

WIRRAL COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

14 DECEMBER 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 (TRANSFORMATION & 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 A scrutiny review into the potential use of Cumulative Impact Possibility has started taking evidence. This is aimed at improving public health outcomes by better understanding the link between the high densities of licensed premises and fast food takeaways with excessive alcohol consumption and poor diet. A report setting out the findings will be brought back to committee in the New Year.

3.2 The Committee also approved an approach for the pre-decision scrutiny of the Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision Delivery Plan, which was subsequently agreed by all the chairs and spokespersons of the Policy and Performance committees. The approach took the form of a series of workshops over 3 consecutive nights to examine in detail the 20 Wirral Plan pledges and allow members time to question officers and make comment on them.

3.3 The workshops, delivered in the first week of November, were very well attended by members and lively discussions followed each of the presentations.

A follow up report will be presented to a specially convened meeting of the Coordinating Committee on 10 December to consider and discuss the comments put forward by Members. The report will be referred on to Cabinet as the non-executive Members' formal response to the consultation on this plan.

- 3.4 In response to a resolution of the Committee during the summer, a training session is being provided for Members in December on performance management. This will include how a new outcome-based framework is being developed for the on-going performance management of the Wirral Plan.

Councillor Moira McLaughlin

4.0 FAMILIES & WELLBEING CHAIR'S REPORT

- 4.1 At the most recent meeting of the Families and Wellbeing committee, reports were presented which updated members on progress with the all Age Disability Strategy and Wirral Evolutions, the Local Authority Trading Company set up to deliver Day Services.
- 4.2 The Task and Finish group set up to look at systems in place to reduce avoidable admissions to hospital has now held several evidence gathering sessions. There have also been a number of visits to service providers who have a key role in reducing the number of people being taken to hospital. Our excellent working relationship with Healthwatch continues to develop and Karen Prior the Chief Executive has joined the panel for this work. Members of the Committee have also received the Healthwatch Annual Report.
- 4.3 The Health and Care Performance Panel has met on two occasions and continues to monitor progress at Wirral University Teaching Hospital on the financial situation as they try to cope with the pressure on services and resources. The Panel also reviewed the hospital's improvement plan following recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections.
- 4.4 In addition we have been looking at complaints to the Department of Adult Social Services (DASS) from those using services. In particular, we have highlighted how complaints about commissioned serves are dealt with.

Councillor Moira McLaughlin

5.0 REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT CHAIR'S REPORT

- 5.1 The Coastal Strategy review is progressing with a further evidence-gathering session being held in December. A representative from the Environment Agency will attend to discuss issues around Partnership Funding and the Council's local levy contributions. It is anticipated a report will be finalised in January before being referred to the Regeneration and Environment Committee for consideration.
- 5.2 A scrutiny review of Tourism has also now begun and a scoping meeting has been held. The review is focussing on how the Council can further market its tourism offer, including its key heritage sites. A number of meetings are to be held which will include representatives from the Wirral Heritage and History Association and the Local Enterprise Partnership.

- 5.3 In agreement with the Party Spokespersons, the Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee will now have a standing item on the agenda for Members to receive an update from officers on devolution and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA).
- 5.4 The LCRCA Scrutiny Panel has completed a review of Affordable Transport which looks specifically at why short journey cash fares are expensive and why operators have different fare levels in place across the City Region. Evidence sessions were held with a number of bus operators from different areas. The final report will be presented to the LCRCA Scrutiny Panel on 13 January and will be brought to the Regeneration and Environment Committee in March. The Panel has agreed that Housing will be the next topic for examination.
- 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 At the last Committee meeting in September, it was agreed a task and finish scrutiny review of the Council's disaster recovery arrangements would be carried out. A Review Panel of six Members has been set up with Councillor Adam Sykes confirmed as the Chair. A scoping meeting was held on 29 October and one of the outcomes for the review is to raise the profile of disaster recovery across the Council. A single evidence session will be held in January 2016.
- 6.2 A scrutiny review of the Council's library service was included in the work programme for the year and was identified as a priority piece of work. It was subsequently agreed by Members that the review should commence in the New Year to ensure that information relating to a number of reviews in progress can be made available to Members. This includes the Leisure and Culture Review and a review of the impact of the 18 hours implemented across the community libraries.
- 6.3 I would like to thank the officers and Committee members for their hard work and contributions to our valuable scrutiny 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 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 and 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	14/10/13

Committee Chairs	
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
Council – Reports from Policy and Performance Committee Chairs	12/10/15