



**BUSINESS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 29th November 2016**

REPORT TITLE:	BUSINESS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME REPORT
REPORT OF:	THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

REPORT SUMMARY

The Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in cooperation with the other two Overview & Scrutiny Committees, is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual work programme. This report provides an update regarding progress made since the last Committee meeting held on 13th September.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1. Members are requested to approve the proposed Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2016/17, making any required amendments, including suggestions for additional items.
2. Members are requested to establish a Review Panel for the Supporting the Creative Sector Task & Finish Scrutiny Review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure members of the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of the annual work programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND THE WIRRAL PLAN

3.1.1 The work programme should align with the priorities of the Council and its partners. The programme will be informed by:

- The Wirral Plan pledges
- The Council's transformation programme
- The Council's Forward Plan
- Service performance information
- Risk management information
- Public or service user feedback
- Referrals from Cabinet / Council

3.2 PRINCIPLES FOR PRIORITISATION

3.2.1 Good practice suggests that, in order to maximise the impact of scrutiny, it is necessary to prioritise proposed topics within the work programme. Members may find the following criteria helpful in providing a guideline towards ensuring that the most significant topics are prioritised:

Principles for Prioritisation	
Wirral Plan	Does the topic have a direct link with one of the 2020 pledges?
	Will the review lead to improved outcomes for Wirral residents?
Public Interest	Does the topic have particular importance for Wirral Residents?
Transformation	Will the review support the transformation of the Council?
Financial Significance	Is the subject matter an area of significant spend or potential saving?
	Will the review support the Council in achieving its savings targets?
Timeliness / Effectiveness	Is this the most appropriate time for this topic to be scrutinised?
	Will the review be a good use of Council resources?

- 3.3.2 By assessing prospective topics using these criteria, the Committees can prioritise an effective work programme that ensures relevance and the highest potential to enhance outcomes for residents.

3.3 DELIVERING THE WORK PROGRAMME

- 3.3.1 The work programme consists of a combination of scrutiny reviews, standing items and requested officer reports. Regular work programme update reports will provide the committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

The work programme will be delivered through a combination of:

- Scrutiny reviews undertaken by task & finish groups
- Evidence days and workshops
- Committee reports provided by officers
- Standing committee agenda items, for example, performance monitoring and financial monitoring

3.4 UPDATE ON CURRENT SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

3.4.1 Tourism Task & Finish Scrutiny Review

The scrutiny review has now been completed following a number of evidence sessions and a final wrap-up session. The final report will be presented to this committee in January for consideration of the findings and recommendations made.

3.4.2 Resident Parking Task & Finish Scrutiny Review

The Review Panel has now convened its first meeting to determine the scope of the review. Panel Members include Cllrs Chris Blakely, Dave Mitchell and Jean Stapleton. At the scoping meeting, it was agreed that Cllr. Stapleton would be Chair of the Review Panel. The objective of the review is for the Review Panel to understand the issues around the current policy on new and existing resident parking schemes and consider any options which could be taken forward as improvements to the policy.

3.4.3 Supporting the Creative Sector Scrutiny Review

At the previous committee meeting held on 13th September, it was agreed that a Task & Finish Scrutiny Review on 'Supporting the Creative Sector' would be added to the committee's work programme. It is proposed that the review commences in January 2017 and that the committee appoints a Review Panel to allow a scoping meeting to be scheduled.

3.4.4 Budget Scrutiny

In order to plan for the workshop, as with last year's process, it is proposed that the full list of budget proposals will be reviewed by the Chairs and Spokespersons once they become available. The options falling within the committee's remit will be prioritised for further scrutiny at the workshop.

Relevant officers will be invited to the workshop to provide an overview and answer questions for the proposals selected.

3.5 MEMBER BRIEFING SESSIONS

3.5.1 Peel Holdings delivered a briefing session for Members in October on the development of Wirral Waters. Further presentations to Members are proposed to be delivered on other areas of the Growth Plan, including Birkenhead and the A41 Corridor.

3.6 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS

The following items for the 2016/17 Committee work programme have been identified and will be scheduled for future Committee meetings:

Item	Format	Approximate timescale
Supporting the Creative Sector Scrutiny Review	Task & Finish	Commencing January 2017
Budget Scrutiny	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
Disaster Recovery Scrutiny Review follow-up report	Officer Report	To be confirmed
Transforming Wirral – further business cases	Workshops	To be confirmed
Welfare Reform (including Local Welfare Assistance Scheme)	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
Other Pledge Strategies	Committee presentation	To be confirmed

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

The delivery of the scrutiny work programme will be met from within existing resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

This report is for information to Members and there are no direct equality implications.

REPORT AUTHOR: Michael Lester
Scrutiny Officer
0151 691 8628
email: michaellester@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES: None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date