

**Report for:** Housing, Planning & Development Scrutiny Panel – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Title:** Work Programme Update

**Report**

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**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for Key/**

**Non Key Decision:** N/A

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 This report gives details of the proposed scrutiny work programme for the Panel for the remainder of 2024-25, and for next year's work programme in 2025-26.

**2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

N/A

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 (a) That the Panel considers its work programme, attached at **Appendix A**, and considers any areas of the work programme to be rolled over to 2025/26, or else suggest future agenda items for 2025/26.

(b) That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to endorse any amendments to the Panel's work programme, at its next meeting.

(c) That the Panel agreed the scoping document for its proposed Review on TA Placements Policy and the PRS Discharge Policy set out in **Appendix B**.

**4. Reasons for decision**

- 4.1 The work programme for Overview and Scrutiny was agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 12 December 2024, following the scrutiny café event held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Arrangements for implementing the work programme have progressed and the latest plans for the Housing, Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel are outlined in **Appendix A**.

**5. Alternative options considered**

- 5.1 The Panel could choose not to review its work programme however this could diminish knowledge of the work of Overview and Scrutiny and would fail to keep the full membership updated on any changes to the work programme.

## 6. Background information

- 6.1 The careful selection and prioritisation of work is essential if the scrutiny function is to be successful, add value and retain credibility. At its first meeting of the municipal year, on 13 June 2024, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed a process for developing the 2024/25 – 2025/26 scrutiny work programme.
- 6.2 Following this meeting, a number of activities took place, including a Scrutiny Survey and a Scrutiny Café event, along with various agenda planning meetings. From these discussions issues were prioritised and work programme agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in December.
- 6.3 Whilst Scrutiny Panels are non-decision making bodies, i.e. work programmes must be approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, this item gives the Panel an opportunity to oversee and monitor its work programme and to suggest amendments.

### Forward Plan

- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 To ensure the information provided to the Panel is up to date, a copy of the most recent Forward Plan can be viewed via the link below:  
  
<https://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=609&RP=110>
- 6.6 The Panel may want to consider the Forward Plan and discuss whether any of these items require further investigation or monitoring via scrutiny.

### Scrutiny Review of TA Allocation and PRS Discharge Policy

- 6.7 Following the the Housing, Planning & Development Scrutiny Panel meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024, the Panel determined to undertake a short piece of scrutiny work around the TA Allocation & PRS Discharge Policy. An initial meeting was held on 28<sup>th</sup> January with officers to discuss the possible scope of that work. The scoping documents for the proposed review including its terms of reference are attached at **Appendix B**. Members are asked to agree this scoping documents and agree to send it to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for formal agreement.

## **7. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

- 7.1 The contribution of scrutiny to the corporate priorities and the Corporate Delivery Plan will be considered routinely as part of the OSC's work.

## **8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)**

### **Finance and Procurement**

- 8.1 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 then these will be highlighted at that time.

### **Legal**

- 8.2 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.
- 8.3 Under Section 21 (6) of the Local Government Act 2000, an Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to appoint one or more sub-committees to discharge any of its functions.
- 8.4 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the approval of the future scrutiny work programme and the appointment of Scrutiny Panels (to assist the scrutiny function) falls within the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 8.5 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**

- 8.6 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.

8.7 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.

8.8 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.

## **9. Use of Appendices**

Appendix A – Work Programme

Appendix B – Scoping document for Review on TA Allocation and PRS Discharge Policy