

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

2 DECEMBER 2015

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b><i>WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT</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 work programme for the Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee as agreed for the 2015/16 municipal year.

### 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 In determining items for the Scrutiny Work Programme, good practice recommends the following criteria could 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

2.3 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. The current work programme for the Committee is attached as Appendix 1.

### 3.0 REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

3.1 As part of the committee's work programme workshop meeting, a report on homelessness and the impact of removing housing benefit for under-21s was scheduled for inclusion on this agenda to inform a Task & Finish scrutiny review. This report has now been rescheduled for the committee meeting to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> January to allow for the full impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review to be understood.

- 3.2 At the agenda setting meeting for this committee, the Chair and Party Spokespersons agreed that it would be useful for Members to receive regular updates on the devolution deal for the Liverpool City Region. This update is covered elsewhere on the agenda and will now be included as a standing item for future committee meetings.

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

##### **4.1 Tourism**

An initial scoping meeting for the Task & Finish scrutiny review on Tourism has now taken place. It was agreed that Councillor Jerry Williams would be Chair of the Review Panel. The remaining members of the Review Panel are Councillors Adam Sykes, Jean Stapleton, Jim Crabtree and Tracey Pilgrim. The scope of the review requires formalising and further updates on progress will be made available to Members during the municipal year.

#### **5.0 WIRRAL PLAN WORKSHOPS**

- 5.1 The three scrutiny workshops for Members to consider the delivery of the Wirral Plan have now been held. The workshops covered each of the three themes (People, Business and Environment) and the outcomes are to be presented in a consolidated report to the Policy & Performance Coordinating Committee scheduled for 10th December.

#### **6.0 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY SCRUTINY PANEL - UPDATE**

- 6.1 The LCRCA Scrutiny Panel is carrying out a review on “Affordable Transport” with the objective to look specifically at why short journey distance cash fares are expensive and why operators have different fare levels in place across different areas/routes of the City Region. Evidence sessions have now been held with a number of bus operators across the LCR areas. The final report is to be presented to the LCRCA Scrutiny Panel meeting scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> January. A copy of this report will be presented to the next Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee.
- 6.2 The LCRCA Scrutiny Panel agreed that “Housing” would be the next topic for review and an initial meeting is to be scheduled for December to determine the scope.

#### **7.0 PROGRESS IMPLEMENTING PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **7.1 Apprenticeships**

An update on the progress made to implement the recommendations arising from the Apprenticeships Scrutiny Review is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

##### **7.2 Car Parking Scrutiny Review**

An update on recommendations made in the Car Parking Scrutiny Review will be provided to this Committee later in the municipal year.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 Members are requested to note the contents of this report and approve the updated Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee work programme for 2015/16 as shown in the appendix, making any required amendments.

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