

Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 29 November 2021

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 updates the Committee on the work plans for 2021-22 for the Committee and its Panels.

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; and

2.2 To agree the Committee and Panels' proposed Scrutiny Review Projects set out at Appendix B, C, D and E and the submission timescales required in order to finish the reviews by the end of the municipal year.

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 approved the draft workplans for 2021-22 for the Committee and its Panels. Further work has been undertaken and their latest iterations are attached as **Appendix A**.

4.2 The Q&A session with the Cabinet Member for Customer Service, Welfare and the Public Realm, which was due to be considered at this meeting, has been deferred until the meeting on 23 November.

4.3 Local elections are due to take place in 2022 so it is very important that all outstanding work is completed before the end of the year. In particular, all reviews should be finalised in good time so they can be approved by the Committee. It is therefore 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.

Review on Violence Against Women and Girls

- 4.4 The decision was taken at the previous meeting to amend the terms of reference for the Gun and Knife Crime Review to focus exclusively on violence against women and girls (VAWG) with the other areas on gun and knife crime to be scrutinised further at a later date. An initial evidence session with the Director for Public Health and the Strategic Lead and Commissioner for VAWG took place in October 2021 and an amended terms of reference is provided as an appendix to this report.

Gambling Inquiry Day

- 4.5 The Committee has previously indicated its intention to hold a scrutiny inquiry day to review the effectiveness of the local approach to understand and tackle gambling harms. The scrutiny officer has recently had initial conversations about the evidence likely to be required with the licensing team and the public health team. The inquiry day is scheduled to take place in early 2022 after the budget scrutiny process has been completed.

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.

- 4.9 The Budget Scrutiny process will begin in December and is co-ordinated by the Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Following on from the useful practice followed last year, the scrutiny panels will be provided a briefing session on the background to the MTFS proposals relating to their areas ahead of the actual Panel meetings. The purpose is to provide a re-cap/overview of the budget, agreed savings, capital programme etc. as well as the overall draft budget. Amongst other things, it will enable any queries to be responded to by the time each formal Panel meeting takes place. Only the finance and performance officers are required for the briefings – not service officers. Finance and Performance officers will attend to clarify and explain any details to inform and aid the formal Panel meetings scrutinising the budget in December. Scrutiny Support officers are arranging the briefing sessions in December. The formal Panel meetings and O&S committee on the 13th of January will be compiling recommendations on the budget, for approval at O&S committee on the 20th of January 2022.

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.

Appendix B: Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Violence Against Women and Girls Review terms of reference.

Appendix C: Environment & Community Scrutiny Panel – Low Traffic Neighbourhoods Review terms of reference.

Appendix D: Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Panel – Wards Corner Review terms of reference.

Appendix E Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel – Child Poverty Review

8. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A