

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

ADULT CARE AND HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.1 The Adult Care and Health scrutiny committee has met on two occasions since it was set up at the beginning of the new municipal year. The first meeting in June set out the committee's work programme for the remainder of the year.
- 3.2 At the committee meetings held in June & September, members heard a number of presentations covering:
- The Key Issues for Health & Social Care
 - Review of Services provided by Change, Grow, Live
 - Repeat Prescription Pilot Scheme
 - Outcomes of the CQC Inspection of Clatterbridge Cancer Centre
 - Delivery of the All Age Disability Strategy
 - Dynamic Purchasing Scheme for continuing health care
 - Plan & priorities 2107/18 for the Better Care Fund
- 3.3 The All Age Disability update to members outlined the proposal to consider alternative delivery models to All Age Disability and Mental health Services. It was agreed that a workshop should be delivered to review the outline business case for the project. This was a joint session for members of both Adult Social Care and Health and Children and Families overview & scrutiny committees as these proposals will impact on service delivery for both children and adults. The workshop was held in August and was well attended by both scrutiny committees. A report from the workshop has been referred to a meeting of Cabinet in October.
- 3.4 On 1st September the Chair was invited to meet with Wirral CCG to discuss a service change. No advance notification was given as to the nature of the change; however it became clear prior to that meeting that Eastham Walk In Centre (WIC) was earmarked for closure. The Chair & Vice-Chair met with the CCG to discuss the closure and to try to halt the decision to close until Scrutiny had the opportunity to question arrangements. Unfortunately this decision had already been taken.

However, at the September committee, under an item of urgent business, a presentation was provided by the CCG as well a guarantee that the Eastham WIC closure would be a temporary measure. Members agreed to work together to ensure that the WIC is re-opened as soon as possible and to secure a fixed date for when the centre will re-open. The CCG has been requested to provide a further update report to the Adult Care and Health OSC meeting scheduled in November.

- 3.5 Members of two task and groups, the Respite Service scrutiny review and the Continuing HealthCare funding (CHC) scrutiny review, continue to gather evidence. It is planned that the evidence-gathering stage for both reviews will be concluded before the end of 2017.

Councillor Julie McManus

BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.6 The Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee has now developed and agreed its work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year and there is a stronger focus on pre-decision scrutiny. The council's Commercial Approach agenda has been developing and the committee has received two presentations so far which have highlighted the journey taken to make the Council more commercial. A Commercial Strategy is being developed and pre-decision scrutiny on this is to be undertaken prior to going to Cabinet. Another item of pre-decision scrutiny is on the Road Safety Strategy and this is of particular interest to Members following a number of previous items on road pedestrian safety being presented at committee.
- 3.7 The committee's work programme remains flexible and additional items will be considered and included as the year progresses. Future scrutiny work will be scheduled on the impact of implementing car parking charges across Wirral's country parks. The committee will also consider a report on Universal Credit as an item on November's agenda and further scrutiny work that could cut across other Overview & Scrutiny committees may be identified following this item.
- 3.8 The Task & Finish scrutiny review on Resident Parking has now been completed and the final report was referred to Cabinet for consideration of the recommendations made. As part of the review, the Review Panel invited a number of residents to an evidence session to hear their views on the existing policy and to understand some of the issues on trying to implement a scheme. The review on Supporting the Creative Sector is progressing and will shortly be completed. A recent trip for the Review Panel to speak to key officers in Bristol on how they are supporting this sector was successful.
- 3.9 Members remain keen to keep the spotlight on Wirral Waters and it is important that the committee maintains engagement with Peel Holdings on the latest developments. Consideration will be given for future updates from Peel Holdings to be themed on particular issues or topics.

- 3.10 Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority convened for a development day to welcome new Members and to help shape the work programme for the year. The size of the committee has increased to twenty Members across the six constituent local authorities. Wirral has three representatives on the committee. A challenging work programme has now been developed for the municipal year and items include pre-decision scrutiny on the Spatial Development Strategy. Task & Finish Scrutiny reviews on Air Quality across the City Region and Universal Credit and Welfare Reforms have also been added to the work programme. There will also be standing items to receive both updates from the Metro Mayor on implementing the 100 Day Plan and also an item to update Members on the implications of Brexit.

