Summary:

To review the Committee’s Work Programme for the remainder of 2019/20; to note the progress made to date by the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group; to identify any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the latest Key Decision Forward Plan; and to note the progress made to date in appointing a replacement Parent Governor Representative.

Recommendation:

That:-

(1) the Work Programme for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be considered, along with any additional items to be included and agreed;

(2) progress made to date by the Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group be noted;

(3) items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan that fall under the remit of the Committee, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be considered and any agreed items be included in the work programme referred to in (1) above; and

(4) progress made to date in appointing a replacement Parent Governor Representative be noted.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2019/20; identify any scrutiny review topics which would demonstrate that the work of the
Overview and Scrutiny “adds value” to the Council; and update on work that falls within the remit of the Committee.

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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</strong></th>
<th>None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal Implications:</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equality Implications:</strong></td>
<td>There are no equality implications.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:**

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report. Reference in the Work Programme to any other reports could impact on the Council’s Core Purposes, in which case they will be referred to in the report when submitted.

- Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As Above
- Commission, broker and provide core services: As Above
- Place – leadership and influencer: As Above
- Drivers of change and reform: As Above
- Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: As Above
- Greater income for social investment: As Above
- Cleaner Greener: As Above

**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 Work Programme report will be included in those reports as appropriate.
Introduction/Background

1. WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20

1.1 The Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2019/20 is set out in Appendix A 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 The Committee is requested to comment on the Work Programme for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix A to the report, and note that additional items may be added to the Programme at future meetings of the Committee during this Municipal Year.

2. SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPIC 2019/20

Persistent Pupil Absence Working Group

2.1 At the meeting on 9 July 2019, the Committee established a Working Group to consider persistent pupil absence. Councillors Bennett, Carragher, Keith and Mrs.
Sandra Cain, Independent Advisory Member, have been appointed to the Working Group.

2.2 The initial meeting took place on 9 October 2019, to scope the review and Councillor Carragher was appointed as the Lead Member. The Working Group would like to focus on persistent absentees in primary schools as the Sefton figure slightly exceeds the regional and national averages. It was also considered that children who are persistently absent in primary school are unlikely to significantly improve in attendance during secondary school. Members have also identified Complementary Education Services as a service they would like to visit at some point.

2.3 The next meeting of the Working Group is scheduled for 14 November 2019.

2.4 The Committee is requested to note the progress made to date by the Persistent Pupil Absence 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 31 October 2019 is attached at Appendix B for this purpose. For ease of identification, items listed on the Forward Plan for the first time appear as shaded.

3.5 There are two items within the current Plan that fall under the remit of the Committee on this occasion, namely:

- Hired Passenger Transport Framework Agreement; and

3.6 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.

3.7 The Committee is invited to consider items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan, as set out in Appendix B to the report, that fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the Work Programme referred to in paragraph (1) above.
4. REPLACEMENT PARENT GOVERNOR REPRESENTATIVE

4.1 One of the former Parent Governor Representatives has resigned as a co-opted member of the Committee, due to her new employment presenting a conflict of interest.

4.2 The Governor Services Team within the Council wrote out to schools during July 2019, inviting nominations from interested parents for the vacancy. Unfortunately, no nominations were received and the Team has written out to schools again at the commencement of the Autumn term, seeking nominations.

4.3 Two individuals have now expressed an interest and an election will have to take place to determine the outcome. At the time of drafting this report, the count for the result is anticipated to take place on 25 November 2019.

4.4 The Committee will be advised once a replacement Parent Governor Representative has been appointed.

4.5 The Committee is requested to note progress made to date in appointing a replacement Parent Governor Representative.