

REPORT TITLE	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS
REPORT OF	THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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 10 December 2018. Members of Council are requested to note the contents of the report set out in section 3 below.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are requested to consider the contents of the report and whether they have any questions 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 N/A

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ADULT CARE AND HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.1 The Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee has continued to work closely with health partners across Wirral in recent months, ensuring a meaningful dialogue takes place around decisions that impact on Wirral residents.
- 3.2 In early December, a workshop was held for Members to explore budget proposals under the remit of the Committee, with the outcomes reported back to Cabinet as part of the budget setting process. The Committee was pleased to agree to the savings and efficiency plans put forward for health and care for 2019/20, and particularly welcomed the innovative approach to cost saving through schemes such as the HomeSharing Pilot, and the added social value, with a focus on wellbeing associated with such programmes.
- 3.3 Members of the Adult Care and Health and the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committees joined together in January for a workshop to review the Pooled Fund Arrangements for Wirral in 2019/20, following the called-in decision of the Joint Strategic Commissioning Board (JSCB) on the plans for 2018/19. Several recommendations were acknowledged by the JSCB as a result of the workshop, most notably the need for scrutiny involvement at all stages of any future decision-making process; as well as the inclusion of feedback from those frontline staff and patients most affected by health and care integration. The Committee will continue to monitor pooled fund performance over the coming year.
- 3.4 The last meeting of the Committee in January welcomed Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Trust to address Members' concerns around the recently launched sub-acute ward at Clatterbridge Hospital. The T2A ward was opened to deal with additional pressures over the winter period and beyond, with Committee seeking assurance around potential issues with patient care and funding implications. Members questioned the tender process and accompanying scoring criteria and felt there was need for more detailed explanation so will continue to monitor the delivery of services at this location. This matter again highlighted the need for, and importance of, timely public scrutiny.
- 3.5 The Health and Care Performance Panel is now well established, having been set up at the start of the municipal year to take an in depth look at the performance of health care systems across Wirral. Most recently, the Panel have reviewed the performance

of the Better Care Fund, along with the domiciliary care market on Wirral. Throughout this year, the Panel have also looked in detail at the quality and compliance of care homes to ensure a focus on the best care for our most vulnerable residents.

- 3.6 Although the current municipal year is drawing to a close, the Committee has a number of substantive items arranged for discussion at its final meeting in March. NHS partners and commissioners have been called before scrutiny, following recent changes to the phlebotomy service, in order to give assurance regarding the impact on staff and patients. In addition, the Urgent Care review will continue to form a significant part of the Adult Care and Health work programme over the coming months. A joint Scrutiny Committee with Cheshire West and Chester Council is proposed for June in order to review and assess the data collected as part of the public consultation on the subject.

Councillor Julie McManus

BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.7 Since the last update to Council, a meeting of the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee convened on 22nd January 2019. At this meeting, Members received an informative presentation on the Investment and Change Board which provides strategic and corporate oversight as there are several large projects Wirral is involved in. It was also useful to understand what work has been previously considered by the Board, including Birkenhead Commercial District.
- 3.8 Scrutiny outside Committee has also been ongoing. The Task & Finish Scrutiny Review on 'Camper Vans' had the following objectives:
- To understand the current issues around campervan parking on Wirral; with particular focus on resident concerns and environmental impact.
 - To help inform the development of an all-encompassing campervan policy for Wirral, including potential affiliation with the Culture and Visitor Strategy.
 - To contribute to a series of recommendations to ensure the effective management of campervans at coastal locations, and across Wirral.
- 3.9 The next session of the review will explore some of the key issues relating to campervans, including the examination of case studies, similar local authority policy and benchmarking against comparable procedures in other locations across the UK.
- 3.10 On 28th February 2019, a briefing session for Members on the latest developments of Wirral Growth Company was delivered. The session covered all aspects of the developments, including the Partnership set-up, some of the early business cases and the site development plans. Members felt it was a very useful exercise and it was a great opportunity for a first meeting with representatives from Muse. The delivery of projects is critical for Wirral in terms of regeneration and the scrutiny of this will be a key focus for Members moving forward.
- 3.11 On 11th December 2018, a scrutiny workshop to consider a number of budget proposals under the remit of the Committee was held. This session was attended by key senior officers to respond to Members questions. A report of the workshop was considered at the Committee meeting on 22nd January and then referred to Cabinet

as part of the decision-making process. The importance of scrutiny to be involved in the Council's budget setting is vital to ensure oversight and to hold the executive to account on the decisions taken. We will again look at how we can further develop this area next year.

- 3.12 Committee regularly receives updates on the work of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. This provides Members with an understanding of what is happening on a regional level as well as the potential implications for Wirral. This work has included details on a proposed LCR cycling and walking network and the potential implications for Brexit.

