

REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting:	16 September 2015
Subject:	Draft scope for Scrutiny Reviews of Community Involvement in Parks and Social & Community Infrastructure
Responsible Officer:	Alex Dewsnap, Divisional Director, Strategic Commissioning
Scrutiny Lead Member area:	Environment & Enterprise: Policy Lead – Councillor Jeff Anderson Performance Lead – Councillor Ameet Jogia
Exempt:	No
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Draft scope for Scrutiny Review of Community Involvement in Parks Draft Scope for Scrutiny of Social and Community Infrastructure

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the draft scope for two scrutiny reviews from the Environment and Enterprise Scrutiny Leads covering community involvement in parks and Social and Community Infrastructure.

Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- Consider and agree the scopes for the reviews.
- Provide a steer to any further membership and chairing arrangements for the reviews.
- Agree upon the timing of the scrutiny reviews.

Section 2 – Report

The Scrutiny Leadership Group asked that a scrutiny review of community involvement in parks and of social and community infrastructure form part of the scrutiny work programme for 2015/2016.

The attached draft scopes for these two reviews have been pulled together with input from officers and scrutiny councillors who have already indicated an interest in taking part in this review. The draft scope for the community involvement in parks review suggests that it will consider current levels of community involvement in Harrow's parks and the schemes in operation to encourage more residents to be actively involved or volunteer in their local parks. Community usage of parks will be examined in terms of sports groups, access to grant funding, community lettings and events. The wider impact of parks in relation to community cohesion, public health and social benefits will be considered.

In inputting into the development of the next open spaces and parks strategy for 2016 onwards, this review will in particular look at the plans contained within Project Phoenix and the commercialisation strategy for parks.

The draft scope for the Social and Community Infrastructure review is suggesting it focusses on examining the factors that contribute to new residential developments, taking place within the Heart of Harrow as part of the Councils Regeneration plans, becoming communities and help existing communities accept and integrate with new residents and vice versa. It will explore the contribution that can be made by the Council and community and voluntary sector organisations to develop community benefits such as cohesion, self help, volunteering, neighbourliness and mutual support; and recommend initiatives that could facilitate community development in the Heart of Harrow.

Chairing arrangements for the reviews are yet to be determined. Both reviews should be concluded by the end of the municipal year it is proposed that this review and that on social and community infrastructure do not run concurrently given the overlap in Councillor Membership and the officer resources requested from the same directorate. It is therefore suggested that the social and community infrastructure review is undertaken first, running from September until December and reporting to O&S in January and the Community involvement in parks review starts in January and runs until March, reporting to O&S in April.

Financial Implications

The costs of delivering this project will be met from within existing resources.

Performance Issues

There is no specific performance issues associated with this report.

Environmental Impact

There is no specific environmental impact associated with this report.

Risk Management Implications

There are none specific to this report.

Equalities Implications

The review will consider during the course of its work, how equality implications have been taken into account in current policy and practice and consider the possible implications of any changes it recommends.

Council Priorities

- Making a difference for communities

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Statutory clearances not required.

Ward Councillors notified:	N/A
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Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Nahreen Matlib, Senior Policy Officer, 020 8420 9204

Mohammed Ilyas, Policy Officer, 020 8424 1322

Background Papers:

- Scope for the Scrutiny Review of Community Involvement in Parks
- Scope for the Scrutiny Review of Social and Community Infrastructure