

**Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee
5th March 2019**

REPORT TITLE:	Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme Update
REPORT OF:	The Chair of the Committee

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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are requested to:

1. Note the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2018/19.

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:

Pledge	Plans & Strategies
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:

Principles for Prioritisation	
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 11th 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 scrutiny report of the workshop was presented at the previous Committee meeting on 22nd January, 2019 and was referred to the Cabinet meeting on 18th February, 2019.

4.2 Camper Vans Task & Finish Scrutiny Review

An evidence session of the Campervan Task & Finish scrutiny review is scheduled to take place in March 2019. This session will explore some of the key issues relating to campervans, including the examination of case studies, similar local authority policy and benchmarking against comparable procedures in other locations across the UK.

4.3 Wirral Growth Company

As part of the Committee's work programme, a briefing session to cover all aspects of Wirral Growth Company has been scheduled for 28th February for Members sitting on the Business O&S Committee and the Environment O&S Committee. This session will include the background to the Wirral Growth Company, emerging business cases, the governance arrangements and the next steps.

5.0 LCRCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY UPDATE

Following on from the two scrutiny workshops held in December 2018 covering the Effectiveness of the Careers Service and Tourism, Culture & Marketing the City Region, a Tourism & Culture scrutiny review will commence in March / April. The scope of this has yet to be agreed. A workshop on EU Funding / Brexit Future convened on 23rd January, 2019 and the write up of this session will be circulated to Members.

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)

Council Meeting	Date