



COUNCIL

14 MARCH 2016

REPORT TITLE	POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS
REPORT OF	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR, TRANSFORMATION & RESOURCES

REPORT SUMMARY

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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

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.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To update Members of the Council on the work of the Policy and Performance Committees and provide an opportunity to ask questions to the Chairs.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 N/A

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Coordinating Committee Chair's Report

- 3.1 Since the last update to Council, the Co-ordinating Committee agreed and recommended a consistent approach for each of the Policy and Performance Committees to review in detail the 2016/17 budget proposals. Each of the committees followed a workshop format to undertake their own scrutiny and develop a report setting out their findings. The three reports were submitted to the last meeting of Co-ordinating Committee on 16 February and referred on to Cabinet as the scrutiny response to the budget consultation process. This was the second time this approach had been used for budget scrutiny and there was positive feedback from the Members that supported these workshops.
- 3.2 The workshop approach is consistent with the way the 20 pledges of the Wirral Plan were examined in November last year. This approach to scrutiny enables a quick turnaround providing an opportunity to influence proposals as they are being developed. It is the intention to repeat this as the work on the pledges continues, as a means to monitor progress on delivery of the plan.
- 3.3 At the February meeting the Committee reviewed the annual report of the Council's Equality & Diversity Plan. The committee also reviewed the quarterly performance and finance reports. It is expected that performance reports will be revised in the new municipal year in line with new reporting arrangements for the Wirral Plan.
- 3.4 The Task and Finish group looking at how Council Policies can be used to address cumulative impact problems has almost completed gathering its evidence. The review aligns to the 'Wirral Resident's Live Healthier Lives' pledge of the Wirral Plan and is reviewing the density of licenced premises and availability of cheap, high strength alcohol as well as geographical concentrations of fast food outlets. The review is expected to be completed in the next month and will report to Committee at the start of the new municipal year.
- 3.5 When that work is completed, the plan is to move on to the next scheduled task and finish panel which will look at the number of councillors in Wirral with reference to factors such as population size and profile, the role of ward councillors and size of workloads. We plan to start this work in the new municipal year.

Councillor Moira McLaughlin

FAMILIES & WELLBEING CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.7 During the last Council cycle, the Families and Wellbeing Policy and Performance Committee held a workshop to scrutinise the officer proposals for budget savings which fall within the Committee's remit. The workshop was attended by 13 of the 15 committee members with all members present contributing to the discussion at the workshop. The report on their comments was prepared, agreed and went to Coordinating Committee to be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration as the Committee's contribution to the consultation process.
- 3.8 At the scheduled Committee meeting, in January, a presentation was given on the Safeguarding Adults Annual Report by the Chair of the Board, Bernard Walker. A report on meeting the housing needs of vulnerable adults was also taken, as were presentations on the draft Children's Strategy and the Child Poverty Strategy.
- 3.9 The Health and Care Performance Panel discussed measures to control the spread of infections and meeting the 4 hour A&E target with officers from Wirral University Teaching Hospital. The Children's Sub Committee received reports on post-16 qualifications and the impact on NEETs (young people not in education, employment or training), handling complaints in Children's Services and a report on GCSE and A Level attainment in 2015.
- 3.10 The Safeguarding Children task and finish group has completed its review which has been shared with officers and approved at Committee. The final report will now be presented to Cabinet for approval so that the recommendations can be considered for implementation.
- 3.11 Members have almost completed the evidence gathering for our review of systems designed to reduce the number of avoidable hospital admissions and within the next couple of weeks we will do the scoping exercise for our school readiness review.

Councillor Moira McLaughlin

REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.12 An evidence session has now been held for the Coastal Strategy Task & Finish review. This light touch review looked at how the strategy identifies areas that require intervention in the short-term to reduce flood and coastal erosion risk and the progress made in delivering improved management of risk at these areas. Members also reviewed opportunities to identify and secure contributions to meet shortfalls in funding for all other schemes
- 3.13 The Task & Finish scrutiny review on Tourism is progressing and an evidence session with the Council's Heritage Officer and a representative from the Wirral Heritage and History Association has been held. A further evidence session is scheduled with representation from the Local Enterprise Partnership and Wirral Met College.
- 3.14 The Committee held a "Spotlight" session on Birkenhead for all Members on 29 February. This session informed Members of the regeneration proposals which are currently developing as well as work to be undertaken as part of the Growth Plan.

The session was well attended by Members and it was proposed that a further session is scheduled in six months to look at progress made.

Councillor Mike Sullivan

TRANSFORMATION & RESOURCES CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.15 Committee Members were invited to attend a workshop to scrutinise budget options within the Transformation and Resources remit on Thursday 14th January. Officers presented further information surrounding relevant budget options. These were discussed by Members, and their concerns and positive comments were captured in a report which was presented to Coordinating Committee on 16th February and was also presented to Cabinet on 22nd February as the scrutiny function's response to the budget proposals. The workshops were well attended and I'd like to thank members for their contributions.
- 3.16 At the last Committee meeting on 1st February 2016, Members were presented with an updated report on the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme. This gave Members an opportunity to review progress on the implementation of recommendations made by a task and finish group in June 2015, and their overall impact on the Scheme. Concerns were raised about what would happen to vulnerable people once the residual funding of approximately £450,000 had been spent. It was agreed that the original task and finish group would reconvene over the next few months to explore how the remaining funding could be best utilised.
- 3.17 The underachievement against targets for performance appraisals has been a long-running concern of the Committee, and the Strategic Director of Transformation and Resources presented an updated report to members. The percentage of completed performance appraisals has exceeded the targets set in all areas except one since the last committee in December 2015, but the area will continue to be closely monitored by Committee.
- 3.18 A task and finish panel is currently reviewing Wirral's Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Disaster Recovery Plan. The panel met with officers on 22nd February and will meet again in March before reporting their findings back to Committee early in the new municipal year. I'd like to thank committee for its ongoing participation and hard work.

Councillor Janette Williamson

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are none arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are none arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There are none arising from this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 N/A

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 No because there is no relevance to equality.

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APPENDICES – N/A

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