

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	6 July 2021
Subject:	Work Programme 2021/22, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Children's Social Care Education		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To seek the views of the Committee on the draft Work Programme for 2021/22; to report on progress of the Secondary School Performance and Attainment Working Group; to report on progress of the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group; to identify any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the latest Key Decision Forward Plan; and to receive an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation:

That:

- (1) the Work Programme for 2021/22, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be approved, along with any additional items to be included and agreed;
- (2) the progress of the Secondary School Performance and Attainment Working Group be noted, and the Committee be requested to appoint two replacement Members to serve on it.
- (3) the progress of the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group be noted;
- (4) items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan that fall under the remit of the Committee, as set out in Appendix C to the report, be considered and any agreed items be included in the work programme referred to in (1) above; and
- (5) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2021/22; identify scrutiny review topics which would demonstrate that the work of the Overview and Scrutiny “adds value” to the Council; and 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:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None	
Legal Implications: None	
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
There are no direct climate emergency implications arising from this report. Any climate emergency implications arising from the consideration of reports referred to in the Work Programme will be contained in such reports when they are presented to Members at the appropriate time.	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report. Reference in the Work Programme to any other reports could impact on the Council's Core Purposes, in which case they will be referred to in the report when submitted.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As Above
Commission, broker and provide core services: As Above
Place – leadership and influencer: As Above
Drivers of change and reform: As Above
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: As Above
Greater income for social investment: As Above
Cleaner Greener: As Above

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 Work Programme report will be included in those reports as appropriate.

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Appendix A - Overview and Scrutiny Committee Draft Work Programme for 2021/22;
- Appendix B – Terms of Reference for the Committee (extract from the Constitution);
- Appendix C - 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 2021/22

- 1.1 The proposed Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2021/22 is set out at **Appendix A** 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 The Work Programme for the remaining meetings has been produced based on the major priority items included in last year's Programme.
- 1.3 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 (set out at **Appendix B**). The Work Programme will be submitted to each meeting of the Committee during 2021/22 and updated, as appropriate.
- 1.4 **The Committee is requested to approve the Work Programme for 2021/22, as set out at Appendix A to the report, and note that additional items may be added to the Programme at future meetings of the Committee during this Municipal Year.**

2. SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPIC(S) 2020/21 - SECONDARY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND ATTAINMENT WORKING GROUP

- 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 Currently, the Committee has one on-going Working Group. At the meeting of the Committee held on 26 January 2021, the Committee agreed that (Minute No. 30 refers):
 - “(4) a working group be established to review the topic of secondary school performance and attainment, and the following Members be appointed to serve on the working group:
 - Councillors Carragher, Keith and Murphy;”
- 2.3 The first meeting of the Committee was held on 15 March 2021 and Councillor Murphy was appointed as the Lead Member. The Working Group scoped the review and agreed that the review would take place in two stages, the first stage to focus on historical performance and attainment. The second stage to focus on current performance and attainment, and to commence in September 2022.
- 2.4 A further meeting of the Working Group was scheduled for 10 June 2021, for information gathering. However, the meeting was cancelled as Councillor Carragher is unable to continue serving on the Working Group as she has been appointed as Mayor for the Council. In addition, former Councillor Keith lost her seat at the Local Elections held in May 2021.
- 2.5 At least two Members of the Committee will need to be appointed to serve on the Working Group in order for it to continue.

- 2.6 **The Committee is requested to note the progress of the Secondary School Performance and Attainment Working Group and to appoint two replacement Members to serve on it.**

3. HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES TO VULNERABLE PEOPLE WORKING GROUP

- 3.1 At the meeting of the Committee held on 10 November 2020, the former Chair reported that Members of the Committee would be invited to serve on the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group, established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills), and a copy of the draft Scoping Document would be circulated to Members to aid them in their deliberations on this matter.
- 3.2 The former Chair of the Committee, Councillor Murphy, agreed to serve on the Working Group.
- 3.3 Councillors Janis Blackburne, Dave Robinson and Anne Thompson, from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills), have agreed to be Members of the Working Group.
- 3.4 The last meeting of the Working Group was held on 23 April 2021 and Members interviewed witnesses from the Home Office and their contractor Serco, to undertake obligations under the Asylum Accommodation and Support Contract (AASC) to provide housing and support to Asylum Seekers in Sefton.
- 3.5 **The Committee is requested to note the progress of the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group.**

4. PRE-SCRUTINY OF ITEMS IN THE KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 The latest Forward Plan published on 28 May 2021 is attached at **Appendix C** for this purpose. For ease of identification, items listed on the Forward Plan for the first time appear as shaded.

- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 At the time of drafting this report, a further Forward Plan is due to be published on 30 June 2021. Any additional items that fall under the remit of the Committee will be provided in due course.
- 4.7 **The Committee is invited to consider items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan, as set out in Appendix C to the report, that fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the Work Programme referred to in (1) above.**

5. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- 5.1 During the October/November 2019 cycle of meetings, 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 15 October 2019 (Minute No. 32 refers).
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 In accordance with the above decision, information on the LCRCAO&S is set out below.
- 5.4 **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.

5.5 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 Hansen, Howard and Waterfield. Councillor Howard is Sefton's Scrutiny Link.

Councillor Patrick Moloney is the representative of the Liberal Democrat Group on the Committee. The Conservative Group nomination is still awaited by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

5.6 **Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Chair of the LCRCAO&S cannot be a Member of the majority group. The Chair will be appointed at the first meeting of the Committee on 14 July 2021.

5.7 **Quoracy Issues**

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

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.

Remote meetings appear to have assisted with the quorum issue.

5.8 **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?CIId=365&Year=0>

Latest Meeting - 10 March 2021

The latest meeting of the LCRCAO&S was held on 10 March 2021.

Matters considered at the meeting related to:

- Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram's Update
- Race Equality Declaration of Intent
- Adult Education Budget Programme Update

- Mersey Tidal Project Update

At the time of drafting this report, the next meeting of the LCRCAO&S will be held on 30 June 2021 and will take the form of a work planning session.

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

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