



**Haringey Council**

<b>Report for:</b>	Environment & Housing Scrutiny Panel 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2013	<b>Item Number:</b>	
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<b>Title:</b>	Work programme – development and monitoring
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<b>Report Authorised by:</b>	Cllr Stuart McNamara Chair, Environment & Housing Scrutiny Panel
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<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Martin Bradford, Policy Officer, Strategy & Business Intelligence Martin.bradford@haringey.gov.uk
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b> All	<b>Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:</b>
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**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 This is a report to support discussions by the Environment & Housing Scrutiny Panel in updating and monitoring its 2013/14 work programme.

**2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

- 2.1 Not applicable.

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 The panel are requested to:
- 1) To note the work programme report.
  - 2) Consider upcoming Cabinet decisions relevant to this panel and raise any questions as it sees fit.
  - 3) To agree any updates and confirm the future work programme for the remainder of 2013/14.

#### 4. Other options considered

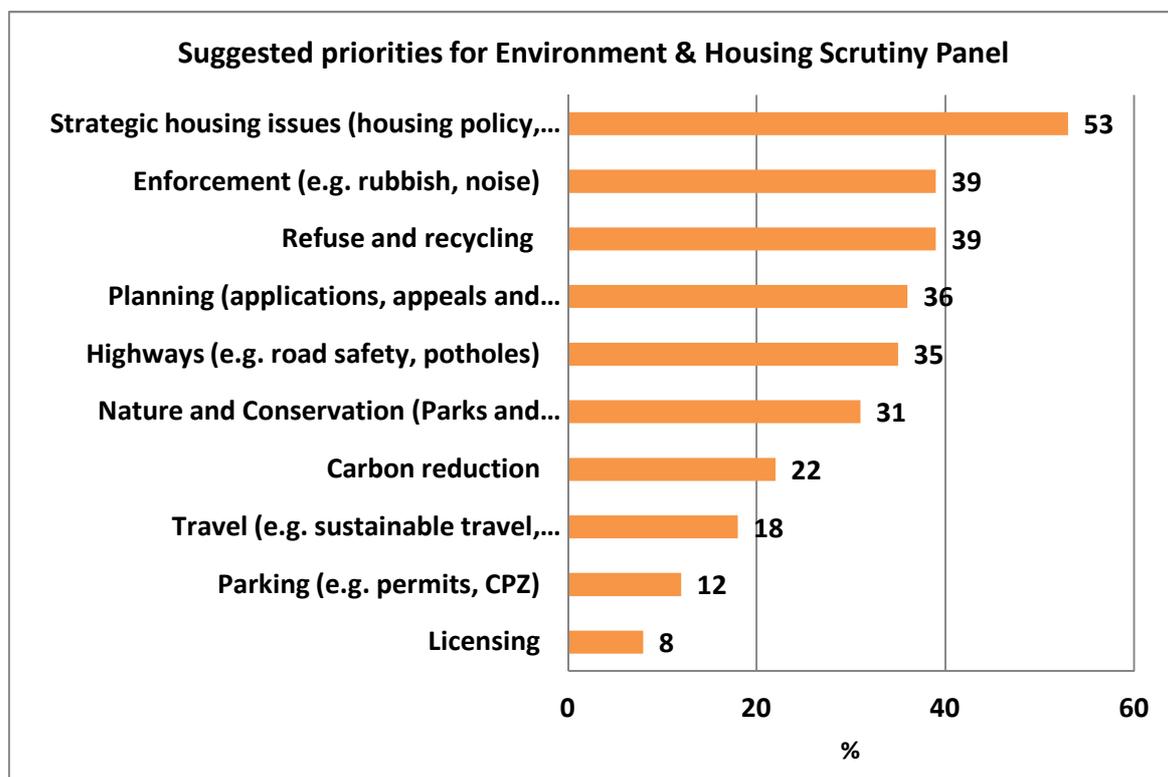
4.1 Not applicable.

#### 5. Background information

- 5.1 The work programme is a fixed item on the agenda of each Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel meeting to enable members to develop a forward plan of work and to monitor agreed actions.
- 5.2 This report has been produced to support discussions by the Environment & Housing Scrutiny Panel in updating and monitoring its 2013/14 work programme. This being the first meeting of the panel, an overview of the work programme formulation to date has also been included.

