



**Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
21st September 2017**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Environment Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme Update</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Paul Stuart</b>

**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 three Overview & Scrutiny Committees, is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual scrutiny 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.

It is envisaged that the work programme will be formed from a combination of scrutiny reviews, standing items on committee agendas and requested officer reports. This report provides the committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

Members are requested to:

1. Approve the proposed Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2017/18, making any required amendments.

## 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 AND THE WIRRAL PLAN

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

The Wirral Plan pledges and strategies of particular relevance to the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee are:

<b>Pledge</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
Leisure and cultural opportunities for all	Wirral's Leisure Strategy Wirral's Culture Strategy
Wirral residents live healthier lives	Wirral's Residents Live Healthier Lives Strategy
Community services are joined up and accessible	Wirral Together Strategy
Good quality housing that meets the needs of residents	Housing Strategy
Wirral's neighbourhoods are safe	Ensuring Wirral's Neighbourhoods are Safe Strategy
Attractive local environment for Wirral residents	Managing our Waste Strategy Loving our Environment Strategy

### 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:

<b>Principles for Prioritisation</b>	
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?

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

It is anticipated that 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
- Spotlight sessions
- Standing panels (where deemed necessary)

As some of the selected topics may cut across the Wirral Plan themes, it is anticipated they may be of interest to members of more than one committee. In these circumstances, opportunities for members of more than one committee to work jointly on an item of scrutiny will be explored.

Regular work programme update reports will provide the committee with an opportunity to plan and review its work across the municipal year.

### **3.4 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS**

#### Modern Slavery Scrutiny Review

A new panel of Cllrs Chris Carubia, Christina Muspratt, Tracey Pilgrim, Paul Stuart and Tom Usher was agreed at the last Committee meeting in July. A meeting of the panel took place on 4<sup>th</sup> September where the Panel agreed to continue with the review based on the previously agreed scope. Contact will be made with potential witnesses in the coming weeks.

#### Flood Risk Standing Panel

At the last Committee meeting in July, Councillors Bruce Berry, Chris Carubia and Paul Stuart were nominated as the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee representatives on the Wirral Flood and Water Management Partnership (WFWMP). The next meeting of the WFWMP is scheduled for October and minutes of the meeting will be reported back to this Committee in November.

#### Further Development of the Scrutiny Work Programme

A dedicated work programme planning session took place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September. This session was open to all Members of the Environment O&S Committee. Members not able to attend were invited to suggest possible topics for inclusion in the work programme. As the session was scheduled after the reports deadline for this Committee, a draft work programme incorporating Member suggestions, will be circulated prior to Committee for approval as part of this agenda item.

#### Leisure, Libraries and Cultural Services Transformation Scrutiny

Members will be aware that a scrutiny session was scheduled for Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September to scrutinise proposals regarding the transformation of Leisure, Libraries and Cultural Services. It is intended that a report detailing the outcomes from this session will be presented for Cabinet to consider alongside the full business case. Members will recall that on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017 Committee delegated authority to the Chair and Party spokespeople to approve this report and refer it 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.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Patrick Torpey  
Scrutiny Support  
0151 691 8381  
email: [patricktorpey@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:patricktorpey@wirral.gov.uk)

## APPENDICES:

**Appendix 1:** Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work programme

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

### SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date