

<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS</b>
<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report provides Members of the Council with an update on the work carried out by each of the Council's 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 Council Members on the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and provide an opportunity to ask the questions.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 N/A

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT**

- 3.1 At the November committee, a report was provided by Phil Meakin (Head of Collaborative Commissioning for Cheshire, Wirral and Warrington Clinical Commissioning Groups) on the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan for Cheshire and Merseyside. The recently published plan has given rise to some concern and speculation about the impact on future local health services. Members raised a number of concerns including the lack of Local Authority involvement in developing the plan, the absence of any consultation prior to publication and a lack of detail, which has given rise to a significant amount of anxiety.
- 3.2 Reports were also presented on the following:
- Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group set out their proposals for all day Health Centre Services and GP Seven day working. A further report will be provided to the committee setting out progress in relation to the new GP service.
  - The Director for Public Health presented a review of the local drug and alcohol treatment services provided by Change Grow Live (CGL) following concerns raised by an elected Member about the number of deaths in service. The report highlighted that every death relating to drug or alcohol misuse is a tragedy but concluded that it was not felt CGL were operating an unsafe service.
- 3.3 In addition to these reports, there were 2 notices of motion discussed at committee. The first related to the proposal that the Council adopts the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) charter and this was fully supported by committee. The second focussed on how Wirral Plan performance data is presented. It was noted the Chairs and spokespersons of all committees had met with officers to discuss this and the quarter 2 report had reflected feedback provided at that meeting. Further discussion with officers will be scheduled in the New Year to keep this under review.
- 3.4 The Health and Care Performance Panel (7 December) received a report on the current difficulties in providing Home Care Services and plans to address them. A progress report will be brought to the next meeting on 1 Feb on how obligations to provide care are being met. The panel also received a report on the application process for Continuing Health Care funding and this will form the basis of a task and finish Group after Christmas. The Panel also approved a proposal for the Council Members to receive training from Healthwatch Wirral which will enable them to join monitoring visits to Care Homes. At the time of writing, the Children Sub Committee had not met with the next meeting scheduled for 14 December.

- 3.5 A piece of task and finish work has been initiated to review the Governments' proposals in relation to Community Pharmacies. An evidence day was held on 16 November at which a number of different stakeholders provided their comments on the proposals which seek to create a greater role for pharmacies as part of a more integrated NHS whilst also making efficiency savings. A report on the outcome of the review will be brought to the 1 February committee.

Councillor Moira McLaughlin

## **BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT**

- 3.6 Following a previous Notice of Motion about Wirral Waters, it was agreed that Peel Holdings be requested to provide a presentation to all Members on the latest developments with the scheme. A presentation was delivered on 18 October which was well attended by Members and considered very informative. Further updates will be scheduled with Peel Holdings to provide Members with regular progress reports.
- 3.7 The November Committee meeting considered a number of notices of Motion. The first: 'Performance Management – Reporting Arrangements', raised a number of points in relation to the performance data provided to Members for scrutiny. The Committee acknowledged the points raised, noted that Chairs and Spokespersons had met with officers to address these and that a further meeting with officers was being scheduled in the New Year to review progress.
- 3.8 The second notice of motion: 'Treating all Residents Fairly and Equitably', related to the proposal for a Fire Station in Saughall Massie having more objections than the earlier proposal for a site in Greasby which was later withdrawn. Committee resolved that the matter be left to the Planning Committee to see what decision was made there. A further Notice of Motion on 'Inward Investment' was deferred to the next committee meeting (24 January) when more information would be available.
- 3.9 Task & Finish work is progressing in relation to a number of scrutiny reviews. The report from the Tourism Scrutiny Review is being finalised and will be presented to the next January committee meeting. A scrutiny review on the Council's Resident Parking Policy is ongoing with the objective of informing the development of a new policy that will reflect both Council and residents' needs. Finally, a Review Panel has now been agreed for a piece of work on supporting the creative sector in Wirral. This will be an ideal opportunity to learn from other local authorities who are considered leaders in this area and should support delivery of Wirral's Growth Plan. The review will commence in January 2017.
- 3.10 The Committee continues to receive updates on both the work of the LCR Combined Authority and the LCR Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel. A review on apprenticeships across the City Region is being carried out by the Scrutiny Panel and the findings and recommendations will be reported to this Committee once this work is concluded.

Councillor Mike Sullivan

## **ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT**

- 3.11 The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee has met twice since the last report to Council. A Special Meeting of the Committee was convened on 9 November to consider a report on the role and responsibilities of the Community Patrol Service and issues surrounding alleged security checks at private premises. After some discussion, Committee commended the work of the Community Patrol Service across the borough and welcomed any initiatives that would raise income from the private sector to support the service. Committee noted that the Community patrol service would receive further scrutiny as a matter of course, when the strategy covering the service comes to Committee in the New Year.
- 3.12 At its third regular meeting in November, Committee received presentations from the Strategic Commissioner for Environment on the Culture and Leisure Strategies. Members particularly welcomed updates on the leisure and libraries reviews and look forward to Committee playing a full and active part in the development and scrutiny of more detailed plans as they emerge.
- 3.13 Committee considered the Notice of Motion: Performance Management Reporting Arrangements, which raised concerns over the range of performance indicators presented to Overview & Scrutiny Committees to measure Council performance. Committee resolved that performance reporting review meetings between Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Spokespersons should continue to further enhance the performance reporting arrangements.
- 3.14 Committee also considered the Notice of Motion: Recognising the Contribution of our Friends Groups. Whilst the initial proposal was to recognise a number of groups in Wallasey, Members agreed to extend this to include all Friends Groups across the borough.
- 3.15 In October and November, a Task & Finish group met to consider issues relating to the number of councillors at Wirral Council. The scope of the scrutiny review focussed on determining if the number of councillors in Wirral was appropriate and consistent with comparable local and national authorities. The piece of work made strong use of data gathered by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and others. The piece of scrutiny work reported its findings back to Committee in November.
- 3.16 Further progress has been made over the creation of a Flood Risk Standing Panel. An initial meeting between the Chair and the Head of Community Safety has taken place and a further scoping meeting will be scheduled with the Chair and Party Spokespersons. It is intended that the Flood Risk Standing Panel will meet for the first time early in 2017.
- 3.17 A cross-party review panel has been agreed for the Modern Slavery scrutiny review and a scoping meeting will take place in January 2017. Evidence sessions will take place in January and February with the intention to report findings back to Committee in March 2017.

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.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Report compiled by:  
**Mike Callon**  
*Team Leader – Performance and Scrutiny*  
telephone: (0151) 691 8379  
email: [michaelcallon@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:michaelcallon@wirral.gov.uk)

**APPENDICES – N/A**

**REFERENCE MATERIAL – N/A**

#### **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council</b>	<b>17 October 2016</b>
<b>Scrutiny Annual Report to Council</b>	<b>11 July 2016</b>