

Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 4 June 2019

Title: Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panel Work Programme

Report authorised by: Ayshe Simsek, Acting Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

Lead Officer: Rob Mack, Principal Scrutiny Support Officer
Tel: 020 8489 2921, E-mail: rob.mack@haringey.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: N/A

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

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 This report seeks approval of the work plans for the remainder 2018-20 for the Committee and its Panels.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the work programmes for the main Committee and Scrutiny Panels at Appendix A and agree any amendments, as appropriate.
- 2.2 That the Committee agree to transfer the Wards Corner review from the work plan of the Housing and Regeneration Panel to that of the parent committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3. Reasons for decision

3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) is responsible for developing an overall work plan, including work for its standing scrutiny panels. In putting this together, the Committee will need to have regard to their capacity to deliver the programme and officers' capacity to support them in this task.

4. Background

4.1 An updated copy of the work plan for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is attached as Appendix "A". The current work plans for all of the other scrutiny panels are also attached. Further development of the plans will take place with Chairs and the outcomes of these discussions will be reported to the next round of meetings. Some small changes may be required to work plans the light of changes to Panel remits and Cabinet portfolios, which are reported elsewhere on the agenda.

Wards Corner Review

4.2 The evidence gathering for the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel Review of Wards Corner is now complete and there is over 30 hours of information to consider and extract key themes that will inform the Scrutiny Panel report and recommendations. There are a

further 3 sessions required to consider a draft report, agree the key themes and final recommendations. This is order to inform a final Scrutiny Panel report for consideration at Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 22nd of July, and Cabinet on the 10th of September. However, with the new 2019/20 council municipal year, the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel membership is likely to change. This would affect the Panel's completion of the Wards Corner review. It is important that Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as the parent committee, enable and facilitate the completion of the review.

4.3 Therefore, it is recommended that the work undertaken by the 2018/19 Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel review of Wards Corner and any further task be transferred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to arrange meetings with the 2018/19 Scrutiny Panel membership to finalise the review report and its recommendations. This will preserve the work of the Panel completed on this review thus far and ensure that the council continues to meet local community expectations on an outcome for this review.

If this proposal is agreed, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will hold a further three evidence sessions between mid-June to early July, inviting the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel membership of 2018-19 to actively review a draft report, propose the key themes and recommendations. Although the final review will be authored by the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the recommendations will be evidence led and it is hoped that this proposal will provide confidence to the community that the information already shared in the review will not be disregarded.

To emphasise that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee members will be acting in a facilitative role and maintaining oversight of this review in the outlined evidence gathering sessions.

This proposal is in keeping with the responsibilities of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the work programme which encompasses the main committee and 4 panels.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee appoints panels to discharge the Overview and Scrutiny role as set out in article 6 .03 [a] of the Council Constitution and given the circumstances can intervene to ensure that the review is completed and overall Scrutiny work programme objectives achieved.

Forward Plan

- 4.4.1 Since the implementation of the Local Government Act and the introduction of the Council's Forward Plan, scrutiny members have found the Plan to be a useful tool in planning the overview and scrutiny work programme. The Forward Plan is updated each month but sets out key decisions for a 3-month period.
- 4.5 To ensure the information provided to the Committee is up to date, a copy of the most recent Forward Plan can be viewed via the link below:

- 4.6 The Committee may want to consider the Forward Plan and discuss whether any of these items require further investigation or monitoring via scrutiny.

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 Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them within its work plan and those of its panels, 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 Committee should ensure that 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: Work Plans for the Committee and the scrutiny panels.

8. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A