

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(Regeneration & Skills)

Date of Meeting: 28 July 2015

Subject: Key Decision Forward Plan - 1 August to 30 November 2015

Report of: Head of Regulation and Compliance

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 and seek views of the Committee on its Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

Recommendation(s)

1. That the Committee considers items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan;
2. That the Committee considers the Membership of the Shale Gas (Fracking) Working Group;
3. That the Committee agree to establish a United Utilities Working Group, to begin at the conclusion of the Shale Gas (Fracking) Working Group and appoint Members to serve on it;
4. That the programme of work 2015/16, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be agreed; and
5. That the proposed Overview and Scrutiny Training, as detailed in paragraph 5 of the report, be noted.

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

The cost of the Overview and Scrutiny Training is £850 (+VAT+Expenses) and can be financed through the Members Training Budget. There aren't any other direct financial implications arising from this report. 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 3682/15)

The Head of Corporate Legal Services has no comments on this report because the contents of the report have no legal implications (LD 2965/15)

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

Implementation Date for the Decision N/A

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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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 The latest Forward Plan is attached at **Appendix A** for this purpose. For ease of identification, items listed on the Forward Plan for the first time appear as shaded.
- 1.5 There are 6 items within the current Plan that fall under the remit of this Committee, namely:-
 - Applications for European Funding
 - M58 Junction 1 – New Slip Roads
 - Air Quality and Health Impacts in Sefton (features elsewhere on the Agenda)
 - A565 North Liverpool Key Corridor – Land Acquisition
 - Crosby Town Centre Investment Strategy
 - Shale Gas (Fracking) Working Group – Final Report
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 ***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 and Mark Long, Head of Inward Investment, Sefton Council.
- 2.3 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. WORKING GROUP TOPICS 2015/16

- 3.1 At its meeting held on 31 March 2015, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, comprised of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of all four Overview and Scrutiny Committees, agreed the following resolution:-

“RESOLVED: That

(2) it be agreed that informal meetings of each of the four individual Overview and Scrutiny Committees be held prior to the first ordinary meeting of the Committees (June 2015) to identify suitable scrutiny topics which meet the selection criteria.”

- 3.2 An informal meeting of the Committee was held on 15 July 2015, and Working Group Topics were submitted for consideration.
- 3.3 At the informal meeting the Senior Democratic Services Officer, referred Members to the current outstanding Review in relation to Shale Gas (Fracking) and highlighted that the outstanding Review should be completed before starting another.
- 3.4 Members discussed the possibility of reviewing United Utilities and more specifically the increase in charges imposed on the Authority. A criteria checklist for selecting topics for review is attached at **Appendix B** for Members’ information.
- 3.5 *The Committee is requested to establish a United Utilities Working Group and appoint Members to serve on it.***

4. WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

- 4.1 **Appendix C** to the report sets out the programme of work for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services).
- 4.2 *The Committee is requested to agree the programme of work 2015/16 for this Committee.***

5. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TRAINING

- 5.1 To report that the North West Employers will be facilitating some Overview and Scrutiny Training on Thursday 10 September 2015. There will be the option of an afternoon session (1.30 pm – 4.30 pm) or an early evening session (5.00 pm – 8.00 pm) and will be held at the Town Hall, Bootle.

- 5.2 All those Members of the Council who did not attend the Training in February 2015 will be invited to attend along with newly Elected Members, Co-opted Members and Advisory Members.
- 5.3 The training session will be invaluable, not only to Members who are new to the Overview and Scrutiny function but also to existing Members as the session will give them an opportunity to refresh and improve their knowledge.
- 5.4 *The Committee is requested to note the date and time of the Overview and Scrutiny Training and that Members contact Mrs. Ruth Harrison, Senior Democratic Services Officer confirming their attendance.***