

Report for: Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel – 16
October 2018

Title: Work Programme 2018-19

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Ward(s) affected: N/A

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** N/A

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 This report reports on the development of the Panel's work plan for 2018/20.

2. Recommendations

That the Panel:

- 2.1 Note the combined feedback from the online scrutiny survey and the scrutiny café event held on 13th September as set out at Appendix 1 of the report.
- 2.2 Consider areas issues for inclusion within the work plan for 2018-20;
- 2.3 Agree the Environmental and Community Safety Work Programme as set out at Appendix 2 of the report, for referral to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for formal approval on 19th November.

3. Reasons for decision

- 3.1 Each scrutiny panel is required to develop a work plan on the areas and issues that it wishes to look at for the year for recommendation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In putting this together, they need to have regard to their capacity to deliver the programme and officers' capacity to support them in that task.

4. Approach

Introduction

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for developing an overall scrutiny work programme, including work for its four standing scrutiny panels. Careful selection and prioritisation of its work is important if the scrutiny function is to be successful in achieving outcomes.

- 4.2 An effective scrutiny work programme should reflect a balance of activities:
- Holding the Executive to account;
 - Policy review and development – reviews to assess the effectiveness of existing policies or to inform the development of new strategies;
 - Performance management – identifying under-performing services, investigating and making recommendations for improvement;
 - External scrutiny – scrutinising and holding to account partners and other local agencies providing key services to the public; and
 - Public and community engagement – engaging and involving local communities in scrutiny activities and scrutinising those issues which are of concern to the local community.
- 4.3 An effective work programme should;
- Reflect local needs and priorities – issues of community concern as well as Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy priorities;
 - Prioritise issues that have most impact or benefit to residents;
 - Involve local stakeholders; and
 - Is flexible enough to respond to new or urgent issues.
- 4.4 Scrutiny work can be carried out in a variety of ways and use whatever format that is best suited to the issue being considered. This can include a variety of “one-off” reports as well as in-depth scrutiny review projects that provide opportunities to thoroughly investigate topics and recommend improvements. It is nevertheless important that there is a balance between depth and breadth of work undertaken so that resources can be used to their greatest effect.

Work Plan Development

- 4.5 At its meeting on 4 June, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed a process to develop a two year work plan for the Committee and its panels. This included measures to ensure that the views of residents and stakeholders are taken into account in developing, including the setting up of a “Scrutiny Café” event. The Committee meeting on 23 July further developed this approach, which also included an on-line scrutiny survey.
- 4.6 The survey went live on 20 August and ran until 14 September. 191 responses were received. Suggestions within this for potential areas to be looked at in detail were combined with those from the Committee and its panels and discussed at the Scrutiny Café. This took place on 13 September and attracted over 50 people, including a large number of people from voluntary sector and community organisations.
- 4.7 A summary of the responses to the scrutiny survey and feedback received people who attended the scrutiny café for the areas covered by the Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny panel is attached to this report as Appendix A.

Finalising Work Plans

- 4.8 At the Panel meeting on the 13th September 2018, the following areas were put forward for inclusion on the work programme:
- A Scrutiny Review around the theme of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour
 - A Scrutiny Review around improving recycling, reducing the amount of plastic waste and exploring the potential for the Council to go 'plastic free'.
 - A one-off item around the gangs' matrix.
 - An item around air quality in the borough and how is this monitored.
 - Reviewing the joint arrangements for policing in Haringey and Enfield. These arrangements are due to come in to force in January 2019 and it is proposed that the Panel will look into this following a 6-month bedding in period.
- 4.9 More detailed work will now be required to finalise the work plans. In particular, consideration needs to be given to the following:
- Which other issues would the Panel like to add to its work programme for 2018-20, giving thought to which issues it would like to prioritise first.
 - How best to take forward the issues identified. For example, whether an issue is best suited to be dealt with through an in-depth scrutiny review or through a "one-off" item to a regular meeting. There are also routine items such as performance data, budget scrutiny and Cabinet Member Questions which may also provide a means of addressing issues;
 - Account needs to be taken to what other work may be taking place within the Council on issues raised so that any overview and scrutiny involvement complements rather than conflicts with this;
 - Some issues may have already been looked at recently by the Panel recently, such as the Scrutiny Review on Parks and consideration may need to be given as to whether to re-visit these issues and, if so, when; and
 - There may be some issues that have been raised on which overview and scrutiny is likely to have limited or no influence and therefore consideration needs to be given to where impact is likely to be the greatest in prioritising work.

Next Steps

- 4.10 Once the Panel has agreed which items it would like to take forward as part of the work programme, it is proposed that the Chair should meet with relevant officers to discuss further the issues relating to the topics proposed and the potential timescales involved.
- 4.11 In respect of scrutiny reviews, the number that it will be possible for each scrutiny body to complete within the next eighteen months will at least be partially dependent on the scale of the review that is planned. However, any more than 3 would probably be challenging to achieve within the time available. It is recommended that reviews are completed within individual years. This is because if reviews are not completed by the end of the year and there is a change in membership, continuity may be lost.

- 4.12 As mentioned previously, scrutiny is a flexible process. There are a wide range of options that can be used to approach issues and this does not just apply to review work. How each issue could best be approached should be given careful consideration, including “one-off” items that are placed on agendas for scheduled meetings. Key considerations could include;
- What format might work best?
 - Will there be enough space to allow meaningful discussion?
 - What evidence would best inform discussion and from what sources?
 - How can the views of the community and service users be incorporated?
- 4.13 The work plan will be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 19 November for final approval.

Monitoring

- 4.14 Once the work programme is agreed, there are both formal and informal systems in place to monitor the work programme. Regular agenda planning meetings with the Chair and senior officers and discussion at Committee will provide an opportunity to discuss the scope and approach to each area of inquiry.

5. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 5.1 The contribution of scrutiny to the corporate priorities will be considered routinely as part of the OSC’s work.

6. Statutory Officers comments

Finance and Procurement

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report. Should any of the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny generate recommendations with financial implications these will be highlighted at that time.

Legal

- 6.2 There are no immediate legal implications arising from the report.
- 6.3 In accordance with the Council’s Constitution, the approval of the future scrutiny work programme falls within the remit of the OSC.
- 6.4 Under Section 21 (6) of the Local Government Act 2000, an OSC has the power to appoint one or more sub-committees to discharge any of its functions. In accordance with the Constitution, the appointment of Scrutiny Panels (to assist the scrutiny function) falls within the remit of the OSC.
- 6.5 Scrutiny Panels are non-decision making bodies and the work programme and any subsequent reports and recommendations that each scrutiny panel

produces must be approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Such reports can then be referred to Cabinet or Council under agreed protocols.

Equality

6.6 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:

- Tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

6.7 The Panel should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them within its work plan, as well as individual pieces of work. This should include considering and clearly stating;

- How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share the nine protected characteristics;
- Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate;
- Whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Haringey;
- Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people, are being realised.

6.8 The Panel should ensure equalities comments are based on evidence. Wherever possible this should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service users views gathered through consultation.

7. Use of Appendices

Appendix A – Items put forward to the work plan as part of the scrutiny survey or at the scrutiny café.

Appendix B – Environment and Community Safety Work programme for 2018-20.

8. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A