

REPORT TO:	Safeguarding, Communities & Well-being Scrutiny Committee
REPORT NO:	HF/ 08 /18s
DATE:	28 th February 2018
LEAD MEMBER:	N/A
CONTACT OFFICER:	Suzanne Price, Scrutiny Facilitator (Tel: 292179)
SUBJECT:	Work Programme
WARD:	N/A

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To assist Members in agreeing a list of potential scrutiny topic areas for the next 12 months and possibly longer term.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report sets out the format for this work programming meeting, together with relevant information to assist the Committee in agreeing a list of potential scrutiny topic areas to be considered over the next 12 months and possibly beyond.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To consider the information included in the report and to agree a work programme for the coming 12 – 18 months.**

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

For the Committee to develop an outcome focused work programme for the next 12 months and beyond.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4.1 To meet the Council's focus on ensuring that scrutiny 'adds value' to the decision-making process, a project (supported by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) and CIPFA in 2014), identified work programming as a key means of focussing on the 'big issues'.

4.2 Scrutiny Committees have previously agreed that they should endeavour to identify one report for consideration at each scheduled meeting, which would allow capacity for any new items raised during the year. Ideally this would result in no more than two items on each agenda. In reviewing potential scrutiny items, Members should consider the following questions, which have been raised during WLGA Scrutiny Training sessions:-

- Why do you want the item to be placed on the scrutiny work programme – reasons, background and criteria for acceptance as a scrutiny item?
- What is the specific role of this Committee in scrutinising the particular topic?
- What outcome is the Committee seeking from consideration of this item?
- What information does the Committee need to achieve this outcome?

4.3 All Scrutiny Committees will be reviewing their work programmes in February. The proposed format of the Work Programme Planning report was reviewed at the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group held on 23 November 2017 and the following information was recommended for inclusion in the report:

- Council Plan Priority Outcome and Key Priority Outcomes within the terms of reference of the committee – relevant excerpts from Council Plan.
- Relevant performance information against Appendix A – relevant excerpt from Quarter 2 Performance Report to December Executive Board
- Principal Risk Register
- Internal Audit Plan (latest).
- Outcome of 'Difficult Decisions 2018-20' consultation and final budget savings proposals (see para 4.4 below)
- Key projects arising from / in progress from 2016/17 budget savings
- A link to the Wellbeing Plan (see para 4.7 below)
- Current work programme with comments from Heads of Department / Lead Members (the work programme has been shared with the relevant Lead Members and Heads of Department prior to the meeting)

2018-19 / 2019-20 Budget

4.4 The proposed savings were considered at the meeting of the Executive Board on 9th January and can be viewed at:

<http://moderngov.wrexham.gov.uk/ielistdocuments.aspx?CId=129&MId=3757>

These savings, as recommended by Executive Board have informed the budget which was confirmed at the meeting of Council on 21 February.

The committee has already identified several budget-related issues at its December 2017 meeting and these have been included in the work programme. The key findings from the Difficult Decisions 17/18 – 18/19 consultation relevant to this committee are included at **Appendix E**.

- 4.5 The Scrutiny Coordinating Group agreed that work programme planning should include reference to the WAO proposal for improvement (from the WAO report 'Good Governance When Determining Significant Service Change) which stated that the Council's governance arrangements could be strengthened by explicitly defining the role that scrutiny should have in reviewing the impact of individual service changes and where appropriate incorporating this into the Forward Work Plan(s). **These have been included at Appendix F**. The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group is currently exploring how further information about these projects can be routinely made available to members.