#### Environment & Housing Scrutiny Panel work programme development

- 5.3 The main overarching Overview & Scrutiny Committee administered an on line survey among local stakeholders to help identify scrutiny priorities in the year ahead (2013/14). Within the survey participants were able to identify priorities for each of the following scrutiny bodies;
- Overview & scrutiny Committee;
  - Adults & Health Scrutiny Panel;
  - Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel;
  - Communities Scrutiny Panel;
  - Environment & Housing Scrutiny Panel;
- 5.4 155 responses were received to the above survey. From the work areas covered by the EHSP, the suggested priorities for 2013/14 from respondents are given below:



5.5 The on-line survey received 96 individual qualitative responses which provided specific suggestions for scrutiny to look at in 2013/14, 27 of which related to areas covered by the Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel. A summary of the issues suggested for possible inclusion in the panel work programme is presented below, (all individual suggestions for this panel can be read in their entirety in Appendix A).

Housing	Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Private landlords (Property maintenance, High rents, Sub-division of properties, Environmental concerns)</li> <li>▪ Social housing (Repairs services, Grounds maintenance on local estates, Speedier turnaround of empty/derelict homes, RHPs rent increases)</li> <li>▪ Improving access to affordable housing for young people</li> <li>▪ Homelessness</li> <li>▪ Allocations policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Progress on the Councils 40:20 target Improving the energy efficiency of local homes</li> <li>▪ Parks and open spaces (Preservation for community, Maintenance and upkeep)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Licensing consultation</li> <li>▪ Planning enforcement</li> <li>▪ Waste and recycling (Road blocks resulting from collection vehicles, Recycling from flats, Range of materials to be recycled)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Allotments (infrastructure investment)</li> </ul>

5.6 Further to the completion of the on-line survey, the Chairs of all scrutiny bodies met with relevant Cabinet members and senior officers to further discuss issues arising from the survey. Possible inclusion of areas or topics from corporate priorities within the work programme were also discussed.

5.7 From this process an outline programme of scrutiny topics were identified for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the four scrutiny panels which were agreed at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on June 17<sup>th</sup> 2013. These are summarised below.

Title	Detail
<b>Integrated enforcement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An audit of enforceable functions of both the Council and its partners;</li> <li>▪ Establish criteria for enforceable actions (for example, public safety, costs, public interest);</li> <li>▪ Identify how protocols, partnership working, data sharing and information sharing among enforcement services.</li> </ul>
<b>Community engagement with planning and licensing process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide an assessment of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which is a statutory requirement;</li> <li>▪ Provide comparative assessments of other SCIs from other authorities that may guide and inform policy and practice locally</li> <li>▪ Will contribute to the overall Development Management Improvement Programme</li> </ul>
<b>Performance of</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Progress report on the implementation of recommendations from a previous scrutiny review (February 2012)</li> </ul>

<b>Registered Social Landlords</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Performance of RSLs in respect of repairs and void turnarounds</li> <li>▪ RSLs communication with tenants regarding impact of welfare changes</li> </ul>
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5.8 Members of the EHSP also met to discuss the work programme. The panel requested that in addition to the above, an update from Single Front Line on the implementation of Waste and Recycling Scrutiny Report (Part 1) should be taken during 2013/14.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Detail</b>
<b>Waste and recycling</b>	Feedback on the implementation of prior recommendations from the Waste and Recycling Report 2012/13 (Part 1). For example bin harmonisation and using less bins.

Cabinet Member Question and Answer sessions

5.9 Under agreed scrutiny protocols, Cabinet Members will be invited to attend relevant scrutiny panels twice each year to discuss issues within their portfolio area. The format of Cabinet Q and A is not prescribed and can be varied according to local agreement between the Chair and Cabinet member. There is an assumption however, that questions will not be submitted (or answers provided) in advance of panel meetings.

5.10 Cabinet Members whose portfolio area that is covered by the Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel are:

- Cabinet Member for the Environment
- Cabinet Member for Housing.

5.11 Appropriate Cabinet Members have been invited to attend the Environment & Housing Scrutiny Panel and will be scheduled in to the forward plan (as detailed in Appendix B).

Budget Scrutiny

5.12 The budget is scrutinised by each Scrutiny Review Panel in their respective areas and subsequent reports produced from their deliberations go to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for approval. The areas of the budget which are not covered by the scrutiny panels shall also be considered by the main Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

5.13 As per protocol, the Vice Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee shall be responsible for the co-ordination of the Budget Scrutiny process and recommendations made by respective Scrutiny Review Panels relating to the budget.

