

Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 28 November 2022

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 provides an update on the work plans for 2022-24 for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the four Scrutiny Panels.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To note the current work programmes for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the four Scrutiny Panels and agree any amendments, as appropriate.

2.2 That the Committee give consideration to the agenda items and reports required for its next meeting on 12th January 2023.

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 that task.

4. Background

4.1 The Committee has previously considered the draft work plans for the Committee and the Panels. Further additions/amendments have been made and the latest iterations of the work plans are attached in the appendices.

4.2 The current Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme has allocated the bulk of the time at the next two Committee meetings to the scrutiny of the 2023/24 Council Budget and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The first of these meetings, scheduled to be held on 12th January 2023, will scrutinise the 'Your Council' section of the Budget and make recommendations as appropriate. The next meeting, scheduled to be held on 19th January 2023, will consider and

amend/approve the full list of recommendations previously made by the Committee and the four Scrutiny Panels which will be considering the sections of the budget relevant to their remits in December 2022/January 2023.

- 4.3 The current Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme also specifies that the meeting scheduled to be held on 12th January 2023 will also include:
- A question and answer session with the Cabinet Member for Communities & Civic Life;
 - Consideration of the Complaints Annual Report.
- 4.4 The Committee should give consideration to the items for these two meetings and any amendments that it wishes to make to this schedule and could also suggest items for the other meetings scheduled in 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Review on Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

- 4.5 It has been agreed that two evidence sessions with the Director for Public Health and other relevant officers will be held in December 2022, one of which will focus on the Council's approach to schools-based engagement on VAWG while the other will focus on the Council's approach to community engagement on VAWG.

5. Effective Scrutiny Work Programmes

- 5.1 An effective scrutiny work programme should reflect a balance of activities:
- Holding the Executive to account;
 - Policy review and development – reviews to assess the effectiveness of existing policies or to inform the development of new strategies;
 - Performance management – identifying under-performing services, investigating and making recommendations for improvement;
 - External scrutiny – scrutinising and holding to account partners and other local agencies providing key services to the public;
 - Public and community engagement – engaging and involving local communities in scrutiny activities and scrutinising those issues which are of concern to the local community.
- 5.2 Key features of an effective work programme:
- A member led process, short listing and prioritising topics – with support from officers – that;
 - reflects local needs and priorities – issues of community concern as well as Borough Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy priorities
 - prioritises topics for scrutiny that have most impact or benefit
 - involves local stakeholders
 - is flexible enough to respond to new or urgent issues
- 5.3 Depending on the selected topic and planned outcomes, scrutiny work will be carried out in a variety of ways, using various formats. This will include a variety of one-off reports. In accordance with the scrutiny protocol, the OSC and Scrutiny Panels will draw from the following to inform their work:

- Performance Reports;
- One off reports on matters of national or local interest or concern;
- Issues arising out of internal and external assessment (e.g. Ofsted, Care Quality Commission);
- Reports on strategies and policies under development or other issues on which the Cabinet or officers would like scrutiny views or support;
- Progress reports on implementing previous scrutiny recommendations accepted by the Cabinet or appropriate Executive body.

5.4 In addition, in-depth scrutiny work, including task and finish projects, are an important aspect of Overview and Scrutiny and provide opportunities to thoroughly investigate topics and to make improvements. Through the gathering and consideration of evidence from a wider range of sources, this type of work enables more robust and effective challenge as well as an increased likelihood of delivering positive outcomes. In depth reviews should also help engage the public and provide greater transparency and accountability.

5.5 It is nevertheless important that there is a balance between depth and breadth of work undertaken so that resources can be used to their greatest effect.

6. Contribution to strategic outcomes

6.1 The contribution of scrutiny to the corporate priorities will be considered routinely as part of the OSC's work.

7. Statutory Officers comments

Finance and Procurement

7.1 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

7.2 There are no immediate legal implications arising from the report.

7.3 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the approval of the future scrutiny work programme falls within the remit of the OSC.

7.4 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.

7.5 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

- 7.6 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.
- 7.7 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.
- 7.8 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.

8. Use of Appendices

Appendix A – OSC Work Plan Work Programme

Appendix B – Adults and Health Work Programme

Appendix C – Children and Young People’s Work Programme

Appendix D – Environment & Community Safety Work Programme

Appendix E – Housing, Planning and Development Work Programme