

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	6 March 2023
Subject:	Work Programme 2022/23, 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:

- review the Committee's Work Programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2022/23;
- identify any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan;
- receive an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and
- note the information provided in the separate report on the "Education Scorecard" and to consider the possible re-establishment of a Working Group to review the topic of Secondary School Performance and Attainment Working Group.

Recommendations:

That:

- (1) the Work Programme for 2022/23, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be noted, along with any additional items to be included and agreed;
- (2) items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan which fall under the remit of the Committee, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be considered and any agreed items be included in the work programme referred to in (1) above;
- (3) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted; and

- (4) the information provided in the separate report on the “Education Scorecard” be noted and the possible re-establishment of a Working Group to review the topic of Secondary School Performance and Attainment Working Group, be considered.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2022/23; 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 Work Programme for 2022/23;
- Appendix B - 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 Work Programme of items submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2022/23 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. The Programme is submitted to each meeting of the Committee and updated, as appropriate, to reflect any additional items requested by Members and Officers.
- 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.
- 1.3 **The Committee is requested to comment on the Work Programme for 2022/23, as appropriate, and note that any additional items may be submitted to future meetings of the Committee during the 2023/24 Municipal Year.**

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

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 The latest Forward Plan, published on 31 January 2023, for the four-month period 1 March – 30 June 2023, is attached at **Appendix B** for this purpose. For ease of identification, items listed on the Forward Plan for the first time appear as shaded.
- 2.5 There are two items within the current Plan that fall under the remit of the Committee on this occasion, namely:
 - Placements North West - Children's Social Care Service Provision
 - SEND Joint Commissioning Plan
- 2.6 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.

2.7 At the time of drafting this report, the next Key Decision Forward Plan for the period 1 April 2023 – 31 July 2023, is due to be published on 28 February 2023. In the event that there are any additional items within the new Plan that fall under the remit of the Committee, they will be provided to Committee Members, in order to assist with the pre-scrutiny process.

2.8 **The Committee is invited to consider items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan as set out in Appendix B 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. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3.1 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).

3.2 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.

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

3.4 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.

3.5 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 Howard (Scrutiny Link), Hansen and Waterfield.

Representatives of the Liberal Democrat Group and Conservative Group on the Committee will be reported to Members at the next meeting.

3.6 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 13 July 2022.

3.7 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.

3.8 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>

3.9 Latest Meeting – 1 March 2023

At the time of drafting this report, the latest meeting of the LCRCAO&S is scheduled to be held on 1 March 2023 and the Committee is due to consider the following items:

- Verbal Update from Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram
- Appointment to the Audit and Governance Committee

The next meeting of the LCRCAO&S will be held on 19 April 2023. Matters discussed at the meeting will be reported to Members at a future meeting of the Committee.

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

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

4. POSSIBLE SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPIC - SECONDARY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND ATTAINMENT WORKING GROUP

4.1 At its meeting held on 7 November 2022, the views of the Committee on the possible re-establishment of the Secondary School Performance and Attainment Working Group were sought and the Committee agreed that:

“further consideration be given to the re-establishment of the Secondary School Performance and Attainment Working Group once the Committee has considered the report of the Executive Director of Children’s Social Care and Education providing information on the up- to-date test and examination data;” (Minute No 23 (2) refers);

4.2 At the time of drafting this report, a separate report of the Executive Director of Children’s Social Care and Education on the “Education Scorecard” is anticipated to appear elsewhere on the agenda.

4.3 The Committee is requested to note the information provided in the report referred to above and to consider the possible re-establishment of a Working Group to review the topic of Secondary School Performance and Attainment Working Group.