<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Report to:</strong></th>
<th>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)</th>
<th><strong>Date of Meeting:</strong></th>
<th>5 November 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subject:</strong></td>
<td>Work Programme 2019/20, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan</td>
<td><strong>Wards Affected:</strong></td>
<td>All</td>
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<td><strong>Report of:</strong></td>
<td>Chief Legal and Democratic Officer</td>
<td><strong>Included in Forward Plan:</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
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<td><strong>Cabinet Portfolio:</strong></td>
<td>Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element) Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills</td>
<td><strong>Exempt / Confidential Report:</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
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<td><strong>Is this a Key Decision:</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td><strong>Recommendation:</strong></td>
<td>That:</td>
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<td><strong>Included in Forward Plan:</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>the Work Programme for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be updated by the inclusion of a report on the Borough of Culture programme to the January 2020 meeting; and consideration be given to any additional items to be included and thereon be agreed;</td>
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<td><strong>Exempt / Confidential Report:</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>the establishment of Working Groups be deferred to enable the Head of Corporate Resources to submit potential topics for review in respect of the Council approved Motion on Climate Change Emergency;</td>
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<td><strong>Summary:</strong></td>
<td>To review the Work Programme for 2019/20; to identify potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) appointed by the Committee; to identify any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; and to update Members on the progress of items that have previously been considered by the Committee</td>
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<td><strong>Recommendation:</strong></td>
<td>That:</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>taking into account the work being undertaken by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Town Centre Commission a Working Group to investigate the factors associated with the decline of retail areas and shopping parades be not established;</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>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</td>
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Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2019/20 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:

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<tr>
<th>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None</th>
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<td>Legal Implications: None</td>
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<td>Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.</td>
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Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:

| Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report. |
| 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 2018/19; the Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services; and Green Sefton 2018/19 Annual Report, Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan 2019/20. |
| 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 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 2018/19; the Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services; Green Sefton 2018/19 Annual Report, Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan 2019/20 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.

Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills
Head of Economic Growth and Housing

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

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Email Address: Paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2019/2020
- 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.
1. WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20

1.1 The proposed Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2019/20 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 2019/20 and updated, as appropriate.

1.3 Stephen Watson, Executive Director, has indicated that an update report be submitted to the January 2020 meeting of the Committee on the Borough of Culture programme.

1.4 The Committee is requested to approve the submission of the report on the Borough of Culture programme in January 2020; comment on the Work Programme for 2019/20; 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 2019/20

2.1 It is usual practise for the Committee to appoint a Working Group(s) to undertake a scrutiny review of services during the Municipal Year.

2.2 Last year the Committee agreed to establish a Working Group to review the topic of the Effectiveness of the Council’s Enforcement Activity. This review is ongoing and it is anticipated that the Working Group’s Final Report will be completed in November 2019.

2.3 The Committee’s views would ordinarily be sought on the establishment of a Working Group to commence its review following the completion of the Effectiveness of the Council’s Enforcement Activity Working Group.

2.4 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.

2.5 However, at its meeting held on 18 July 2019 the Council approved a Motion on Climate Change Emergency. The terms of the Motion will require, amongst many other actions:

- Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies and charge Task and Finish groups to also consider those impacts in any report and every topic
- The setting up a Sefton Climate Change group

2.6 In the light of the actions referred to in 2.5 above the Head of Corporate Resources is currently drawing up topics for consideration by Working Groups.
Furthermore, at the last meeting held on 17 September 2019 the Committee considered the potential for the establishment of a Working Group to investigate the factors associated with the decline of retail areas and shopping parades. However, the Committee agreed that before such a Working Group was potentially established the Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills be requested to give her views on such factors.

Councillor Atkinson, Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills has now held discussions with the Head of Economic Growth and Housing on this matter and her comments are set out in paragraphs 2.9 to 2.12 below.

The Liverpool City Region (LCR) Combined Authority (CA) has established a Town Centre Commission; and Annex A: Town Centres Panel Terms of Reference Objectives is as follows:

- To share best practice in the revival of our town centres
- To maximise funding from all sources that goes into this revival
- To provide feedback on the Town Centres Fund and engage with the associated Town Centres Commission
- To provide a forum to prepare the best possible LCR submissions for Future Highstreets Fund, Stronger Towns and other programmes aimed at town centres
- Emphasising positive collaboration, coordination and deliverable ambition

The membership of the Town Centre Commission is one member per LCR local authority together with a representative from each of CA’s investment, policy and integrated transport teams.

Sefton Council will therefore be an active participant in this group so that best practice can be shared in the revival of our town centres. This work must be undertaken so that we first understand if and why they have failed.

It is considered therefore that the work of the suggested Working Group “to investigate the factors associated with the decline of retail areas and shopping parades” would duplicate the work being undertaken by Sefton’s Cabinet Member and officer serving on the LCR Town Centre Commission.

The Strategic Leadership Board (SLB) has also given consideration to the selection of topics to be the subject of Working Group reviews. Suggestions have included locality based working (to also be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committees (Adult Social Care and Health) and (Children’s Services and Safeguarding); together with topics associated with the Council Motion on Climate Change Emergency as referred to in 2.5 above.

It is recommended therefore that no Working Groups be established until consideration has been given by Members to the proposed topics to be suggested by the Head of Corporate Resources in respect of the Council Motion on Climate Change Emergency. Furthermore, and taking into account the work being undertaken by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Town Centre Commission it is recommended that a Working
Group to investigate the factors associated with the decline of retail areas and shopping parades be not established.

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 2019 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. The Forward Plan to be published on 31 October 2019 will be submitted 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.

4. UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF ITEMS THAT HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

4.1 United Utilities (UU)

Officers from Property and Buildings Services based in the Corporate Resources department can update on the following actions:

4.2 1. A visit by Members and officers to Moorlands Junior School in Sale, Cheshire has taken place. UU’s have created a ‘Demonstrator site’ at the school that shows how simple Sustainable Drainage Systems can be installed to reduce drainage charge bills, lower maintenance costs as well as create attractive landscaping features that all benefit the school

2. A return visit by Members and officers to the Eco-Centre has also taken place

3. The role of the Eco-centre/demonstrator site is currently under consideration. This will depend on the outcome of UU’s modelling, selecting a site, and being clear about objectives as well as the wider proposals submitted.

4. No current plans to provide direct funding to schools to enable
interventions to reduce bills have been made. There is some potential to develop a co-funding for sites where drainage capacity needs improving (UU’s key criteria). However, the current outlook would be to develop a whole lifetime cost to enable business cases to be developed with internal funding only. Due to no clear commitment for a comparable ‘Salix style’ fund to assist schools, the most potential to progress this point is to consider drafting a Sefton (or Merseyside) ‘lobbying position’. This could be presented to UU for their consideration.

4.3 An officer from the Property and Buildings Services team will be in attendance at the meeting to answer questions from Members.