

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting:	23 rd July 2013
Subject:	Scrutiny Work Programme Update
Responsible Officer:	Alex Dewsnap Divisional Director, Strategic Commissioning
Scrutiny Lead Member area:	All
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report provides members with an update on the projects currently underway as part of the scrutiny work programme

Recommendations:

Councillors are asked to:

- I. Note the progress on the individual projects
- II. Agree proposals for identifying further projects for inclusion in the work programme

Section 2 – Report

A number of detailed scrutiny review projects are currently underway. This report provides members of the Overview and Scrutiny committee with an update on each of these projects.

2.1 Current Projects

The projects as set out below are currently underway or are about to commence:

Standing Scrutiny Review of the Budget

The project will review the following areas over the coming months and this will include:

- Response to the Business Rate Retention scheme will be considered during 2013
- Fees and charges will be considered during 2013
- Following discussions at the Scrutiny Leadership Group, the budget review also intends to consider the cost of transition from child to adult disability services

Regular reports are submitted to both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and, where necessary, Cabinet.

Customer Care

This project is well advanced with evidence gathering completed. Project work has included visits to other boroughs, experience of front line customer services and focus groups with staff. The review group met on 25th June to consider their recommendations and the final report and recommendations are likely to be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny in September 2013.

Accessible Transport

This project is investigating the impact of poor accessibility to public transport on the life experiences of residents. It has gathered information of the experiences of residents through a seminar, public consultation and journeys through the borough alongside residents with disabilities. The issues identified have now been discussed with council officers and TfL. The final report and recommendations are to be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September.

NW London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) – Shaping a Healthier Future

The JHOSC are scheduled to meet in September 2013 where Members will consider how they wish to monitor the implementation of Shaping A Healthier Future proposals.

NHS Health Checks

This is a joint review between Harrow and Barnet which will look at the role of the Council's Public Health team having effective arrangements in place for NHS Health Checks. This project is in the initial scoping stages.

Mental Health

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee are committed to looking at mental health services in more detail and are currently considering how best to format this review.

2.2 Future Projects

The Scrutiny Leadership Group meeting in July will prioritise projects for consideration over the next twelve months. All members of the Leadership Group will identify issues of concern, derived from performance information, resident concerns or through their discussions with relevant corporate directors. This list will then be considered against weighted criteria including:

- Cross party engagement achievable among scrutiny Members
- Capacity to influence (add value to decision making)
- Scope to improve financial/service performance
- Community relevance (potential to impact whole borough - demographically or geographically)
- Addresses future policy requirements
- Party political neutrality – especially important. in run up to next election
- Resource from the scrutiny team to support the project

Financial Implications

There are none associated with this report.

Performance Issues

There are none associated with this report.

Environmental Impact

There is none associated with this report.

Risk Management Implications

There are none associated with this report.

Equalities implications

An equalities impact assessment has not been undertaken in relation to this report as it makes no proposals with regard to service change

Corporate Priorities

All

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Not required for this report.

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Felicity Page, Senior Professional Scrutiny, 020 8420 9204,
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Background Papers:

None