

WIRRAL COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

12 OCTOBER 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 each of 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 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 groups of committee members.

3.0 COORDINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

3.1 At the time of writing, the first of the year's Coordinating committee meetings has been held, with the second being scheduled for 30th September.

3.2 The aim for Coordinating Committee this year is to undertake more in-depth scrutiny through Task and Finish work which we weren't able to do last year because of the number of call-ins that we were required to deal with. We have established a panel of 4 members from across the political groups to look at how the Government's alcohol strategy can be progressed locally. An initial scoping meeting has been held and the review will have a particular focus on the use of Cumulative Impact Policies and their potential to improve public health outcomes.

3.3 Through this Coordinating committee we will also look to develop a common approach across the Policy and Performance committees to scrutinising the impact of the Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision. This is in a similar way to the approach used to look at budget proposals last year. We have also requested that officers

work on alternative ways of presenting performance data so that elected members can obtain a more in-depth picture of Council performance.

- 3.4 Cllr Williamson and I have signed up with the Northwest Employers Strategic Scrutiny network and are combining this with LGA training for Scrutiny Chairs so that we can use the training and sharing of best practice to help with Scrutiny here on Wirral.

Councillor Moira McLaughlin

4.0 FAMILIES & WELLBEING CHAIR'S REPORT

- 4.1 Since the last Full Council we have continued the work of this very busy committee. Thanks to the other members of the committee for their input and work. At the meetings of the full committee, reports on Directorate performance and finance have been presented and scrutinised. A request for more comprehensive performance data is being acted on by officers. We have also looked at the departmental plans.

- 4.2 The very thorough piece of task and finish work on the safeguarding of children is nearing completion and it is expected that the report will be presented to the next committee and then to Cabinet. We have moved on to scope a review to scrutinise avoidable hospital admissions at Wirral University Teaching Hospital (WUTH) and how strategies are being developed across the partner agencies to develop effective community-based services. We have asked a representative of Healthwatch Wirral to join the panel for this review to give us a service-user perspective.

- 4.3 A Spotlight session has been held which gave an insight into the use of Vanguard Status. This was made available to all members of the Council and was very well attended. This is a key initiative that will contribute to the plan to reduce dependency on hospital delivered care and move care to a community based service.

- 4.4 The Health and Care Panel has continued to monitor standards of care delivered by the health and social care providers. We have provided a submission to the Care Quality Commission, at their request, on our perception of standards and care at WUTH. This was in advance of the full inspection which has recently been carried out and follows concerns raised in their previous inspection and those raised by Monitor over the hospital's financial position. We have done extensive work on this in the last 12months.

- 4.5 The Children Sub Committee meets three times during the municipal year. A recent meeting reviewed progress relating to the Early Years and Children's Centre Review; the redesign of Specialist Services; and attainment at Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and GCSE levels in 2015.

Councillor Moira McLaughlin

5.0 REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT CHAIR'S REPORT

- 5.1 The Committee has met in July and September since the last Council meeting. A number of reports have been presented to Members for discussion and these include:

- The current delivery of tourism in Wirral and plans for the future
- An overview of how Merseytravel operates and the Transport Levy
- An update on Devolution

5.2 The Committee has agreed to undertake a task & finish review on tourism as its next piece of work following on from a report that was presented in July. A Scrutiny Panel has now been agreed and a scoping meeting has been scheduled for October.

5.3 The task & finish scrutiny review on the Council's Coastal Strategy is still progressing and a number of meetings with stakeholders are to be arranged. A task & finish scrutiny review on homelessness and the impact of the removal of housing benefit for under twenty ones has now been scheduled to commence in January 2016. To support this review, a report outlining the key issues will be presented to the committee at December's meeting.

5.4 Councillor Leech and myself continue to represent the Council on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel. Since the last update to Council, a final report on the European Funding Scrutiny Review has been completed and presented to both the Liverpool City Region Scrutiny Panel and the Combined Authority. The report was well received and all recommendations were agreed. A piece of work on Affordable Transport is currently underway. The scope of the review is around the high cost of short journeys by bus and why bus operators have different fare levels in place across different areas/routes of the City Region.

5.5 I would like to thank Members of this Committee for their continued support and engagement in developing and delivering the work programme for this year.

Councillor Mike Sullivan

6.0 TRANSFORMATION & RESOURCES CHAIR'S REPORT

6.1 The Transformation and Resources Policy & Performance Committee has met twice since the last report to Full Council (July and September). The committee was presented with a number of reports which prompted discussion and questions for officers. These included:

- An Interim report on reconfiguration of library services.
- An update report on Asset Management.
- Performance Appraisals
- Attendance Management Policy
- I.T. Services Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Update
- Customer Relationship Management System

6.2 The Committee also received the final report from the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme (LWAS) Scrutiny Review. This report was referred to Cabinet 29 June at which all six recommendations were accepted and there was some very positive feedback on the value and benefit of this piece of work for people in desperate need. It was agreed that the Scrutiny Panel would review progress with the LWAS after 6 months.

- 6.3 The Committee has agreed to prioritise its next piece of task and finish work around the Council's disaster recovery arrangements. A further piece of task and Finish work will commence in the New Year to review the operating arrangements for Community Libraries. This will follow the completion of some research into the impact of the implementation of 18 hours opening and the outcome of the Leisure and Culture Review currently being undertaken.
- 6.4 I would like thank all the Committee Members for their participation and input and look forward to continuing our work together in the future. I am very proud of our Local Welfare Assistance Scheme Report, which I believe will play an increasingly important role in light of further Central Government welfare reforms.
- 6.5 I would also like to offer a huge thanks to Malcolm Flanagan who is leaving the Council. He has been a constant source of advice and information both personally to me as Chair, and to all members of the Committee. We all wish him well for the future.

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 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality? (c) No because of another reason which is:
The report is for information to Members 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.

REPORT AUTHOR: Michael Callon
Team Leader Performance / Scrutiny
telephone (0151) 691 8379
email michaelcallon@wirral.gov.uk

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	16/03/15
Scrutiny Annual Report to Council	06/07/15