

Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 1 March 2016

Item number: 14

Title: Work Programme Update

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

Lead Officer: Christian Scade, Principal Scrutiny Officer, Democratic Services, 0208 489 2933, christian.scade@haringey.gov.uk

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 2015/16 work programme. This is also an opportunity for the Committee to reflect on the work of Overview and Scrutiny over the past year, to discuss the process for work programme development moving forward, and to discuss any topics to be taken forward.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the Committee:

- (i) Considers the work programmes for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its panels, attached at **Appendix 1**;
- (ii) Approves the draft scoping documents for reviews concerning Community Safety in Parks; and Viability Assessments (Affordable Housing), attached at **Appendix 2**;
- (iii) Notes the next Scrutiny Cafe event will take place on 9 June 2016, subject to the schedule of meetings for 2016/17 being agreed by Full Council on 17 March 2016.

4. Reasons for decision

4.1 The work programme for Overview and Scrutiny was agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 27 July 2015. Arrangements for implementing the work programme have progressed and the latest plans for Committee and Panel meetings are outlined in **Appendix 1**.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 The Committee 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

- 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 This item gives the Overview and Scrutiny Committee an opportunity to oversee and monitor its work programme and to suggest amendments. The work programme, attached at **Appendix 1**, reflects the overall structure of Overview and Scrutiny in Haringey which includes the overarching Committee as well as its four standing panels: Adults and Health; Children and Young People; Environment & Community Safety; Housing & Regeneration. Attached, at **Appendix 2**, are the scoping reports for the reviews of Community Safety in Parks; and Viability Assessments (Affordable Housing).
- 6.4 This item also provides an opportunity for the Committee to reflect on the work of Overview and Scrutiny over the past year, to discuss the process for work programme development moving forward, and to discuss any topics to be taken forward. It should be noted the next Scrutiny Cafe event will take place on Thursday 9 June 2016, subject to the schedule of meetings for 2016/17 being agreed by Full Council on 17 March 2016.

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 Committee 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 Committee 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 2015/16 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 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.
- 8.8 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.

9 Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Work Programme

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel
- Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel
- Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel
- Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel

Appendix 2 – Scoping Reports for:

- Community Safety in Parks
- Viability Assessments (Affordable Housing)

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.