Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
28 March 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REPORT TITLE:</th>
<th>Environment Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme Update</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REPORT OF:</td>
<td>The Chair of the Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REPORT SUMMARY

This report explains the process of developing and managing the scrutiny work programme for the municipal year. The Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in cooperation with the other two Overview & Scrutiny Committees, is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the Wirral Plan pledges which are within the remit of the Committee.

The report provides an update regarding progress made since the last Committee meeting held on 31st January. The current work programme is made up of a combination of scrutiny reviews, standing items and requested officer reports. This provides the committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1. Members are requested to approve the proposed Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2016/17, making any required amendments, including suggestions for additional items.

2. Members are requested to approve the proposal to convene a dedicated session in April to review the service development proposals for the Asset Service Transformation Project. Members are further requested to give delegated authority to the Chair and Party spokespeople to approve and refer a report from this session back to Cabinet for consideration.
SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure members of the Environment 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

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

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principles for Prioritisation</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wirral Plan</td>
<td>Does the topic have a direct link with one of the 2020 pledges?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Will the review lead to improved outcomes forWirral residents?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Interest</td>
<td>Does the topic have particular importance for Wirral Residents?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformation</td>
<td>Will the review support the transformation of the Council?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Significance</td>
<td>Is the subject matter an area of significant spend or potential saving?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Will the review support the Council in achieving its savings targets?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeliness / Effectiveness</td>
<td>Is this the most appropriate time for this topic to be scrutinised?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Will the review be a good use of Council resources?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
By assessing prospective topics using these criteria, the Committee can prioritise an effective work programme that ensures relevance and the highest potential to enhance outcomes for residents.

3.3 DELIVERING THE WORK PROGRAMME

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
- Standing panels
- Evidence days and workshops
- Committee reports provided by officers
- Standing committee agenda items, for example, performance monitoring and financial monitoring
- Spotlight sessions

During the municipal year, regular work programme review sessions will be held between the Chairs and Spokespersons of the Committee in order to effectively manage the work programme. This will help to ensure that higher priority topics are given greatest prominence on the work programme as it progresses and is modified during the year.

3.4 UPDATE ON CURRENT SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

3.4.1 Budget Scrutiny 2017/18

The report from the Members’ budget workshop, held on 18th January 2017 and approved by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 31st January, was referred to the Cabinet meeting held on 20th February. This was part of the process which led to the agreement of the 2017/18 budget at Council on 6th March 2017.

3.4.2 Modern Slavery Act Scrutiny Review

A scoping meeting for the scrutiny review of the implications of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 takes place on 27th March. 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 aims to report findings back to the first Committee of the 2017/18 municipal year.
3.4.3 **Flood Risk Standing Panel**

To enable this Committee to carry out its statutory scrutiny of flood and water management arrangements, it is proposed that the Wirral Flood and Water Management Partnership (WFWMP) becomes a standing panel of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Proposals will be presented to the next meeting of the WFWMP for approval and it is intended that the new standing panel will become operational in the new municipal year.

3.4.4 **Asset Service Transformation Project**

Committee Members will be aware of the recent Leisure and Culture report to Cabinet on Monday 27th March 2017.

In line with the approach to pre-decision scrutiny of Transformation projects agreed by this Committee on 18th July 2016, it is proposed that there is a programme of engagement commencing with an initial workshop in April to inform business case development and further Member engagement and scrutiny through the implementation of the preferred option (June to September). The session would be open to all Members of the Committee.

As this is the final Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting of the current municipal year, it is also proposed that Committee gives delegated authority for the Chair and Party Spokespersons to approve and refer any report arising from the session directly to Cabinet.

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.
APPENDICES  Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work programme

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council Meeting</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>