



COUNCIL

20 MARCH 2017

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 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 questions.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 N/A

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.1 During the time since last Full Council the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee has continued to progress through its work programme. The full committee has received reports on the draft Alcohol and Smoking strategies, and a progress update on the implementation of the Ageing Well strategy.
- 3.2 In order to improve Member involvement in the quality assurance of care home provision in the borough, training of Councillor volunteers has started with 2 groups so far having 3 hour sessions delivered by HealthWatch Wirral. The training was very helpful and informative and I have been very pleased that around 25 councillors have volunteered. All will now have DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks carried out before visits to care homes commence.
- 3.3 A review of the impact of changes to funding and contractual arrangements for community pharmacies has been completed, which followed a Notice of Motion to Council by Cllr Gilchrist. The report and recommendations have been submitted to both the Cabinet and the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Panel members have concluded that the most appropriate action is to request Wirral's Health & Wellbeing Board to keep an on-going watching brief over future developments in the local pharmacy market as the long-term effects of the changes to funding and contractual arrangements transpire.
- 3.4 Scoping of the task and finish review of user / carer experience during the re-provision of respite services has also been carried out and arrangements are now under way to gather evidence. We also held a workshop in January to look at the 2017/18 budget proposals and that was well attended.
- 3.5 We continue to monitor the performance of our health partners and care providers through the Health and Care panel and will commence a task and finish review looking at how Continuing Health Care funding is being applied on Wirral.

- 3.6 We have 2 groups of the Children's Sub Committee running alongside each other currently. The focus of one is specifically to scrutinise progress on the Improvement Plan and is chaired by Cllr Angie Davies and the other is to scrutinise other aspects of children's services and is chaired by myself.

Councillor Moira McLaughlin

BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.7 As part of the 2017/18 budget process, the Committee held a workshop to explore those that fell within the remit of the Committee in more detail, including car parking and business rates. The workshop was valued by Members in attendance and all comments were referred to Cabinet for consideration as part of developing the budget recommendation to Council.
- 3.8 A workshop was also convened to scrutinise the Access Wirral Service Development Proposals before a decision was taken by Cabinet on which approach to adopt. Members appreciated the engagement of the Cabinet Member in the session, including the delivery of a presentation outlining the approach to the Access Wirral project.
- 3.9 At the January committee meeting, the Leader presented a Notice of Motion in relation to the work being undertaken to increase inward Investment to Wirral. This included updating Members on the recent Liverpool City Region delegation visit to China with other Leaders and a number of local businesses. The Notice of Motion was welcomed and supported by all Members. A report on the role of Councillors in relation to Wirral's Asset Strategy was also presented to Committee.
- 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 scrutiny review on apprenticeships across the City Region has now been completed and reported to the LCRCA Scrutiny Panel for consideration of the findings and recommendations made. The final report will be included as part of the LCRCA Scrutiny Panel update at the next Committee meeting on 29th March.
- 3.11 A presentation by Peel Holdings on the latest developments with Wirral Waters was delivered on 18th October and was well attended by Members and considered very informative. A further update is being arranged for April, which again will be open to all Members of the Council.
- 3.12 Task & Finish work is progressing in relation to a number of scrutiny reviews. The final report from the Tourism Scrutiny Review was presented to Committee in January and has now been referred to Cabinet. A scrutiny review on the Council's Resident Parking Policy has also been completed and a final report is being drafted. A review on Supporting the Creative Sector in Wirral has commenced and a scoping meeting has now been convened. The objectives of the review are to understand

what makes creative industries flourish and to identify what steps the council can take to support the creative sector moving forward. A visit to Bristol was proposed by the Review Panel to speak to key people who helped the city become one of the leaders in the sector.

Councillor Mike Sullivan

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.13 The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee has met once since the last report to Council. In addition to this, Committee convened a workshop to consider the 2017/18 budget proposals that fell within the Environment remit. The workshop was well attended and Members' comments were reported back to Cabinet for consideration prior to making its final budget recommendations to Council.
- 3.14 A themed approach to meetings is being piloted by the Committee. It is hoped this will enable Members to comprehensively scrutinise a particular Pledge in detail at each meeting by considering reports and presentations around that subject. The themed approach should ensure the systematic scrutiny of all areas within the Environment remit over the course of a municipal year, whilst allowing flexibility for urgent or follow-up items to be taken to committee as required.
- 3.15 The January Committee was based on a Housing Theme. The Committee received a presentation from the Assistant Director for Environment on the Housing Strategy and an update report on Homelessness and the Impact of the Homelessness Reduction Bill. Members look forward to the opportunity to further scrutinise aspects of the housing strategy and associated policies in more detail via a dedicated session in the future. Members particularly welcomed a presentation from Magenta Living on the impact of welfare reforms on residents and Magenta's work to support the Wirral Plan.
- 3.16 The March meeting will have a Community Safety theme, encompassing a review of the Ensuring Wirral's Neighbourhoods are Safe Strategy. Presentations will be provided on the development of the Safer Wirral Unit and an update from Merseyside Police.
- 3.17 Following its endorsement by Committee in November, the report of the Scrutiny Review of the Number of Councillors in Wirral was presented to Cabinet in January. The report findings and recommendations were approved by Cabinet.
- 3.18 A scrutiny review of the implications of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 will get underway this month and a scoping meeting has been scheduled. The Panel will explore the responsibilities of Wirral and its partners regarding identification and prevention of modern slavery in addition to its role in prosecuting perpetrators and supporting victims. A number of contacts have been made with leading regional organisations in this field and evidence sessions will take place in April and May. The

Panel will report findings back to the first Committee in the new municipal year shortly after the review concludes.

- 3.19 It is the intention of the Committee to commission another task and finish review before the end of the municipal year.

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
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	19 December 2016
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	17 October 2016
Scrutiny Annual Report to Council	11 July 2016