

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	11 th June 2009
Subject:	Scrutiny Work Programme
Responsible Officer:	Alex Dewsnap, Divisional Director Partnership Development and Performance
Portfolio Holder:	Performance, Communication and Corporate Services Portfolio Holder
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix One: Scrutiny Work Programme Proposals

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report introduces proposals for inclusion in the scrutiny work programme for 2009/10

Recommendations:

Councillors are recommended to:

- I. Agree the items they wish to be included in the work programme
- II. Prioritise these items or ask the scrutiny team to devise an appropriate timetable to deliver the work programme
- III. Refer the outcome of their considerations to Full Council on 9th July 2009

Section 2 – Report

Background

On 21st April, the Overview and Scrutiny committee received a report outlining proposed projects for inclusion in the scrutiny work programme for 2009/10. This meeting authorised officers to begin discussions with the council's corporate strategy board and with cabinet in order ascertain their views on the proposed projects and also to identify any additional projects which they would like to suggest be included in the work programme. Comments received are incorporated in the matrix attached as Appendix One.

As this is the final year of the current administration and in order to maintain the political neutrality of scrutiny, councillors agreed in April, that the work programme must be completed by January 2010. Councillors are therefore asked to bear this in mind when identifying the projects they wish to include in the work programme. In order to ensure that projects are approached systematically and that the highest priorities are tackled first, councillors are also asked to prioritise those that they include in the work programme. If it is preferred, the scrutiny team can prepare an appropriate timetable for delivering the programme and discuss further with councillors.

Councillors may also wish to leave some room in the programme in order for urgent projects that emerge during the year to also be addressed. In addition, since the original list of projects was drawn up, a number of additional items have been flagged up and these are listed below for further consideration

- Impact of the re-opening Wealdstone High Street to traffic – this was deferred from the work programme in 2008/09 in order to give the changes more time to bed in and thus their impact to be assessed.
- Issues arising from the development of the 'Use of Resources' and 'Area Assessment' improvement plans – there are no specific details on this at the moment but there may be a number of projects which will be appropriate for scrutiny investigation and which councillors may wish to include in the work programme as necessary

Financial Implications

All projects included in the scrutiny work programme will be delivered from within existing resources.

Performance Issues

See Appendix Two

Risk Implications

There are no risks associated with this report.

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

Background Papers:

None

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	YES
2.	Corporate Priorities	YES

Project	Possible detail	How	Who	When	Comments
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APPENDIX ONE

CURRENT PROJECTS					
Standing review of the budget	<p>Phase Two of this project is now underway. Specific strands include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the capital budget • Investigation of options for revenue generation • Shared services – in particular asset management 	This is a standing review	<p>Cllr Sheinwald (chairman) Cllr Gate Cllr Idaikkadar Cllr Kara Cllr Kinneer Cllr Seymour Cllr Solanki Cllr Teli Cllr Zeid</p> <p>Elizabeth Hugo Cliff Lichfield Philip Morrish</p>	Ongoing	
Healthcare for London	Harrow is represented on the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee by Cllr Mithani (Cllr Davine is reserve). The JOSC is considering proposals from Healthcare for London regarding major trauma and stroke services.	Pan London committee	<p>Representative on JOSC Cllr Mithani Cllr Davine (reserve)</p>	This phase will run until summer 2009, but further work will be forthcoming as proposals are developed. The working group will therefore need to be kept in place.	

Project	Possible detail	How	Who	When	Comments
Healthcare for London - working group	To provide support to the members of the JOSC by identifying Harrow perspective to recommendations being made.	This is an informal group providing support to the representatives	Cllr Mithani Cllr Davine Cllr Rekha Shah Cllr Sheinwald Cllr Versallion	The working group meets to support the Harrow JOSC representative, if this no longer meets the working group will be suspended, but may be reconstituted to support other Healthcare for London consultations.	
Sustainability	<p>The scope of the review includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the draft Climate Change Strategy • Support for the local business base – Small and Medium Enterprises • Community cohesion <p>There is also a proposal to hold a roundtable discussion with partners to see how well their sustainability policies and strategies join up with the council's.</p>	In-depth review	Cllr Seymour (joint chairman) Cllr Miles (joint chairman) Cllr Idaikkadar Cllr Kinnear Cllr O'Dell Cllr Solanki Cllr Teli	Spring – autumn 2009 The Climate Change Strategy challenge panel met on 6 th May.	<p>The title of this review is misleading, might more appropriately be entitled '<i>social and economic sustainability issues</i>'</p> <p>To remain as a 'sustainability review' it would need to consider strategy for the built environment - LDF</p>

Project	Possible detail	How	Who	When	Comments
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PROPOSED PROJECTS – CARRIED OVER FROM 2008/09					
Communications and fear of crime	The fear of crime in the borough remains high, though reducing, whilst crime levels are comparatively low. The possibility of considering how the council and partners work with local media to communicate crime data might help address this imbalance	Challenge panel/light touch review	Cllr O'Dell	TBC	The reduction in the level of fear of crime may reduce the priority given to this project
Young people and crime	Linked to the fear of crime, young people are often perceived to be perpetrators of crime but are more often than not the victims. This piece of work can support the work around fear of crime.	Challenge panel/light touch review	Cllr O'Dell	TBC	The Director of Children's Services recognises there are a number of issues in this area. The council is required to produce a number of statutory plans and a timetable for developing these plans will be devised in order to maximise the input of scrutiny

Project	Possible detail	How	Who	When	Comments
Adults and Housing Transformation Programme Plan	This is an issue initially raised by the Director of Adults and Housing Services and it would be appropriate to continue to provide scrutiny support to monitor the implementation of the transformation programme	Challenge panel	Cllr O'Dell	TBC	
Transitions	Concerns have been raised by councillors about how vulnerable children and young people transfer across to adults services	TBC	TBC	TBC	The Directors of Children's Services and Adults and Housing Services recognise the need for improvement in this area and will develop a timetable for improving performance which will maximise the input of scrutiny.