5.14 To allow the OSC to scrutinise the budget in advance of it formally being set and convey those recommendations to the Cabinet, the following timescale is suggested:

<b>26<sup>th</sup> June 2013</b>	Government Spending Review
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<b>September 2013</b>	Financial Planning (Budget) Monitoring: Cabinet 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2013 Budget monitoring of areas under the Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel will take place at the next meeting (26 <sup>th</sup> September 2013)
<b>December 2013</b>	Draft Medium Term Financial Plan released
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 EHSP Scrutiny Panel:</b>	Scrutiny Panels and OSC scrutinise MTFP and any budget saving identified in their area of responsibility. Cabinet Member for Finance/ Snr. officers attend to answer questions
<b>Dec 2012- Jan 2013</b>	Formulation of reports with recommendations by Scrutiny Officers
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	Final Budget Scrutiny Report approved by OSC
<b>11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Cabinet. The OSC recommendations from the Budget Scrutiny process, ratified by the OSC, shall be fed back to Cabinet. As part of the budget setting process, the Cabinet will clearly set out its response to the recommendations/ proposals made by the OSC in relation to the budget.
<b>26<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Budget setting at Full Council

#### Performance Monitoring

- 5.15 A Corporate Performance report is presented to Cabinet in July and it is expected that this will also be considered by relevant panels at the next available meeting.

#### Standing items

- 5.16 There are also a number of standing items for the agenda of scrutiny panels which will feature on all agendas:
- Feedback from area chairs: opportunity for Chairs of Area Committee to relay issues of concern to the panel
  - Work programming - monitoring and development.

#### Cabinet Forward Plan

- 5.17 In considering its future work plan, the Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel may wish to consider or note the Forward Plan (future decisions taken by the Cabinet). Items or decisions to be taken by Cabinet which may be of relevance to the panel are given below.

<b>Cabinet Date</b>	<b>Item - decision</b>	
<b>9<sup>th</sup> July 2013</b>	The Corporate Plan 2013/14 and 2014/15	The existing Council Plan has been revised with the development of across cutting principles and realigned outcomes and key priorities. This forms the Council Plan for 2013-2015.
	End of year	To provide a quarterly self assessment of the

	performance assessment 2012/13	councils performance against the Council's priorities and other major responsibilities.
	Housing Investment and Estate Renewal Strategy	The report seeks member approval of the principles that will inform the development of the Council Housing Investment and Estate Renewal Strategy.
	Response to Scrutiny Review of Parking	Response to Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel in respect of parking.
30 <sup>th</sup> July 2013	South Tottenham Decent Homes Programme 2013/14 Phase ST29	Decent Homes improvement works to attains standards set by DCLG on the Ferry Lane Estate N17
	North Tottenham Decent Homes Programme 2013/14 Phase NT25	Decent Homes improvement works to attains standards set by DCLG on 132-458 Lordship Lane N17
	North Tottenham Decent Homes Programme 2013/14 Phase NT24	Decent Homes improvement works to attains standards set by DCLG on Headcorn / Tenterden Estate N17
	Housing Capital and Decent Homes Programme 2014/15	Agreement of housing capital works and the Decent Home Programme for 2014/15 (year 7)
	Lift Modernisation	Replac ment of lift cars, doors and lift room nachinery at Reed Road, Watt Tyler House, Chettle Court, Edgecot Grove, Campbell Court, Markfield House, Brookside House, Joyce Butler house and basil Spence House.
	Hornsey Decent Homes Programme 2013/14 Kitchen and Bathroom Improvements	Decent Homes improvement works to kitchens and bathrooms to properties that were in years 4 and 5 revised elemental works programme. This will enable DCLG standard to be attained.
10 <sup>th</sup> September 2013	Financial Planning (Budget) Monitoring	Monitoring report on the forecast spend against budget and consideration of any proposed budget virements.
	Housing Investment and Estate Renewal Strategy	The report seeks member approval of the principles that will inform the development of the Council's Housing Investment and Estate renewal Strategy.
	Essential User and Business Permit Scheme	To consider a number of issues arising from the review of Essential Service User and Business Permits scheme.
	Consultation for Parking in North Tottenham Area	Traffic Management will be carrying out an extensive community consultation in 4 north Tottenham wards for possible amendment to parking controls. The report will consider community comments and make recommendations for Cabinet to consider.

