

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	19 January 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Work Programme 2020/21, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan		
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element) Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

### Summary:

To review the Work Programme for 2020/21; to identify potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) appointed by the Committee; to identify any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; to receive an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and to update Members on the progress of items that have previously been considered by the Committee

### Recommendation: That:

- (1) the Work Programme for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted; and consideration be given to any additional items to be included and thereon be agreed;
- (2) it be noted that the Committee, at its meeting held on 15 September 2020, agreed that no new Working Groups be established until the completion of one of the current Working Groups;
- (3) the Committee considers items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, which fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the work programme referred to in (1) above;
- (4) the reports in relation to Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2019/20; Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services; and Sefton Economic Strategy for Growth be deferred to the meeting to be held on 9 March 2020;

- (5) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;
- (6) the update on the Liverpool City Region Digital Inclusion Strategy be noted;
- (7) the update on the Liverpool City Region Town Centre Commission be noted; and
- (8) The update on the procurement of 120 litre blue wheeled bins for glass recycling be noted.

**Reasons for the Recommendation(s):**

To determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2020/21 and identify scrutiny review topics which would demonstrate that the work of the Overview and Scrutiny ‘adds value’ to the Council. To comply with a decision of the Committee to update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The pre-scrutiny process assists Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues before making formal decisions.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:** (including any Risk Implications)

No alternative options have been considered as the Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to approve its Work Programme and identify scrutiny review topics.

**What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any financial implications arising from the consideration of a key decision or relating to a recommendation arising from a Working Group review will be reported to Members at the appropriate time.

**(A) Revenue Costs – see above**

**(B) Capital Costs – see above**

**Implications of the Proposals:**

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> None
<b>Legal Implications:</b> None
<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.

**Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:**

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: None directly applicable to this report.
Commission, broker and provide core services: None directly applicable to this report but the Committee would be made aware of such issues via the receipt of reports, as referenced in the Work Programme, relating to the review of Winter Service and

Operational Plan; the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2018/19; the Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services; and Green Sefton 2019/20 Annual Report, Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan 2020/21.
Place – leadership and influencer: None directly applicable to this report.
Drivers of change and reform: None directly applicable to this report but reports would be submitted to the Committee detailing how the Council is leading on beneficial changes to be made with reference to United Utilities charging policies and new houses being sold as leasehold.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: None directly applicable to this report but the Committee would be made aware of such issues via the receipt of a report in the Work Programme relating to the Sefton Economic Strategy for Growth
Greater income for social investment: None directly applicable to this report.
Cleaner Greener: None directly applicable to this report but the Committee would be made aware of such issues via the receipt of reports, as referenced in the Work Programme, relating to the review of Winter Service and Operational Plan; the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2019/2020; the Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services; Green Sefton 2019/20 Annual Report, Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan 2020/21.

## What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Work Programme Report is not subject to FD/LD consultation. Any specific financial and legal implications associated with any subsequent reports arising from the report will be included in those reports as appropriate.

Head of Highways and Public Protection  
Head of Economic Growth and Housing  
Executive Director

### (B) External Consultations

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

### Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

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### Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2020/2021
- Criteria Checklist for Selecting Topics for Review
- Latest Key Decision Forward Plan items relating to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

### **Introduction/Background**

#### **1. WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21**

- 1.1 The proposed Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2020/21 is set out in Appendix 1 to the report. The programme has been produced in liaison with the appropriate Heads of Service, whose roles fall under the remit of the Committee.
- 1.2 Members are requested to consider whether there are any other items that they wish the Committee to consider, that fall within the terms of reference of the Committee. The Work Programme will be submitted to each meeting of the Committee during 2020/21 and updated, as appropriate.
- 1.3 The Work Programme indicates that reports/presentations be submitted to this meeting of the Committee in relation to Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2019/20; Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services; and Sefton Economic Strategy for Growth.
- 1.4 With regard to the Sefton Economic Strategy for Growth report the Head of Economic Growth and Housing has requested that consideration of this be deferred to the March meeting of the Committee so that the report can be updated on Covid implications and potentially the impact of Brexit.
- 1.5 With regard to the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2019/20; and the update on operational activities delivered via Locality Services the Head of Highways and Public Protection has advised that information is still awaited from the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority; and that due to staff absence, it has not been possible to provide the Locality Services update report. However, Councillor Fairclough has provided an update of recent activity associated with his portfolio elsewhere on the agenda. It is recommended that these two matters be deferred to the March meeting of the Committee.

