

<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS</b>
<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS</b>

## **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report provides Members of the Council with an update on the work carried out by each of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The report includes contributions from each of the Committee Chairs covering the period since the previous report presented to Council on 14 October 2019.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

Members are requested to note the contents of this report and consider any questions they may have for the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 To update Council Members on the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and to provide an opportunity for Council Members to ask questions on the activities undertaken.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 Not Applicable

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **ADULT CARE AND HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT**

- 3.1 Over recent months, the Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee has continued to contribute to, and deliver, a dynamic work programme to ensure that the Council's statutory health scrutiny function is carried out. In addition, the Committee is continually committed to holding our health partners to account for the delivery of key services and exceptional patient care.
- 3.2 Since the Committee last reported to Council, there have been a number of scrutiny workshops held in order to look in detail at significant areas of health and care, and to ensure that Members are provided with timely and relevant information to carry out effective scrutiny. In October 2019, Committee invited all non-executive Members to examine Wirral Health and Care Commissioning's Pooled Fund arrangements for 2020/21, to ensure Member engagement with future financial governance within integrated care. In addition, the workshop provided an opportunity for Members to hear from a number of service users who experience integrated services first-hand. A scrutiny report and recommendations are due to be presented to Committee in January 2020.
- 3.3 Members have also stated on a number of occasions that current data provided for health and care does not go far enough in supplying a detailed overview of frontline service activity and, following a number of meetings recently that have involved stakeholders, it appears that the perceptions of those delivering health and social care services differ from those receiving them. A workshop was held in October 2019 to review performance reports and propose amendments, with detailed indicators around social care and public health a focus for future reporting processes.
- 3.4 The last meeting of the Committee in November welcomed Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust to present a progress report on its new site in Liverpool, and to answer Member questions regarding the existing site in Wirral. Assurances were given that an enhanced service would be provided for in-patients at Clatterbridge, with Members requesting a report in 2020 to provide further detail. In addition, Members were presented with comprehensive reports on the Better Care Fund & Winter Pressure Arrangements, and steps being taken to improve Domestic Abuse services on Wirral.
- 3.5 The Health and Care Performance Working Group now has a robust work programme, having been re-established at the start of the municipal year to take an

in depth look at the performance of health care systems across Wirral. At its last meeting in October, the working group looked at All Age Disability and Mental Health service data and received an update on the integration of the assessment, support planning and case management processes for children and adults with the most complex disabilities and adults with mental health needs. The working group also continues to closely monitor quality and compliance within residential care home settings, so that the safety and wellbeing of some of Wirral's most vulnerable residents is kept at the forefront of the working group priorities.

- 3.6 As with previous years, Members of the Committee will be invited to review the budget proposals for 2020/21 within the Adult Care and Health remit. A special meeting has been convened for January 2020 in order to ensure adequate time for savings plans to be presented, questions to be answered fully and for recommendations to be captured. Future areas of scrutiny within the Committee work programme include reviewing the Adults Safeguarding Report 2018/19 and the Annual Social Care Complaints Reports for 2018/19, as well as continued monitoring and evaluation of the sub-acute ward at Clatterbridge Hospital.

*Councillor Moira McLaughlin*

## **BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT**

- 3.7 As part of the committee's work programme for the year, to continue the good practice in place all opportunities for undertaking pre-decision scrutiny of Council strategies and policies will be explored. Following on from workshops held in September, Members attended an informal drop-in session during October with the developer MUSE. This is the continuation of engagement with developers which has been a key part of scrutiny workplans. The success of key regeneration is vital for Wirral and having effective scrutiny in place is an important part in ensuring this happens. In addition to this, Members were also invited to a workshop regarding proposals around the Tranmere Rovers Partnering Agreement.
- 3.8 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 to address wider issues and solutions regarding campervan parking in the Borough.
- 3.9 A report on the New Ferry disaster was presented to Committee in September 2019 where Members agreed to a Task & Finish scrutiny review which aims to ensure that all necessary steps have been taken to address those residents, traders and other people affected by the incident. The review is ongoing with the panel members meeting with residents, traders and stakeholders as part of their information finding.
- 3.10 The Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee is receiving regular updates on the latest developments of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority which are vital for Members because of the impact this has on Wirral. Any areas of significance at a local level can be addressed by Members as part of the ongoing work programme.

