

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 19 March 2018. 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 It has been a busy start to the municipal year for the Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and the Committee has continued to focus on strengthening the partnership approach to scrutinising local health commissioners and providers, upholding our duty to carry out the statutory health scrutiny function, and putting an emphasis on cross-party working to ensure the best health and care outcomes for Wirral residents.
- 3.2 One of my first actions as Chair of the Committee this year was to re-instate the Health and Care Performance Panel. It is clear that there is real benefit to be gained from 'drilling down' into the wider performance of our health and care partners. At the first meeting of the Panel in October, the improvement plans of the Wirral Community Trust and Wirral University Teaching Hospital will be examined. This work will ensure that Members and officers can work together to help improve recent CQC inspection ratings.
- 3.3 A major area of scrutiny for the Committee this year has been the ongoing work around the review of Urgent Care services provided in the Borough. Members of the Committee recognise that this is much more than a review of frontline urgent care facilities; transport, technology and a shift towards greater public wellbeing all have a role in the effective provision of services. We plan to ensure that no stone is left unturned in the pursuit of the best possible results for all. I have called for a special meeting of the Adult Care and Health OSC in November, with attendance from the Children and Families OSC, to ensure that all options are considered.
- 3.4 The Committee has taken part in a number of successful Member workshops over recent months. Notably, a workshop was held in July in order for Members and Wirral Health and Care Commissioning to discuss the re-commissioning of primary mental health services in the Borough. There were a number of areas where attending Members were able to provide comments and suggestions, which ultimately helped to shape the look of the new service specification. The Committee have also been keen to develop an innovative approach to scrutiny, and in August welcomed the Clinical Senate to provide an overview of how their independent clinical advice could assist in the scrutiny of health and care partners on Wirral.
- 3.5 A robust and challenging work programme has been agreed for this municipal year, including Member visits to Arrowe Park Hospital and Seacombe Birthing Centre (both

co-ordinated by Healthwatch). I am also fully committed to 'closing the loop' on a number of previous scrutiny matters, such as the integrated musculoskeletal triage service and repeat prescription ordering service and will welcome officers to upcoming Committee meetings to ensure that these services are embedding well and providing the best facilities for our residents. Future items for consideration by the Committee this year will also include Learning Disability Commissioning, the Annual Adults Safeguarding Report for 2017/18 and budget scrutiny.

Councillor Julie McManus

BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY VICE CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.6 As part of the committee's work programme for the year, all opportunities for undertaking pre-decision scrutiny of Council strategies and policies will be explored. In July, a dedicated scrutiny workshop was convened for Members to consider the Council's Commercial Strategy before approval by Cabinet. The workshop also helped Members to develop an understanding of the approach Wirral Council is undertaking to become more business-like and taking advantage of commercial opportunities. The workshop identified the important role Members had in this area and agreed that further commercial training could be added as part of the Member development package. Committee will also ensure that income generated from the Council's commercial approach will also be closely monitored and scrutinised to ensure the strategy is delivering.
- 3.7 A Task & Finish scrutiny review to consider issues relating to camper vans in Wirral was agreed to be undertaken following a report presented to Committee which highlighted some of the concerns from Members and residents, particularly in New Brighton and Wallasey. Members also recommended that officers explore the possibility of introducing an 'Overnight Sleeping' ban on two cul-de-sacs in Wallasey. It is pleasing that this has progressed and an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order is being proposed. Committee will ensure that the impact of this will be reviewed as part of the ongoing work programme.
- 3.8 A scrutiny workshop on the latest developments of Wirral Waters has now been scheduled for all overview & scrutiny Members and this is one of the most important work programme items identified as part of the work programme. The workshop will allow Members to receive a presentation from both Peel Holdings and key senior officers on progress made. The success of Wirral Waters is vital for Wirral, so ensuring effective scrutiny in this area will help to maximise this opportunity.
- 3.9 A scrutiny report detailing the outcomes from two scrutiny workshops on the early impact of Universal Credit, which were convened earlier in the year, was discussed at Committee in September. The report was well received as Members who attended the workshops not only heard from key council officers, but representatives from a number of third sector organisations. These included Citizen Advice Wirral and Wirral Foodbank. Committee agreed that a number of suggestions made by these organisations to help minimise the impact of Universal Credit should be considered. Further workshops are planned as part of the Committee's work programme and, as previously agreed, will be open to all Overview & Scrutiny Members.

