

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee **Date of Meeting:** 17 March 2015
(Regeneration & Environmental Services)

Subject: Key Decision Forward Plan - 1 April to 31 July 2015

Report of: Director of Corporate Services **Wards Affected:** All

Is this a Key Decision? No **Is it included in the Forward Plan?** No

Exempt/Confidential No

Purpose/Summary

To submit to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the latest Key Decision Forward Plan.

Recommendation(s)

1. That the Committee considers items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan;
2. That the Committee notes the progress of the Shale Gas (Fracking) Working Group; and
3. That the programme of work 2014/15, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be agreed.

How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

	<u>Corporate Objective</u>	<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2	Jobs and Prosperity		√	
3	Environmental Sustainability		√	
4	Health and Well-Being		√	
5	Children and Young People		√	
6	Creating Safe Communities	√		
7	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy	√		

Reasons for the Recommendation:

The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet and Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.

Any work programme topics should be chosen to demonstrate that the work scrutiny undertakes adds value to the Council.

What will it cost and how will it be financed? N / A

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However any financial implications arising from the consideration of a key decision will be reported to Members at the appropriate time

Implications: N/A

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Legal: There are no legal implications arising from the contents of this report		
Human Resources		
Equality		
1.	No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.	Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact on Service Delivery: N/A

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT has been consulted and notes there are no direct financial implications arising from this report. If any financial implications arise from the consideration of a key decision these will subsequently reported to Members in an appropriate manner (FD 3466/15)

The Head of Corporate Legal Services has no comments on this report because the contents of the report have no legal implications (LD2758/15)

Are there any other options available for consideration? N/A

Implementation Date for the Decision N/A

Immediately following the Committee.

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Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Members may request to pre-scrutinise items from the Key Decision Forward Plan. Such items must fall under the remit (Terms of Reference) of this Committee. The current latest Forward Plan is attached at **Appendix A** for this purpose. The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet and Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.
- 1.2 For ease of identification, items listed on the Forward Plan for the first time appear as shaded.
- 1.3 If Members require further information in relation to any item on the Key Decision Forward Plan please contact the Officer named in the plan before the Meeting.
- 1.4 ***The Committee is invited to consider items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan.***

2. SHALE GAS (FRACKING) WORKING GROUP

- 2.1 At the meeting of this Committee held on 16 September 2014, the Committee agreed to establish a Fracking Working Group, minute no. 12 refers.
- 2.2 The Working Group has met on several occasions. The review has been scoped and the Group have interviewed Expert Witnesses Alan Jemmett, Environmental Advisory Service David Packard, Head of Environmental and Peter Cowley, Principal Lawyer - Planning, Environmental & Property Services Team, Dr. Emer Coffey, Associate Director of Public Health - Health Protection, Liverpool City Council Consultant in Public Health, Sefton Council and Gordon Whittaker, Environment Agency.
- 2.5 The Lead Member of the Working Group, Councillor Weavers is invited to update the Committee on progress of the Working Group.
- 2.4 ***The Committee is requested to note progress of the Shale Gas (Fracking) Working Group.***

3. WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

- 3.1 **Appendix B** to the report sets out the programme of work for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services).
- 3.2 ***The Committee is requested to agree the programme of work 2014/15 for this Committee.***