



Haringey Council

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE on 29 June 2009

Report Title. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10**

Report of: **Councillor Bull – Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

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Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: N/A

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To identify a work programme for 2009/10 for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which compliments the comprehensive area assessment process and provides valuable evidence to the inspectors of the efficacy of local services and the plans for improving them. To do this scrutiny topics must also contribute to the achievement of the outcomes and priorities set out in the Haringey's Council Plan and Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 1.2 To determine the issues that the Committee would like reported to it during the municipal Year.
- 1.3 To initially agree the topics from the list at Appendix xx, for which the Committee will establish in-depth "task and finish" Scrutiny Review Panels, plus the scrutiny of the Council's budget proposals.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)

2.1. N/A

3. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

3.1 The purpose of the Scrutiny Programme is to help the Council and its partners to achieve Council Plan priorities, especially of delivering excellent customer focussed, cost effective services to local people.

4. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

RECOMMENDATION 1

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree to establish a lead scrutiny role for the Haringey Strategic Partnership Theme Boards as detailed at Appendix A, and that the nominations as detailed at Appendix C be adopted for this year.

RECOMMENDATION 2

The Overview and scrutiny Committee receive the reports detailed in Appendix B.

RECOMMENDATION 3

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree that they wish to commission task and finish Scrutiny Review Panels for the topics highlighted in Appendix C.

RECOMMENDATION 4

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree that each Scrutiny Review Panel will address the issues identified in paragraph 16:15 in this report.

5. Reason for recommendation(s)

5.1. N/A

6. Other options considered

6.1. N/A

7. Summary

This report sets out the reports which could be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee over the next municipal year and a number of topics which could be subjected to more detailed review by Scrutiny Review Panels.

8. Chief Financial Officer Comments

8.1 This report does not give rise to any immediate financial implications. However, it should be noted that reports for future scrutiny reviews must contain proper and detailed financial implications as appropriate in respect of the proposals being considered so that Members are quite clear about the budget and cost implications as part of the decision making process.

9. Head of Legal Services Comments

9.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has powers to scrutinise decisions taken in the discharge of the Council's "executive" and "non-executive" functions and to make reports and recommendations to Cabinet and full Council. This includes making reports and recommendations on matters relating to health services and other matters affecting the Borough or its inhabitants. The annual work programme for Overview and Scrutiny Committee's is a matter for local choice.

10. Head of Procurement Comments

10.1. N/A

11. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments

11.1 Scrutiny has a strong community engagement role as the review process embodies many of the engagement activities above. Scrutiny as a matter of routine **informs**, e.g. all meetings and documents are open to local people; **consults**, e.g. scrutiny develops a dialog with local people to inform its recommendations, it also identifies and engages with hard to reach groups as part of reviews; **research** e.g. scrutiny gains knowledge and helps to identify the services needed by local people, **collaborates**, e.g. scrutiny, by involving local people and developing consensus helps to identify a shared way forward.

11.2 Scrutiny will contribute to the process of community engagement by:

- Encouraging local councillors to use the new power where members can ask for local government issues in their area to be put on O&S Committee agenda.
- Having special Committee meetings which are solely concerned with local and community issues, to which local people and councillors are invited.

- Where appropriate linking scrutiny to area based working and area based scrutiny.
- Hold more meetings in appropriate community settings.

11.3 The greater engagement of the community in scrutiny activities and general local meetings would also help to develop Councillors' role as "community champions". It is essential if this is to happen that all non executive members fully engage in the scrutiny process.

11.4 Furthermore all scrutiny reviews will give specific consideration to equalities and community cohesion issues.

12. Consultation

12.1. N/A

13. Service Financial Comments

13.1. None directly as a result of this report.

14. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs

14.1

Appendix A - Reports the Committee has indicated its wish to receive.

Appendix B - Scrutiny Lead roles and responsibilities in relation to HSP Theme Boards.

Appendix C - Matrix of HSP Theme Board/Lead Councillor/Topic for Scrutiny/Sustainable Community Strategy Outcome/contribution to CAA.

15. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Council Plan 2007/2010.

Sustainable Community Strategy.

Comprehensive Area Assessment Framework

Comprehensive Area Assessment – Self Evaluation.

LGPIH Act 2007

Police and Justice Act 2006 (as amended).

"Councillor Call for Action" - Guidance

Local Area Agreement.

16. Report

16.1 Statute provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to:

- review or scrutinise Executive and Council decisions in connection with any council service,
- make reports or recommendations with respect to any executive of council functions, and
- report or make recommendations on matters which affect the authority's area or its inhabitants and in particular to scrutinise health issues and crime and disorder issues.
- Following a "Call-In" review decisions made but not yet implemented.

