

Report for: Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel – 2 October 2017

Item number: 12

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 work programme, attached at **Appendix A**, and considers whether any amendments are required.

(b) That the Panel considers the (draft) scoping document for the Social Housing Scrutiny Project, attached at **Appendix B**, and considers whether any amendments are required

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

4. Reasons for decision

4.1 The work programme for Overview and Scrutiny was agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 17 July 2017. Arrangements for implementing the work programme have progressed and the latest plans for the Housing and Regeneration 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

- 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 13 June 2017, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed a process for developing the 2017/18 scrutiny work programme.
- 6.2 Following this meeting, a number of activities took place, including various agenda planning meetings, where suggestions, including a number from members of the public, were discussed. From these discussions 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 In addition, following discussion by the Panel on 22 June, it was agreed an in-depth piece of work should be undertaken focusing on the conditions and attitudes towards social housing in Haringey. The timescale for this review is outlined below with a full scoping document attached at **Appendix B**.

Activity	Dates
Review set up by Panel / OSC	Jul 2017
Scoping	Aug / Sept 2017
Scoping Document submitted to OSC	16 Oct 2017
Evidence Gathering	Oct 2017 – Jan 2018
Analyse findings / develop recommendations	Late Jan / early Feb 2018
Draft report signed off - with comments from legal / finance	23 Feb 2018
Draft report considered by the Panel	13 Mar 2018
OSC to discuss / agree final report	26 Mar 2018
Cabinet Response	Jun 2018

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.

Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 6.9 The individual issues included within the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel work programme were identified following consideration, by relevant Members and officers, of the priorities within the Corporate Plan. Their selection was based on their potential to contribute to strategic outcomes, specifically in relation to Priority 4 – “Drive growth and employment from which everyone can benefit” – and to Priority 5 – “*Create homes and communities where people choose to live and are able to thrive*”

7. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

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 then these will be highlighted at that time.

Legal

- 7.2 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 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.
- 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 Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;

- 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 three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy/maternity; race; religion/faith; sex and sexual orientation. In addition, marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.
- 7.8 The Panel should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during final scoping, evidence gathering and final reporting. 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 service 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.
- 7.9 The Panel should ensure that equalities comments are based on evidence, when possible. 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 – Work Programme

Appendix B – Social Housing Scrutiny Project Scoping Document

9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 9.1 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.