



**CORPORATE AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW &  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:  
10 DECEMBER 2020**

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**Report of: Corporate Director Transformation and Resources**

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**SUBJECT: REVIEW TOPIC FOR 2021/22 AND CONFIRMATION OF WORK PROGRAMME**

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Wards affected: Borough wide.

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To select one topic for review in 2021/22 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 2021/22 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

The Member Development Commission will continue its work during 2021/22 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 2021/22.
- 2.6 That the Work Programme 2021/22 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 17 September 2020 the Committee confirmed that arrangements would be put in place to request items for its Work Programme for 2021/22. 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, Conservative Group Spokesperson and Our West Lancashire 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 2020/23 and the information that had been submitted on each topic, including verbal representations.

3.4 The following submitted topics were considered:

- TOPIC 1: Digital Divide
- TOPIC 2: Review of Public Conveniences
- TOPIC 3: Action on Climate Emergency
- TOPIC 4: Consider increasing provision of parking spaces across the Borough on Council-owned or LCC land
- TOPIC 5: Spending on Community
- TOPIC 6: National Planning Review
- TOPIC 7: Review of Council CCTV System
- TOPIC 8: To consider refurbishing public benches on Mart Lane, by Tesco on Station Approach and to consider refurbishing public litter bins around the village of Burscough and consider adding further bins in public places
- TOPIC 9: Various Issues – Parbold Parish Council
- TOPIC 10: Create/Designate Hedgehog and wildlife areas in public parks/gardens across the Borough

#### **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 2021/22.
- 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 2021/22, 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 2021/22.

#### **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.

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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 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 2021/22