



Meeting: Safer Communities Executive Board

Date: 18 February 2010

Report Title: Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Planning 2010/2011

Report From: Councillor Ronald Aitken

Purpose

To provide Board members with an opportunity to suggest topics for the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2010/2011 for consideration by Members of the Committee.

Background

Under the Local Government Act 2000 local authorities are required to set up Overview and Scrutiny Committees. These committees are made up of non-Cabinet/Executive councillors and are proportional to the political balance in the Council.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees may commission in depth reviews into service areas and make recommendations that aim to improve services the community receives.

The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in Haringey is to look at the services and issues which are important to the community. Scrutiny is a statutory service and key part of the Council's structure which works to ensure that services are delivered effectively, efficiently and in the best interest of the residents. It is therefore a mechanism through which transparency and public accountability may be exercised in local government.

In 2009/2010 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee aligned themselves with the theme boards of the Haringey Strategic Partnership. The aim of this is to assist in building close working relationships between the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Haringey Strategic Partnership, to prevent duplication of work and provide an independent objective view of what needs to be done to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of services provided to local people.

It is anticipated that this will help to ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissions task and finish reviews that add value to the work of

the Board.

Key issues for consideration

Board Members are requested to consider appropriate suggestions for in depth scrutiny reviews for commissioning by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. All review suggestions should:

- Be areas where Overview and Scrutiny can add value.
- Assist in the Comprehensive Area Assessment Process.
- Address strategic and/or policy issues

Legal/Financial Implications

Financial Implications

This report does not give rise to any immediate financial implications. However, it should be noted that where possible all reviews will have a Value for Money aspect.

Legal Implications

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 is a matter of local choice.

Recommendations

- That the Safer Communities Executive Board provides appropriate suggestions for in depth reviews for consideration by Members of the Committee for the 2010/2011 work programme.
- That the Board highlights any forthcoming strategic level strategies/policies/action plans which the Overview and Scrutiny Committee can add value to in their draft stage.

For more information contact:

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1. In-depth review criteria

1.1. For scrutiny to add value it is essential that the right areas are scrutinised at the appropriate time and contribute to improving services. Scrutiny topics will be chosen by Members of the Committee having regard to:

- The success of the partnership in achieving LAA outcomes and local improvement targets.
- The views on services expressed in the Comprehensive Area Assessment process and other independent assessments, including the annual external audit management letter, residents' surveys, and other assessments of need and provision.
- The views of the Partnership and its themed boards, on those areas where scrutiny involvement would be most beneficial.
- The views of council members and local community, including service users.

1.2. It is important that any suggestions for in-depth reviews are on areas which:

- Scrutiny can add value;
- Are linked to the Sustainable Community Strategy outcomes and priorities;
- Can feed into the Comprehensive Area Assessment process and themes.

1.3. Examples of current and recent topics which the Committee has conducted in-depth reviews and which are linked to the work of the Board include:

- Anti Social Behaviour
- Street Prostitution
- CCTV
- Youth Reoffending
- Resourcing of Safer and Stronger Communities LAA Targets

2. Items for consideration at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a key role in supporting the policy making function taking into account the evidence base and the views of the public. To this end, as part of its annual work programme, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers key overarching draft strategies and plans with a view to suggesting any improvements which could be made.

3. Next Steps in setting the work programme

3.1. The Overview and Scrutiny will consider suggested topics from the partnership boards as well as suggestions from members of the public, elected Members and areas arisen throughout the work of the Committee before choosing in-depth topics for review.

- 3.2. It is anticipated that at least one in-depth review will be conducted which aligns with each of the Theme Boards.
- 3.3. Once the work programme is finalised and approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee this will be circulated to the Theme Boards for information.

4. Recommendations

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- That the Board highlights any forthcoming strategic level strategies/policies/action plans which the Overview and Scrutiny Committee can add value to in their draft stage.