



**Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Environment Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme Report</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>The Chair of the Committee – Councillor Tony Jones</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report explains the process of developing and managing the scrutiny work programme for the municipal year. The Environment 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 Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2018/19.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure members of the Environment 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 specific Wirral Plan pledges and associated strategies of particular relevance to the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee are:

<b>Pledge</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
Leisure and cultural opportunities for all	Wirral's Leisure Strategy Wirral's Culture Strategy
Wirral residents live healthier lives	Wirral's Residents Live Healthier Lives Strategy
Community services are joined up and accessible	Wirral Together Strategy (in development)
Good quality housing that meets the needs of residents	Housing Strategy
Wirral's neighbourhoods are safe	Ensuring Wirral's Neighbourhoods are Safe Strategy
Attractive local environment for Wirral residents	Managing our Waste Strategy Loving our Environment 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 well cut across the Wirral Plan themes, it is anticipated that some of the scrutiny topics 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 work will be explored.

Regular work programme update reports will provide the committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly 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, scrutiny workshops were scheduled on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 for Members to consider two budget proposals before Cabinet made its final decision as part of the budget setting process. The scrutiny report of the workshop was presented at the previous Committee meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2019 and was referred to the Cabinet meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

### **4.2 Recycling Task & Finish Scrutiny Review**

The Review Panel has convened a number of evidence sessions, including representatives from the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) in attendance. At a recent session, Members discussed Wirral's Waste Improvement Plan and considered research undertaken on recycling by other local authorities. The Review Panel will convene for a final session to consider Government's recently released Resources and Waste Strategy and the impact this has for Wirral.

### **4.3 Wirral Flood & Water Management Partnership**

At the Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018, the terms of reference for the Wirral Flood & Water Management Partnership were agreed. The first inaugural meeting was convened on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, and was attended by the Chair and Party Spokespersons of this committee.

This meeting gave stakeholders an introduction to the role of the Partnership and the associated reporting arrangements. A presentation was also delivered covering the Flood & Water Management Act, the Lead Local Flood Authority and Partnership Working as well as an update on delivering the recommendations from the Section 19 Investigation relating to the July 2017 flooding.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not Applicable

## **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not Applicable

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

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

## **8.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

Not Applicable

## **9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

Not Applicable

## 10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Michael Lester  
Scrutiny Officer  
0151 691 8628  
email: [michaellester@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:michaellester@wirral.gov.uk)

## APPENDICES

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

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

### SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date