

Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Title: Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme 2021-22

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 To note the work that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the four Scrutiny Panels have undertaken in 2021-22 and identify potential items for the first meeting of 2022/23.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the work that the Committee has undertaken in 2021/22 be noted;
- 2.2 That the Committee recommend potential item(s) for the first OSC meeting of 2022/23.

3. Reasons for decision

- 3.1 The work programme for overview and scrutiny was approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 8 June 2021. The work that the Committee and the four Panels have undertaken is outlined in **Appendix A** as well as outstanding issues.

4. Background

- 4.1 Following the completion of the Overview and Scrutiny work plan for 2018-20, work began on the development of work plans for 2020-22. An on-line survey took place in February 2020 and a Scrutiny Café consultative event planned but the process was disrupted by the Covid pandemic. The priorities and suggestions from the survey were incorporated into the work planning process for 2021-22. In addition, the Committee and its Panels each undertook consultative meetings during March 2021 with a range of community and voluntary sector organisations relevant to areas within their terms of reference.
- 4.2 The consultative meetings looked at and prioritised a range of suggestions that had come from the following:
- Responses to the on-line scrutiny survey undertaken in early 2020; and
 - Outstanding matters from current work plans.

- 4.3 There was also the opportunity to add additional issues. Following these, the Committee and its Panels each met informally to finalise their proposals. Relevant Council officers were invited to these meetings to provide feedback on proposals. Each scrutiny body was asked to prioritise issues and consider if there were any additional matters that also should be included in work plans.
- 4.4 Each scrutiny body decided on the following:
- A suitable topic for a scrutiny review;
 - Items to prioritise for one-off items at scheduled meetings; and
 - Which item(s) to select for the agenda for the first meetings of 2021-22.
- 4.5 Workplans were developed accordingly for each scrutiny body and these have been actioned. The work that the Committee and Panels have undertaken during the year is outlined in **Appendix A**.
- 4.6 This is the final scheduled Committee meeting of the year and the local government elections will be taking place on 5 May. There will be insufficient time after the forthcoming elections for the new Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its Panels to develop a new work plan before the first round of scheduled meetings. It is therefore proposed that the Committee recommends one or two items as potential items for the first meeting. This will ensure the new Committee is able to begin its work promptly and that there is not a hiatus whilst the new workplan is being developed.

Forward Plan

- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 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>

- 4.9 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: The work plans for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panels for 2021/22

8. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A