

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health)	Date of Meeting:	18 June 2024
Subject:	Work Programme 2024/25, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Adult Social Care and Health Public Health and Wellbeing		
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 the Municipal Year 2024/25;
- identify any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan;
- invite Committee Members to participate in informal briefing sessions during 2024/25
- seek the views of the Committee on the draft Programme of informal briefings/workshop sessions for 2024/25,
- consider if there are any site visits that Committee Members would wish to undertake during 2024/25;
- receive an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- receive an update on the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System Joint Health Scrutiny Committee; and
- note the update by Healthwatch Sefton.

Recommendations:

That:

- (1) the draft Work Programme for 2024/25, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be agreed, along with any additional items to be included and thereon be agreed;
- (2) note that there are no items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the latest Key Decision Forward Plan.

- (3) Members of the Committee be invited to participate in informal briefing sessions;
- (4) the draft Programme of informal briefings/workshop sessions for 2024/25, as set out at Appendix B to the report, be agreed, along with any additional informal items to be included and thereon be agreed;
- (5) Committee Members be requested to consider if there are any site visits that they would wish to undertake during 2024/25;
- (6) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;
- (7) the update on the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System Joint Health Scrutiny Committee be noted; and
- (8) the recent activities undertaken by Healthwatch Sefton, as outlined in Appendix C to the report, be noted.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2024/25; to identify scrutiny review topics which would demonstrate that the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee “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; to potentially consider scrutiny review topics; and consider other activities in relation to the work of the Committee.

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.	
Impact on Children and Young People: No	
Any implications on the impact on children and young people 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.	
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 the approval of, and monitoring of recommendations, will contribute towards protecting vulnerable members of Sefton's communities.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: None directly applicable to this report.
Commission, broker and provide core services: None directly applicable to this report.
Place – leadership and influencer: None directly applicable to this report.
Drivers of change and reform: None directly applicable to this report.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: None directly applicable to this report.
Greater income for social investment: None directly applicable to this report.
Cleaner Greener: None directly applicable to this report.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Work Programme and Key Decision Forward Plan Report is not subject to FD/LD consultation. Any specific financial and legal implications associated with any subsequent reports will be reported to Members as appropriate.

Relevant Heads of Service have been consulted in the preparation of the Work Programme for the Committee.

(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 – Draft Work Programme for 2024/25;
- Appendix B – Draft Programme of informal briefings/workshop sessions for 2024/25;
- Appendix C - Update of recent activities undertaken by Healthwatch Sefton.

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

Introduction/Background

1. WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

- 1.1 The proposed Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2024/25 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 Members are requested to consider whether there are any other items that they wish the Committee to consider. The Work Programme will be submitted to each meeting of the Committee during 2024/25 and updated, as appropriate.
- 1.3 **The Committee is requested to comment on the Work Programme for 2024/25, as set out at Appendix A, and note that additional items may be submitted to the Programme at future meetings of the Committee during this 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 most recent Forward Plan was published on 31 May 2024 and covers the period 1 July – 31 October 2024.
- 2.5 There are no items within the current Plan that falls under the remit of the Committee on this occasion.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 **The Committee is asked to note that there are no items that fall under the remit of this Committee on this occasion.**

3. SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS / INFORMAL BRIEFINGS 2024/25

- 3.1 It is good practise for Overview and Scrutiny Committees to undertake an in-depth scrutiny review of services during the Municipal Year.
- 3.2 During 2022/23, it was suggested that rather than establish a traditional working group, all Members of the Committee could be invited to participate in informal briefings/workshop sessions on developments in health and social care.
- 3.3 It has been suggested that this approach is continued and informal briefings for all Members of the Committee on useful information could continue.
- 3.4 A draft Programme of informal briefings/workshop sessions for 2024/25 is set out at **Appendix B** to the report.
- 3.5 **The Committee is requested to agree to hold informal briefing sessions, rather than establish a traditional working group during 2024/25.**
- 3.6 **The Committee is also requested to comment on the draft Programme of informal briefings/workshop sessions for 2024/25, as set out at Appendix B to the report, and note that additional informal items may be submitted to**

the Programme at future meetings of the Committee during this Municipal Year.

4. SITE VISITS

4.1 The Committee is requested to consider if there are any site visits to venues that Members would wish to undertake during 2024/25.

4.2 At its recent work planning meeting, the Committee suggested that a visit to the Adult Social Care Social Work team would be useful. This has been included in Appendix B.

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 (LCRCA O&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 LCRCA O&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 Desmond, Hart (Scrutiny Link) and Hinde.

The LCR O&S Committee also include Representatives of the Liberal Democrat Groups and Conservative Groups from the Local Authorities on the LCR O&S.

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 of the Municipal Year.

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.

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?CId=365&Year=0>

Latest Meeting

Details of all meetings can be obtained using the link referred to above. The next meeting will be held on 3 July 2024.

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

6. **CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

- 6.1 On 1 July 2022 the Health and Care Act required the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board to commence operation.
- 6.2 A Joint Cheshire and Merseyside Scrutiny Committee has now been established to scrutinise the work of the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board, comprised of representatives of local authorities from Cheshire and Merseyside.
- 6.3 Knowsley MBC is acting as secretariat to the Joint Cheshire and Merseyside Scrutiny Committee and agendas and Minutes of formal meetings of the Joint Scrutiny Committee are included on their website.
- 6.4 The Joint Health Scrutiny Protocol was updated recently to reflect changes introduced in the Health and Care Act 2022. The main change was that as of 30th January 2024, local health overview and scrutiny committees will no longer be able to formally refer matters to the Secretary of State where they relate to service reconfigurations.
- 6.5 Details of all the meetings of the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee can be found via the following link:

[Browse meetings - Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System Joint Health Scrutiny Committee - Knowsley Council](#)

- 6.7 The Cabinet has appointed Councillor Desmond and Councillor Hart to be Sefton's representatives during 2024/25
- 6.8 **The Committee is requested to note the update on the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System Joint Health Scrutiny Committee.**

7. HEALTHWATCH SEFTON

- 7.1 An update of recent activities undertaken by Healthwatch Sefton is attached to this report at **Appendix C**, for information.
- 7.2 ***The Committee is requested to note recent activities undertaken by Healthwatch Sefton.***