Updates are also provided on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

- 3.11 In November, reports were also brought to Committee to update Members on street lighting and pothole repairs within Wirral. A further report was also requested on Universal Credit, as it had been a year since it went to full roll-out in the Borough. In addition to this, a report was presented on upcoming key regeneration projects, which Members will have the opportunity to scrutinise further in the next year.

*Councillor Dave Mitchell*

## **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT**

- 3.12 The Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee has met once since the last Chairs' Report. At Committee in November, Members received an update from the Director of Children's Services on the Ofsted Improvement Plan. Five key areas were noted; Assessment and Planning, Transitions of Assessment Procedures and Pathways, Emotional Health and Wellbeing, Education and Life Story Work. Members of the Committee endorsed the plan and are looking forward to working with Children's Services as this plan is implemented.
- 3.13 Also included in the agenda was a 'Summary of the Self Evaluation of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities'. This item was a presented summary of the self-evaluation undertaken by partners working with young people and their families. Members questioned the notable areas including the timeliness of EHCPs, budget cuts and the destination of SEND pupils leaving education.
- 3.14 The Assistant Director for Early Help and Prevention brought two reports to Committee in November. The first report was on Domestic Abuse, with the report providing an overview of provision available to support children adults and families affected by Domestic Abuse. This agenda item was supported by a 'walk through' session in early November which gave Members the opportunity to look at the provision in more detail and speak to front-line staff. Members noted the report and requested that the service be reported on in regular intervals. Also presented was an update on the Review of the Youth Offer. The report 'care more about us' was a review of the findings from the consultation undertaken with Young People, together with emerging data about the usage of you th provisions across the Borough. Members were also shown a video made by young people, which was well received.
- 3.15 A review of Healthy Weight is being undertaken by members of Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the first stakeholder session 'Affordable, Accessible and Active Travel' was held in November. Two other sessions are planned around 'The Role of the Food System' and 'Built and Green Environments'. In addition to this, Committee invited all members of the council to join them at a workshop regarding the ongoing SEND consultation.

*Councillor Wendy Clements*

## **ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT**

- 3.16 The Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee has continued to focus on delivering a comprehensive work programme over recent months, prioritising areas that highlight Wirral's commitment to climate change action and deliver an attractive and sustainable local environment for all residents.
- 3.17 At the September meeting of the Committee, a Task & Finish group was established in order to review the strategic guidance within the Council's draft Tree Policy and to ensure that a robust tree risk management plan is put in place. Since then, the Panel have met to agree a clear yet challenging scope for the review and have taken part in an evidence day to gain a deeper understanding of some of the issues faced in the safe and effective management of trees in the Borough – including a Member visit to Arrowe Country Park to meet with officers from the Parks and Countryside team. The review panel plan to convene again for a further focus group, this time with the inclusion of planning officers, to discuss the links between the Tree Policy and the Local Plan.
- 3.18 The Committee met in November and were presented with a number of detailed reports for consideration; including a review of the Council's Enforcement Policy and an update on current issues affecting the Marine Lake in West Kirby. Committee also discussed the Council's Notice of Motion from July 2019 on verges and pollinators, and Members were encouraged to see proposals in place for the future planting of wildflowers and bulbs to create a visual highway displays along grass verges and central reservations.
- 3.19 Budget proposals for 2020/21 within the remit of the Environment O&S Committee will be scrutinised in January 2020, with an opportunity for Members to ensure that their views on savings plans and efficiencies are taken into account. The Committee work programme remains flexible but anticipated future reports for scrutiny include a review of the 'Property Pool Plus' Housing Allocations Policy and continued monitoring of the Wirral Flood and Water Management Partnership.

*Councillor Tom Anderson*

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are none arising from this report.

### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are none arising from this report.

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

- 6.1 There are none arising from this report.

### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 There are none arising from this report.

## 8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Not Applicable.

## 9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

## 10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising from this report.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Report compiled by:  
Alexandra Davidson – Scrutiny Officer  
0151 691 8381  
[alexandradavidson@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:alexandradavidson@wirral.gov.uk)

## APPENDICES

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

### SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	14 October 2019
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	18 March 2019
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	10 December 2018
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	15 October 2018
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	19 March 2018
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	11 December 2017
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	16 October 2017
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	20 March 2017
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	19 December 2016