

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee
<b>REPORT NO:</b>	HF/17/19s
<b>DATE:</b>	21 February 2019
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	N/A
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Craig Stevens, Scrutiny Facilitator (Tel: 292253)
<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 up until July 2019, for consideration, is attached at **Appendix 1**. Any proposed changes are highlighted in bold.

**3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That, subject to the changes outlined in this report, the Committee agrees the Work Programme at Appendix 1.**
- 3.2 To consider a proposed action in respect of the Local Government Education Services framework.**
- 3.3 To note the scope presented by the Future Use of the Groves School Building Task & Finish Group.**

**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 1**.

4.2 Arising from the January meeting the Committee made no changes to its work programme.

There were, however, two pieces of work that were required to be addressed:-

i) That the Chair be delegated to work with the Lead Member of Education to forward correspondence to the WLGA Education Sub-Committee highlighting concerns at the lack of clarity around the revised role scrutiny is being asked to undertake of the Education service.

ii) Local Government Education Services - That consideration of this issue be deferred to the February meeting with a view developing a full response by 31 March 2019.

4.3 In respect of (i) above Committee are advised that this correspondence has been drafted for submission to the WLGA Education Sub-Committee.

4.4 In respect of (ii) above Committee members have been requested to input into the drafting of a response to questions posed under the Local Government Education Services framework. Arising from this a draft response is being developed and this will be considered as required, but by no later than February 2020.

4.5 In September 2018 Customers Performance Resources & Governance Scrutiny Committee (CPR&GSC) considered the feasibility study on the future use of the Groves school building for primary school use. The committee resolved: 'That the Council, as owners of the listed Groves School building explore all avenues for future use to satisfy statutory responsibilities and covenants via a Joint Task & Finish Group with members of the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee (LLSC) and report back to committee on a 6 month basis'.

4.6 CPR&GSC and LLSC appointed members to the Task & Finish Group at their October and November meetings respectively.

4.7 The Task & Finish Group has held three meetings in January and February in order to be able to develop the scope of the review and to establish how to deliver on the agreed terms of reference.

4.8 The scope is now being presented to LLSC and CPR&GSC at their February meetings - Appendix 2.

4.9 The committee is asked to note that the Task & Finish Group has identified that its role is largely one of oversight of established corporate processes, whilst providing timely challenge to Lead Members and officers in relation to the development of options for the building.

- 4.10 Given the timescales involved in these corporate processes, the Task & Finish Group do not envisage that a report will be available in 6 months as originally requested by CPR&GSC. The Task & Finish Group therefore propose providing updates at appropriate times via the work programme reports, prior to any formal report with recommendations back to committee.
- 4.11 Safeguarding Communities and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee are to consider a topic request form at a future meeting in respect of Safeguarding and Elective Home Education (EHE). The draft form makes reference to information being compiled in respect of the number and profile of EHE in Wrexham and any information relating to reasons for them becoming EHE. This may be forwarded to the committee at a later date.

## 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.

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>WEBSITE INFO.</b>
Work Programme Planning Report (HF/03/18s) to Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee 8 February 2018.	Wrexham County Borough Council Website	<a href="http://modern.gov.wrexham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=172&amp;MId=4080">http://modern.gov.wrexham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=172&amp;MId=4080</a>