

Policy and Performance - Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, 15 June 2016

REPORT TITLE:	Review of Scrutiny Arrangements
REPORT OF:	Strategic Director: Transformation and Resources

REPORT SUMMARY

At its meeting 6 June, Cabinet considered a report setting out proposed new arrangements for the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function. The proposals seek to amend the Council's overview and scrutiny arrangements to better align with, support and challenge the effective delivery of the Wirral Plan. This will ensure the scrutiny function adds value in support of better outcomes for Wirral residents. The Cabinet Report is attached to this report as Annexe 1.

The changes would involve replacing the four Policy and Performance Committees with three Overview and Scrutiny Committees based around the Wirral Plan themes of People, Business and Environment. This would mean that Coordinating Committee would no longer continue.

The resolution of Cabinet supports the proposals referring the matter for consideration by Coordinating Committee in advance of being referred to full Council for approval. Subject to approval, consideration would need to be given to how existing items in the scrutiny work programme would be transferred and a proposal for this is included as Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report. The changes would also require a number of amendments to the constitution and the required revisions are included as Appendix 2 – 5 of the Cabinet report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- The Coordinating Committee considers the proposals approved by Cabinet.
- The resolution of Coordinating Committee be referred to Extraordinary Council on 27 June 2016 for consideration as part of the Cabinet's recommendation to Council seeking approval of the proposals

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 For Coordinating Committee to consider the changes to the Council's Scrutiny function and for the views of the Committee to be referred to an extraordinary meeting of Council on 27 June.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 N/A.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The existing arrangements for scrutiny were established in April 2013 as part of a series of changes to the Council's governance and constitution. This involved the creation of four Policy and Performance Committees, with one aligned to each of the Council's three Strategic Directorates and an additional Coordinating Committee responsible for cross-cutting matters and call-in.
- 3.2 The new arrangements would replace the four Policy and Performance Committees with three Overview and Scrutiny Committees. These would be aligned to the Wirral Plan themes of People, Business and Environment. This would ensure scrutiny focuses on supporting the delivery of better outcomes for Wirral residents in support of the delivery of the Wirral Plan.
- 3.3 In addition to the normal statutory scrutiny requirements, the arrangements will provide non-executive Members with the opportunity to scrutinise progress against the twenty Wirral Plan pledges. The arrangements will also allow for scrutiny of the effectiveness of partnership arrangements in place to deliver the Wirral Plan and the transformation proposals being developed to deliver change.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The reduction from four to three committees will mean a reduction in the number of formal committee meetings and a corresponding reduction in officer time required.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The implementation of these proposals will require changes to the Council's Constitution. The proposed amendments are included as Appendix 3, 4 and 5 to the Cabinet report.
- 5.2 The proposal is in line with the Council's legal obligations in relation to its overview and scrutiny functions.

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 The report is being presented to Coordinating Committee for consideration in advance of the decision of full Council.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 No because there is no relevance to equality.

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ANNEXES/APPENDICES

Annexe 1 – Review of Scrutiny Arrangements Cabinet Report 6 June 2016

Appendix 1 – Transfer of Scrutiny Work Programme Items

Appendix 2 – Appointments and Meeting Calendar

Appendix 3 – Article 6 Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Appendix 4 – Call in of Decisions

Appendix 5 – Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

REFERENCE MATERIAL

N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	6 June 2016