Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 30th November 2026

Title: Overview and Scrutiny Committee 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 plan for 2026-27 for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To note the current work programme for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) and agree any amendments, as appropriate.

2.2 That the Committee give consideration to the agenda items and reports required for its meetings in 2026/27. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 10th December 2026.

3. Reasons for decision

3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee 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 current draft iteration of the Committee's work plan for 2026-27 is provided as **APPENDIX A**.

4.2 The current Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme specifies that the meeting scheduled to be held on 10th December 2026 will include:

- Finance Update – Quarter 2
- Annual Feedback and Resolutions Report 2025/26

4.3 The Committee should give consideration to the items for the next meeting and any amendments that it wishes to make to the Work Programme for the meetings scheduled in 2026/27.

4.4 Given the Council's challenging financial situation, the Work Programme includes in-year finance monitoring items on a quarterly basis which are scheduled to take place on:

- 21st July 2026 – Provisional Financial Outturn report (Q4)
- 17th September 2026 – Q1
- 10th December 2026 – Q2
- 18th March 2027 – Q3

4.5 There are two meetings in the Work Programme specifically set aside to consider policy issues not directly related to finance. These are scheduled to take place on:

- 26th October 2026
- 25th February 2027

4.6 The latest version of the Council's Forward Plan, which provides notice of key decisions expected to be made by the Council over the next 3 months is attached as **APPENDIX B**. This may assist Committee Members in determining if there are any upcoming issues that require further scrutiny.

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 Workplan 2026-27
APPENDIX B – Statutory Forward Plan (Version 6)