

REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting:	1 February 2017 (Special Meeting - 7pm)
Subject:	Draft Scope for Regeneration Scrutiny Review
Responsible Officer:	Divisional Director of Strategic Commissioning
Scrutiny Lead Member area:	Councillor Jeff Anderson and Councillor Manjibhai Kara (Environment and Enterprise)
Exempt:	No
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Draft Scope for Regeneration Scrutiny Challenge Panel

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the draft scope for the Scrutiny Review on Regeneration.

Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- Consider and agree the scope for the review (cf. Appendix)
- Request that Groups notify officers of the membership of the Review
- Agree that the Chair of the Review will be Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane
- Agree the timing of the Review and associated reporting arrangements.

Section 2 – Report

The Scrutiny Leadership Group agreed that a review on regeneration form part of the scrutiny work programme for 2016/2017.

The attached scope (Appendix) has been drafted with input from officers and councillors who met on 12 January 2017.

It is proposed that the scope of the Regeneration Scrutiny Review is to examine the Council's regeneration and development programme on general fund land, HRA land, other public sector land and private land over the period 2017-21; to assess whether the Council's proposals for the financing of its regeneration programme are realistic, affordable, robust and deliverable, including such aspects of the commercialisation strategy (e.g. the proposal to build private homes for rent) that directly impact upon the Regeneration and Development Programme; to ensure that financial risks are properly considered and that proposed mitigations are appropriate and balanced; to appraise the projected financial benefits of the Council's regeneration programme; and to achieve greater understanding and clarity of the financing of the Regeneration and Development Programme by Members.

The detailed scope is to include:

- Review of the planned capital and revenue financing for the regeneration programme;
- Investigation of the regeneration programme finance model, in particular the underlying assumptions, cash flow projections and projected costs and benefits over the near and longer term;
- Review of selected financial assessments for individual regeneration projects;
- Appraisal of risk management processes and proposed mitigation measures; and
- Review of projected benefits of the regeneration programme, including direct and indirect benefits to the Council, business and to the local community.

All councillors involved in the scoping discussions agreed that given the significance of this policy area for the Council in the long term, the Review needed to be given more time than the standard Challenge Panel methodology would allow. The Group have therefore suggested that this becomes a more substantive review allowing enough time for thorough Challenge Panel sessions and to undertake field visits to other councils.

If the Scrutiny Review goes ahead over a longer time frame, as proposed, the impact on policy officer capacity to support a larger review would mean that it would account for 2 of the 4 project slots in the 2017/18 scrutiny work plan. This does, however, give an opportunity for issues that were raised as part of the LGA Peer Review to be addressed; such as cross-party working on policy development. The Group felt that more than one Challenge Panel meeting

would be required to undertake the Review sufficiently and officers suggested that there should be no more than 3 Challenge Panel sessions.

The themes for these sessions were not agreed at the scoping meeting, but it is proposed that they should be around the themes of the scope as follows:

- Challenge Panel Sessions 1 and 2: Financing of the regeneration programme
- Challenge Panel Session 3: Risks, opportunities and contingencies

Councillors also propose undertaking 4 field visits to explore best practice by other councils in how they finance and manage their regeneration and development programmes. The political leadership of the councils chosen for visits will be equally divided between Conservative and Labour control, reflecting the main political parties on the Council. All field visits will be accompanied by a Council officer.

Financial Implications

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

Performance Issues

There are 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 no risk management implications

Equalities Implications

The Challenge Panel 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

- Build a Better Harrow
- Be more business-like and business-friendly

Section 3

Ward Councillors notified:

N/A

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Shumaila Dar, Policy Officer, 020 8424 1820, shumaila.dar@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

- Draft scope for the Regeneration Scrutiny Review