## **6. Comments of the Chief Financial Officer and Financial Implications**

6.1 The costs of preparing this report have been met from within existing budgets. It is expected that undertaking Scrutiny reviews will largely involve contributions from existing staff and thus can be contained within current budgets, if additional expenditure is required to undertake reviews then appropriate authority should be received before spend takes place.

## **7 Head of Legal Services and Legal Implications**

7.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on this report.

7.2 Scrutiny panels are non-decision making bodies and the work programme and any subsequent reports and recommendations that each panel produces must be approved by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Such reports can then be referred to Cabinet or Council under agreed protocols. There are generic terms of reference for all of the scrutiny panels.

7.3 The inclusion of non-executive members who are not members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee means that the Panels cannot discharge overview and scrutiny functions and must direct all their conclusions/findings/recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval.

7.4 There are no other legal implications arising from this report.

## **8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments**

8.1 Overview and scrutiny has a strong community engagement role and aims to regularly involve local stakeholders, including residents, in its work. It seeks to do this through:

- Helping to articulate the views of members of the local community and their representatives on issues of local concern
- Bringing local concerns to the attention of decision makers and incorporate them into policies and strategies
- Identifying and engaging with hard to reach groups
- Helping to develop consensus by seeking to reconcile differing views and developing a shared view of the way forward
- Generating evidence to help identify the kind of services wanted by local people
- Promoting openness and transparency; all meetings are held in public and documents are available to local people.

8.2 A number of engagement processes will be used to support the work of the Environment & Housing Scrutiny Panel and members will seek to include representation from a broad representation of local stakeholders. It is expected that any equalities issues identified during this process, will be highlighted and addressed in the conclusions and recommendations of individual reports produced by the panel.

## **9. Head of Procurement Comments**

9.1 Not applicable.

## **10. Policy Implications**

10.1 Recommendations for policy developments arising from the work of the Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel are agreed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee before submission to Cabinet for approval.

## **11. Use of Appendices**

11.1 The following appendices are included:

- Appendix A – Suggestions for EHSP scrutiny panel
- Appendix B – The draft forward plan for the Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel.

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

## Appendix A – Suggestions for Environment & Housing Scrutiny Panel

A member of a community group or voluntary group	Increase in access to good quality affordable local housing for young adults with a local connection.
A local resident (details provided)	personally speaking, as a Reed Road resident, it would be useful if you look into your gardening services on estates. overall they are good and seem to have improved recently but the approach can be heavy handed, with an emphasis on 'clearing away' greenery, eg mature trees cut down with inadequate consultation, mature jasmine cleared out of flat garden when tenants changed, ivy disguising a concrete wall being removed, etc etc. These not only lead to a significant loss of habitat but reduce the attractiveness and sense of well being in an area. New tree planting that has taken place is welcome, but would have appreciated more consultation on species. To note that upper floor flats are just as affected by the state of a garden as ground floor flats.
A member of a residents association	Make empty Council building faster available, for them be in need. Not covered for over 3Mths. (e.g.38 Gospatrick Road). Is imported for the living around this houses, let the area down!
A local resident and both a member of a local community group and residents association.	Another is repairs with regards to housing, tenanted or leasehold, is appalling where there s lack of oversight, lack of photographic evidence of the job being done, lack of procedure to get quotes and involve the tenants or leaseholders before the work is done, high cost invoiced, complete lack of accountability. Please, please, please ensure a works clerk signs off and surveyor oversees works to residential dwellings. Repairs workmen should be accountable and be paid a salary, and a bonus AFTER satisfactory work is done and evidenced via photographic evidence (where appropriate) that can be put on a memory stick, disc or flickr website, and given to a supervisor. Repairs cost to the Council as well as to leaseholders is horrendous, along with works that aren't done but invoiced for, bad workmanship, lack of any consultation with residents, and high invoicing. This includes all property repairs, electrical and drains external and I would hazard a guess, internal tenants' dwellings. V expensive way to run this, but someone is benefitting, not sure who. Further the repairs have around 36% management charge included in the charge given out by HfH! Another issue is void properties, residential or commercial, I m sure you are onto this, but can someone obtain a list of where they are and tackle refurbishing them to provide much needed housing, and cut down the temp accommodation bill.