16.2 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Police and Justice Act 2006 (as amended) extended the scrutiny powers in a number of ways and involves further responsibilities to scrutinise partner agencies through scrutiny of Local Area Agreements. The LGPIH Act 2007 also enables all Councillors to refer matters relating to any function of the authority and affecting the Councillor's ward or constituents to Overview and Scrutiny through the 'Councillor Call for Action'. The Act therefore further legitimises the community leaders' mandate to ensure services meet the needs of local residents and continue to improve.

16.3 Committee Members were keen to improve public engagement and raise the awareness of the scrutiny process. In addition, they wanted to see further engagement and involvement of all Non Cabinet Members to ensure that scrutiny is truly a Member led process. Utilising the skills of co-opted partners and expert advisors better was also highlighted, particularly during in-depth investigations. These issues have been addressed in the development of this year's programme. Members also wanted to establish new Scrutiny Lead responsibilities which would provide further challenge to undertake more strategic and cross cutting work and would align scrutiny responsibilities with the work of a Haringey Strategic Partnership Theme Board. Committee Members have therefore been nominated to carry out a lead role in respect of each of the six HSP theme boards. Appendix A details what is expected of the lead role and Appendix C the theme board and scrutiny Lead Councillor.

RECOMMENDATION 1

It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree to establish a lead scrutiny role for the Haringey Strategic Partnership Theme Boards as detailed at Appendix A, and that the nominations as detailed at Appendix C be adopted for this year.

16.4 In previous years the OSC has agreed and largely delivered on an annual work programme. This has helped:

- Improve the link between scrutiny's work and the Council's improvement agenda
- Ensure scrutiny contributed to achieving outcomes that benefit the community
- Improve the co-ordination, management and continuity of work both at OSC and its reviews and investigations.

16.5 The Committee's powers to scrutinise are very wide and it is for scrutiny members to decide what items they want in their work programme and how they intend to carry out scrutiny exercises through the year.

Proposals for the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2009/10

16.6 The purpose of the programme is to carry out a general scrutiny of the outcomes and activities of the council and its partners and to identify areas which could be subjected to more detailed scrutiny. To enable the Committee to do this it should continue to receive reports on the following:

- i. Performance reports although they should be more focussed on Local Area Agreement targets and Haringey Strategic Partnership priorities.
- ii. One off reports on matters of national or local interest or concern.
- iii. Issues arising out of the comprehensive area assessment process which would be of interest to scrutiny members. This could include items identified in the Council's self assessment report or matters about which the Assessor has expressed concern.
- iv. Issues on which the Haringey Strategic Partnership, the Cabinet or officers would like the Committee's views or support.
- v. Reports on strategies and policies. In the past these have tended to be reported to Committee at the commencement of the strategy. This is too late for the Committee to influence the strategy and too early to monitor it. It is suggested that this area of scrutiny could be improved if the Partnership, the Cabinet and directors were asked each year to supply a forward plan of policies and strategies which are under development.
- vi. Progress reports on implementing previous scrutiny recommendations which had been accepted by the Cabinet or appropriate Executive body. Once again these reports could be used to demonstrate the Council's willingness to improve and so should be given a higher profile than at present.

RECOMMENDATION 2

It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive the reports detailed in Appendix B.

16.7 A typical scrutiny agenda would therefore consist of:

- A Cabinet Member Question Session

(Two Cabinet Members attending or the Leader of the Council).

- Performance reports.
- Issues for information.
- A report following up a past review or a final in-depth report from a commissioned task and finish scrutiny review panel.

TOPICS FOR DETAILED SCRUTINY

16.8 In addition to the more regular work, the Committee is able to commission a number of “task and finish” Scrutiny Review Panels, to look at chosen topics in-depth.

16.9 Scrutiny Review Panels require a high level of commitment from the Members who serve on them. It is proposed that the size of scrutiny panels be flexible and that they ideally consist of between 4 and 7 Members drawn from each of the political parties. Each scrutiny panel will be Chaired by a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the rights and position of statutory co-optees will not be affected.

16.10 Each year officer’s have prepared a list of topics for more detailed scrutiny which have been identified from the following sources:

- Suggestion made by councillors, officers and members of the public
- Subjects identified by the Committee in previous years
- Issues of concern which have been identified during the year
- New legislation, white and green paper, statements of Government policy etc
- Items identified from performance reports or one-off reports to the Committee.

16.11 Whilst this process has worked reasonably well it did not always fit with the priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy and there were issues arising from the comprehensive area assessment process, as a further consideration.

16.12 Therefore this year items for detailed scrutiny were identified using the Council’s Comprehensive Area Assessment self–evaluation exercise. Using this method ensures that all suggestions tie into the new comprehensive area assessment process and can be clearly identified with Sustainable Community Strategy themes and priorities and be identified to a HSP theme board. It was not possible to prepare a list of potential topics until the self assessment had been completed and agreed. As a result there is limited time to consult and involve Haringey Strategic Partnership in the development of the work programme.

