

Scrutiny Café 2026

Culture, Community Safety & Environment Scrutiny Panel

Top Priorities from Survey from within terms of reference:

- 1) Crime Prevention & Reduction -91 (42.1%).
- 2) ASB – 75 (34.7%).
- 3) Trees, Urban Greening & Biodiversity -64 (29.6%).
- 4) Fly tipping and Waste Enforcement -62 (28.7%).
- 4) Parks and Green Spaces – 62 (28.7%).

Top Priorities from the Scrutiny Café:

- 1) Crime Prevention and Community Safety
- 2) Trees, Urban Greening & Biodiversity
- 3) Fly tipping and Waste Enforcement

Specific Suggested Issues or Concerns:

No.	Suggestion	Comments	Priority – High, Medium or Low	Proposed Action (Item for OSC meeting/potential review/Cabinet Member Question/no further action).
1.	Crime and Community Safety	- The actual fear of crime was felt to be higher than it is in reality - Drug, gangs and grooming was a real concern including the use of AI technology to groom – AI doxing - ASB and enforcement - Violence against women and girls - Community safety and the actual presence and visibility of police was a concern - Designing out crime e.g. through lighting - Issues with Northumberland Park was mentioned	High	Update from Borough Commander always scheduled/ VAWG scrutiny recently carried out – consideration needs to be given to follow up
2.	Trees, Urban Greening & Biodiversity	- The group discussed the cross-cutting nature of urban greening as this supports mental health and wellbeing - An audit on the green spaces and plans to improve biodiversity within the borough would be helpful - Urban planning needs to be improved, and consideration should be given to the journey for the	Medium (High in the scrutiny survey but not a high priority amongst group)	Consideration in respect of well being and Borough of Culture

No.	Suggestion	Comments	Priority – High, Medium or Low	Proposed Action (Item for OSC meeting/potential review/Cabinet Member Question/no further action).
		disable and neuro-diverse members of the community - The plans for London Borough of Culture also should very much reflect on the need to improve the biodiversity of the borough -		
3.	Fly Tipping and Waste enforcement	- Enforcement teams should be more visible working with residents and with businesses. This led to a discussion that focussed more on highways and pavements and the challenges with them e.g.: - Challenges of well-meaning school streets, LTN's	Low	Not discussed in detail by the group/ update at scrutiny meeting
4.	Parks and Green Spaces	- Lack of access for certain groups of people at certain times of the day to e.g. parks due to the safety implications - Need for more outdoor gyms - Linking with the conversation around safety and fear of crime, designing parks and green spaces with sufficient lighting is key - Audit of who is actually using parks Although not focussed on parks, the conversation about parks lead to a discussion around leisure spaces: - Need for more community spaces in general where women feel safe such as breast-feeding spaces/ faith-based spaces/ toilets - Consideration to be given to timing e.g. giving access to a certain pool around the time when prayers take place in that community is not well thought out - When considering leases for community spaces – consideration should also be given to the social value add - How do we monitor and progress how the community accesses certain community spaces	Medium	Conversation moved on to access to community spaces etc
6.	Communication	- Young people and the under 25's - youth organisations, cadets, scout	Medium	Solution to this would be active

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		- How is consultation managed for the housebound, people with physical disabilities, non-physical disabilities – neurodiversity/ SCN, carers, older people - East/ West of the borough variation - Consultation with the time poor members of the community - Consultation with the non-incentivised members of the community – this needs a personal approach - Consideration should be given to terminology and language when carrying out outreach, e.g. ‘Overview and Scrutiny’ does not mean anything to the average member of public. - Thought needs to be given to the intersectionality of members of the community with protected characteristics. Each protected characteristic has sub-sections and the key to better engagement is more personalisation.		outreach through face-to-face communication, active searching and joint activity Co-production should be carried out with the VCS and through key community forums.
	Approach to scrutiny for this vast panel	What is the journey? Who is making it? What’s missing? Who needs to be considered?		