Councillor Pat Hackett

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.13 The Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee has met twice since the last chairs report. The committee has continued receiving an update on the Improvement Journey and Data Book as a standing item, presented by the Corporate Director for Children's Services, Paul Boyce. In anticipation of the next Ofsted re-inspection, Committee in February received an update on 'Ofsted Readiness' as part of the presentation.
- 3.14 At the January Committee, members received an executive summary and an in-depth analysis on provisional outcomes for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5, from the Commissioner for Schools. This was followed by a report on the participation and destination analysis on Wirral for young people aged 16-19 which gave members an overview of the complex post 16 education and learning landscape in the borough. Members approved the suggested actions to support young people. Committee also received a two-part report on obesity within the borough after members expressed a concern over statistics. These spread over the January and February committee meetings. These reports focused firstly on obesity levels in the borough and secondly on establishing a working group and a healthy weight declaration, which members approved.
- 3.15 Other significant items included an update report on the delivery of the Improving Life Chances Strategy, and a look at the Wirral Fostering Service. Members agreed to receive follow-up report on both items, in the hope of obtaining more detailed and specific information.
- 3.16 Members attended the yearly budget workshop which gave members a chance to examine proposals under the remit of the Children and Families Committee in this year's budget. Members agreed to the proposals, and there was a discussion around the format of the workshop as well as the appropriate level of information to include in written form.
- 3.17 Members have recently committed a greater portion of the work programme to scrutiny and overview of partner organisations and agencies. February's committee received an item on 'Early Help – Community Matters'. This focused on the third sector organisations in delivering early help services to ensure that families in need are supported before statutory intervention is required.

- 3.18 New Multi-Agency Safeguarding arrangements are due to be launched later this year, and committee requested a workshop be convened to discuss the new model and look at the future relationship between scrutiny and the new safeguarding framework. Members agreed a series of recommendations and to producing a draft protocol between scrutiny and Wirral Safeguarding Partnership. The report for this was presented at the February Committee.
- 3.19 The committee's programme of Reality Check Visits continues, and has been opened to partner organisations, with a report brought to the January Committee regarding a visit to safeguarding leads at St. Catherine's Hospital. Further reality checks are being planned to examine the role of the Police in child protection and safeguarding.
- 3.20 Committee also held a joint workshop with the Adult Care and Health Committee to examine the Pooled Funding arrangements in place between Wirral Borough Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group. The workshop gave members a chance to explore the future direction of pooled funding arrangements and raise any concerns.
- 3.21 This will be the last Chair's report before Ofsted re-inspection of children's social services. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members and officers involved in the process of readying these services for this and trust that the hard work will have made a positive impact on the lives of children and young people

Councillor Tom Usher

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.22 A Task & Finish scrutiny review on Recycling is progressing with the objectives including the understanding the current waste management system in Wirral and to identify where improvements can be made to enhance performance. Following the release of Government's Resources and Waste Strategy, the review will consider the impact this will have for Wirral Council.
- 3.23 The recently completed scrutiny review on Modern Slavery which was considered by this Committee has been referred to Cabinet and will have the recommendations for the impact of Modern Slavery in Wirral; this will be monitored by Committee subject to Cabinet approval.
- 3.24 It was previously reported that at the Committee meeting held on 20th September, the terms of reference for the Wirral Flood & Water Management Partnership were agreed. This sought to establish a formal link with Wirral Council's Overview & Scrutiny function. The Partnership provides appropriate governance and elected member oversight of local flood and coastal erosion risk management activities. The first meeting has now convened which I and the Party Spokespersons attended, giving 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.
- 3.25 Two scrutiny workshops were held to consider the budget proposals under the remit of the Committee, and these were well attended by Members. With agreement from

the party Spokespersons, we agreed to consider two of the budget proposals relating to the golf courses and the Floral Pavilion to ensure effective scrutiny was undertaken in the time available. Members comments and observations were reported back to Committee before a final report was referred to Cabinet for consideration.

- 3.26 In the Committee meeting in January, Committee took advantage of not having the regular quarterly financial monitoring and performance monitoring agenda items and had an extended item on the Environmental Enforcement Contract. This allowed Members to have scrutiny undertake a deep dive into many of the issues that had been highlighted by Members and was strengthened with the representative from Kingdom in attendance. Committee also convened a Special Meeting to undertake pre-decision scrutiny on the Dogs Public Spaces Protection Order before Cabinet made any decisions. Members of the Committee also heard a Call-in relating to the Local Plan and a recommendation for the Cabinet Member was agreed at this meeting.

Councillor Tony Jones

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 N/A

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None - the report is for information only.

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APPENDICES – N/A

REFERENCE MATERIAL – N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
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
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	17 October 2016
Scrutiny Annual Report to Council	11 July 2016