

**Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday, 4 March 2020**

REPORT TITLE:	Business Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Update
REPORT OF:	Head of Intelligence (Statutory Scrutiny Officer) Business Services

REPORT SUMMARY

The Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in co-operation 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.

It is envisaged that the work programme will be formed from a combination of scrutiny reviews, standing items and requested officer reports. This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. The work programme for the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members of the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to;

1. Approve the proposed Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2019/20, making any required amendments.
2. Note the contents of the Business Overview and Scrutiny Regeneration Workshop Report

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 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

- 2.1 Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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 Plan
- 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 and Council Plan Priorities	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 and Council Priorities, 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.

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS

In February 2020, Members of the Business & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committees attended a workshop on the Wirral Growth Company and Key Regeneration Projects. A workshop report is included as an appendix to this report.

5G and Public Health; Following interest from Members, and a public question at the Council meeting of 14th October 2019, a workshop for all Members on the implications of the roll out of 5G on Wirral is due to be arranged. This workshop is provisionally scheduled to take place in March 2020.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The governance arrangements of the Council have recently been reviewed and as of May 2020, the current scrutiny model and committee structure will change. The Chairs of all four current Overview & Scrutiny Committees have worked collaboratively to address cross-cutting matters and ensure that the necessary prioritisation and scheduling of Committee work programme items has taken place.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

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

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 Whilst this report is for information to members any risks in delivering the items on the work programme have been considered and mitigated against

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 All items on the work programme have been subject to engagement or consultation with relevant stakeholders.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 This report is for information to members and there are no direct Environment or Climate change implications. The content of this report has no impact on emissions of CO₂.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Business O&S Work Programme

Appendix 2 Business O&S Regeneration Workshop Report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	27th June 2019
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	4th July 2019
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	17th September 2019
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	27th November 2019
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	23rd January 2020