

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

DATE: Tuesday 16 September 2014

AGENDA - PART I

10. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 1 - 10)

Report of the Divisional Director of Strategic Commissioning

AGENDA - PART II

Nil

Note: In accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the following agenda item has been admitted late to the agenda by virtue of the special circumstances and urgency detailed below:-

Agenda item

Special Circumstances/Grounds for Urgency

10. Annual Scrutiny Work Programme

Members are requested to consider the report, as a matter of urgency, in order to agree the work programme. The report was not available at the time the main agenda was printed and published due to the date of the Scrutiny Leadership Group meeting.

REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 16th September 2014

Subject: Annual Scrutiny Work Programme

Responsible Officer: Rachel Gapp – Head of Policy

Scrutiny Lead Member area: All

Exempt: No

Wards affected: All

Enclosures: Scrutiny Work Programme

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the proposed work programme for Scrutiny for 2014/15. It covers issues to be considered at committee, issues for the Scrutiny Leads to follow up and project work.

Recommendations:

That Scrutiny approves the work programme.

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

Scrutiny is an independent, member-led function, working with local people to improve services. As such it has an important role to play in improving democratic accountability for decisions taken by the council that affect the daily lives of our residents. It enables councillors, as representatives and leaders of their community, to lead a process that seeks to improve services

for local people and to hold decision-makers to account for the decisions they take.

The scrutiny leadership group, comprising the chairs, vice chairs and scrutiny leads, have responsibility for compiling and ensuring delivery of the scrutiny work programme with support from the Council's Policy Team.

Why a change is needed

Officer scrutiny support has been reduced following a restructure in April 2014 in order to contribute to the savings that the council had to make. There is no longer a dedicated scrutiny team. Instead, the new Council Policy Team will support the Scrutiny Leadership Group and provide research and policy capacity to scrutiny projects only. Scrutiny Leads are expected to operate self-sufficiently and feed into the Scrutiny Leadership Group, although Corporate Directors will arrange quarterly briefings for them. As such the scrutiny work programme needs to be reviewed and revised to match the level of resource and capacity now available to support it.

Following the local election in May 2014, the composition of scrutiny committees and scrutiny leads also changed. A new administration with new priorities for the council, means it is timely to reflect on how scrutiny wishes to operate and the issues it wishes to look at.

In deciding which issues scrutiny should include in its work programme, Members considered the following questions:

1. Is the Council recording persistent poor performance in this area?
2. Do customer complaints/satisfaction suggest a significant problem in this area?
3. Is a major change in policy taking place in this area (either by the Council or Government)?
4. Have there been or are there planned major changes to the service?
5. Is the policy/service a high priority for the Council?
6. Is there a concern that the policy/service should be a higher priority for the Council?
7. Will scrutiny's investigation lead to real change?

Following consideration of these questions, the appended work programme is set out for approval by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Implications of the Recommendation

The recommendation only has implications for the work that Scrutiny will consider over the next year.

Financial Implications

The work programme will be delivered within the budget available

Performance Issues

None

Environmental Impact

None

Risk Management Implications

None

Equalities Implications

None

Council Priorities

The Scrutiny Work Programme supports all the Council priorities.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Simon George	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chief Financial Officer
Date: 27 th August 2014		
Name: Caroline Eccles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 27 th August 2014		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO
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Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Rachel Gapp – Head of Policy Ext: 8774

Background Papers: None

Proposed Scrutiny Work Programme August 2014

Theme	Methodology	Comments	Rank/comments (High, med, low, remove)
The Funding Challenge - saving £75m from the Council's budget Including annual budget Q&A with Leader & CX Standing review of the budget	Project 1	Revenue budget Challenge Panel in January to look at 2015/16 budget and results of resident consultation on the budget before February Cabinet. Other budget and finance issues to be covered by P&F	High
Capital Programme underspend	P&F Cmte	Also to be considered in January to link with the challenge panel on the revenue budget above and be able to influence 2015/16 budget proposals	High
	Project 4	Challenge Panel to pick up Capital expenditure profile and the mitigations being applied to reduce slippage of capital spend as has been highlighted in recent years delivery. To also pick up delivery against current timescales	High
Children's services performance Children leaving care, transition arrangements and connections between childrens and housing re: homelessness SEND Act implementation	Leads Project 6 O&S Cmte	Children's Scrutiny Leads to monitor and raise any issues at Scrutiny Leadership Group Light touch review, need to explore any potential links with welfare project. Important to pick up the transition arrangements between Childrens and Adults. Draft transition plan required by 1st Sept 2014. To be reconsidered at O&S in February on impact to date and response to this.	High High

