



**COUNCIL**

**16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020**

<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORT</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 Chairpersons covering the period since the previous report presented to Council on 9<sup>th</sup> December 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 to ask questions on the activities undertaken.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 No other options were considered.

### **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; delivering a comprehensive work programme and ensuring effective scrutiny through cross-party working.
- 3.2 Since last reporting to Council in December 2019, the Committee has held two ordinary meetings along with a special budget meeting to scrutinise savings proposals for 2020/21 under the remit of Adult Care and Health. In January 2020, Committee Members welcomed representatives from Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to provide an update on the sub-acute ward operating at Clatterbridge Hospital, in addition to an update report from health commissioners on the initial delivery of Urgent Care Transformation plans. Members were particularly keen to understand the early impact of the new model of care on residents in Moreton and Rock Ferry in light of the change in provision at the Minor Injury Units (MIUs) in these areas. As Chair of the Committee, I also wrote to the Liverpool City Region Metro Mayor in order to set out the Committee's concerns around the lack of adequate transport provision and its potentially damaging impact on patient access to health and care services on Wirral.
- 3.3 Following the special budget meeting in January 2020, Members identified a need to review additional sensitive financial information relating to the Adult Care and Health savings plans - with a subsequent private scrutiny session convened to specifically discuss detail around provider efficiencies delivered through Wirral Evolutions Local Authority Trading Company and increased provider fee rates associated with the actual cost of care. This workshop was held in February 2020 with findings and recommendations communicated to Cabinet for consideration.

- 3.4 The Health and Care Performance Working Group has continued to ensure stakeholder involvement within delivery of its work programme in order to strengthen its commitment to detailed review of service provision and performance across the Borough. In January 2020, Members focused on examining the Musculoskeletal (MSK) Integrated Triage Service – hearing from both patient representative groups, commissioners and MSK providers. Public Health officers also attended the meeting to apprise the Group of developments within the Change, Grow, Live drug and alcohol service, with Members satisfied with the impact of the programme’s robust improvement plan and the positive outcomes of the service.
- 3.5 The Committee’s last meeting of the 2019/20 municipal year was held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The development plan resulting from the 2019 Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) Peer Review was presented to Members and clearly showcased the whole system approach to social care improvement through collaborative working between the Council and colleagues within Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust and Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. The February meeting agenda also saw a report on the public health implications of poor quality housing and the Borough’s plans for improvement in this area. Although current scrutiny arrangements will cease at the close of this municipal year, health and care is always an ongoing priority and the Committee’s work programme will be included in the transitional plan to be taken into the new committee system and governance arrangements.

*Councillor Moira McLaughlin*

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

- 3.6 As part of the Committee’s work programme for the year, and to continue good practice, all opportunities for undertaking pre-decision scrutiny of Council strategies and policies have been explored. Following on from workshops and drop-in sessions held in 2019, Members of the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee attended a workshop in February 2020 to look at the key regeneration projects in Birkenhead, Moreton and Bromborough and their associated business cases. 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.
- 3.7 The Task & Finish review into Camper Vans in New Brighton was completed this year, with the Panel engaging with residents and stakeholders to address wider issues and solutions regarding campervan parking in the Borough. The full report was brought to the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee in March for consideration.

- 3.8 Further to a report on the New Ferry disaster presented to Committee in September 2019, 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 was presented to the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2020 and all recommendations were agreed. The scrutiny review and report will be presented to Cabinet in March 2020.
- 3.9 At the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 23rd January 2020, Members also received an update on staff sickness levels from the Head of Human Resources and were interested to hear about the steps the organisation has taken to manage sickness absence. Also presented at Committee was a report from the Head of Service for Skills Learning and education on the impact of the Apprentice Levy. Notably, and after consideration by the Scrutiny Chairs, it was agreed that budget scrutiny be undertaken at Committee this year to ensure the budget proposals were discussed in an open and transparent manner. All budget recommendations were approved by Committee.
- 3.10 On 4th March 2020, reports were brought to committee on Business Rates retention. In addition to this, Members of the Committee also received an update on Commercialisation. The Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee has also continued to receive regular updates on the latest developments of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

