

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee
<b>REPORT NO:</b>	HF/46/17s
<b>DATE:</b>	19 April 2018
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	N/A
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Tracy Davies, Scrutiny Facilitator (Tel: 292258)
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Work Programme
<b>WARD:</b>	N/A

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To assist the Committee in considering and agreeing its work programme.

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The proposed work programme, for consideration, is attached at **Appendix 2**. Any proposed changes are highlighted in bold. In addition, a Scrutiny Topic Selection Form has been submitted regarding Period Poverty and this is attached at **Appendix 1**.

**3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That the Committee considers the Scrutiny Topic Selection Form regarding Period Poverty which is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 That, subject to the above and the changes outlined in this report, the Committee agrees the Work Programme at Appendix 2.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

## 4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4.1 The proposed work programme attached at **Appendix 2** and has been updated to incorporate the following changes which were agreed at the previous meeting:-

- Education Department self evaluation – new item to be scheduled for the meeting in September 2018.
- Support for pupil well-being – new item to be scheduled for meeting in February 2019.
- Implementation of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Band B programme – new item to be scheduled for the meeting in June 2019.
- Budget Savings - That consideration of the budget savings proposals be included as an annual scrutiny item, the scheduling of this to be considered at a later date (see paragraph 4.2 below)
- That the following information be circulated:-
  - Impact of the proposed budget savings in respect of the School Music Service.
  - Minor schools works capital programme (circulated March 2018).
  - Details of numbers of pupils attending out of county schools (circulated March 2018).
  - Copy of the action plan following the audit of ICT in Schools (circulated March 2018).

### **Scrutiny Topic Selection Form – Period Poverty – Appendix 2**

4.2 A Scrutiny Topic Selection Form has been submitted by Councillor Carrie Harper, requesting the Committee to explore how best to allocate the recent funding announced by the Welsh Government for local authorities to help tackle the issue of period poverty. The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to include this on the work programme and when.

### **Education Department Self Evaluation Report – All Member Workshop September 2018**

4.3 The Education Department produces an annual self evaluation report relating to Education Services for Children and Young People. The Head of Education has advised that the purpose of the meeting will be to have initial discussions around how effective the leadership and management arrangements are within the local authority in supporting improvement in education. This will include discussions around the effectiveness of the Scrutiny Committee. The Chair has therefore suggested that an All Member Workshop would be more appropriate at this stage to ensure the wider involvement of all Members.

### **Budget Scrutiny – September and December 2018**

4.4 At the previous meeting, the Committee agreed that consideration of the budget savings proposals be included as an annual scrutiny item, the scheduling of this to be considered at a later date.

- 4.5 The Head of Finance attended the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group (SCG) held on 22 March to discuss scrutiny involvement in the budget setting process for 2019/20 and beyond.
- 4.6 The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group recommended the following to the Executive Board when considering the budget setting process for 2019/20 and 2020/21:-
- April / July – Monthly All Member Workshops (beginning in April with an outline of savings required and the opportunity to generate ideas from members on potential savings to be put forward for further discussion, followed by themed workshops focusing on specific areas, and a final list to be considered in July if possible);
  - September/ October – Scrutiny Committee meetings prior to Public Consultation (Scrutiny Committees to consider any specific proposed budget savings which are highlighted from the list presented to the All Member Workshop in July. Scrutiny to identify any proposals they wish to re-consider in December following the public consultation);
  - October / November – Public Consultation following announcement of Welsh Government Settlement
  - December – Additional scrutiny post-Public Consultation as required/identified at September / October scrutiny committees
- 4.7 SCG recommended that all Scrutiny Committees allocate a meeting / agenda item in September / October to scrutinise items identified at the All Member Workshops, and schedule an additional meeting in December to consider any specific consultation responses as required. The view of the Head of Finance was that it was easier to cancel a meeting if not required than to arrange dates in everyone's diaries at short notice.
- 4.8 SCG also emphasised:
- (i) The importance of members being able to prepare for the workshops (i.e. receiving information prior to the workshops, rather than presentations on the day);
  - (ii) Members having access to Equality Impact Assessments and service impact assessments as part of the supporting papers for the scrutiny committee meetings;
  - (iii) All Member workshops to be varied between morning and late afternoon to maximise member attendance.
- 4.9 A budget item has therefore been provisionally scheduled for the meeting in September and an additional meeting date will be provisionally allocated for December.

## 5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 **Policy Framework** – The terms of reference of this Committee are partly aligned to the priorities in the Council’s Strategic Theme ‘People’ as set out in the Council Plan. Any scrutiny topics identified will contribute to the terms of reference **‘To ensure that the people of Wrexham have positive aspirations, education and potential’**.
- 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

Not applicable.

## 7 EVALUATION OF OPTIONS

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND PAPERS	LOCATION	WEBSITE INFO.
Work Programme Planning Report (HF/53/16S) to Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee 7 July 2016.	WCBC Website	<a href="http://moderngov.wrexham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=172&amp;MId=3299&amp;LLL=undefined">http://moderngov.wrexham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=172&amp;MId=3299&amp;LLL=undefined</a>