

Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday, 27 November 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme Update
REPORT OF:	Nancy Clarkson, Head of Intelligence Statutory Scrutiny Officer

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 prioritised 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 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 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

The Task & Finish group met with senior officers in October to evaluate the initial effectiveness of the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) introduced to prohibit overnight parking of recreational vehicles in the Kings Parade/Coastal Drive area of Wallasey. This order has proven to be a successful response to problematic campervan parking, and a similar order will now be introduced to Pilots Way and parts of Portland Street in New Brighton. The Review Panel will also be looking to engage with residents and stakeholders in due course to address wider issues and solutions regarding campervan parking in the Borough.

4.2 New Ferry Task and Finish Scrutiny Review

The review panel met with residents and traders who received the hardship fund at a public meeting in October. They have subsequently met with several residents who were directly affected by the explosion, as well as receiving several witness statements. Further meetings are planned with officers, first responders and traders in due course.

4.3 Review of Council's Overview & Scrutiny Arrangements

The scrutiny review into Scrutiny arrangements was presented to the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee on 26th September with all recommendations being agreed. The report was then presented at Council on 14th October where Members agreed that the findings highlighted in the report should be taken into consideration when forming the new governance arrangements.

4.4 Scrutiny Workshop – Wirral Waters

A scrutiny workshop to be held in relation to Wirral Waters was held in September and was opened to all Overview & Scrutiny Members. This was hosted by the Director for Economic and Housing Growth. This was followed by two informal 'drop in' sessions held in October which gave members the opportunity to speak to Peel and Muse and view projected plans and consultation documents.

5.0 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY (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 Committee is made up of 3 elected Members from each of the constituent Local Authorities of the LCR Combined Authority, along with one elected Member from both

the Liverpool City Region Liberal Democrat Group and the Liverpool City Region Conservative Group. The three Members from Wirral Council are Cllrs. Jean Stapleton, Adrian Jones and Helen Cameron.

- 5.3 The LCRCOA Overview & Scrutiny Committee will meet five times during the municipal year with all meetings now webcasted. The work programme for the municipal year will be agreed at the first meeting of the Committee on 19th June. Work programme updates and copies of relevant scrutiny reports will be sent to all Committee Members for information. For information, the meeting schedule and agenda details are available on the link below:

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

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This report is for Members information and there are no direct financial implications.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Not Applicable.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

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

9.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 9.1 Not Applicable.

10.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 10.1 Not Applicable.

11.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

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

12.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 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)

Council Meeting	Date