*Councillor Dave Mitchell*

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

- 3.11 The Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee has met once since the last Chairs' Report. At Committee in January, Members of the Committee received the Budget Savings proposals for the upcoming municipal year. Previous Budget Scrutiny had been undertaken in workshops, however after consideration from the Scrutiny Chairs it was agreed that Budget Scrutiny should be considered by Members in an open and transparent manner. As such, Committee reviewed the papers in advance and were able to ask questions of the Director for Children's Services. The budget recommendations and challenges of meeting the needs of a large Children Looked After population were noted by the Committee. As Corporate Parents the Committee urged the Director to continue to ensure that Children Looked After always get the most appropriate and excellent care placement available, having particular mind to the benefits of stable placements."
- 3.12 In the January meeting also received a report entitled 'Summary of Standards – Provisional Outcomes for Key Stage 4 & 5' from the Commissioner for Schools which that provided an in-depth analysis for the pupil outcomes at the age of 16 (GCSEs). Further to a workshop held in 2019, the Commissioner for Schools also

introduced a report in support of a summary presentation of the findings and proposed options from independent review of SEND provision. Following debate on the matter, Members were of the view that the options / recommendations as contained within the report not be progressed, but the source information was useful and should form the basis of further consultation and development of a plan to suit Wirral's need. It was noted that notwithstanding the Committee's lack of support for the recommendations, this it had been a very useful exercise in terms of pre-decision scrutiny.

- 3.13 At the same meeting Members of the Committee also received an update on Adult Learning which set out information on the service's developments, summary of delivery and achievements in the 2018/19 academic year. Members were apprised that Wirral Council's Lifelong Learning Service actively engaged and supported local residents (aged 19+) who are furthest from the labour market. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the services' planned improvements and recognised the contribution to improving the lives of adults in Wirral's more deprived communities during 2018/19.
- 3.14 A review of Healthy Weight in the Borough was undertaken by members of Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2019 with the final of three Stakeholder session held in December 2019. These workshops were well attended with over 80 delegates from across multiple sectors in attendance. A large amount of data was generated from these sessions and a report has been compiled which will be presented to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2020, just after full Council.

*Councillor Wendy Clements*

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

- 3.15 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.
- 3.16 The Committee's Task & Finish group recently concluded its scrutiny review of the strategic guidance within the Council's draft Tree Strategy, agreeing a positive set of recommendations to strengthen the authority's approach to tree preservation and risk management. This review highlighted the benefits of collaborative cross-party working and allowed for frank and honest discussions between Members and officers regarding the challenges that Wirral faces in maintaining and improving its tree stock and woodland. The findings of the review panel are due to be presented to Committee in March 2020, with subsequent referral to Cabinet for further consideration if agreed.

- 3.17 At the January 2020 meeting, the Committee focused primarily on undertaking pre-decision scrutiny of the Council's budget savings plans for 2020/21. Although Committee ultimately endorsed the budget plans within the Environment remit, Members requested further detail around a number of areas of financial pressure, notably street lighting and leisure income. The January agenda also provided Members with an opportunity to discuss the proposed Public Space Protection Order relating to dog control in the Borough. Committee were keen to ensure that proper consultation had, and will, take place with relevant stakeholders and interested parties so that resident opinion can be fully considered as part of any long-term plan for Wirral.
- 3.18 The final meeting of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee will take place in March 2020, with planned agenda items covering a number of key issues; including the Council's Climate Change strategy, Flood Risk Management Annual Report along with an update on the future provision of the Floral Pavilion theatre and conference centre.

*Councillor Tom Anderson*

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications.

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

- 6.1 There are no direct resource implications.

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 There are no relevant risks identified.

#### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 Each Overview & Scrutiny Committee engages appropriately with relevant stakeholders when delivering its annual work programme.

#### **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.

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## APPENDICES

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme  
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme  
Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme  
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

### SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>9 December 2019</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>14 October 2019</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>18 March 2019</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>10 December 2018</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>15 October 2018</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>19 March 2018</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>11 December 2017</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>16 October 2017</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>20 March 2017</b>