

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	6 November 2018
<b>Subject:</b>	Work Programme 2018/19, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan – November 2018		
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton) Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	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 report updating on the work of the Mental Health and Employment Task Group be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 22 January 2019;
- (3) consideration be given to what topics should be included in the Scoping Document relating to the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity; and
- (4) consideration be given to 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:**

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> None
<b>Legal Implications:</b> None
<b>Equality Implications:</b> 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
- Table of information regarding enforcement activity undertaken across the Council
- 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 **Mental Health and Employment Task Group**

The Work Programme indicates that an update report will be submitted to this meeting of the Committee on the Mental Health and Employment Task Group. The Head of Economic Growth and Housing has advised that the Task Group will be meeting again in November and will receive key presentations on a number of projects that will have local impact in Sefton. Accordingly, it is recommended that a more up to date report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on 22 January 2019. The Work Programme has been amended to reflect this change.

1.3 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.

## 1.4 **United Utilities – Update on Increase in Charges**

The Work Programme 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. No further responses have been received since reported on 6 September 2018 to Committee. It is therefore recommended that the progress report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 22 January 2019. The Work Programme (Appendix 1) has been amended to reflect this change.

Related to Surface Water Drainage Charges, the Head of Corporate resources is pleased to inform Committee that LA maintained nurseries will now be included in the Schools Concessionary Scheme already offered to schools from April 2019. This will be under the criteria offered by United Utilities as follows:

*“Accordingly, I am pleased to advise that from the 2019/20 charging year we will accept having an establishment number on the EduBase database as sufficient evidence of eligibility for our concessionary charge for schools. We note that this would, for example, exclude (as expected) universities as these are listed on EduBase without an establishment number. We do have to point out that if, for any reason, the attribution of establishment numbers were to change, then we will refine our policy as appropriate. For the avoidance of doubt, the database that we intend to use for application of this policy is currently located at: <https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/Downloads> , under “All establishment data”.”*

Sefton Officers have supported Lancashire Schools Forum in the pursuit of this aim for NW LA maintained nurseries. It is anticipated that the LA maintained nurseries in Sefton will save a total of approximately £3,500 from next April. Progress will continue to be reported on responses to the issue of the development of funding arrangements. In addition to this, the Head of Corporate

Resources will also actively investigate Invest to Save opportunities across Sefton to reduce the Surface Water & Highways Drainage charges.

### 1.5 **Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership**

At its meeting held on 18 September 2018 the Committee agreed that officers from the Liverpool City Region (LCR) be contacted to find out whether they could make a short presentation to a future meeting of the Committee on the beneficial impacts on Sefton arising from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). A letter was sent to Mark Basnett, Managing Director LCR LEP on 24 September 2018. Mr. Basnett has agreed to the request and to make his presentation to the Committee on 22 January 2019.

### 1.6 **Career Connect**

At its meeting held on 18 September 2018 the Committee agreed that Career Connect be contacted to find out whether they would be prepared to submit a presentation to the next meeting of the Committee on the impact in Sefton of their contract, due to end in March 2019, to deliver support for NEET young people in vulnerable groups.

Letters were sent to Kieran Gordon and Sarah Vaughn at Career Connect on 24 September 2018 and 25 October 2018 seeking their views on this matter. At the time of writing a response is still awaited.

- 1.7 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 18 September 2018 the Committee agreed to establish a Working Group to review the effectiveness of the Council's enforcement activities.
- 2.2 Councillors Booth, Dowd, Michael O'Brien, Pullin, Roche and John Sayers have agreed to be members of the Working Group.
- 2.3 The Working Group should focus on those enforcement activities that fall within the remit of this Committee. However, Members were keen to ascertain the extent of enforcement activity undertaken across the Council. Accordingly, all Heads of Service have been contacted with a request to provide information on the enforcement activity undertaken within their service area.
- 2.4 The information received to date is set out in the table attached to the report as **Appendix 2**.
- 2.5 The Committee is requested to consider what topics should be included in the Scoping Document relating to the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity.
- 2.6 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) has established a Joint Working Group with Members of the Overview and

Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills). Councillors Dowd, Michael O'Brien, Brenda O'Brien and Spencer have been appointed to the Working Group. The Joint Working Group will consider post-19 provision for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). A scoping document has been drafted and an initial meeting will be held in the near future.

### 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. A further Forward Plan will be published on 31 October 2018 and this will be circulated to Members in due course.
- 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.