

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 November 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Work Programme 2022/23, 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 seek the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for 2022/23; to identify any items for pre-scrutiny scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; to seek views on the establishment of a Working Group to review the topic of the adoption of a strategic approach for waste containment/disposal across the Borough and to seek input from Sefton's representatives on the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority; to update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and to consider the views of the Cabinet Member – Locality Services and the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services in response to a request of the Committee concerning the implementation of recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group

### Recommendation: That:

- (1) the Work Programme for 2022/23, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be considered, along with any additional items to be included and thereon be agreed;
- (2) 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;
- (3) consideration be given to establish a working group to review the adoption of a strategic approach for waste containment/disposal across the Borough and to seek input from Sefton's representatives on the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority;
- (4) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and

Scrutiny Committee be noted; and

- (5) consideration be given to the views of the Cabinet Member – Locality Services and the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services in response to a request of the Committee concerning the implementation of recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council’s Enforcement Activity Working Group.

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

To determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2022/23 and identify scrutiny review topics which would demonstrate that the work of the Overview and Scrutiny ‘adds value’ to the Council.

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.	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>	
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.
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 2019/20; 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 2019/20; the Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services; Green Sefton 2019/20 Annual Report, Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan 2020/21 together with the implementation of recommendations arising from the Shale Gas Working Group.

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

#### **(A) Internal Consultations**

This report is not subject to LD and FD comments. Any specific financial and legal implications associated with any subsequent reports arising from this report will be included in those reports as appropriate.

Assistant Director of Place (Operational In-House Services)

Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing)

Assistant Director of Place (Communities)

Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection)

Assistant Director of Place (Commercial Development)

Cabinet Member – Locality Services

Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services

#### **(B) External Consultations**

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority  
Sefton CVS

## 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 2022/2023
- Working Group Selection Criteria
- 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 2022/23

- 1.1 The proposed Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2022/23 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. The Work Programme was approved by the Committee on 28 June 2022.
- 1.2 The Work Programme has been produced based on 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. The Work Programme will be submitted to each meeting of the Committee during 2022/23 and updated, as appropriate.

### 2. SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS 2022/23

- 2.1 It is usual practice for the Committee to appoint a Working Group(s) to undertake a scrutiny review of services during the Municipal Year.
- 2.2 However, at its meeting held on 28 June 2022 the Committee agreed to a fresh approach to the operation of the Committee during 2022/23 by making arrangements for two additional informal meetings to be held:
  - The week commencing 10 October 2022 to focus on Locality Services and to consider an update on the Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services and the Green Sefton 2021/2022 Annual Report, Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan 2022/23; and

- The week commencing 6 February 2023 to focus on Housing and to consider reports on Leasehold House Sales and an update on the operation of Sandway Homes.

This new proposal would obviate the need for the Committee to establish Working Groups as short reviews of services could be undertaken by all Members at informal meetings.

2.3 However, at its informal meeting held on 20 October 2022 the Committee considered a report about Weed Control, Street Cleansing Provision and Waste Containment Consultation.

2.4 At the informal meeting members of the Committee asked questions/commented on the following issues:

#### Weed Control

- The high number of complaints/queries regarding weed control in certain Wards where back entries were numerous and the possibility of asking residents to take responsibility.
- Progress made against the recommendations formulated by the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group.
- Methods that could contribute towards improvements in the environment, including the importance of reaching out to schools.
- How to get the right message out to residents, including the possibility of leafletting.
- The contribution elected Members could play in having conversations with residents.
- The need to produce evidence of weed control operations since April 2022. Data could be reported to the Committee at the end of the season.
- The use of quad bikes for spraying weeds.

#### Waste Containment Consultation

- Agreed criteria/standards were required for the way forward. The Committee could establish a working group to review a strategic approach to apply to the Borough and this could be a recommendation.
- Residents in flats did not have anywhere to store black bin bags or wheelie bins. Once bins were emptied, black bags could appear within hours.
- Residents in terraced housing found it more difficult to recycle.
- Despite a reluctance to utilise back entries for bin storage, a pilot scheme might be viable and Sefton's representatives on the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) (Councillors Carlin and Page) could be requested to lobby on Sefton's behalf.
- Difficulties with the MRWA being reluctant to change the levy.
- If a working group was established to review a strategic approach, Sefton's representatives on the MRWA could be included in the review.
- Best practice and innovative ideas to encourage residents could be considered.

- 2.5 Following consideration of the report the informal meeting resolved that the Committee be requested to consider the establishment a working group to review the adoption of a strategic approach for waste containment/disposal across the Borough and to seek input from Sefton's representatives on the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority.
- 2.6 The views of the Committee are therefore sought on the establishment of the Working Group referred to above.
- 2.7 The informal meeting of the Committee also requested that the Assistant Director of People (Operational In-House Services) be requested to submit a report containing data on weed control operations since April 2022, at the end of the season. The Committee's work programme has been updated to reflect this request.

### **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 2** for this purpose. For ease of identification, items listed on the Forward Plan for the first time appear as shaded.
- 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 2 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.

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

#### 4.6 **Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the LCRCAO&S cannot be Members of the majority group. Councillor Steve Radford, a Liberal Party and Independent Group Councillor serving on Liverpool City Council has been appointed Chair for the 2022/23 Municipal Year; and Councillor Pat Moloney, a Liberal Democrat Councillor serving on Liverpool City Council has been appointed Vice-Chair.

#### 4.7 **Quoracy Issues**

In the past 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.

## 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>

4.9 The last meeting of the LCRCAO&S was held on 7 September 2022. The Committee considered the following items:

- Portfolio Holder Update - Business Support
- Race Equality Programme
- Recommendations of the Improving Disability Employment Opportunities in the Liverpool City Region Task and Finish Group
- Work Programme Update

4.10 The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held on 9 November 2022.

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

## 5. Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group

5.1 At its meeting held on 28 September 2022 the Committee considered a report updating on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group. The recommendations had been approved by both Cabinet and Council.

5.2 The Committee resolved (Minute No.15) that:

- (1) the report setting out progress made against each of the recommendations formulated by the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group and approved by Cabinet and Council be noted;
- (2) the Cabinet Member – Locality Services and the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services be requested to give further consideration to the implementation of the recommendations referred to above and report their findings to the next meeting of the Committee; and
- (3) a further update report be submitted in six months.

5.3 In accordance with resolution (2) above the Cabinet Member – Locality Services and the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services were contacted for their views.



5.4 At the time of writing this report the views of the Cabinet Members are still awaited. The views on the Cabinet Members will be reported to Members at the meeting.