- 3.10 The Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee is receiving regular updates on the latest developments of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority which are vital for Members because of the impact this has on Wirral. Any areas of significance at a local level can be addressed by Members as part of the ongoing work programme.

Councillor Pat Hackett

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.11 The Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee has met twice since the Scrutiny Annual Report. The committee has continued receiving the Improvement Journey as a standing item, presented by the Corporate Director for Children's Services, Paul Boyce. The committee has added to the Improvement Journey, the monthly dataset currently received by the Improvement Board. In anticipation of the Improvement Board's eventual disbandment this will form a part of each subsequent Improvement Journey Update.
- 3.12 Key Stage 2 came to committee in September and provided a summary and detailed analysis for the pupil outcomes at the age of 5 (Good level of development), the age of 7 (Key Stage 1 SATs) and at the age of 11 (Key Stage 2 SATs). Included was a detailed report which outlined the attainment and progress for pupils with SEND. Committee also received a report on Home Education on Wirral and noted that there was an increase in elective home education compared to the previous year. Members explored the reasons for this, as well as what processes were in place to monitor the progress of children in home education and support parents who made this choice.
- 3.13 The committee continues with its programme of Reality Check visits. On 30th July, a visit to Cheshire Lines Building took place. Members were given a tour of the building, a demonstration of Agile Working equipment and had the opportunity to talk to staff. A number of initial operational challenges were addressed. Members also explored the positive effects of co-location on the speed of decision making and consistency of practice. Members noted that the move was a positive step in improving Children's Social Care and also made recommendations for improvement.
- 3.14 Joint workshops for Members of both the Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee took place on 18th July 2018 to enable Members to gain an understanding of the Clinical Senate and how it may benefit future work programme items through its role as an impartial advisory body. Further joint workshops for Members took place in July and August to involve members in the proposed 'Improving Access to Psychological Therapies' (IAPT) re-tender, and the future overall mental health procurement exercise. A number of comments and recommendations were made and it was agreed that a future workshop to look at the provision of mental health service for young people on Wirral would be held.
- 3.15 Two further workshops are taking place. The first on Risk Awareness and this is open to all non-executive members. The second is for Children & Families OSC

Members and this will focus on Mental Health Provision for Children in Wirral. This is scheduled for October 2018

Councillor Tom Usher

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.16 The Committee began the municipal year focussing on a number of key issues very early on. In July, Committee convened for a Call-in of the Environmental Enforcement Contract being awarded to Kingdom. The meeting resulted in meaningful discussions around environmental enforcement issues. Although Committee agreed to uphold the Cabinet decision, Members supported the role that scrutiny has in monitoring how the Council manages the contract and the importance of scrutinising performance data. Moving forward, the Committee will now monitor performance data as a standing item at each Committee meeting. Kingdom has also been invited to a future meeting to deliver a presentation on enforcement activities and this will allow Members to ensure scrutiny on the key issues can be undertaken effectively.
- 3.17 Committee has also agreed to undertake a Task & Finish scrutiny review on recycling and this has been added to the work programme. Members benefitted from a presentation delivered at Committee which not only gave an informative background on recycling in Wirral but also an overview of Wirral's current performance and its action plans. A review panel has been established and the review will be commencing shortly.
- 3.18 In previous municipal years, the need for governance and Member oversight of flood and coastal erosion risk management activities was identified at Committee meetings. Committee has now agreed to revised terms of reference for the Wirral Flood and Water Management Partnership which now ensures there is an established formal scrutiny link in place. Three Members of the Committee will sit on the Partnership to provide that oversight. The Partnership includes representatives from key organisations, including United Utilities, Environment Agency and Merseyside Police. Council representation is through the Cabinet Member for Environment and officers from a number of council services. Any issues for scrutiny can be reported and discussed at Committee.
- 3.19 A number of items have been heard at Committee at the first two meetings. As the Council continues to develop its Local Plan, Committee remains keen to retain updates on this at each Committee meeting to ensure that Members have oversight on the developments. Committee was also presented with the draft Single Use Wirral Plastic Free Policy as part of pre-decision scrutiny and this was welcomed by all Members and endorsed by Committee for referral to Cabinet.

Councillor Tony Jones

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 March 2018
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