

Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 14 January 2019

Title: Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panel Work Programme

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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 seeks approval of the work plans for 2018-20 for the Committee and its Panels.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To note the work programmes for the main Committee and Scrutiny Panels at Appendix A;

2.2 To approve the scope and terms of reference of the reviews by the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel review on Special Educational Needs and Disability (Appendix B) and the Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel on Plastic Waste (Appendix C); and

2.3 That a replacement be appointed for Councillor James on the Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel.

3. Reasons for decision

3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) is responsible for developing an overall work plan, including work for its standing scrutiny panels. In putting this together, the Committee will need to have regard to their capacity to deliver the programme and officers’ capacity to support them in this task.

4. Background

Introduction

4.1 At its meeting on 4 June, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed a process to develop a two-year work plan for the Committee and its panels. This included measures to ensure that the views of residents and stakeholders are taken into account in developing, including the setting up of a “Scrutiny Café” event. The Committee meeting on 23 July further developed this approach, which also included an on-line scrutiny survey.

- 4.2 The survey went live on 20 August and ran until 14 September. A total of 191 responses were received. Suggestions within this for areas to be looked at in detail were combined with those from the Committee and its panels and discussed at the Scrutiny Café. This took place on 13 September and attracted over 50 people, including a large number of people from voluntary sector and community organisations. A summary of the issues raised within the Scrutiny Survey and the feedback from the Scrutiny Café for each of the areas covered by the Committee and its panels was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 2 October.
- 4.3 Following this, the Chair and each of the scrutiny panel Chairs met with relevant officers to discuss further the issues raised relating to the respective areas covered by the Committee and their panels and how these could be addressed within work plans, including;
- Which issues would be best suited to dealt with by an in-depth scrutiny review;
 - Which issues might be better suited to “one-off” item at a regular meeting. In addition, there are also routine items such as performance data, budget scrutiny and Cabinet Member Questions which may also provide a means of addressing issues;
 - What other work may be taking place within the Council on issues raised so that any overview and scrutiny involvement complements rather than conflicts with this;
 - Whether issues may have already been looked at recently by overview and scrutiny recently and, if so, whether to re-visit them.
- 4.4 An updated copy of the work plan for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is attached as Appendix “A”. The current work plans for all of the other scrutiny panels are also attached.
- 4.5 Responses to all of the issues raised in the survey and feedback from the Scrutiny Café have been drafted and shared with all of those who attended the Café. The responses are also on the Council’s website:
<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/local-democracy/how-decisions-are-made/overview-and-scrutiny/scrutiny-consultation>

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 4.6 After consultation with the Chair, an additional Committee meeting has been provisionally arranged for Monday 29 April. This is to assist the Committee in completing its work plan and, in addition, to provide an opportunity to approve final reports of reviews undertaken by the Committee and its panels.
- 4.7 The Committee’s review on Fire Safety in High Rise Blocks is due to finalise an interim report shortly. Further work on this issue will be undertaken once the government has issued details of the process for the implementation of the recommendations of the Hackitt report. Following this, the Committee will begin work on its review on Local Business, Employment and Growth. Work on the scope and terms of reference requires completion.

Forward Plan

- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 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>

- 4.10 The Committee may want to consider the Forward Plan and discuss whether any of these items require further investigation or monitoring via scrutiny.

Panel Membership

- 4.11 In the light of Councillor James appointment to the Cabinet, a replacement for her will need to be appointed to the Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel.

5. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 5.1 The contribution of scrutiny to the corporate priorities will be considered routinely as part of the OSC's work.

6. Statutory Officers comments

Finance and Procurement

- 6.1 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

- 6.2 There are no immediate legal implications arising from the report.
- 6.3 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the approval of the future scrutiny work programme falls within the remit of the OSC.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 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

- 6.6 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.

6.7 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.

6.8 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.

7. Use of Appendices

Appendix A; Work Plans for the Committee and the scrutiny panels;
 Appendix B; Scope and Terms of Reference for Review on SEND.
 Appendix C; Scope and Terms of Reference for Review on Plastic waste.

8. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A