

Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 15 March 2021

Title: Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme/Memberships

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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 work programmes that the main Committee and Scrutiny Panels have followed in 2020/21 and any outstanding items (see **Appendix A**);

2.2 To approve the process for developing the work plan for 2021/22; and

2.3 To delegate responsibility for the final approval of the Committee's response consultation by Whittington Health on changes to its estates and services in Haringey to the to the Head of Legal and Governance in consultation with the Chair.

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 it 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

Work Planning

4.1 This Committee meeting is the final one of 2020/21 and the Committee and its Panels should now have completed their work plans for the year. All the work plans are attached to this report as **Appendix A** for information. Any outstanding matters from these can be carried forward and considered for inclusion in the work plan for 2021/22.

4.2 Consideration is now taking place of the work plan for the forthcoming year (2021/22), which will be the final year of this administration. To inform the development of work plans, the Committee and its Panels are currently

undertaking consultation with representatives of the local community on the areas within their terms of reference. This will focus on getting their views on what the priorities should be in the work plans for the Committee and its Panels.

- 4.3 Several matters have already been highlighted as potential areas for inclusion. These have come from the following:
- Responses to the on-line scrutiny survey that was undertaken in early 2020 as part of earlier work to develop a new work plan that took place before the pandemic;
 - Outstanding matters from current work plans; and
 - Areas highlighted by the Fairness Commission.
- 4.4 Views are being sought on which of these to prioritise and if there are any additional matters that should also be considered. There is finite capacity within the work plan and it will not be possible to cover everything within it in depth, hence the need to prioritise. However, there are a number of options for how matters can be addressed:
- In-depth reviews;
 - “One-off” reports to Committee or Panel meetings; or
 - Questions to Cabinet Members.
- 4.5 Following the consultation process, it is proposed that each of the Panels and the Committee meet informally to consider the feedback from the consultation and develop proposals for their work plans. Specific consideration will need to be given to items for the first meetings of 2021/22 so that officers have sufficient time to draft any reports that may be necessary for them to prepare. It is proposed that service officers and relevant Cabinet Members be invited to attend these meetings as well so that their input can be obtained. The meetings will be arranged to take place before the Annual Meeting of the Council. The workplans for the Committee and its Panels will be formally approved by the first Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 2021/22.
- 4.6 Local elections are due to take place in 2022 so it is important that all outstanding work is completed ahead of this. In particular, all reviews should be finalised in good time so they can be approved by the Committee before the end of the year. It is advised that all evidence gathering activities as part of reviews be completed before the end of the calendar year. If a review is not finished before the end of the administration, it may be difficult to carry it over to the new administration due to the loss of continuity. An earlier deadline will need to be factored into work plans if Members wish their review reports considered by Cabinet before the end of the administration.

Whittington Estates and Services Task and Finish Panel

- 4.7 The Task and Finish Panel that is looking at proposals from Whittington Health regarding its estates and services in Haringey is continuing its work. Whittington Health will be considering the response to the consultation it has been undertaking on the proposals and sharing these with the Panel shortly after the Mayoral election has taken place. The Panel will also need to agree its response to the proposal. Whittington Health are wishing to finalise their plans as soon as possible as delay may have cost implications for them. The next formal meeting

of the Committee is not likely to be until June, so it is therefore proposed that formal approval of the final response to the proposals be approved using the delegated action procedure within the Constitution.

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