

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	18 September 2018
Subject:	Work Programme 2018/19, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan – September 2018		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton) Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration 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 Work Programme for 2018/19, identify potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) appointed by the Committee and identify any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan.

Recommendation:

That:-

- (1) the Work Programme for 2018/19, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be considered, along with any additional items to be included and thereon be agreed;
- (2) the reports updating on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Shale Gas Working Group and United Utilities – Update on Increase in Charges be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 6 November 2018;
- (3) consideration be given to the establishment of a Joint Working Group with Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding) to examine post-19 provision for Special Educational Needs and Disability, in order to improve conditions for this vulnerable group of young people;
- (4) if the Committee agree to the establishment of the Working Group as referred to in (2) above then consideration be given to the appointment of three Members to serve on the Joint Working Group;
- (5) the establishment of the Apprenticeships Working Group as agreed by Minute No.

7 (2) of 3 July 2018 be no longer pursued;

- (6) consideration be given to the selection of potential scrutiny review topics; establish the Working Group(s) for each topic; and appoint at least 3 Members of the Committee to each Working Group; and
- (7) 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.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2018/19 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.

Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report but reference in the Work Programme to the Peer Review Working Group – Final Report which reviewed Sefton’s approach to Serious and Organised Crime (SOC), in light of the Home Office Peer Review findings in November 2015 highlighted that Working Group Members were reassured that those leading on the Agenda of SOC in Sefton have a sound approach

and would continue to ensure that Sefton was a safe community to live, work and visit.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As above.
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 2017/18; Refuse Collection; and the Parks and Greenspaces Final Report
Place – leadership and influencer: None directly applicable to this report.
Drivers of change and reform: None directly applicable to this report but reports would be submitted to the Committee detailing how the Council is leading on beneficial changes to be made with reference to United Utilities charging policies and new houses being sold as leasehold.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: 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 Economic Strategy for Growth; and the implementation of recommendations arising from Working Groups relating to Town Centres; the Port Masterplan; Employment Development; and Not in Education, Employment or Training.
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 Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2017/18; Refuse Collection; and Parks and Greenspaces together with the implementation of recommendations arising from the Shale Gas Working Group.

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 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:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2018/19
- 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 2018/19

- 1.1 The Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2018/19 was approved by the Committee on 3 July 2018 and 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 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 2018/19 and updated, as appropriate.
- 1.3 **Shale Gas Working Group Update Report**
The Work Programme indicates that a report will be submitted to this meeting updating on progress regarding the implementation of recommendations arising from the Shale Gas Working Group. Following consultation with the Chief Planning Officer it is considered that there are, at present, no substantive items of progress to report to Committee since the last progress report was submitted. However, work is advancing on the good practice and expectations document with informal consultation on-going within the Council. It is therefore recommended that the progress report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 6 November 2018. The Work Programme (Appendix 1) has been amended to reflect this change.
- 1.4 **United Utilities – Update on Increase in Charges**
The Work Programme also indicates that a report will be submitted to this meeting on “United Utilities – Update on Increase in Charges”. The Head of Corporate Resources has advised that the Committee had previously requested that United Utilities, OFWAT, DEFRA, BEIS, SALIX, BITC and Waterplus be contacted to establish their further involvement to highlight the need and encourage the development of the needed funding arrangements. To date, responses and contact details have been provided by United Utilities and OFWAT; BEIS have responded but not provided any contact details for their department and they have advised that water management and flooding policy is handled by DEFRA and advised the lead is Sarah Hendry CBE. At the time of writing this report, no responses have yielded any substantial interest in further engagement and therefore there is nothing of any substance to report at this time. It is therefore recommended that the progress report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 6 November 2018. The Work Programme (Appendix 1) has been amended to reflect this change
- 1.5 The Work Programme has been updated to include an update report on

Apprenticeships and this is detailed in Paragraph 2 below.

- 1.6 **The Committee is requested to comment on the Work Programme for 2018/19 and note that additional items may be submitted to the Programme at future meetings of the Committee during this Municipal Year.**

2. SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS 2018/19

- 2.1 At its meeting held on 3 July 2018 the Committee agreed to establish a Working Group to review the topic of Apprenticeships.
- 2.2 As is the usual practice when a Working Group is agreed, the appropriate officer(s) are contacted with a request that a Scoping Document is produced; and the following issues were identified for inclusion:-
1. The general economic and employment framework for Apprenticeships
 2. Government Policy on Apprenticeships and the levy
 3. The effectiveness of Government policy and the levy and its effect on the Liverpool City Region
 4. Liverpool City Region initiatives generally in terms of Apprenticeships and the wider economy
 5. The impact and Sefton Apprenticeships story for the Council

Following further investigation it was considered that the information required to illuminate the topics described in 1 – 4 above would need to take into account the time and commitment of officers within the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Combined Authority (CA) as apprenticeships are a key theme of the portfolio held by the CA under the guidance of the Metro Mayor; and a complete picture could not be provided without significant resource and time from the CA.

Furthermore, it was found that LCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee has previously had a Working Group to look into the issue of apprenticeships; and the Final Report was approved respectively by LCR O&S and the CA in January and March 2017; and the matter continues to be the subject of updates to LCR O&S with the last one being 25 October 2017.

Further investigation has found that the terms of the review suggested for Sefton were very similar to the LCR work to provide much value.

It is therefore recommended that to avoid duplicating work already undertaken by the LCR CA O&S Committee the Apprenticeships Working Group be not pursued further; but instead, an update report be submitted to the Committee on 6 November 2018 on points 1 to 5 above.

- 2.3 At its meeting held on 3 July 2018 the Committee also agreed (Minute No. 7. (4)) that the Strategic Leadership Board (SLB) be requested to identify future topics for consideration by Working Groups.

2.4 This matter has been considered by SLB and the following suggestions have been made and prioritised in the following order:-

- Career Connect and Adult Learning Service
- NEET Performance January 19
- Impact of Brexit on the Employment Service
- Sefton Coast Delivery Plan
- Sefton Economic Delivery Plan

2.5 For information, the Committee at its meeting held on 3 July 2018 also agreed the following potential topics for review and further consideration can be given to these topics along with the SLB suggestions referred to in 2.4 above:-

- Contracts – scrutiny of a major contract within the Committee’s responsibility; how the award of the contract has added value; social capital; employment of local labour/apprenticeships terms
- Economic Strategy – potential to review once the strategy had been adopted

2.6 A criteria checklist for selecting and rejecting potential topics to review is attached at **Appendix 2**, to assist the Committee in selecting topics and appointing Working Group(s) for the Municipal Year.

2.7 At its meeting held on 10 July 2018, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding) considered the Final Report of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Process of Assessment Working Group that included the following recommendation:-

“10. (3)That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding) be requested to consider the establishment of a Working Group in the future to examine post-19 provision for SENDs, in order to improve conditions for this vulnerable group of young people. This could be a Joint Working Group with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills);”

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding) agreed to request this Committee to consider the establishment of a joint Working Group to consider post-19 provision for Special Educational Needs and Disability.

The views of the Committee are requested. Should the Committee agree to this request, 2-3 Members of the Committee will need to be appointed to the joint Working Group.

2.8 The Committee is requested to select potential scrutiny review topics; prioritise the order in which they start; establish the Working Group(s) for each topic; and appoint at least 3 Members of the Committee to each Working Group.

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 published on 30 September 2018 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.**