

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 16 June 2008

Subject: Select Committees, Membership and review topics

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive

Contact officer: Sue Johnson 01942 827148

Purpose / summary: To invite the Committee members to identify which topics should be reviewed in the current municipal year.

To invite members to indicate which Select Committee they would like to serve on.

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: Not to agree the topics for review or the memberships. The recommended option enables the work of the Committee to progress smoothly through the year.

Recommendation / decision: The Committee are asked to determine:

- which review topic areas they wish to consider in the first round of reviews; and
- to indicate which of the Select Committees they wish to serve on.

Key Decision: This report does not involve a key decision. The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours**.

Risks / Implications:

Financial: There are none. Any recommendations that emerge will be subject to separate agreement and approval

Staffing: Covered in existing budgets

Policy: None at this stage

Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment: The contents of this report do not have any DIA implications. In holding their meetings,

been conducted?

taking evidence and producing their reports each Select Committee will take DIA considerations into account

Wards affected:

All

Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?

No

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?

Any reviews selected will be considered for impact as recommendations are made

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?

This will be considered once recommendations are made

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution?

Yes

Has the Service Director - Corporate Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget?

No

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?

No

* delete which applicable

For Cabinet reports only :

Categorisation of the report:	x
Discussion leading to a decision	x
Monitoring	
Sharing for corporate understanding	

	x
Discussion	
Decision	
Information	

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
	16 June 2008		

List of Background Papers in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972: None

Appendix 1: Previous Select Committee reviews

Proper Officer Mrs Sue Johnson

Date 6 June 2008

Background:

Each year the Select Committees associated with Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertake a number of reviews. The topics for the reviews have in the past been wide-ranging and come from a variety of sources.

The Chairs of the four Select Committees were appointed at the last meeting (minute 6 – May 2008 refers). The Members who had been reappointed to the Committee from the previous year were reappointed to the same Select Committees to ensure continuity with the current review areas. The current Membership of the Select Committees is now as follows:-

	Select Committee 1 Townships (7 Members)	Select Committee 2 Reputation Management (7 Members)	Select Committee 3 Transport (7 Members)	Health Scrutiny (9 Members)
Lab	Cllr J S Birch (Chair) Cllr Mrs B Bourne Cllr M Klieve	Cllr F B Walker (Chair) Cllr J Moodie	Cllr Mrs M J Whiteside (Chair) Cllr M A Dewhurst Cllr M Aldred	Cllr G M Bretherton (Chair) Cllr C Rigby Cllr Mrs J Hurst
	vacancy	2 vacancies	vacancy	2 vacancies
Dem /All	Cllr P A Tushingam	vacancy	vacancy	Cllr R J Derricutt
Cons	Cllr H L Cadman	Cllr P Thompson	Cllr N R Whittingham	Cllr N R Whittingham
Ind Cllr Grp	Cllr R T Splaine	vacancy	0	vacancy
Ind Con Grp	0	0	vacancy	Cllr G W Fairhurst

NB (Councillor M W Winstanley has been appointed as a Co-opted representative to the Health Select Committee. Mr B Turrell was a member of Select Committee no 3).

A cross-party membership of the Select Committees would ensure that all aspects of the topics are considered. Once the new topics have been chosen, Members of the Committee may wish to switch their membership to the Select Committee covering an area in which they can have most involvement.

For the benefit of new Members to the Committee, a list of the reviews already undertaken is attached at appendix 1.

Proposals

Review Topics

Consideration of current issues facing the council and its partners suggests the following topics for the coming year:

Health Scrutiny

1. 2007 PCT Wigan Borough Health and Lifestyle Survey – this survey has been recently published. The Select Committee may wish to consider the extent to which inequalities have reduced since the previous survey, both within the borough and in relation to other comparable boroughs.

Select Committee topics:

1. Sexual health – update on previous review, consideration of the trends evident in the borough, what could be learnt from other similar authorities where the rate of teenage pregnancy and STI has declined more steeply, and new, cross-agency activity to be undertaken in the borough.
2. Social Cohesion – what is the evidence from which we can judge the degree of social cohesion in the borough, what steps could be taken by the council, partner agencies and residents to increase it further.
3. A sustainable borough – what steps should we be taking to reduce the council's and residents' carbon footprints and how might we encourage this to occur.
4. Skills and Learning Agenda 14 – 19 age group, comparative performance with other similar councils, future directions being taken in the borough and anticipated impact on attainment.
5. Third Sector – the extent of involvement of this sector in delivery of services on behalf of the council, experience in other boroughs, to what extent such delivery should be increased and how this might be achieved.
6. Looked After Children – following the first Local Public Service Agreement outcomes for this small group of people improved, but this does not appear to have been maintained.

Members may have other topics that they wish to put forward at the meeting. Once all the topics have been placed on the table, members may wish to debate which three should be the first to be undertaken and then allocate them to specific Select Committee chairs.

The intention for 2008/09 is that the first round of Select Committees will commence in August 2008 and must be completed by February/March 2009.

Membership of the Committees.

With the chairs appointed and the topics allocated, members may wish to indicate which of the Select Committees they wish to serve on, subject to compliance with the political balance calculation as set out below:-

	Select Committee 1	Select Committee 2	Select Committee 3	Health Scrutiny 4	Total
Labour	4	4	5	5	18
Democratic Alliance	1	1	1	1	4
Conservative	1	1	1	1	4
Independent Councillor Group	1	1	0	1	3
Ind Conservative Group	0	0	1	1	2
Total	7	7	7	9	30

Conclusions:

Committee is asked to determine the membership and topics for each of the Select Committees so that work can be started from August 2008.

Select Committee Reviews

- Adoption of roads and open spaces reported 2 April 2007
- Affordable Housing reported 23 May 2005
- Audiology reported 2 April 2007
- Asylum Seekers reported 18 February 2002
- Casual Swimming reported 18 February 2002
- Effective enquiry handling reported 2 April 2007
- Flooding reported 1 June 2006
- Health: Annual Report of Wigan Council's Health Select Committee 2005 / 2006 reported 22 May 2006
- Health: Annual Report of Wigan Council's Health Select Committee 2006/07 reported May 2007
- Health: Dentistry reported 14 July 2003
- Health: Inequalities in Health in Wigan Borough reported 23 August 2004
- Invasive weeds reported 5 March 2007
- Linc Cards reported 10 June 2002
- Loan Sharks reported 15 July 2002
- Managing Transition - Childhood to Adulthood reported 8 September 2003
- Missed Bins | Appendix to the Report reported 19 November 2001
- Neighbourhood Nuisance reported 3 April 2006
- Numeracy and Literacy reported July 2005
- Police Resourcing reported 20 June 2005
- Re-organisation of Children's Services in Greater Manchester 07 July 2005
- Reputation management to be reported to 14 July 2008
- Specialist Housing Provision reported 6 September 2004
- School Meals reported 3 April 2006
- Teenage Pregnancy reported 20 September 2004
- The Effect of CCTV in the Wigan Borough reported 15 November 2004.
- Townships to be reported 16 June 2008
- Traffic Calming reported on 24 February 2003
- Transport to be reported 16 June 2008
- Utilities Review reported 13 October 2003
- Youth Nuisance and Substance Misuse reported 8 September 2003

These reports can be found at:-

<http://www.wigan.gov.uk/Services/CouncilDemocracy/CommitteesCabinetPanels/SelectCommitteeReviews.htm>