

**Report for:** Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel – 26 June 2017

**Title:** Work Programme Development 2017-18

**Report authorised by:** Michael Kay, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

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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 reports on the development of the Panel's work plan for 2017/18.

## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 That the Panel agree that the areas, outlined in Appendix A, be prioritised for inclusion in the 2017/18 scrutiny work programme.

2.2 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to endorse 2.1 above at its meeting on 17 July 2017.

## **3. Reasons for decision**

3.1 Each scrutiny panel is required to develop a work plan on the areas and issues that it wishes to look at for the year for recommendation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In putting this together, they need to have regard to their capacity to deliver the programme and officers' capacity to support them in that task.

## **4. Approach**

4.1 As this is the final municipal year of this administration, it is suggested that the Panel focus its efforts on completing areas work previously identified, rather than developing new areas that may not be completed before the 2018 election. Prior to the end of the previous municipal year, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) agreed that there would be little value in holding another 'Scrutiny Café' event with stakeholders given each panel had already identified work it could undertake this year.

4.3 At the meeting of the OSC on 27 March, it was agreed that the Panel be commissioned to undertake two reviews – on street cleaning and on Haringey's parks. The Panel will be meeting on 14 and 21 July to receive evidence as part of the review on street sweeping. The scope and terms of

reference for the review on parks are in the process of being developed and a verbal update on progress will be provided at the meeting.

- 4.5 Panel chairs will also continue to hold briefing sessions on Corporate Priorities with priority, performance and finance leads to support strategic understanding and enable work programmes to be linked to corporate priorities.

## **5. Background – Good scrutiny practice**

- 5.1 Developing an effective work programme is the bedrock of an effective scrutiny function. The careful selection and prioritisation of work is essential if the scrutiny function is to be successful and add value. A summary of what needs to be done to develop a successful work programme is provided below.

### **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; and
- 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, short listing and prioritising topics – with support from officers – that:
    - Reflects local needs and priorities – issues of community concern as well as Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy priorities;
    - Prioritises topics for scrutiny that have most impact or benefit;
    - Involves local stakeholders; and
    - Is flexible enough to respond to new or urgent issues.
- 5.2 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; and
- Progress reports on implementing previous scrutiny recommendations accepted by the Cabinet or appropriate Executive body.

5.3 In addition, in-depth scrutiny review work is an important aspect of work and provides opportunities to thoroughly investigate topics and to make improvements. Through the gathering and consideration of evidence from a wide 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.

5.4 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 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.
- 7.8 The Panel should ensure 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 – Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel – Draft Work Plan for 2017/18

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

N/A