16.13 The Committee will pick topics for in-depth review so each Overview and Scrutiny Committee member will initially chair at least one scrutiny review panel, plus they sit as a member on another panel as well as undertake budget scrutiny, which they will do as a Committee.

16.14 This seems a good interim arrangement and a short list of possible items for more detailed review is attached at Appendix C.

RECOMMENDATION 3

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree that they wish to commission task and finish Scrutiny Review Panels for the topics highlighted in Appendix C.

16:15 To be effective and provide positive evidence to the assessment process, it is essential that in each scrutiny review the following issues are addressed:

- How has the community been involved/ consulted on the service provision?
- What is provided?
- Why and for what purpose?
- Does it fulfil its purpose if not why not?
- Is it cost- effective, i.e. does what is provided offer value for money?
- Are there any gaps or duplications in service provision?
- Are there any other improvements that could be made?
- What are the prospects for future improvement?

16.16 The essential aim of each scrutiny exercise will be to demonstrate that the area being scrutinised is evolving and is responsive to changing circumstances (i.e. it is improving).

RECOMMENDATION 4

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree that each Scrutiny Review Panel will address the issues identified in paragraph 16:15 in this report.

Performance Management Reports

The Committee has indicated its wish to receive the following reports:

- The Council Performance Monitoring Reports - 3 monthly
- The Council Budget Monitoring Report – 3 monthly
- The Children’s Service’s annual performance self-assessment
- Joint Area Review Action Plan update
- Inspectors Comprehensive Area Assessment report
- Exam results – Annual Report
- Annual Health Check – NHS Performance Ratings
- Decent Homes progress report - 6 monthly
- Homes for Haringey Performance report – 6 monthly
- Annual report on performance of Registered Social Landlords
- Annual report on the Crime and Disorder Partnership
- Children’s Safeguarding reports

Updates on Previous Scrutiny Reviews

- Waste collection Recycling and disposal
- High intensity users
- Access to services for older people
- Post Office Closures
- School Exclusions
- Children’s Centres
- Resourcing Safer and Stronger Communities
- Youth Service
- Extended Schools

Urgent Reports

Occasionally events occur which necessitate an urgent report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Whilst clearly such reports can not be planned the need to allocate sufficient time for consideration of unforeseen events needs to be allowed for in the committees work programme.

Appendix B

Overview and Scrutiny Lead roles and responsibilities - HSP Theme Boards

The purpose of Scrutiny

To help the Partnership to achieve its objectives by identifying areas where there is not fast enough progress towards achieving excellence and to carry out scrutiny which identifies what needs to be done to improve the situation.

To be successful scrutiny should not be duplicating work carried out by the partnership but should be providing an independent objective view of what needs to be done to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of services provided to local people.

Role of the Lead

In relation to the Theme Board which the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Member is Lead the Member has a role to:

- Chair “task and finish” reviews on topics which fall under the Theme.
- Build a strong working relationship with all members of the board, being fair and open with all partners and agencies being treated equally.
- Promote the role of Overview and Scrutiny within the membership of the board;
- Attend the quarterly board meetings as appropriate;
- Have an overview of the Local Area Agreements which the board is leading on, their performance, and action which the board is proposing to take with regards to exception reporting;
- Feed back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on:
 - areas where scrutiny could add value;
 - key issues arising within the board’s remit which the committee should be made aware;
- Carry out scrutiny so that it is able to contribute evidence to the Comprehensive Area Assessment process and use the Council’s CAA Self Assessment, the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities and performance indicators to identify potential areas for review;

In relation to Budget Scrutiny the Lead should consider:

- Whether the budget proposals sufficiently reflect the priorities of the Theme Board; and
- What impact any efficiencies may have on the delivery of priorities of the Theme Board

The role of Scrutiny Theme Leads is **not** in duplicating Cabinet or shadow roles and responsibilities.

Appendix C

SUGGESTIONS FOR IN-DEPTH SCRUTINY REVIEWS – ALIGNED TO HSP THEME BOARD

<u>HSP Theme Board</u>	<u>Lead Councillor</u>	<u>Topic for Scrutiny</u>	<u>Sustainable Community Strategy Outcome</u>	<u>How review could contribute evidence for CAA</u>
Children's Trust	Councillor Newton	<p>1. How well is the transition of young people with assessed needs from services delivered by Children's service to adult services made?</p> <p>2. Review the Child and Adolescent Mental Health services (CAMHS)</p> <p>3. What is/can be done to increase the stability of placements of Looked After Children and what steps are taken to secure permanent placements?</p>	<p>Healthier people with a better quality of life</p> <p>Healthier people with a better quality of life</p> <p>Be people and customer focussed</p>	<p>This will provide evidence as to how smooth the transition is from one service to another.</p> <p>Could provide input into the further development and commissioning of services to improve child and adolescent mental health</p> <p>A review will provide valuable evidence on what we are doing in this key area underpinning themes of 'inequality' and 'people whose circumstances make them vulnerable'</p>
Well-being	Councillor Adamou	<p>1. What can be done to improve the support given to carers?</p>	<p>Economic vitality and prosperity shared by all</p>	<p>This will provide evidence about an important strand of the services provided by the Partnership.</p>

