



**AGENDA ITEM: 8**

**CORPORATE AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW &  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:  
9 July 2015**

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**Report of: Borough Solicitor**

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

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**SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16**

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Wards affected: Borough wide.

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To consider the Work Programme for the Committee for 2015/16.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the decision of Council to establish a 'Public Involvement at Meetings Working Group', as part of the Work Programme of this Committee and the terms of reference, both set out in the appendix to this report, be agreed.
- 2.2 That the Work Programme for the Committee 2015/16 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**

The Committee conducts in depth reviews/policy development as set out in its work programme.

In 2015/16 the Committee will be continue its review on 'A Market Town 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 2015/16 and the 'Public Involvement at Meetings Working Group' will commence its work.'

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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 16 July 2014 the Committee, following the results of the scoring exercise on submitted topics, agreed to undertake a review on the topic that had scored the highest namely 'A Market Strategy for Ormskirk Town Centre'. The title of the review was later revised to 'A Market Town Strategy for Ormskirk' and work has continued on this topic during 2014/15.
- 3.2 At its meeting on 19 February 2015 the Committee confirmed future steps in relation to the Review referred to at 3.1 above and amended its Project Plan accordingly. Additionally, in accordance with its timetable, an Interim Report on review work undertaken during 2014/15, be prepared and this is listed for consideration at this meeting.
- 3.3 At its meeting on 15 April 2015 Council agreed that this Committee be asked to establish a 'Public Involvement at Meetings Working Group'. Minute 113, attached as an appendix, provides details of that decision.

### **4.0 CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 The review 'A Market Town Strategy for Ormskirk' has progressed in accordance with its Project Plan and its 'themes', as part of this topic, are due to continue during 2015/16.

### **5.1 PROPOSALS**

- 5.2 That the Work Programme for the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2015/16 as set out at 2.2 be confirmed and included on the Council's web-site.

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

- 6.1 There are no negative sustainability impacts associated with the report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder. The report has links to cross cutting themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy in relation to its Work Programme that may lead to future improvements for the community through review work being undertaken and public participation at meetings.
- 6.2 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.
- 7.2 A sum of £5000 has been provided by Council to facilitate officer and any specialist support to assist the 'Public Involvement at Meetings Workshop Group' work.

## **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.

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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 decision does not have any have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders and therefore an EIA is not required. If, recommendations, if implemented, do come forward in the future, as result of the Committee's work programme, that had a direct impact on the groups referred to, an EIA would be undertaken as part of the process.

### **Appendix**

Minute of Council 15 April 2015

MINUTE OF COUNCIL – 15 APRIL 2015

**113. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AT MEETINGS TASK & FINISH GROUP - MOTION INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA BY COUNCILLOR PENDLETON ON BEHALF OF THE LABOUR GROUP**

The following Altered Motion was moved and seconded, with the consent of the meeting:

That this Council welcomes the success of public speaking at Planning Committee. Building on that success, the Corporate & Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to establish a 'Public Involvement at Meetings Working Group' consisting of 2 Conservative Members and 2 Labour Members, with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman being appointed at the Annual Council Meeting. The Working Group "To consider extending public involvement at meetings, to create an open, transparent and democratic Council", and report back on its findings and recommendations to Cabinet/Council as appropriate.

That the Borough Solicitor be asked to prepare an initial options report to be considered at the first meeting of the Public Involvement at Meetings Working Group in July 2015, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson of the Working Group.

That up to £5,000 from the Major Projects Reserve be approved for supporting the work of the Working Group.

A vote was taken, the Altered Motion was CARRIED.

- RESOLVED
- A. That this Council welcomes the success of public speaking at Planning Committee. Building on that success, the Corporate & Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to establish a 'Public Involvement at Meetings Working Group' consisting of 2 Conservative Members and 2 Labour Members, with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman being appointed at the Annual Council Meeting. The Working Group "To consider extending public involvement at meetings, to create an open, transparent and democratic Council", and report back on its findings and recommendations to Cabinet/Council as appropriate.
  - B. That the Borough Solicitor be asked to prepare an initial options report to be considered at the first meeting of the Public Involvement at Meetings Working Group in July 2015, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson of the Working Group.
  - C. That up to £5,000 from the Major Projects Reserve be approved for supporting the work of the Working Group.

(Note: This item was considered prior to agenda item 17(a) 'Public Question Time – Motion'.)