

**HOMES & ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****Work Programme from December 2018**

**Please note that the work programme is a 'live' document and subject to change at short notice.**

**The information in this work programme is subject to approval at the Committee meeting on 12 December 2018**

*The order in which items are listed at this stage may not reflect the order they subsequently appear on the agenda / are dealt with at the scrutiny meeting. Please note that for items marked as 'part 2' it is recommended that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during its consideration in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).*

*For general enquiries relating to the Council's Scrutiny function, including this committee's work programme, please contact Craig Stevens, Scrutiny Facilitator, Scrutiny Team on 292253.*

*For administrative arrangements such as enquiries relating to report dispatch dates, venue layouts, setting up of presentations, etc., please contact Marie Russell, Committee Officer, Committee and Member Services on 292241*

**All Meetings start at 2pm in the Guildhall, Wrexham, unless otherwise stated.**

<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>EXPECTED OUTCOME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE LEAD MEMBER/OFFICER</b>
<b>16 January 2019</b>	<b>Wrexham Rights of Way Improvement Plan</b>	<b>To consider the public consultation response to the draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan and recommend thereon to the Executive Board.</b>	<b>To consider the draft plan prior to its approval.</b>	<b>Councillor David A Bithell (Environment and Transport)/ Head of Environment and Planning</b>
	<b>Streetscene Service Standards</b>	<b>To consider an update on the Streetscene service performance against the revised standards and protocols once they have been in place for 12 months.</b>	<b>To ensure that agreed standards of service are delivered.</b>	<b>Councillor David A Bithell (Environment and Transport)/ Head of Environment and Planning</b>
<b>13 February 2019</b>	<b>HRA Environmental Improvement Schemes</b>	<b>To scrutinise the current issues and limitations regarding spending the Environmental Budget on land other than that owned by the housing department, i.e Highways/Environment. To also reference the new flexible approach that can be adopted so that appropriate schemes on non HRA land which directly affect tenants (such as off street parking) can be considered</b>	<b>To explore potential solutions to the issue.</b>	<b>Councillor David Griffiths (Housing)/ Head of Housing and Economy</b>

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<b>13 March 2019</b>	<b>Council House Lettings</b>	<b>To consider the timescales in place for Council house lettings and how to address the issue of difficult to let properties.</b>	<b>To reduce the number of difficult to let properties.</b>	<b>Councillor David Griffiths (Housing)/ Head of Housing and Economy</b>
<b>10 April 2019</b>	<b>Highway Assessment Management Plan and Review of Road Classification / Inspection and Defect Repair Regimes</b>	<b>To consider performance in respect of the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) and review the current arrangements for Road Classification/Inspection and Defect Repair Regimes. (information to be provided to Members in respect of Highway work being undertaken prior to this item being considered)</b>	<b>To highlight any issues with regard to performance in respect of the HAMP and with regard to the current mechanism for Road Classification/Inspection and Defect Repair Regimes</b>	<b>Councillor David A Bithell (Environment and Transport)/ Head of Environment and Planning</b>

<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>EXPECTED OUTCOME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE LEAD MEMBER/ OFFICER</b>
<b>8 May 2019</b>	<b>Welfare Reform Update</b>	<b>To consider the Council's response to Welfare reform and its effects on both Council and private rented sector tenants. Representatives of Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) to be invited to attend as agreed at the meeting on 9 May 2018.</b>	<b>To ensure that effective measures are in place to lessen the negative impact of welfare reform on tenants and the Council.</b>	<b>Councillor David Griffiths (Housing)/ Head of Housing and Economy</b>
<b>12 June 2019</b>	<b>Welsh Housing Quality Standard Update</b>	<b>To consider progress made and work undertaken in respect of the Housing Revenue Account – Housing Capital Programme 2017/18. To be submitted on 6 monthly basis June and December and as information reports in September and March. To also include details of estimated % of properties that will not be compliant with the Welsh Housing Quality Standard by the required completion date of December 2020.</b>	<b>To help deliver the Welsh Housing Quality Standard on time and within budget</b>	<b>Councillor David Griffiths (Housing)/ Head of Housing and Economy</b>
<b>10 July 2019</b>				

ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED

ITEM	AS AGREED at meeting of:	PURPOSE OF REPORT	EXPECTED OUTCOME	RESPONSIBLE LEAD MEMBER/ OFFICER
Network Management Duty	8 July 2015	<p>National statutory procedures provide the powers to Local Highway Authorities to manage the highway network to minimise and manage disruption and congestion.</p> <p>Over recent years the Council have regularly introduced traffic regulation orders to control and manage parking so as to improve traffic management.</p> <p>The Streetworks team within the Environment Service Department manage public utility work on the highway, coordinating and inspecting works.</p> <p>A review and re-prioritisation of related</p>	To ensure the local authority manages the highway network efficiently and effectively.	Councillor David A Bithell (Environment and Transport)/ Head of Environment and Planning

ITEM	AS AGREED at meeting of:	PURPOSE OF REPORT	EXPECTED OUTCOME	RESPONSIBLE LEAD MEMBER/ OFFICER
		policies ensuring they are still relevant, fit for purpose, affordable, deliverable and as appropriate rationalised into a single policy document.		
Local Transport Plan	8 July 2015	<p>A change in legislation in Wales in 2014 removed the requirement to produce Regional Transport Strategies and now requires a Local Transport Plan to be prepared. This Plan has followed the statutory guidance and criteria and consultation programmes and been approved by the Welsh Government (WG) Minister earlier in 2015.</p> <p>These plans require a 5 year programme of transport interventions and these will form the basis for future Local Transport and Road Safety Grant funding from the Welsh Government.</p> <p>This report would inform Members of the National priorities for Transport from the WG and the criteria that defines eligibility for development and implementation for local transport interventions.</p> <p>The report would also allow a review of the five year regional and local transport interventions as defined in the Transport</p>	To support the delivery of the Local Transport Plan.	Councillor David A Bithell (Environment and Transport)/ Head of Environment and Planning

ITEM	AS AGREED at meeting of:	PURPOSE OF REPORT	EXPECTED OUTCOME	RESPONSIBLE LEAD MEMBER/ OFFICER
		Plan.		
Parks & Playgrounds	8 July 2015	<p>Wrexham County Borough Council currently administer a number of Country Parks and Visitor Centres.</p> <p>Recent changes have seen the responsibility for a number of play parks transfer to third parties, in the main Community Councils.</p> <p>These facilities still generate significant interest and remain very much in demand with recorded visit numbers growing. Current practice still involves a number of 'events' promoted by Council staff. Although the number and frequency of 'events' has reduced in recent years they are still popular attractions.</p> <p>Event organisation and promotion tends to be extremely resource intensive. Given the ownership transfer of play parks the Authority has little control and influence over the development of work in this area now.</p> <p>A review and re-prioritisation of 'service standards' and operational protocols and priorities ensuring they are still relevant,</p>	To review and re-prioritise 'service standards' and operational protocols and priorities ensuring they are still relevant, fit for purpose, affordable and deliverable.	Councillor David A Bithell (Environment and Transport)/ Head of Environment and Planning

ITEM	AS AGREED at meeting of:	PURPOSE OF REPORT	EXPECTED OUTCOME	RESPONSIBLE LEAD MEMBER/ OFFICER
		fit for purpose, affordable and deliverable.		
Service Level Agreements for Tenants of Wrexham County Borough	11 October 2017	<p>The Council agreed to introduce charges for services, provided to some tenants, which are separate to their payable rent.</p> <p>To ensure that services are delivered to the required standard and can be effectively monitored by both the Housing Department and tenants it is considered that some Service Level Agreements (SLAs) will be required. SLAs will state the detail content and costs of services that will be provided for tenants for which they pay service charges.</p> <p>This report will allow Members of the scrutiny committee to examine the proposed SLAs prior to their introduction, in particular to consider the frequency, level of service and related charges.</p> <p>It is noted that SLAs will not be required for all services that are charged to tenants.</p>	<p>To ensure that the SLAs proposed are fit for purpose and offer a fair and quality service for tenants.</p> <p>To ensure that the Council is able to recover the costs of providing these services, whilst minimising the costs levied for tenants</p>	Councillor David Griffiths (Housing)/ Head of Housing and Economy

