

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 covering the period since the previous report presented to council on 11th December 2017. 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 to provide an opportunity for Council Members to ask questions on the activities undertaken.

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 2017/18 municipal year has been a busy one for the Adult Care & Health Scrutiny Committee and we have covered a heavy work programme. The closure of the Eastham Walk in Centre was carried out without consultation and highlighted the need and importance of public scrutiny. The centre re-opened with reduced hours following lobbying from scrutiny, with full time re-opening hours planned for May 2018. Scrutiny will continue to monitor this situation closely. A further update will be presented to Committee on 20th March 2018.
- 3.2 Committee received an update at a special Committee meeting held on 13th February 2018 from Cheshire & Merseyside Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP). Cheshire & Merseyside STP informed Committee that STPs represent a shift in the way that NHS England plans its services. While the Health and Social Care Act 2012 sought to strengthen the role of competition within the health system, NHS organisations are now being encouraged to collaborate rather than compete, in response to the challenges facing their local services. This new approach is being called 'place-based planning' and is linked closely to the development of Healthy Wirral. A further update to Committee has been requested early in the new municipal year.
- 3.3 Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) presented members with a session providing background information to a review of Urgent Care Services in Wirral. A public consultation with proposed options will take place over the summer period, at which time a report will also be presented to the Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.4 A workshop was held on 9th January 2018 for Members of the Committee to explore the budget proposals under the Committee's remit. A report detailing the outcomes of the workshop was presented to the Committee meeting on 30th January 2018 before being referred to Cabinet.

3.5 In March 2017, Cabinet had approved the creation of an integrated social care service for adults and older people and the transfer of services to Wirral Community Trust (WCT). This had been implemented in June 2017. Under the new arrangement, WCT now provides statutory adult social care services on behalf of the Council under a contractual agreement. Services provided included the delivery of assessment, support planning and case management services for older people and adults. A report to Committee on 30th January 2018 provided Members with an opportunity to scrutinise progress of the new arrangements. Although there is still a great deal of work to be done, the first 6 months showed good progress has been made, with early signs of positive outcomes.

Councillor Julie McManus

BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

3.6 At the Committee meeting held on 29th November 2017, a report was presented which detailed the roll-out of Universal Credit Full Service from 15th November 2017 in Wirral. The report was welcomed by the Committee and allowed Members to begin to understand the early and potential impacts of the implementation of Universal Credit. Following this meeting, it was agreed by the Chairs of the four Overview & Scrutiny Committees that a number of workshops would be held to understand the wider implications for the Council in implementation and its impact on residents. Two workshops have been held and they were very well received. Representatives from a number of organisations attended to discuss the issues, including Magenta, Citizens Advice and Trussell Trust Foodbank. A summary of both workshops will be reported to the next Committee meeting on 27th March 2018. Although it is too early to understand the full impact that Universal Credit will have, further sessions will be delivered in the new Municipal Year to provide an update on the impact for residents and the Council.

3.7 Pre-decisions Scrutiny has been undertaken on the Council's Road Safety Plan through a dedicated workshop in December 2017. This Scrutiny activity was instigated through a Notice of Motion heard at a previous Committee on 'Reducing Pedestrian Casualties'. The final report was presented to Committee at January's meeting before a final decision was made by the Cabinet Member.

3.8 A workshop was held on 15th January 2018 for Members of the Committee to explore the budget proposals under the Committee's remit. These included the introduction of parking charges around Wirral's coastal sites as well as the move to paperless Committees. A report detailing the outcomes of the workshop was presented to the Committee before being referred to Cabinet.

3.9 The LCRCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee has now completed a review on the CA's Spatial Development Strategy Programme. Sessions were held with a number of Officers, including the Planning and Development Officers. The capacity to deliver the strategy and the need for the CA to engage with the constituent Local Authorities were raised in the final report which has been referred to the LCR Combined Authority meeting on 9th March 2018. Two reviews are currently underway which are looking at Air Quality across the City Region and the impact of Welfare Reform and Universal Credit.

