

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	25 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:	Cleansing and Street Scene; Communities and Partnership Engagement; Housing and Highways; Public Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element) Regeneration, Economy and Skills		
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 2024/25; to identify potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by informal meetings of the Committee; to identify any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; to update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; to seek a potential date for an informal meeting of the Committee to consider the provision of housing for former looked after children who were now care leavers; and to ascertain whether the Committee wishes to pursue, at an informal meeting of the Committee, the topic of the formal and informal processes for engagement between officers at the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCR CA) and at Sefton Council, relating to the review, approval, funding, development and implementation of strategies, policies and projects. This relates to both regionally-led (LCR CA-led) and locally-led (Sefton Council-led) proposals.

Recommendation: That:

- (1) the Work Programme for 2024/25, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be considered, along with any additional items to be included and thereon be agreed;
- (2) consideration be given to the selection of a topic(s) for review by informal meetings of the Committee;
- (3) consideration be given to a date to hold an informal meeting of the Committee to consider the provision of housing for former looked after children who were now care leavers;
- (4) consideration be given to whether the Committee wishes to pursue, at an

informal meeting of the Committee, the topic of the formal and informal processes for engagement between officers at the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCR CA) and at Sefton Council, relating to the review, approval, funding, development and implementation of strategies, policies and projects. This relates to both regionally-led (LCR CA-led) and locally-led (Sefton Council-led) proposals; and if so, then the Executive Director (Place), in consultation with the Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economy and Skills, be requested to submit a report or presentation to the meeting that supports the aims of the review;

- (5) 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; and
- (6) 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 2024/25 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:

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

There are no direct children and young people implications arising from this report. Any children and young people 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. However, the report makes reference to the selection of a date to hold an informal meeting of the Committee to consider the topic of the provision of housing for former looked after children who were now care leavers. Any recommendations arising from this informal meeting may have a positive impact on children and young people.

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. However, the report makes reference to the selection of a date to hold an informal meeting of the Committee to consider the topic of the provision of housing for former looked after children who were now care leavers. Any recommendations arising from this informal meeting may have a positive impact on children and young people.

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; the Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services; and Green Sefton Annual Report, Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan.

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 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; the Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services; Green Sefton Annual Report, Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5754/24/24) and the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD7654/24/24) have been consulted and have no comments to make. Any specific financial and legal implications associated with any subsequent reports arising from the report will be included in those reports as appropriate.

Executive Director Place
Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services
Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection)
Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing)
Assistant Director of People (Operational In-House Services)
Assistant Director of People (Communities)
Assistant Director of Place (Commercial Development)

(B) External Consultations

Chief Executive of the Merseyside Recycling and Waste 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 2024/2025
- 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 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 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 The Work Programme has been produced based on items included in last year's Programme.
- 1.4 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 2024/25 to provide Members with the opportunity to add items to the Programme.

2. **Informal Meeting Reviews**

- 2.1 In previous years it has been the 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, last year the Committee agreed to adopt a new approach by arranging informal meetings to undertake short reviews of services rather than establishing formal Working Groups.
- 2.3 The Committee's views are therefore sought on topics for review at informal meetings of the Committee.
- 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 **Provision of Housing for Former Looked After Children who are now Care Leavers**
- 2.6 At its meeting held on 5 March 2024 the Committee considered the identification of potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by informal meetings of the Committee. In this respect, the Committee resolved (Minute No. 50 (2) A) that:
- (i) an informal meeting of the Committee be arranged to consider the topic of the provision of housing for former looked after children who were now care leavers;
 - (ii) an invitation be extended to Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) to take part in the informal meeting;
 - (iii) representatives of care leavers, the Corporate Parenting Board and registered social landlords be invited to the meeting; and
 - (iv) the informal meeting take place on either the 15 or 19 April 2024 and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer be requested to liaise with Members to secure the most mutually agreeable date and time for the meeting.
- 2.7 Unfortunately, a mutually agreeable date could not be found for the meeting.

Following discussion with the former Chair of the Committee (Councillor Dowd) it was agreed to wait until the new municipal year to hold a further consultation exercise to agree a date for the meeting. Accordingly, the views of the Committee are sought on potential dates to hold the informal meeting of the Committee for consultation with Members.

2.8 Engagement between officers at the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCR CA) and at Sefton Council

2.9 At its meeting held on 5 March 2024, the Committee also agreed that an informal meeting of the Committee be held about the formal and informal processes for engagement between officers at the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCR CA) and at Sefton Council, relating to the review, approval, funding, development and implementation of strategies, policies and projects. This relates to both regionally-led (LCR CA-led) and locally-led (Sefton Council-led) proposals.

2.10 If it is agreed to proceed with this informal meeting later in 2024/25 then the Executive Director (Place), in consultation with the Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economy and Skills, be requested to submit a report or presentation to the meeting that supports the aims of the review.

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.

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 Desmond, Hart and Hinde. Councillor Hart is Sefton's Scrutiny Link.

4.6 **Chair**

The Chair of the LCRCAO&S cannot be a Member of the majority group. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee for 2024/25 will be reported to Members at the next meeting.

4.7 **Quoracy Issues**

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. This has on occasion caused meetings to be inquorate.

4.8 **Meetings**

Information on all meetings and membership of the LCRCAO&S can be obtained using the following link
<https://modern.gov.merseytravel.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=365&Year=0>

Latest Meeting - 28 February 2024

The last meeting of the LCRCAO&S was held on 28 February 2024 and considered the following matters:

- Verbal Update from Mayor Steve Rotherham
- Progress Update on the LCR Combined Authority Five Year Climate Action Plan
- Work Programme Update 2023-24

4.9 The next meeting of the LCRCAO&S will be held on 3 July 2024. At the time of the preparation of this report the agenda for the meeting has not been published. Matters discussed at this meeting will be reported to Members at the next meeting of the Committee.

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