Councillor Mike Sullivan

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.11 One of the main priorities of the committee since its formation has been to ensure the work programme compliments the improvement plan and holds to account the changes being made on the back of the Ofsted recommendations. Members have received updates at each Committee meeting from the Interim Director of Children's Services regarding progress being made to implement the Improvement Plan.
- 3.12 Good practice promotes the establishment of a strong relationship with other key partner bodies involved in monitoring safeguarding activities. A workshop was held on 23rd August between the Children & Families Committee and the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board to explore this and gain a better understanding of the workings of the Board. One of the outcomes of the workshop was the production of a draft document outlining a working protocol between the two bodies to ensure efficient scrutiny, the avoidance of duplication, and the sharing of relevant information. The working protocol document went to both the board and scrutiny on 26th September and was fully supported by both.
- 3.13 On 2nd August, a workshop was held to scrutinise the outline business case for the All Age Disability and Mental Health Transformation Project. Given that the project has implications for both the Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Adult & Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee, this was a joint workshop. It provided members with the opportunity for some pre-decision scrutiny to take place. A feedback report came to committee on 26th September and members agreed to refer the report to a future meeting of Cabinet.
- 3.14 In addition to the above workshops, a programme of Reality Check visits were agreed at the committee's first meeting on 20th June. The intention of these visits is to give members the opportunity to take a focused look at a service, interact with frontline staff and triangulate the evidence gathered from their visit with other

sources. The first visit took place at Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on 7th September. A report on the visit came to the committee on 26th September.

3.15 FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The programme of Reality Check visits will continue, with the second visit planned to the Leaving Care Team in mid-October.

3.16 A Task & Finish review focusing on the timeliness and effectiveness of Statutory Care Plans has been started and members of the group will meet in October to review the draft scope document.

3.17 During scrutiny of the 2017/18 budget proposals, members of the former People Overview & Scrutiny Committee requested further information on the Specialist Transport Service. Given that this service has implications for the Adult & Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee, a joint Spotlight session will be held before the end of 2017.

Councillor Tom Usher

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

3.18 In June a special meeting of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the Call-in of a Cabinet decision to develop a full business case for the future provision of Libraries, Leisure and Cultural Services (LLCS) as part of the Council's transformation programme. Evidence was heard from the Chair of Wirral Parks Forum and Friends of Greasby & Irby Libraries, the Leader of the Council and the Head of Communications. Committee upheld the Cabinet decision and resolved to conduct comprehensive pre-decision scrutiny of the proposals, giving all parties the opportunity to influence the full business case before it is considered by Cabinet.

3.19 The pre-decision scrutiny session took place in September and was poorly attended despite the above Call-in. However, those Members in attendance provided useful feedback which was taken on board by officers. An additional scrutiny session will be planned in the near future for committee members to further consider these proposals, with feedback & recommendations being reported back to Cabinet.

3.20 Committee met in July and debated a Notice of Motion on Green Belt in the borough. Other agenda items included the Domestic Refuse Collection Service, Street Lighting and Highway Trees Maintenance. The Cabinet Member for Environment alongside the lead officer presented an update on the Attractive Local Environment for Wirral Residents pledge.

3.21 At its meeting in September, Committee debated the merits of different voting systems as part of a Notice of Motion on Fair Votes proposed by Cllr Pat Cleary.

Committee also debated a Notice of Motion on Pavilions in Sports Grounds, proposed by Cllr Bruce Berry. Committee agreed with the sentiments of the motion and resolved to undertake 'reality check' visits to sports pavilions around the borough to investigate conditions for themselves. A report from these visits will be made available to support the LLCS transformation project. Members also requested an officer report into the condition of sports pavilions be provided for the next meeting. The Committee received a presentation on the Government's plans for improving Air Quality and the implications for Wirral. Members were pleased that Wirral currently has no Air Quality Management Areas. However, due to member concerns over two potential hotspots in the borough, further information will be provided to committee regarding air quality measurement in these areas.

- 3.22 A task & finish group is looking into the implications of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 for Wirral. Following delays, the scrutiny panel met in September and plans to speak to local stakeholders and relevant Council departments as soon as possible. The Panel will report findings back to the committee shortly after the review concludes.
- 3.23 In order to fulfil its statutory obligations to scrutinise local flood and water management arrangements, committee has established a link with the Wirral Flood & Water Risk Management Partnership. Cllrs Bruce Berry, Chris Carubia and I will represent committee on this group. The next Partnership meeting will take place in October 2017.
- 3.24 At a work programme planning session in September, Members considered and proposed a broad range of topics within the Environment Committee remit for further scrutiny. Items which will be considered by committee this municipal year include: Fly Tipping, Social Isolation, Management and Regulation of Private Sector Housing and the Perception of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour on Wirral.

Councillor Paul Stuart

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

APPENDICES – N/A

REFERENCE MATERIAL – N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	20 March 2017
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