



**Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Tuesday, 22 January 2019**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Business Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme Update</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>The Chair of the Committee</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report explains the process of developing and managing the scrutiny work programme for the municipal year. The Business 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**

Members are requested to:

Approve the proposed Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2018/19, making any required amendments.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure members of the Business 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 Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee are:

<b>Pledge</b>	<b>Plans &amp; Strategies</b>
Greater job opportunities in Wirral	Wirral Growth Plan
Workforce skills match business need	Wirral Growth Plan Skills Strategy (In development)
Increase inward investment	Wirral Growth Plan
Thriving small Businesses	Wirral Growth Plan
Vibrant tourism economy	Growth Plan Wirral Visitor Economy Strategy
Transport & technology infrastructure fit for the future	Transport Strategy Digital 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.

## **4.0 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS**

### **4.1 Budget Savings Proposals**

As part of the Committee's work programme for the year, a scrutiny workshop was scheduled on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018 for Members to consider a number of budget proposals before Cabinet makes its final decision as part of the budget setting process. The final report is included elsewhere on this agenda.

### **4.2 Camper Vans Task & Finish Scrutiny Review**

The scope of the Campervan scrutiny review has now been approved by Members, with the first review session due to take place early in the new calendar year. The review will focus on understanding the current issues around campervan parking on Wirral, and will involve engagement with local residents and campervan users to inform an inclusive campervan policy for Wirral.

### **4.3 Additional items to the Committee Work programme**

At the previous Committee meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018, a number of items were requested to be included as part of the work programme. These were:

- The Council's use of consultants and interims – Committee to continue monitoring the use of these and the arrangements in place.
- A report detailing the Council's sickness rate and how it can be reduced.
- Updates on Wirral Growth Company (See separate agenda item) and Birkenhead Town Centre.
- Report/Case Study on the New Ferry disaster and the Council's response to it.

## **5.0 LCRCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY UPDATE**

The Liverpool City Region Overview & Scrutiny Committee convened its first two scrutiny workshops in December 2018 covering:

- The Effectiveness of the Careers Service (12<sup>th</sup> December 2018); and
- Tourism, Culture & Marketing the City Region (17<sup>th</sup> December 2019).

Reports detailing the outcomes from these workshops have yet to be developed by the LCRCA Scrutiny Officer but will be shared with Members upon being finalised.

The LCRCA O&S Committee is also planning workshops in 2019 on:

- LEP Accountability and Structure; and
- Energy & Renewables – Natural Sources of Energy

## **6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not Applicable

## **7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not Applicable

## **8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

The delivery of the scrutiny work programme will be met from within existing resources.

## **9.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

Not Applicable

## **10.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

Not Applicable

## **11.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

This report is for information to Members and there are no direct equality implications.

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## **APPENDICES:**

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

## **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>