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>AS AGREED at meeting of:</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>EXPECTED OUTCOME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE LEAD MEMBER/ OFFICER</b>
Gardens in Council House Voids	10 January 2018	To consider the policy in respect of gardens in Council House Voids.	To implement a policy with a view to establishing the best approach in dealing with gardens so as they are safe and do not require unnecessary work	Councillor David Griffiths (Housing)/ Head of Housing and Economy
Local Housing Strategy 2018-23	28 February 2018	The Committee should receive 6 monthly update reports on progress of the Action Plan, to review targets / measures / outcomes during the five year programme.	To ensure that the Strategy meets its aims and objectives	Councillor David Griffiths (Housing)/ Head of Housing and Economy
Review of Succession of Tenancy	11 April 2018	To review the current arrangements of succession of tenancy of Council properties	To ensure that the current procedure is delivering succession in a manner which meets the requirements of the Council, Council tenants and reflects changes in society	Councillor David Griffiths (Housing)/ Head of Housing and Economy

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>AS AGREED at meeting of:</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>EXPECTED OUTCOME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE LEAD MEMBER/ OFFICER</b>
Next steps for Waste and Recycling in Wales	9 May 2018	To consider forthcoming Welsh Government consultation in respect of the next steps for Waste and Recycling in Wales.	To respond to this issue.	Councillor David A Bithell (Environment and Transport)/ Head of Environment and Planning
Council House Voids	11 July 2018	To consider performance in respect of Council House Voids together with information breaking down void performance into its various categories and detailing time spent on site and time processing the void.	To monitor performance levels in void turnaround times.	Councillor David Griffiths (Housing)/ Head of Housing and Economy
The Use of Herbicide to Manage Weed Growth on Highways and Open Spaces in Wrexham	12 September 2018	To consider an update report on the Councils use of glyphosates and related and related developments at the meeting in September 2019.	To monitor best practice in this area and Councils usage of glyphosate.	Councillor David A Bithell (Environment and Transport)/ Head of Environment and Planning
Environmental Enforcement	12 September 2018	To consider proposals as to how this service can be delivered on a partnership, sub-regional or regional basis with other North Wales Councils.	To recommend a model for service delivery in this area.	Councillor David A Bithell (Environment and Transport)/ Head of Environment and Planning

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>AS AGREED at meeting of:</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>EXPECTED OUTCOME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE LEAD MEMBER/ OFFICER</b>
<b>Review of Grass Cutting 2019</b>	<b>14 November 2018</b>	<b>To fully review service performance against standards over the season 2018 in respect of grass cutting in relation to highways/open spaces and HRA land and to consider a review of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Housing and Economy Department</b>	<b>To ensure that there was an effective level of performance in 2018 and consider any proposed changes to the SLA with the Housing and Economy Department</b>	<b>Councillor David A Bithell (Environment and Transport)/ Head of Environment and Planning</b>
<b>Protocol for “A” Boards in the Town Centre</b>	<b>14 November 2018</b>	<b>To consider the previously agreed policy in respect of “A” Boards and encroachment in the Town Centre and review it with a view to it being implemented. To consider a low cost licensing scheme for the siting of “A “ Boards be considered and that this be reviewed in light of the available resource to deliver the service and the comments made</b>	<b>To provide a deliverable licensing scheme for A Boards</b>	<b>TBC</b>

## **REGULAR ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

<b>Welsh Housing Quality</b>	<b>11 February</b>	<b>To consider progress made and work</b>	<b>To help deliver the</b>	<b>Councillor David</b>
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Standard Update	2015	undertaken in respect of the Housing Revenue Account – Housing Capital Programme 2017/18. To be submitted on 6 monthly basis June and December and as information reports in September and March.	Welsh Housing Quality Standard on time and within budget	Griffiths (Housing)/ Head of Housing and Economy
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**All Member INFORMATION REPORTS Recommended by Committee**

ITEM	AS AGREED at meeting on	PURPOSE OF REPORT	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	RESPONSIBLE LEAD MEMBER/OFFICER
Customer Care Contacts With Housing Department	14 January 2015	To consider the levels of customer contacts, their specific reasons and related performance in this area.	Information Item	Councillor David Griffiths (Housing)/ Head of Housing, and Economy
Street Lighting	9 November 2016	To detail responses to questions raised in respect of street lighting inspection and related street lighting issues that have arisen with Scottish Power	Information Item	Councillor David A Bithell (Environment and Transport)/ Head of Environment and Planning
The Use of Herbicide to Manage Weed Growth on Highways and Open Spaces in Wrexham	12 September 2018	To highlight developments regarding glyphosate and its usage. To be submitted in March 2019.	Information Item	Councillor David A Bithell (Environment and Transport)/ Head of Environment and Planning

