

**Report for:** Climate, Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel

**Title:** Climate, Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel:  
Work Programme 2024 - 26

**Report authorised by:** Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

**Lead Officer:** Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

**Ward(s) affected:** N/A

**Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision:** N/A

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 To note the current work plan for 2024-25 and agree any amendments or additions to it for approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Panel considers its draft work plan, attached at Appendix A, and puts forward future agenda items for inclusion on the work plan.

**3. Reasons for decision**

- 3.1 The Scrutiny work programme for 2024-26 is planned for approval by Overview and Scrutiny in November following community consultations and events in the autumn. Initial discussions regarding future work items with officers and timetabling of Cabinet Member attendance are outlined at Appendix A.

**4. Background**

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are currently consultation on the Scrutiny work programme for itself and the scrutiny panels with the aim of ensuring that the scrutiny function is used to its best effect.
- 4.2 The outcomes of the survey and discussions at the Café will be put together for consideration by the Committee and its Panels to support proposals for their workplans. Relevant Council officers will also be invited to advise on suggestions. In addition, the Panel can meet informally to discuss proposals in early October. At the meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> September it was suggested that Panel review issues with Street Lighting. This was followed up in a separate meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November where an evidence-gathering approach was agreed and the review initiated
- 4.3 There is finite capacity within work plans, and it is not possible to cover everything within them in great depth, hence the need to prioritise. There are a number of different options for how issues can be addressed:
- In depth scrutiny reviews.
  - “One-off” reports to Panel meetings; or

- Questions to Cabinet Members.

- 4.4 It is not obligatory for scrutiny bodies to undertake scrutiny reviews, but they enable issues to be looked at in greater detail. This approach is particularly suited to complex issues involving a wide range of stakeholders. A key consideration in selecting issues is the extent to which reviews may be able to deliver tangible outcomes. It is also important that the scope of reviews is sufficiently focussed to allow the detailed gathering of evidence and consideration of issues that is most likely to bring about outcomes.
- 4.5 “One-off” items are normally dealt with through a report from relevant officers or partners. Scrutiny is a flexible process though and other approaches can be incorporated, including inviting external witnesses to give evidence and site visits. It is recommended that sufficient space is allowed on each agenda for a meaningful discussion of items selected by avoiding overloading agendas.
- 4.6 There is an expectation that Cabinet Members will attend a relevant scrutiny body for Cabinet Member Questions. This provides an opportunity for scrutiny bodies to hear about key developments within each Cabinet portfolio and answer questions.
- 4.7 In light of recent changes to the membership of the Panel, and the fact that this is the first meeting of the new municipal year, this meeting should be seen as an opportunity to discuss what its work programme for the year might look like.

#### *Scrutiny Review*

- 4.8 Feedback from the Scrutiny Café suggested that an item on the Climate Action Plan and Annual Carbon Report be added to the agenda for December. This has been discussed with the Chair and service area. A short report and verbal update on the Annual Carbon Report has been agreed and is on this agenda.
- 4.9 The theme of Accessibility of pavements and roads was also brought up and decided for 2025.
- 4.10 The Borough Commander is unavailable for the 24 February 2025. Alternative dates of the **27<sup>th</sup> February 2025** or **11<sup>th</sup> March 2025** are currently being discussed.

#### *Forward Plan*

- 4.11 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.
- 4.12 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:

- 4.13 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 Corporate Delivery Plan 2024- 26**

- 5.1.1 The contribution of scrutiny to the corporate priorities will be considered routinely as part of the OSC's work.
- 5.1.2 Performance monitoring is also a key responsibility of Scrutiny and currently a quarter one review of performance of the Corporate Delivery Plan is scheduled for Cabinet on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 and it is suggested adding this report to the next meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 and further considering the PI's that relate to the terms of reference of this Panel. At this meeting and following consideration of data, the Panel can further make requests for any specific data sets that they want to explore further to help identify a review or report on a particular issue at the meetings.

## **6. Statutory Officers comments**

### **Finance**

- 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: Climate, Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel:  
Work Plan for 2024/25

## **8. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

N/A