

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND
 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 17th December 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. Note the decision to consider the Deletion of the Chief Executive post
- III. Agree proposals to close down all projects early in the New Year.
- IV. Agree to the identified projects being referred to the next Overview and Scrutiny committee for inclusion in the committee's 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:

Standing Scrutiny Review of the Budget

The Standing Review will not undertake any further work in the time remaining for this administration. However, a report of the work undertaken during the life of the project will be prepared and submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny committee in February 2014 for information.

Customer Care

The final report from this review is on the agenda for this evening's meeting and will be submitted to Cabinet in January 2014 with a response expected in February 2014.

Accessible Transport

This project is complete. It was reported to the Overview and Scrutiny committee in September and a response from Cabinet was received in November.

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

The JHOSC met in September 2013 and agreed to continue to meet to monitor the implementation of the Shaping a Healthier Future proposals. Implementation of the proposals is expected over a five-year timetable and it is recommended that members of the Overview and Scrutiny committee in the next administration continue to participate in the JHOSC.

NHS Health Checks

This review is considering how the take up of health checks can be improved in the borough. It is being run jointly with Barnet Council who share Harrow's Public Health Service. A report from the review will be presented to committee (either Health and Social Care sub committee or the Overview and Scrutiny committee) in the New Year – January or February 2014.

Mental Health

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee have agreed to investigate the performance of mental health services through their committee work programme and therefore this review will not go ahead.

Deletion of the Post of Chief Executive of the Council.

In November, the Leader of the Council announced her proposal to delete the post of Chief Executive of the Council. Scrutiny members held a challenge panel with the Leader to consider the risks associated with this on 4th December. The scope for this project is attached as Appendix One. It is hoped that the report from this project will also be available to the meeting this evening.

2.2 Future Projects

As the 2010 – 14 administration is drawing to a close, it is recommended that councillors ensure that all projects are completed and reported through to the scrutiny committees by February 2014 *at the latest*, this will ensure that the reviews can complete the reporting process by the time the period of purdah is implemented.

However, members of the Scrutiny Leadership Group have made a number of recommendations with regard to the work programme of the next administration:

- That the deferred Child's Journey Through Car project be included in the work programme.
- That the Shaping a Healthier Future proposals continue to be monitored, via the JHOSC and that Harrow representatives participate in this.
- Following the November briefing of the Environment and Enterprise leads with regard to the Climate Change Strategy, that scrutiny investigates Harrow's position as the borough with the highest level of fuel poverty in London.

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: Lynne Margetts, Service Manager Scrutiny. 020 8420 9387
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Background Papers:

None

APPENDIX ONE: DELETION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE POST CHALLENGE PANEL

DRAFT SCOPE

VERSION NUMBER 1

VERSION HISTORY 1st November 2013

1	SUBJECT	Proposal for the Deletion of the Post of Chief Executive to the Council
2	COMMITTEE	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
3	REVIEW GROUP	Councillors Cllr Sue Anderson Cllr Vina Mithani Cllr Bill Phillips Cllr Linda Seymour Cllr Sachin Shah Cllr Victoria Silver Cllr Bill Stephenson Cllr Yogesh Teli Co-optees None
4	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES/ OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To consider the robustness of the proposal for the deletion of the Chief Executive post• To consider whether associated risks with the deletion of the post have been identified and mitigated• To consider the robustness of the consequent senior management structure proposals• To consider whether risks associated with the future senior management structure have been identified and mitigated• To offer comment to the cabinet with regard to the proposal as part of the consultation process
5	MEASURES OF SUCCESS OF REVIEW	The review is able to offer constructive comment to cabinet on the proposed deletion of the Chief Executive post and consequent management arrangements as part of the consultation period The challenge panel's comments are considered helpful by cabinet
6	SCOPE	The review will restrict itself to consideration of the implications of the proposed deletion of the Chief Executive of the council post and the robustness of the subsequent management structure resultant from this deletion.

7	SERVICE PRIORITIES (Corporate/Dept)	
8	REVIEW SPONSOR	N/A
9	ACCOUNTABLE MANAGER	N/A
10	SUPPORT OFFICER	Lynne Margetts, Service Manager Scrutiny
11	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	Lynne Margetts, Service Manager Scrutiny
12	EXTERNAL INPUT	Stakeholders, partners, agencies, experts, advisers
13	METHODOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round table discussion with cabinet members to consider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reasons for the deletion ○ Timing of the deletion ○ Risks and mitigations of decision and subsequent management arrangements • Consideration of evidence from other boroughs that have deleted the Chief Executive post on the risks, mitigations and success factors associated with their activities • Consideration of the views of partners agencies
14	EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS	
15	ASSUMPTIONS/ CONSTRAINTS	The project will need to be completed in time for consideration as part of the consultation process
16	SECTION 17 IMPLICATIONS	None
17	TIMESCALE	See assumptions and constraints
18	RESOURCE COMMITMENTS	Project costs will be met from within existing scrutiny resources
19	REPORT AUTHOR	Lynne Margetts, in consultation with challenge panel members

20	REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS	Outline of formal reporting process: To Portfolio Holder [] TBC To Cabinet [] TBC
21	FOLLOW UP ARRANGEMENTS (proposals)	TBC