

**Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee**17<sup>th</sup> September 2019

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>BUSINESS OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE – STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER</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.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

Members are requested to:

1. Note the contents of the Committee's Work Programme for 2019/20.
2. Consider any additional items to be included on the Committee's work programme for 2019/20 and prioritise as appropriate.

## 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 Camper Vans Task & Finish Scrutiny Review

Following a change to membership of the task & finish panel, the review into management of campervans at coastal locations in Wirral is due to resume with its approach set out in the review scope. A schedule of activity has been drafted for the coming months, including a stakeholder focus group and discussion around the potential for a commercial solution.

### 4.2 Review of Council's Overview & Scrutiny Arrangements

At the Council meeting held on 14th May 2019, Council agreed for the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee to conduct a review of the Council's overview and scrutiny committee arrangements and to determine the number of committees and their respective terms of reference. A workshop for all non-executive Members was subsequently held on 17<sup>th</sup> July and a scrutiny report detailing the outcomes from this session was developed. The report was referred to the Standards & Constitutional Oversight Committee meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September for consideration alongside a separate review that was undertaken concurrent to this one.

### 4.3 Special Meeting / Scrutiny Workshop – Celtic Manor Golf Resort

A Special Meeting of the Committee was convened on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, to consider the Celtic Manor Golf Resort proposals. Committee agreed a resolution for Cabinet "to not enter into a separate agreement to fund the Celtic manor at this time"

At the Cabinet meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2019, the following was resolved:

*1) Wirral is open for business. We've secured more than £140million in new investment into the Borough over the past four years and, through our partnership with Muse in Wirral Growth Company, we're moving forward with major developments at Birkenhead, Bromborough and Moreton;*

*2) This Council is determined to bring investment, jobs and prosperity to Wirral. That's why major players like Celtic Manor and Redrow want to build here in the first place. This is a scheme which will create hundreds of new jobs and give Hoylake high-street a huge boost;*

*3) However, it is a massive investment for the Council. We are a new Leadership, with new priorities, and after much deliberation, we've decided the money we would borrow to invest in this scheme would be better spent on securing affordable and social housing for the many residents who need it elsewhere in our borough; and*

*4) Therefore, we won't be investing in the Hoylake development. Instead, we will immediately start work on a plan to increase social housing in our*

*borough, meeting our pledge to deliver good quality housing to everyone who needs it, and will also move forward on developing an action plan to provide real support to our struggling high streets.*

#### 4.4 Milton Pavement / Tower Road Projects

A scrutiny workshop session has been scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2019, as part of pre-decision scrutiny on both the Tower Road and Milton Pavement projects prior to any decisions taken to Cabinet in late September. The workshop also gives Members an opportunity to receive information around Birkenhead Town Centre.

#### 4.5 Future items

At the previous agenda setting meeting for this committee, it was agreed by the Chair and Party Spokespersons for a number of agenda items to be considered at future Committee meetings. These are:

- An update on the use of consultants and interim appointments within the Council.
- A report detailing how the Council is delivering its commercial strategy and the successes it has achieved.
- A report outlining the work of the Council's Programme Office and the key transformational projects that have been delivered and future plans.
- A report on the current situation relating to Business Rates collection.

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

5.1 The role of the LCRCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to:-

- Scrutinise the decision and actions taken by the Combined Authority or the Metro Mayor;
- Provide a 'critical friend to policy and strategy development;
- Undertake scrutiny reviews into areas of strategic importance for the people of the Liverpool City Region; and
- Monitor the delivery of the Combined Authority's strategic plan

5.2 The LCRCA O&S meeting schedule can be found via the link below:

[LCRCA O&S Meeting Schedule and Agenda](#)

The LCRCA O&S Committee has not met since the last update to the Business O&S Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2019. The work programme has been included within the Business O&S Committee's work programme (**Appendix 1**).

### **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

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

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