

REPORT TITLE	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS
REPORT OF	THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides Members of the Council with an update on the work carried out by each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The report includes contributions from each of the Committee Chairs. Members of Council are requested to note the contents of the report set out in section 3 below.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are requested to consider the contents of the report and whether they have any questions for the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To update Members on the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and provide an opportunity for Members to ask the Chairs questions.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 N/A

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.1 The People Overview and Scrutiny committee has met on two occasions since it was set up earlier this year. The committee agreed to re-establish the two sub-groups which were in place during the time the Families and Wellbeing Committee was in operation. They are the Children Sub-Committee and the Health and Care Performance Panel.
- 3.2 At the two full committee meetings held so far, reports have been taken on establishing member visits to care homes and on progress implementing the recommendations from the Safeguarding Children Review completed earlier this year. There have also been two reports following the completion of scrutiny reviews in respect of Cumulative Impact on Public Health and Preventing Avoidable Hospitable Admissions. These were presented to and approved by the committee and were referred on to Cabinet. We also received the Public Health Annual Report which this year focused on tackling domestic abuse.
- 3.3 We have some concern about the performance data being presented to committee. The new performance reports focus on the progress of the Wirral Plan pledges and the committee has expressed concern that this limits our ability to look further into some service areas. We have asked that additional information be presented to us as a means to address this and are meeting with officers to explore this in the coming weeks.
- 3.4 In August the committee held the first of what will be a series of workshops to examine the business case for changing the way a range of Council services will be delivered. In the first workshop we looked at plans to form integrated teams of community nursing staff and social workers and also the establishment of an integrated commissioning hub. This was a well- attended event and the views expressed by committee members will be included in the report to Cabinet.
- 3.5 In September, the Children Sub-Committee received the report from the recent Ofsted Inspection. The outcome of the Ofsted inspection into elements of Children's services clearly presents a major challenge for the Council and for how scrutiny is conducted in the future. The People committee, and Children's sub-committee, will play a major role in ensuring the improvement plan is delivered appropriately and at pace, enabling the services to quickly deliver major and sustainable improvements.

Councillor Moira McLaughlin

BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.6 A Notice of Motion was referred to the 12 July Committee meeting proposing that Peel Holdings provide a presentation to Members on the latest developments with Wirral Waters. An all-Member briefing session has now been scheduled with Peel being invited to update Members on progress. The session will provide some useful information to further support the Committee in developing its work programme. Further briefings will be scheduled throughout the rest of the municipal year to update on progress with other key elements of the Council's Growth Plan including Birkenhead and the A41 Corridor.
- 3.7 At the July Committee, the Disaster Recovery Scrutiny Review report was presented by the Chair of the Panel, Councillor Adam Sykes. The Committee heard how the recommendations made were put forward to help improve the Council's response in this area and the report was referred to Cabinet for consideration.
- 3.8 In terms of existing task and finish work, the scrutiny review examining Local Tourism is almost complete and a final wrap-up session will be convened in the near future. The Committee has agreed to undertake a full review of the Council's resident parking policy in the light of issues being raised by residents and ward Members in relation to the inflexibility of the current scheme. A Review Panel has been set up to progress this work and a scoping meeting has now been scheduled. The committee has also agreed to a piece of work that will look to support the creative sector in Wirral, particularly in terms of identifying opportunities to attract more of these businesses to Wirral.
- 3.9 Following on from the previous municipal year, Members of the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee were keen to continue receiving updates on all aspects of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. A standing item remains on the Committee's agenda for officers to inform Members of the latest developments, in particular, progress on Devolution.

Councillor Mike Sullivan

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.10 The Environment Overview and Scrutiny committee has met twice since being established earlier in the municipal year. At its first meeting, committee reviewed the outcome of the Coastal Strategy Scrutiny Review referring the findings and recommendations onto Cabinet.
- 3.11 Committee also considered reports setting out the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Governance and Reporting Arrangements as well as the outcomes of a Section 19 Significant Flood Investigation following the events in August 2015. Committee resolved to establish a standing panel to scrutinise Wirral's ability to withstand future flooding and monitor the implementation of recommendations arising from the section 19 reports. At the time of writing, the standing panel has yet to meet. However, a scoping exercise is due to take place shortly.
- 3.12 At its second regular meeting in September, a number of presentations were delivered by Council Officers and the Chief Executive of Merseyside Recycling and

Waste Authority covering the issues and challenges for future domestic waste collection. This followed a special meeting of the Committee on 26 July to review a call in of the Cabinet decision to approve the Domestic Refuse Collection Outline Business Case and consult on the options being put forward. Following receipt of evidence from a number of witnesses at this meeting, Committee resolved to uphold the decision taken by Cabinet.

- 3.13 Committee has discussed performance data requesting more information in relation to the presentation of reports and to gain a better understanding of how measures are selected. Committee resolved to support the proposal for committee Chairs and Spokespersons to meet with officers to improve this.
- 3.14 In September, there was a workshop for committee to consider its work programme for the year. As well as agreeing to set up the Flood Risk Standing Panel, Committee resolved to complete a number of pieces of work inherited from the previous municipal year. It was also agreed that some flexibility be retained within the work programme to allow for work to be commissioned as the need arises. It was also agreed for Committee to receive a series of presentations on the Wirral Plan supporting strategies under the environment theme. These presentations will be given throughout the municipal year as a means to report on progress and inform the future work programme.
- 3.15 In September, the Committee held its first workshop to examine the outline business cases emerging from the Council's transformation programme. The workshop considered the outline business case for changes to the way Community Safety will be provided through an integrated service model with partners. The feedback from this session was reported to committee in September and will be referred on to Cabinet in advance of the decision being taken on the final business case.

Councillor Phillip Brightmore

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 None - the report is for information only.

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APPENDICES – N/A

REFERENCE MATERIAL – N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Scrutiny Annual Report to Council	11 July 2016