

WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

18 JANUARY 2016

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 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 A report on homelessness and the impact of removing housing benefit for under-21s was previously agreed to be rescheduled for inclusion on this agenda to inform a Task & Finish scrutiny review. Government has stated that £12 billion of savings would be delivered but details on how welfare reforms will be implemented have yet to be provided and this has an impact on how homelessness is responded to by the Council. It was agreed with Party

Spokespersons that a report will be presented to the committee when full details are made available.

4.0 PREVIOUS / CURRENT SCRUTINY REVIEWS – UPDATE

4.1 Tourism

The first evidence session was held in December and Members of the Review Panel had an opportunity to talk to the Council's Heritage Officer and a representative from the History and Heritage Association. The session provided the Review Panel with a detailed background to the diversity of heritage sites in Wirral and an understanding of the challenges to promote these. A further evidence session will be held with representatives from the Local Enterprise Partnership and Wirral Met College.

4.2 Coastal Strategy

The evidence session for the Coastal Strategy scrutiny review has now been held. The Review Panel focused particularly on areas detailed in the strategy that required intervention in the short-term from flood and coastal erosion risk and how these would be funded. A representative from the Environment Agency was also invited to the session to talk about Local Levy funding. A wrap-up session is to be scheduled imminently.

4.3 Budget Scrutiny

Workshops are to be held to enable members of each of the three Policy & Performance Committees to consider relevant items which form part of the 2016/17 budget proposals. Two workshops have been arranged for the Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee (11th and 18th January). The outcomes from all of the workshops will form the basis of a single report which will be presented to Coordinating Committee on 16th February.

5.0 SPOTLIGHT SESSION

- 5.1 A Spotlight Session for Members focusing on Birkenhead Town and its immediate environs of strategic importance is to be arranged. The session will be informal and open to all non-executive Members. Once agreed, the final arrangements will be made available to Members.

6.0 WIRRAL PLAN WORKSHOPS

- 6.1 Members will be aware that three workshops were held in early November to enable members to consider the delivery of the Wirral Plan. The workshops covered each of the three themes: People, Business and Environment. The outcomes of the workshops were consolidated into a single report and presented to a meeting of the Coordinating Committee on 10th December 2015. Feedback from the workshops has been provided to the authors of the appropriate strategy documents as they are developed and finalised.

7.0 PROGRESS IMPLEMENTING PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 There are no further progress reports at this time

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.

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