#### **2. SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS 2020/21**

- 2.1 It is usual practise for the Committee to appoint a Working Group(s) to undertake a scrutiny review of services during the Municipal Year.
- 2.2 The Committee has previously agreed to establish a Working Group to review the topic of the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity. Councillors John Sayers (Lead Member) Dowd, Pullin and Roche are members of the Working Group. This review is on-going and it is anticipated that the Working Group's Final Report will be completed before the end of the Municipal Year. The Working Group's next meeting will be held on 28 January 2021.
- 2.3 The Committee, at its meeting held on 5 November 2019 agreed to establish a Working Group to review the topic of housing support services provided to

vulnerable people. Councillors Blackburne, Doyle, Murphy, Robinson (Lead member) and Anne Thompson are members of the Working Group; A scoping document has now been approved by the Working Group and its next meeting will be held on 22 January 2021.

- 2.4 For the information of Members, a criteria checklist for selecting and rejecting potential topics to review is attached at Appendix 2. This is used to assist the Committee in selecting topics and appointing Working Group(s) for the Municipal Year.
- 2.5 Members will recall that at its meeting held on 15 September 2020 the Committee agreed that no new Working Groups be established until the completion of one of the current Working Groups referred to in 2.2 and 2.3 above.

### **3. PRE-SCRUTINY OF ITEMS IN THE KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN**

- 3.1 Members may request to pre-scrutinise items from the Key Decision Forward Plan which fall under the remit (terms of reference) of this Committee. The Forward Plan which is updated each month, sets out the list of items to be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration during the next four-month period.
- 3.2 The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.
- 3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has requested that only those key decisions that fall under the remit of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be included on the agenda for consideration.
- 3.4 The latest Forward Plan is attached at Appendix 3 for this purpose. For ease of identification, items listed on the Forward Plan for the first time appear as shaded. The Forward Plan to be published on 23 December 2020 will be submitted to Members in due course.
- 3.5 Should Members require further information in relation to any item on the Key Decision Forward Plan, would they please contact the relevant Officer named against the item in the Plan, prior to the Meeting.
- 3.6 The Committee is invited to consider items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, which fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the Work Programme referred to in (1) above.

### **4. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

- 4.1 As Members will be aware, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees considered a report on the guidance produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relating to Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities following on from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's inquiry into Overview

and Scrutiny. This Committee considered the matter at its meeting held on 22 October 2019 (Minute No. 20).

4.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees all agreed the recommendations contained in the report, one of which being that updates on Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (LCRCAO&S) be included in the Work Programme report considered at each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

4.3 In accordance with the above decision, information on the LCRCAO&S is set out below.

#### 4.4 **Role**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was established by the Combined Authority in May 2017 in accordance with the Combined Authorities Order 2017.

The role of the 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.

#### 4.5 **Membership**

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.

Sefton's appointed Members are Councillors Dowd, Howard and Waterfield. Councillor Dowd is Sefton's Scrutiny Link.

Councillors Pugh and Sir Ron Watson are the respective representatives of the Liverpool City Region Liberal Democrat Group and the Liverpool City Region Conservative Group.

#### 4.6 **Chair**

The Chair of the LCRCAO&S cannot be a Member of the majority group. Councillor Thomas Crone, a Green Party Councillor serving on Liverpool City Council has been appointed Chair for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

#### 4.7 **Quoracy Issues**

A high number of meetings of the LCRCAO&S have been inquorate.

The quorum for meetings of the LCRCAO&S is 14, two-thirds of the total number of members, 20. This high threshold is not set by the Combined Authority but is

set out in legislation.

The Combined Authority's Monitoring Officer will be looking to work with the Monitoring Officers from the other Combined Authorities to identify what problems they are experiencing with Scrutiny and how/if they had overcome them. Representations to Government would also be considered once all options locally to resolve the quorum issue had been exhausted. The CA Monitoring Officer would then be able to provide evidence to Government that the quorum level was obstructing the work of scrutiny within the CA.

