



**CORPORATE AND
ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
10 OCTOBER 2019**

Report of: Borough Solicitor

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**SUBJECT: REVIEW TOPIC FOR 2019/20 AND CONFIRMATION OF WORK
PROGRAMME**

Wards affected: Borough wide.

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To select one topic for review in 2019/20 following the outcome of the scoring exercise.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the results of the scoring exercise (Appendix A) be noted and the recommendations therein be actioned and endorsed.
- 2.2 That one topic be selected for review in the 2019/20 Work Programme of the Committee.
- 2.3 That a presentation on the selected topic be provided and a draft Project Plan for the review be prepared for the next meeting.
- 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'

The Committee conducts in-depth reviews/policy development as set out in its Work Programme.

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

It was agreed at Council on 10 July 2019 that the Member Development Commission will continue its work during 2019/20 reporting to Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- 2.5 That, subject to agreement at 2.2 above, a press release be prepared and issued to inform local residents of the chosen review topic to be included in the Committee's Work Programme 2019/20.
- 2.6 That the Work Programme 2019/20 attached at Appendix B be noted.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee establishes its own Work Programme annually. At its meeting on 11 July 2019 the Committee confirmed that arrangements would be put in place to request items for its Work Programme for 2019/20. This would be done:
 - By inviting members of the public to submit topics via a press release and by the inclusion of an article on the Council's web site.
 - By inviting all Members, Parish Councils and Corporate Management Team (CMT) 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 Conservative Group Spokesperson would score a number of potential topics put forward.
- 3.3 The scoring exercise was subsequently undertaken with the Chairman, using the scrutiny topic selection assessment, with regard to the Corporate Priorities 2019/20 and the information that had been submitted on each topic.
- 3.4 The following submitted topics were considered:
 1. Lack of Policing in Skelmersdale
 2. Speeding Traffic along the A570 at Scarisbrick
 3. Mini Roundabout at Junction of St Helens Rd/ Knowsley Rd/ Small Lane
 4. Measures to reduce speeding traffic in areas of school children and elderly. Encourage use of bikes and provide extensive and safe network of cycle routes.
 5. Publicise, promote pathways / cycleways of Skelmersdale, restore signposting and produce new maps
 6. Shortage of Policing Resources in West Lancs
 7. Development of Wild Flower and Wooded Sites
 8. Foot Bridge over the canal from Heathfields Estate, Burscough
 9. Follow the Principles of the Good Verge Guide and implement a Wildflower Verge and Roundabout Programme
 10. Review Vulnerable Tenants Policy
 11. Review Financial Inclusion Policy
 12. Roundabouts and public spaces (wildflower planting, weed control, litter picking, cycle lanes, canal towpath, tree planting, restriction for HGV's using Church Rd, Rufford)
 13. Review of Public Conveniences
 14. Youth Service (for young people ages 13-19 years and 25 years with disabilities)

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 2019/20.
- 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 2019/20, subject to any amendments, be included on the Council's website.
- 5.5 That a press release be prepared and issued to inform local residents of the chosen review topic to be included in the Committee's Work Programme 2019/20.

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 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. 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.

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 report does not have a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. However, any recommendations coming forward from the selected topic may have an impact on those groups and, if so, this will be assessed when the final review report is prepared.

Appendices

- A Summary of Outcome – Topic Scoring Exercise
- B. Work Programme 2019/20