

Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 15 October 2020

Title: Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panel Work Programme

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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 outlines the development of workplans for the Committee and its Panels for 2020-21 and beyond.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the current work programmes for the main Committee and Scrutiny Panels at Appendix A and agree any amendments, as appropriate.

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 The Committee and its Panels had completed their workplans for 2018-20 and were in the process and developing new ones for 2020-22 when the Covid-19 crisis and lockdown occurred. A scrutiny survey had been undertaken and analysed as part of this process and another Scrutiny Café event was planned but this needed to be postponed.
- 4.2 After lockdown, the normal work of the Committee and its Panels was suspended temporarily. Regular virtual meetings of the Committee were subsequently arranged, with short, focused agendas. These centred around Cabinet Member questions, with officer involvement and the need for written reports reduced in order to not divert or distract key officers and partners from responding to the crisis. The first round of Panel meetings for the year were cancelled.
- 4.3 The Committee and its Panels have now begun to resume their normal work, albeit with the need for virtual meetings for the foreseeable future. The Committee will therefore now need to give further consideration to how it develops its workplan. A key part of this will be plans for how the borough recovers from the

Covid-19 pandemic, which has impacted on virtually every area of Council activity.

- 4.4 The Committee and the Panels have a number of regular items, such as Cabinet Member Questions, plus reports that they receive on an annual basis. For the Committee, this would include the Complaints Annual Report and the Treasury Management Statement. In addition, there is budget scrutiny. There are also some follow-up reports that have been requested by the Committee and Panels. Outline work plans have been put together for the remainder of this year and these are attached as Appendix A.
- 4.5 The Committee will need to return to the review that it had been undertaking on Business Support – Procurement and the Local Supply Chain. Some of the evidence that was received as part of this may well be out of date or has been overtaken by events. In particular, the Council has recently published Haringey's Good Economy Recovery Plan and a High Streets Recovery Action Plan.
- 4.6 There is some space for the Committee to add additional one-off items into the agendas for the remaining scheduled meetings of the year and in particular the March meeting.
- 4.7 Proposals are being put together for a consultative event with representatives of the local community to inform the development of the work plan for 2021/22. It is intended that this will take place early in the new year.

Forward Plan

- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 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:

<http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RP=110&RD=0&J=1>
- 4.10 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