



**CORPORATE AND
ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
13 OCTOBER 2016**

Report of: Borough Solicitor

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**SUBJECT: REVIEW TOPIC FOR 2016/17 AND CONFIRMATION OF WORK
PROGRAMME**

Wards affected: Borough wide.

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To select the topic for review in 2016/17 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 the topic selected for review in the 2016/17 Work Programme of the Committee be:
- ‘Tourism’
- 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

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 2016/17 as will the 'Public Involvement at Meetings Working Group'.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee establishes its own Work Programme annually. At its meeting on 14 July 2016 the Committee confirmed that arrangements would be put in place to request items for the Work Programme for 2016/17. 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 and the 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 and a spokesperson for the Conservative Group of this Committee using the scrutiny topic selection assessment, with regard to the Corporate Priorities 2016/17 and the information that had been submitted on each topic.

3.4 The following submitted topics were considered:

- Bickerstaffe Cycle Trials (Phase 2 of the Trials 2016/17)
- Speeding Traffic – Firswood Road
- Cycles in Ormskirk Bus Station
- Highway issues – Cottage Lane/Halsall Lane, Ormskirk
- Improved Planting Skelmersdale Town Centre
- Waste Disposal – Methods of Collection
- Mowing of verges and road islands
- Tourism
- What has become of the operational Police Officers in West Lancashire?

The topic 'Flooding (gullies and grids)' raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 14 July 2016 is the subject of a presentation to the Committee, at this meeting. The topic idea in relation to renewable energy, retained from a past meeting of the Committee, was noted as already being addressed.

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 2016/17.
- 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 2016/17, 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. 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