

Appendix D:
LB Haringey's Scrutiny Café
Key tips for effective work programming



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



Key features of an effective work programme

- A member led process, shortlisting and prioritising topics – with support from officers – that:
 - ✓ reflects local needs and priorities - issues of community concern as well Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan priorities
 - ✓ prioritises topics for scrutiny that have most impact /benefit
 - ✓ involves local stakeholders
 - ✓ is flexible enough to respond to new or urgent issues



Problems in developing and maintaining an effective work programme

- Overloading a work programme
- Going over old ground with topics
- Hobbyhorses
- Overlapping with the role of other committees
- Political loyalty versus the independence of scrutiny
- Agenda creep on topics and losing sight of the key issues
- Diving into unnecessary detail
- Focusing on minor points
- Running out of time



The Scrutiny Café will have succeeded if it helps produce a work programme that:

- ✓ complements the priorities and work of the Council and its partners
- ✓ doesn't duplicate work being undertaken elsewhere by the Council and its partners
- ✓ reflects the wider community's concerns
- ✓ is practical and will produce positive and beneficial impacts
- ✓ is aligned with corporate priorities, objectives and outcomes
- ✓ is focused on areas where greatest practical assistance can be provided
- ✓ is managed so its scrutiny processes are commensurate with desired outcomes