A member of a community group or voluntary group	What bothers me a lot is the negligence of private landlords. As long as the rent is being paid, they are happy. As a neighbour of a road full of private tenants I am not happy. The gardens are turning into sycamore forests covered in bindweed and ivy. The encroaching trees block light and will eventually do damage to foundations. The front gardens are very often concreted over to avoid maintenance, thereby adding to excess water run-off in wet periods.
A local resident	I would like empty or derelict houses to be looked at in the borough to see if they can be refurbished for social housing
A local resident (details provided)	a) Licensing b) the function seeks not to engage residents sufficiently (e.g. poor consultation, old fashioned mechanisms like notices in windows) c) residents often don't realise the potential implications of licenses being granted or that they can recommend restrictions to licenses which could meet the best interests of residents and license-seeker.
A member of a community group or voluntary group	The preservation and maintenance of parks and open spaces may seem a strange priority, but when people are under pressure it is particularly important that they have spaces where they can go, meet, let the children play and relax, but such facilities tend to get neglected in difficult times and it takes years to remedy the effects, so please don't let them decay AGAIN, we have been through this before.
A member of a community group or voluntary group (details provided)	Conservation of open spaces and prevention of land being used for 'luxury, high priced housing' where there is no real need for it. An example of this the Fortis Green Reservoir land where the present plans were opposed by over 500 letters and supported by 19, but the plans were given the 'go ahead' by the council planning committee.
A local resident and a member of a community group.	I would like to make it clear how inconvenient it is that garbage trucks are picking up rubbish between 8-10am on roads coming off of Lordship Lane. I have had to sit in a queue of 15 cars at that time. I HAVE COMPLAINED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS!!!! BUT AS USUAL NOTHING GETS HEARD OR DONE!!!! SOME THING NEEDS TO BE DONE ABOUT THE CHILDREN'S SWIMMING POOL IN PARK NEAR TO ST THOMAS MOOR SCHOOL - IT'S ALWAYS FULL OF RUBBISH!!! The patch of land/park on great Cambridge road needs a walkers path going round it and more bins for dog refuse residents in the tower garden estate (opp lordship Rec) need to be encourages to keep front gardens tidy as mattresses and other rubbish prevent this listed estate from looking its best - look at Hampstead Garden Suburb - a similar

	estate yet absolutely stunning!!!! The graveyard next to Bruce Castle should be better maintained and policed- the grave stones have been smashed and near the lake i have caught kids burning wreathes and smoking pot.
A local resident (details provided)	Building Planning appears to be getting out of control - there is less rigour around planning applications and there needs to be more not less. Also control of builders is a real issue with lots of unpermitted development and breaking the regulations going on. Haringey should adopt a builder's code of practice like Westminster Council and this should be enforced.
A member of a community group or voluntary group	The most important issue facing us all is global warming. We have set up the 40:20 commission to reduce carbon emissions in Haringey. The committee should review this regularly to make sure we are on target.
A member of a community group or voluntary group	Sustainable upkeep of parks and open spaces for the benefit of all
A local resident (details provided)	Environment and open spaces: make sure they are preserved and are as good as possible since they are fundamental to our health and well-being.
A local resident (details provided)	Areas such as Stationers Park should be looked at as, since government cuts, there has been a rise in graffiti, litter and, in particular dogs off leads and dog fouling. The latter is a particular concern to me because of health and safety issues associated with dog mess and dogs not in control. This is important to the community because this area is dense with families with young children and this park houses the entrance to Weston Park Primary School. There are new dog control orders but they mean nothing if there is no manpower to enforce them.
A member of a community group or voluntary group (details provided)	Housing & homelessness as it affects every other area of residents' lives
A local resident	The prioritisation process used in the allocation of housing resources. My concern being that long-time Haringey residents should be given priority over people moving into the borough
A representative of a local public service	links between housing and health. It's a big agenda nationally and we don't appear to be doing anything locally.
A member of a community group or voluntary group (details provided)	Improving the energy efficiency of homes and businesses because this is an area where people need help to take action. It will save people money, will contribute to our progress to a low carbon future, will improve health and could create jobs. I am very concerned about our energy future.
A member of a community group or voluntary group	a) In Conservation Areas b) Planning enforcement (i.e., enforcement where planning conditions have been