Councillor Mike Sullivan

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

3.10 Since the last Chair's report the Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee has met on one occasion. Children & Families has a new Director, Paul Boyce who presented the regular and standing item of the 'Improvement Journey' update at Committee on 25th January 2018.

3.11 The Committee also received an update regarding the 'Children Are Ready For School' Pledge. Progress against the pledge was examined via its four identified priority areas, which explored a number of initiatives designed to improve multi-agency working and to provide families with support during the early years. The report also identified future challenges and areas of focus regarding the pledge.

3.12 The Committee received an item detailing changes to services targeted towards 'Children on The Edge of Care'. The Committee explored a number of aspects regarding the reorientation of this service, such as youth outreach, access to respite facilities and family mediation, all designed to ensure children stay in their families and communities where it is safe to do so.

3.13 A summary of standards and provisional outcomes for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 was presented to Committee. Members examined the significant changes that had been made to the content and grading systems of GCSEs. There was a significant amount of discussion around how this might affect performance; however the changes had been too recent to agree an accurate prediction at this stage.

3.14 The Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee held a budget workshop on January 11th 2018. No savings proposals fell under the remit of the Committee, so the focus of the workshop was to explore and scrutinise the budget increase of £25million. £10million of the budget requirement is a continuation of the Improvement Plan approved during 2017/18. A further £15million relates to demand pressures largely associated with previous and anticipated growth requirements in the number of looked after children.

- 3.15 Our programme of Reality Check visits continues. Two such visits have occurred since the last Chair's report. The first visit took place at Seacombe children's centre on December 7th 2017 as an example of Early Childhood Service provision. The visit gave the Committee a chance to examine plans for a birthing suite, located within the children's centre. Members were reassured by the level of partnership working in the service and explored how this could be enhanced further. The Committee welcomed the idea of the birthing suite and has expressed an interest in receiving an update on the service once it has been fully functional for a number of months.
- 3.16 The second visit was to examine the performance dashboard, a new data monitoring piece of software. Although in its early stages, with further developments planned, members were impressed at the dashboard's ability to allow managers to ascertain greater detail, supporting a more joined-up approach with team managers. Members expressed an interest in ensuring the committee receives updates of further developments.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- 3.17 The Children & Families Scrutiny Committee is due to meet on one more occasion this municipal year on 22nd March 2018.
- 3.18 Subject to change in the Committee Chair/Membership, the current Committee has expressed an interest in exploring further its role compared to the Improvement Board, and how the Committee might ensure that the work of the Improvement Board is continued and upheld after it ceases to operate.

Councillor Tom Usher

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.19 The Task & Finish Review Panel which is reviewing the implications of the Modern Slavery Act have met with representatives from the Council's Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Licensing departments; with further evidence sessions for Housing Services, Children's and Adults Safeguarding representatives planned in the early part of 2018. The Panel then planned to meet with the Council's partners including the police and representatives from local charitable and voluntary organisations. However, the LGA, in partnership with the Independent Anti-slavery Commissioner, has produced 'A council guide for Modern Slavery'. The Review Panel will be meeting with the Senior Manager to discuss this further. The panel will then decide which direction to take the review and will report back to the Committee.
- 3.20 A dedicated 2018/19 budget proposals workshop for Members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee was held on Wednesday 9th January 2018. This provided the Committee with the opportunity to examine in greater detail a number of budget proposals affecting services that fall under the remit of the Committee. The

report was referred to Cabinet to be considered as part of its consideration in developing any budget recommendation to Council.

3.21 At the Meeting of Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Wednesday, 31st January 2018 the Committee considered two NOMs referred from the meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2017. The Notice of Motion, [*Economic Viability Assessments from Developers*] proposed by Councillor Stuart Kelly and seconded by Councillor Chris Carubia as well as [*Planning Ahead to Use the Community Infrastructure Levy*] proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist and seconded by Councillor Stuart Kelly] were both referred for consideration to a Task and Finish Group to consider economic viability assessments & community infrastructure levies.

3.22 Other items scheduled on the Committee work programme this municipal year include; The Climate Change Strategy, 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.

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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	11 December 2017
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	16 October 2017
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