regular Work Programme Report, an update was provided on the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme (LWAS). This confirmed that the £600,000 under spend held in reserve from 2013/14 would be used for 2014/15 when

central government funding for the scheme ceases. The Committee agreed that the Task and Finish Panel previously set up to look at how best to spend the LWAS funding, would resume with the same panel members involved. A scoping meeting has now been held and it was agreed that an evidence day would be the most appropriate method for undertaking this review. A final report is to be presented to Cabinet in June with recommendations about how this resource could be allocated.

- 6.3 I would like thank all the Committee members for their participation and input and look forward to continuing our work together in the future, particularly on the LWAS, which I believe will be an important and productive piece of work.

Councillor Janette Williamson

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 N/A

8.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 N/A

9.0 CONSULTATION

9.1 N/A

10.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

10.1 N/A

11.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

11.1 N/A

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

12.1 N/A

13.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13.1 N/A

14.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

14.1 The report is for information and there are no direct equalities implications.

15.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

15.1 N/A

16.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

16.1 N/A

17.0 RECOMMENDATION

17.1 Members are requested to consider the contents of this report and whether they have any questions for the Chairs of the Policy and Performance Committees.

18.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

18.1 To update Members on the progress with Policy and Performance Committees.

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APPENDICES

N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL

N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council – Revisions to the Constitution	30/04/13
Council – Reports from Policy and Performance Committee Chairs	14/10/13
Council – Reports from Policy and Performance Committee Chairs	16/12/13
Council – Reports from Policy and Performance Committee Chairs	10/03/14
Scrutiny Annual Report to Council	14/07/14
Council – Reports from Policy and Performance Committee Chairs	20/10/14
Council – Reports from Policy and Performance Committee Chairs	08/12/14