Theme	Methodology	Comments	Rank/comments (High, med, low, remove)
A child's journey through the care system Ofsted results and improvement planning	TBC Leads	Not profiled currently Children's Scrutiny Leads to monitor and raise any issues at Scrutiny Leadership Group	TBC Post inspection
Youth Justice Plan Closing the gap in educational attainment	O&S Cmte Project 8	Scheduled for 16th Sept Light touch review	Med High
Council's regeneration plans Lessons learnt from town centre regeneration, effectiveness of consultation, durability of materials used, public perceptions, effect on economic activity	O&S Cmte	Request for a report to come to O&S (October/November) covering aspects set out in the theme to determine whether further project work should	High
Support & Development to local businesses with a focus on getting young people into work Understanding the support and advice to local businesses, specifically with regards to support to young people, e.g. long-term unemployed, apprenticeships, zero-hours contracts, retraining and also exploring the co-operation between or duplication between support organisations with any links to such things as inward investment and LEP.	Project 9	Light touch review, and to involve leads in the review if possible	Med
West London Waste Plan	O&S Cmte	24th Feb 2015	Med
Council Tax Support review	O&S Cmte	18th Nov 2014	High
	Project 2a	Challenge Panel to look at current impact of scheme, linked to considerations set out in the Welfare Reform impact project (see below) to feed into O&S in November which considers the scheme. Therefore Challenge Panel in October.	High
School expansion programme a) travel plans b) Capital investment and current delivery against programme c) Roll out of free school meals for reception	Project 5 P&F Cmte O&S Cmte	Challenge Panel	High High High
Libraries & Leisure Contract or lessons learnt for future shared services	Project 6	Ealing have asked to do a joint review, therefore do through a joint challenge panel. Contracts started in Sept 2013.	Low

Theme	Methodology	Comments	Rank/comments (High, med, low, remove)
Impact of Welfare Reforms on residents in the borough a) Using the model used by scrutiny in the accessible transport review, undertake a day in the life of...customer's experience of navigating the help, support and benefits system to understand the impact of welfare reforms and the prevalence of fuel poverty, child poverty, payday loans, the impact of the Council's debt policy, affordability of rents or having to move out of the borough, access and use of Emergency Relief Scheme, access to and impact of welfare to work schemes and use of B&B and moving people out of borough. b) Preparations for introduction of universal credit c) Impact on Access Harrow	Project 2b O&S Cmte Leads	In-depth review Timetable for universal roll-out by Government is currently uncertain Resources Scrutiny Leads to investigate extent of issue in Harrow and feed back to Scrutiny Leadership Group	High Low Low
Impact of resource reductions on Access Harrow Performance	Leads	Pick up through briefings with Corporate Director	Med
Staff sickness absence and recruitment & retention	P&F Cmte		High
Staff Survey Results	O&S Cmte		Med
IT contract re-tendering	P&F Cmte		High
Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy, action plan and investment	Project 10	Possibly one year after strategy and investment have been approved. Link to Centre for Public Scrutiny work?	High
Housing Update on delivery of the recommendations from the Private Sector Housing Review Update on Homes for Harrow	P&F Cmte O&S Cmte	Cmte to be considered at to be determined Cmte to be considered at to be determined	Med Med
"Harrow First" local procurement - What is the plan, how is it tracking, what is best practice, social value act, apprenticeships Waste collection strategy Improvements, communications, flats, efficient and cost effective, different ways of delivering	O&S Cmte Project 7 Leads	Commercial and procurement strategy is scheduled to come to September O&S E&E Leads to follow up with Directorate and advise if it should be an up front piece of work that influences the proposals or something that comes to committee later to allow scrutiny of the actual proposals? Timing would be dependent on commissioning panel proposals	Med High

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Theme	Methodology	Comments	Rank/comments (High, med, low, remove)
Continue participation in Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) for Shaping a Healthier Future Programme	Project 3	The chair and vice-chair of the Health sub-cmte are the Council reps to this committee. The officer capacity required to support participation in this committee and its links with the merger with Ealing Hospitals and CQC inspection action plans means we have to consider it a policy project	High
Progress of Public Health transition to the local authority	Health Cmte	On agenda for 4th Sept. After this for CHW Scrutiny Leads to follow up and raise any potential issues for scrutiny at Scrutiny Leadership group	
How the Council is successfully becoming a Public Health Authority	O&S Cmte	Consideration of how the Council is taking on fully its public health responsibilities, rather than a focus on public health delivery following transition to the Council.	Med
Health inequalities and well-being outcomes - disparities between the east and west of the borough	Project 12	Not urgent, could be next year	Low
Merger of Ealing Hospital Trust and North West London Hospital Trust	Health Cmte	Mergers take place in Sept/Oct, report going to HWB in September. Link to SaHF and CQC inspection action plans	High
Mental Health service provision	Health Cmte		
CQC inspection of local care homes	Health Cmte	New powers only just come into effect and not been used yet	Med
CQC inspection results of RNOH and NWL and action plans	Health Cmte	Reports published August; bring commissioner and provider? Cmte and Health Scrutiny Leads should prioritise scrutinising performance against the action plan and connections to SaHF and Merger with Ealing Hospitals	High
Protocol for working together – Harrow Scrutiny & HWB	Project 13	No protocol currently exists, would need officer capacity to draft. Consider ToR of Health Cmte and HWB at next SLG meeting with a gap analysis.	Low

Theme	Methodology	Comments	Rank/comments (High, med, low, remove)
Healthwatch recommissioning	Leads	Health Scrutiny Leads to be involved in drafting spec and procurement which is taking place from September for contract to be let from April 2015	High
Care Act Implementation	O&S Cmte		High
Innovative models of resident engagement (use of social media, town hall events etc)			Removed - but kept in for future reference
Tree strategy			Removed - but kept in for future reference
Food hygiene & licensing and public health implications			Removed - but kept in for future reference

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