Information for Members:

- 4.6 The following information is provided to the Committee to inform the work programme planning:

Appendix A	Council Plan Priority Outcome and Key Priority Outcomes within the terms of reference of the committee – relevant excerpts from Council Plan.
Appendix B	Relevant performance information against relevant excerpt from Quarter 2 Performance Report to December Executive Board
Appendix C	Principal Risk Register
Appendix D	Audit Plan (latest).
Appendix E	Outcome of 'Difficult Decisions 2018-20' Consultation
Appendix F	Key projects arising from / in progress from 2016/17 budget savings
Appendix G	Current work programme (the work programme has been shared with the relevant Lead Members and Heads of Department prior to the meeting – comments are included at paragraph 4.8)

Public Service Board (PSB)

- 4.7 The Public Service Board's is a statutory public body consisting of a number of statutory and invited public bodies that operate within the area of Wrexham County Borough Council. The PSB must work in partnership to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wrexham to achieve its Well being goals. Initially this will mean the PSB must undertake a well being assessment of Wrexham assessing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. The PSB will then agree priorities, to be contained within a published local Well-being Plan, which will maximise the PSB's contribution to well-being goals.

The PSB published the Well-being Assessment in 2017 and information about this can be found at: <http://www.wrexhampsb.org/the-wrexham-we-want/>

The Local Well-Being Plan is currently out for consultation – a link to information about the Plan and the consultation can be found on the PSB website at: <http://www.wrexhampsb.org/the-wrexham-we-want/>

The Customers Performance Resources & Governance Scrutiny Committee will be the local authority's designated scrutiny committee, in accordance with the legislative requirements. This committee will be responsible for

1. Reviewing the PSBs governance arrangements;
2. Acting as statutory consultees on the well-being assessment and well-being plan;
3. Monitoring progress on the PSBs implementation of the well-being plan and engagement in the PSB planning cycle;

In addition, the PSB has agreed the following 2 priorities:

Priority 1 – “Children and Young people are given a healthy start in life”

Priority 2 – “All people have opportunities to learn and develop throughout their lives”

The Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee and the Safeguarding Communities & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will have the responsibility for undertaking more detailed 'subject' scrutiny of these priority areas. The role for these committees will become clearer following the publication of the Well-being Plan in May 2018.

- 4.8 The Head of Adult Social Care has provided the following comment in relation to the outstanding Information Reports:

Regulation & Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 (agreed July 2017) - to provide members with information on the implications of the Act for social care in Wrexham (Information Report or committee briefing):

“It is too early to provide a report about RISCA - changes have been made to the proposed legislation following the consultation period and we are still attending briefing events to fully understand the implications of RISCA and our response to it both as a provider of services and as a commissioner. As soon as this is clearer I will provide a report.”

- 4.9 Following consideration of the information listed above, the Committee should consider the key scrutiny topics for the next 12 months and beyond. The Scrutiny Facilitator, in consultation with the relevant Lead Members and Officers, will then present a revised programme of work and Scrutiny Topic Selection Forms for any new topics identified for consideration by the Committee at the next meeting.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 **Policy Framework** – The terms of reference of this Committee are broadly aligned to the priorities in the Council’s Strategic Theme ‘Economy’ as set out in the Council Plan. Any scrutiny topics identified will contribute to the terms of reference **“To ensure that Wrexham is a place where people want to live, work, learn, visit and invest; that businesses are supported to locate and grow here and that people are able to prosper as individuals in their communities.”**
- 5.2 **Budget** – There are no budget implications arising from this report.
- 5.3 **Legal** – There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 5.4 **Staffing** – There are no staffing issues arising out of the report, but Officer resource will be required to support the preparation of information for Scrutiny Committee consideration.
- 5.5 **Equality/Human Rights** – This report provides information to inform a work programme and the Equality Manager has confirmed that the programme does not require an equality impact assessment as it merely sets out a timetable.
- 5.6 **Risks** – The main purpose of Scrutiny is to review and improve Council services, to make recommendations on future policy options and to act as a check and balance on the decisions made. Successful work programming and identification of issues for scrutiny, focusing on outcomes contributing to the relevant Council priorities, should minimize the risk to them not being attained/delivered.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The terms of reference of this Committee are closely aligned with the Strategic Themes and Priority Outcomes in the Council Plan which were informed by public consultation.

BACKGROUND PAPERS	LOCATION	WEBSITE INFO.