



**AGENDA ITEM: 12**

**CORPORATE AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW &  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:  
16 July 2014**

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**Report of: Borough Solicitor**

**Relevant Managing Director: Managing Director (People and Places)**

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**SUBJECT: REVIEW TOPIC FOR 2014/15 AND CONFIRMATION OF WORK  
PROGRAMME**

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Wards affected: Borough wide.

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To select the topic for Review in 2014/15 following the outcome of the scoring exercise.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the results of the scoring exercise (Appendices A) be noted and the recommendations therein be actioned and endorsed.

2.2 That the topic be selected for review in the 2014/15 Work Programme of the Committee be:

‘A Market Strategy for Ormskirk Town Centre’

2.3 That a presentation on the selected topic be provided and a draft Project Plan for the review be prepared.

2.4 That the Work Programme for the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out below, subject to any amendments agreed by the Committee, be confirmed and included on the Council’s web site.

## **‘Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

- Conducts in depth reviews/policy development as set out in its work programme.

In 2014/15 the Committee will be conducting a review on ‘A Market Strategy for Ormskirk Town Centre.’

The Committee considers as part of its routine work:

- Items referred from "Members Update" at the request of a Member
- Members items/Councillor Call for Action (CCfA)
- Performance management
- Acts as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee
- Recommendations from previously conducted reviews

The Member Development Commission will continue its work during 2013/14.

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### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee establishes its own Work Programme annually. At its meeting on 20 February 2014 it was confirmed that arrangements would be put in place to request items for the Work Programme for 2014/15. This would be done:

- By inviting members of the public to submit topics via a press release and the inclusion of an article on the Council's web site.
- By inviting all Members and the DSH to submit topics.

3.2 Further, that following the deadline for receipt of potential topics the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Labour Group Spokesperson would score a number of potential topics put forward.

3.3 The scoring exercise was subsequently undertaken with the Chairman and Labour Group Spokesperson of this Committee using the scrutiny topic selection assessment, with regard to the Corporate Priorities 2014/15 and the information that had been submitted on each topic.

3.4 The following submitted topics were considered:

- A Market Strategy for Ormskirk Town Centre
- One Connect Contract and the Serco Contract
- Allocation of Funding to the Police (in Southport)
- Current processes and principles of banking for investment of reserves and balances
- Current and potential investment in renewables by the Council
- Supply chain management for Council expenditure
- Disabled residents in the Borough
- Maintenance of Road Signs and associated issues

- Potholes
- Council Car Park – Derby Street
- Cycling through Ormskirk Town Centre
- The Impact of the ‘Buy to Let’ property market in the Borough
- Fracking
- Tawd Valley Park
- Immediate environment around play areas
- Adverse Possessions
- Email reporting system of volunteer Community Vigilantes
- Speeding problems during rush hours – Ormskirk Road, Up Holland
- Bus Shelters – Safety
- Rented houses as “offices” – ‘Business rate avoidance’

#### **4.0 CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 The Summary of Recommendations – Scoring Result (Appendix A) sets out the overall results of the scoring exercise undertaken.

#### **5.0 PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 That the highest scoring topic is selected for inclusion in the Work Programme for the Committee for 2014/15.
- 5.2 That a presentation on the chosen topic be provided, along with a draft Project Plan, in order that work can commence on the chosen topic without delay.
- 5.3 That the recommendations, related to other topic suggestions submitted, as detailed in Appendix A be endorsed and actioned.
- 5.4 It is further proposed that following confirmation of the topic for review that the Work Programme for the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2014/15, subject to any amendments, be included on the Council’s website.

#### **6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

- 6.1 Enhanced overview and scrutiny arrangements can give a greater level of involvement for non-cabinet members in the decision making process.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are financial and resource implications in respect of officer and member time in dealing with the matters under the Work Programme. There are also limitations to the scope of the review topic that can be undertaken and these must be contained within existing resources.

## **8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

8.1 The work of the Committee has to be balanced with other priorities and dealt with accordingly. Officers will advise the Committee on the capacity to support the work and will be as helpful as possible in trying to accommodate Members requests.

## **9.0 CONCLUSION**

9.1 The topic selection process involves Members applying their knowledge, experience and judgement throughout. Officers can support and advise members on topic selection having regard to the agreed criteria. It is for the Members of the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee to decide how they wish to proceed.

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### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

The does does not have a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / o stakeholders. However, the selected topic may have an impact on those groups and, if so, this will be assessed when the Project Plan is prepared.

### **Appendices**

A Summary of Outcome – Topic Scoring Exercise