

**Report for:** Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel – 5 October 2015

**Item number:** 10

**Title:** Work Programme Update

**Report authorised by :** Bernie Ryan, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance

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**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision:** N/A

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

1.1 This report gives details of the proposed scrutiny work programme for the remainder of the municipal year.

**2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

N/A.

**3. Recommendations**

3.1 (a) That the Panel considers its future work programme, attached at **Appendix A**, and considers whether any amendments are required.

(b) That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to endorse any amendments, at (a) above, at its next meeting.

**4. Reasons for decision**

The work programme for Overview and Scrutiny was agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 27 July 2015. Arrangements for implementing the work programme have progressed and the latest plans for the Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel are outlined in **Appendix A**.

**5. Alternative options considered**

5.1 The Panel could choose not to review its work programme however this could diminish knowledge of the work of Overview and Scrutiny and would fail to keep the full membership updated on any changes to the work programme.

**6. Background information**

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- 6.1 The careful selection and prioritisation of work is essential if the scrutiny function is to be successful, add value and retain credibility. At its first meeting of the municipal year, on 8 June 2015, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed a process for developing the 2015/16 scrutiny work programme.
- 6.2 Following this meeting, a number of activities took place, including a public survey and Scrutiny Cafe, where over 90 suggestions, including a number from members of the public, were discussed by scrutiny members, council officers, partners, and community representatives. From these activities issues were prioritised and an indicative work programme agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in late July.
- 6.3 Whilst Scrutiny Panels are non-decision making bodies, i.e. work programmes must be approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, this item gives the Panel an opportunity to oversee and monitor its work programme and to suggest amendments.
- 6.4 It had been agreed that the Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel would undertake a review on the issue of obesity. However, following an informal briefing on the Panel's work programme, held on 9 September 2015, it was agreed that time and resources, at this stage, should be prioritised by scrutinising, and preparing for, other items listed in the work programme attached at **Appendix A**.

### **Forward Plan**

- 6.5 Since the implementation of the Local Government Act and the introduction of the Council's Forward Plan, scrutiny members have found the Plan to be a useful tool in planning the overview and scrutiny work programme. The Forward Plan is updated each month but sets out key decisions for a 3 month period.
- 6.6 To ensure the information provided to the Panel is up to date, a copy of the most recent Forward Plan can be viewed via the link below:  
  
<http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RP=110&RD=0&J=1>
- 6.7 The Panel may want to consider the Forward Plan and discuss whether any of these items require further investigation or monitoring via scrutiny.

### **Recommendations, Actions and Responses**

- 6.8 The issue of making, and monitoring, recommendations/actions is an important part of the scrutiny process. A verbal update on actions completed since the last meeting will be provided by the Principal Scrutiny Officer.

## **7 Contribution to strategic outcomes**

- 7.1 The individual issues included within the work plan were identified following consideration by relevant Members and officers of the priorities within the Corporate Plan. Their selection was specifically based on their potential to contribute to strategic outcomes.

## **8 Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)**

### **Finance and Procurement**

8.1 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 then these will be highlighted at that time.

### **Legal**

8.2 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

8.3 Under Section 21 (6) of the Local Government Act 2000, an Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to appoint one or more sub-committees to discharge any of its functions.

8.4 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the approval of the future scrutiny work programme and the appointment of Scrutiny Panels (to assist the scrutiny function) falls within the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

8.5 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**

8.6 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.

8.7 The Panel should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them within its work plan, 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.

- 8.8 The Panel 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.

## **9 Use of Appendices**

### **Appendix A – Work Programme**

## **10 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

- 10.1 External web links have been provided in this report. Haringey Council is not responsible for the contents or reliability of linked websites and does not necessarily endorse any views expressed within them. Listings should not be taken as an endorsement of any kind. It is your responsibility to check the terms and conditions of any other web sites you may visit. We cannot guarantee that these links will work all of the time and we have no control over the availability of the linked pages.