

**Report for:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 12 January 2021

**Title:** Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme/Memberships

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

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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.

2.2 That the Task and Finish Panel set up to respond to proposals from Whittington Health regarding their estates and services be comprised of:

- The Chair of the Committee;
- The Chair plus two other Members from the Adults and Health and the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panels; and
- Three non-voting co-opted Members.

2.3 That the Committee make the necessary appointments to the Task and Finish Panel.

## **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 Workplans for the remainder of 2020-21 have been developed for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and each of its Panels. These were approved by the Committee at its meeting on 15 October 2020 and are attached as **Appendix A**. The items within them comprise the following:

- Cabinet Member Questions;
- Reports requested at previous meetings;

- Matters that are regularly and routinely reported to the Committee and Panels. For the Committee, this would include the Complaints Annual Report and the Treasury Management Statement; and
- Scrutiny of the budget.

#### *Review of Business Support – Procurement and the Supply Chain*

- 4.2 The Committee needs to finalise the review that it has been undertaking on Business Support – Procurement and the Local Supply Chain. Work on the review began in April 2019 but its progress has been delayed by the need for the Committee to finalise the review on the Wards Corner regeneration and, more recently, by the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown. Some of the evidence that was received may therefore now be out of date or have been overtaken by events. In particular, the Council has recently published Haringey’s Good Economy Recovery Plan and a High Streets Recovery Action Plan.

#### *Whittington Health Estates and Service Proposals*

- 4.3 The Committee held a special meeting on 21 December to consider proposals from Whittington Health regarding its estates and services in Haringey. These predominantly affect services for children, although there are also some proposals that affect adults. The meeting resolved to set up a task and finish panel of between 3 and 7 Members of the Adults and Health and the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panels. The function of the task and finish panel will be to consider the proposal from Whittington Health and prepare a draft response to them on behalf of the Committee. It is proposed that the decision made at the special meeting of the Committee on 21 December be varied through the addition of the Chair of the Committee to the task and finish panel and the appointments be made at this meeting.

#### *Virtual Meetings*

- 4.4 The need to continue to hold meetings virtually means there will be some limitations on what is possible. It can be challenging to maintain focus for an extended period when meeting virtually and meetings will should therefore be kept short and focussed. In addition, the Panel may wish to receive evidence from people who do not have access to the necessary IT or be able to operate it. Certain evidence gathering activities may also not be possible at the moment, such as visits.

#### *Consultative Event*

- 4.5 Before the Covid-19 pandemic, a new work plan was being developed for the Committee and its Panels. As part of this, an on-line survey was undertaken. A consultative event had been planned to take place in March but that was cancelled due to the pandemic. It is now proposed that a virtual consultative event be arranged to help inform the development of a work plan to cover 2021-22. Preliminary discussions are taking place regarding this and proposals arising from this will be reported at the meeting.

#### *Forward Plan*

4.6 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.

4.7 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>

4.8 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