<u>HSP Theme Board</u>	<u>Lead Councillor</u>	<u>Topic for Scrutiny</u>	<u>Sustainable Community Strategy Outcome</u>	<u>How review could contribute evidence for CAA</u>
	(Councillor Bull will lead a review in this area) (Councillor Winskill will lead a review in this area)	2. What actions are/can be taken to improve sexual health in teenagers? 3 .What actions are being taken to improve screening services? e.g. breast cancer.	Healthier people with a better quality of life Healthier people with a better quality of life	This review would focus on what could be done to reduce the levels of sexually transmitted diseases in teenagers, what steps are being taken to reduce teenage pregnancies and GUM access Looking at the breast screening at present taking place and the action being taken to improve this service and reduce the risks associated with it should demonstrate that the service is and will continue to improve
Enterprise	Councillor Adje	1. To look at the way the Haringey Guarantee is operating	Economic vitality and prosperity shared by all	Scrutinising this initiative to support residents that suffer from long term worklessness and multiple barriers to employees will illustrate how the Council are working with public, private and third sector providers to reduce

<u>HSP Theme Board</u>	<u>Lead Councillor</u>	<u>Topic for Scrutiny</u>	<u>Sustainable Community Strategy Outcome</u>	<u>How review could contribute evidence for CAA</u>
		2. To look at the support given to small businesses and how business grants are allocated in the current financial climate	Economic vitality and prosperity shared by all	unemployment in Haringey. Will identify what the council is doing to help struggling small businesses hit by recession.
Better Places	Councillor Mallett	1. What actions are being taken/considered to encourage sustainable travel and to reduce traffic congestion? 2. How well are we protecting the natural environment?	An environmentally sustainable future An environmentally sustainable future	It will demonstrate that the Council are involving the community to take action to reduce carbon emissions and reduce traffic congestion. It can show that the Council are taking this matter seriously with a number of well thought out initiatives.
Safer Communities	Councillor Aitken	1. What can/is being done to reduce youth crime? E.g. youth services.	Be safer for all	This scrutiny would provide the assessor with evidence about some of the things being done to make neighbourhoods safer and look at activities

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		<p>2. What is/can be done to improve partnership working between organisations supporting the victims of crime? e.g. victim support, hearthstone, safer neighbourhood teams, community health teams</p> <p>3. What actions are/can be taken to improve the perception of Haringey as a safe place</p>	<p>Be Safer for All</p> <p>Be safer for all</p>	<p>available to youths in Haringey.</p> <p>This will provide evidence of the way statutory and voluntary services combine to deliver joined up services</p> <p>This scrutiny would provide evidence about initiatives being undertaken to increase the perception of Haringey as safe and provide reassurance to residents.</p>
Integrated Housing	Councillor Winskill	<p>1.What is being done to increase the supply of affordable houses in the Borough?</p> <p>2. To look at the effectiveness of the Move On strategy</p>	<p>People at the heart of change</p> <p>People and Customer focussed</p>	<p>It will provide evidence of what is being done and what it is proposed to do.</p> <p>Provide evidence of what is being done to free properties that are under occupied.</p>

<u>HSP Theme Board</u>	<u>Lead Councillor</u>	<u>Topic for Scrutiny</u>	<u>Sustainable Community Strategy Outcome</u>	<u>How review could contribute evidence for CAA</u>
		3. Review Concierge services	People and Customer focussed	

<u>HSP Theme Board</u>	<u>Lead Councillor</u>	<u>Topic for Scrutiny</u>	<u>Sustainable Community Strategy Outcome</u>	<u>How review could contribute evidence for CAA</u>
Cross cutting	(Councillor Bull will lead a review in this area)	<p>1.To look at the actions taken to consult hard to reach people and involve them in determining service provision.</p> <p>2.What is being done to draw on the strength of the voluntary and community sector?</p>	<p>People at the heart of change</p> <p>Be people and customer focussed</p>	<p>It can help demonstrate how well the council and its partners understand the needs of marginalised groups.</p> <p>This review would provide evidence of how the Council and partners are reaching out to involve the 3rd sector in the delivery of local service.</p>