#### 4.8 **Meetings**

Information on all meetings and membership of the LCRCAO&S can be obtained using the following link

<https://moderngov.merseytravel.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=365&Year=0>

#### **4 November 2020**

The last meeting of the LCRCAO&S was held on 4 November 2020 and considered the following items:

- Metro Mayor S. Rotheram's Update
- Youth Unemployment
- The Liverpool City Region Spatial Development Strategy - Phase 2 Engagement Proposals
- Finalising the Liverpool City Region's Air Quality Action Plan
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2019-20
- Public Engagement at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- LCR LEP Task and Finish Review - Outcome of Consideration by the LCR LEP Board & The LCR Combined Authority
- Work Programme 2020/21
- Public Engagement at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Details of all the meetings can be obtained using the link referred to above.

#### 4.9 **14 January 2021**

The next meeting of the LCRCAO&S will take place on 14 January 2021 and will consider the following items:

- Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Budget 2021/22
- Public Engagement at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4.10 The Committee is requested to note the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### 5. **UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF ITEMS THAT HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE**

## 5.1 **Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Town Centre Commission**

- 5.1.1 At its meeting held on 5 November 2019 the Committee was advised of work being undertaken by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to establish a Town Centres Commission.
- 5.1.2 The Committee requested that the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer obtain a copy of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Town Centres Commission when published and include it on the agenda for a meeting of this Committee.
- 5.1.3 A copy of the press release in respect of this matter was included in the agenda report pack for the last meeting of the Committee; and the Committee was advised that 17 town centres from across Liverpool City Region's 6 constituent authorities had been identified for focus and in Sefton both Bootle and Southport town centres had been selected.
- 5.1.4 Members will also be aware that the last report to Committee advised that contact had been made with the LCR CA and that at the time of preparation of the previous report the Town Centres Commission was not yet available; that it was anticipated that its publication would be in early November 2020; and that the document would be included on the agenda for the next meeting of this Committee.
- 5.1.5 The Head of Economic Growth and Housing has advised that the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) has prepared a report on behalf of the Town Centre Commission for the Combined Authority and this had been a longstanding piece of work extended in 2020 to take account of Covid impacts on town centres and how these might be addressed within the recommendations. The IPPR Town Centre Commission Working Draft Report has only just been issued to local authorities and constituent authorities are now in the process of formulating comments on the report. The report will then be submitted to Chief Executives, Leaders and Mayors for consultation.
- 5.1.6 It is recommended that once the Town Centre Commission Report has been published then it be submitted to Committee.

## 5.2 **Digital Inclusion**

- 5.2.1 The Work Programme indicates that a report would be submitted to this meeting updating on progress of the Liverpool City Region Digital Inclusion Strategy.
- 5.2.2 Andrea Watts, Executive Director has advised that the LCR digital Infrastructure programme is in the process of procuring a joint venture partner – due to be announced on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The LCR Digital Strategy is currently out for consultation until 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 and is available at the following link



<https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/engagement-campaign-launched-on-liverpool-city-region-digital-strategy/>

The Council's digital strategy is on the Forward Plan for Cabinet in February 2021

Both of the last 2 strategies include sections on digital inclusion.

### **5.3 Procurement of 120 litre Blue Wheeled Bins for Glass Recycling**

- 5.3.1 Members will recall that the Committee, at its Special meeting held on 19 October 2020, considered a called-in item in relation to the procurement of 120 litre blue wheeled bins for glass recycling.
- 5.3.2 The Committee resolved (Minute No. 10) that it was not concerned and accepted the decision made by the Cabinet in relation to the procurement of 120 litre blue wheeled bins for glass recycling. The Committee also wished to be kept fully apprised of progress in this matter and requested that updates be provided to the Committee up to and including the implementation of the decision.
- 5.3.3 The Head of Highways and Public Protection has advised that there has been no substantive progress on this as yet as the main focus had been the preparations for the Xmas Shutdown and other operational matters.
- 5.3.4 Further updates will be provided to the Committee in due course.