(details provided)	ignored or broken)and the publication of better guides on good design, area appraisals etc. c) many people welcome and enjoy living in Conservation Areas, but feel frustrated that the council offers so little guidance and support to local residents.
A local resident and a member of a community group and residents association (details provided)	Private landlords charging high rents; because of housing benefit cuts families are being re-housed into smaller units and landlords of purpose built family homes are maintaining their high rents by dividing these properties into flats or bedsits. This is bad for communities and social cohesion.
A local resident (details provided)	[1] a) How the Council can increase recycling from flats. b) To increase recycling in the borough. c) To lower the borough's carbon footprint
A representative of a local public service	Empty Homes in Haringey - how many are there and what is being put in place to reduce this. ASB
Local Councillor (details provided)	HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS RAISING RENTS IN BREACH OF THEIR LEGAL AGREEMENT WITH THE HOMES AND COMMUNITIES AGENCY WHICH PROVIDED FUNDING TO ENSURE THAT THESE RENT INCREASES COULD BE AVOIDED.
A member of a community group or voluntary group (details provided)	Add flexible packaging to the items collected for recycling please.
A local resident (details provided)	The funding of the Allotments Service to make good outstanding repairs. A recent 100% rent increase proposal to raise an additional £60,000 income has been frozen because of objections that the additional income would not be ring fenced for outstanding repairs/improvements to the Borough's 27 allotment sites. Site infrastructure such as security fencing, roadways and water supply is deteriorating due to a lack of investment. Poor security causes many tenants to give up plots. Allotments have a long local social history and are a vital community resource - preserving green space, benefiting the environment and encouraging the production of local and sustainable healthy food.
A local resident (details provided)	2) An audit of the council's 40:20 campaign.
A local resident	a) Adaptation to climate change risks to local well-being: the adequacy of Council policies, focusing on adaptation actions in relation to likely extreme weather impacts, and the relation between adaptation and mitigation. (Background: 1) the report by London Councils deals only with risks to council service delivery, not to the risks to wider population; 2) 20:40 initiative is a useful focus on mitigation (ie reducing emissions) but doesn't deal with 'adaptation' actions to ensure the borough remains liveable, safe and resilient

	<p>to the weather impacts that are already evident let alone the more severe weather events that are increasingly likely to hit us: ie flooding and storms, drought and heat stress. Air pollution and equality: what actions are needed to give the east of the borough air quality no worse than that in the west of the borough -- in the light of the alarming health damage and reduced life expectancies associated with living in more heavily polluted air.</p>
<p>A local Community group</p>	<p>We should like the committee to include Haringey having a 20mph speed limit on all roads. Let us know if we need to present evidence to support the request.</p>

## Appendix B - Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel – forward plan

Date	Meeting	Item and lead officers
9/07/13	Panel Meeting	<p><b><u>Terms of reference</u></b> Report for panel (Scrutiny)</p> <p><b><u>Work Programme</u></b> Report for panel (Scrutiny)</p> <p><b><u>Scoping</u></b> Scoping - Strategic enforcement Scoping – Community engagement Planning Scoping – Registered Social Landlords</p>
26/09/13	Panel Meeting	<p><b><u>Cabinet Q &amp; A</u></b> Cllr Bevan – Cabinet Member for Housing</p> <p><b><u>Budget Monitoring</u></b> Budget Monitoring report on service areas covered by EHSP</p> <p><b><u>Performance Monitoring</u></b> Report on service performance in areas covered by EHSP</p> <p><b><u>Registered Social Landlords</u></b> To receive an update on implementation of recommendations from housing provider review (regulation, partnership working, stock transfer)</p> <p><b><u>Waste and recycling</u></b> Update on Interim Report on Waste and Recycling from December 2012.</p> <p><b><u>Scoping Reports</u></b> Agree scoping reports for planned work</p>
12/11/13	Panel Meeting	<p><b><u>Community Engagement with Planning</u></b> - Haringey Statement of Community Involvement (Planning Service) - Other Local Authorities Statement of Community Involvement (Scrutiny Report)</p>
2/12/13	Panel Meeting	<p><b><u>Budget Scrutiny</u></b> Consideration of proposals (savings) arising from MTFP</p>
January 2014 (TBC)	Evidence gathering	<p><b><u>Community Engagement with Planning</u></b> -Meeting with planning officers from other London boroughs (Statement of Community Involvement)</p>
24/02/14	Panel Meeting	<p><b><u>Cabinet Q &amp; A</u></b> Cllr Bevan – Cabinet Member for Housing</p>

To schedule:

- 1) Cabinet Q & A – Cabinet Member for Environment
- 2) Evidence gathering sessions for strategic enforcement
- 3) Panel Meetings / evidence gathering for Registered Social Landlords
- 4) Community engagement with Licensing.