Project	Possible detail	How	Who	When	Comments
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PROPOSED PROJECTS – EMERGING					
Community lettings	This is residual work following the Developing a Strengthened Voluntary and Community Sector and Extended Schools reviews and is a further investigation of how effectively the council supports the 3 rd sector through the availability of premises.	Any further work is dependent upon the outcome of investigation by cultural services which will be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny committee in June	TBC	TBC	It would be helpful to look at the implementation plan that has derived from the Developing a Strengthened Voluntary and Community Sector review as a whole rather than just the community lettings component
Housing Revenue Account	The Performance and Finance sub committee investigated the performance of the Housing Revenue Account and identified concerns regarding its longer-term viability. The Director of Housing is undertaking an investigation of the issues and depending upon the outcome of this work, the committee may wish to schedule a specific project later in the year	TBC	TBC	To commence summer/autumn	This is an important piece of work but will need careful scheduling in the context of the elections. It may be more fruitful to consider this issue after the local elections in 2010

Project	Possible detail	How	Who	When	Comments
Performance of the Kier contract	The performance of the Kier contract has been considered on a number of occasions by the Performance and Finance sub committee. Concerns remain and the committee is proposing a more detailed investigation	This work will focus on the minor works/housing repairs component of the contract. It will also use the outcome of the LEAN project investigation of the housing repairs service as the basis of the investigation	Current nominations: Cllr Versallion Cllr Zeid Cllr Mudhar	To commence as soon as possible.	This project should be informed by the other work that has been undertaken in this area in order to add value.
NW London Acute Health Services Review	This issue is beginning to emerge in discussions with health partners. There is no specific detail regarding proposals at this stage but it is likely to involve rationalisation of acute hospital provision. As there are few Foundation hospitals in the region (which are exempt from the review) there may be significant proposals for local health provision.	Unclear at this point in time, but councillors may leave space in the work programme to pick it up	TBC	TBC	Hopefully the scrutiny work in this area will present a response on behalf of the council as a whole, not just scrutiny.

Project	Possible detail	How	Who	When	Comments
Grants criteria	Recommendation 15 of scrutiny's review 'Delivering a strengthened voluntary and community sector for Harrow' asks that proposals to review the Council's grants criteria be brought to a scrutiny challenge panel, in preparation for the 2010/11 grants application round.	Challenge Panel	Cllr Sheinwald (chairman) Cllr Davine Cllr Teli Cllr Gate Julie Brown Ramji Chauhan Mike Coker Julia Smith	22 nd June 2009	

APPENDIX TWO: PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Indicator	Current performance	Target performance
Communications and fear of crime		
% adults in fear of being victim of crime	41%	33% 08/09 LAA 30% 09/10 27% 10/11
Young people and crime		
NI 43 Young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction	3.6 (Q3 08/09)	5.0
NI 111 First time entrants to YJS 10-17 yrs	41 (Q3 08/09)	39
NI 115 Substance misuse by YP	12% (TellUs survey)	LAA – 11% 08/09 10% 09/10 9% 10/11
Community cohesion		
NI 1 % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area	76.2%	LAA – 78% 09/10 79.8% 10/11
NI 2 % of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood	54.1%	
NI 3 Civic participation in the local area	16.6%	
NI 4 % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality	32.7%	
NI 5 Overall/general satisfaction with local area	70.3%	
NI 6 Participation in regular volunteering	24.0%	LAA – 25.8% 09/10 27.7% 10/11
NI 7 Environment for a thriving third sector	10.40%	LAA – 12.6% 09/10 14.8% 10/11 (prov.)
NI 11 Engagement in the Arts	42.4%	LAA – 42.9% 2008/9 44.5% 09/10 45.5% 10/11
NI 13 Migrants' English language skills and knowledge	71%	74% (09/10) 77% (10/11)
NI 35 Building resilience to violent extremism	2	LAA – 1.5 08/09 2.0 09/10 2.5 10/11

Adults and Housing Transformation Programme Plan		
Programme status report across 7 programme areas	Green (7)	Green
Safeguarding children		
NI 59 Initial assessments completed in 7 days...	80.82%	80%
NI 60 Timing of core assessments	76.41%	80%
NI 62 Stability of placements of Children Looked After (CLA) – no. of placements	6.76%	12%
NI 63 Stability of placements of CLA – length of placement	68.29%	62%
NI 64 Duration on Child Protection Register (CPR)	8.66%	10%
NI 65 Re-registrations on CPR	12.28%	12.5%
NI 66 Timeliness of reviews	98.6%	95%
NI 67 Reviews of CP cases	100%	100%
NI 68 % of Children in Need referrals that led to initial assessments	72.21%	55%
NI 69 Children who have experienced bullying	40.2	42
NI 109 No. of Sure Start children's centres	56%	56%
NI 163 Adoptions of CLA	20.4	14
Equalities		
NI 140 Fair treatment by local services	64.1%	LAA – 66.1% 09/10 68.1% 10/11
NI 141 Percentage of vulnerable people achieving independent living	80.43%	78%
NI 142 Percentage of vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living	98.75%	99%

NI 145 Adults with learning disabilities in settled accommodation	70%	
NI 146 Adults with learning disabilities in employment	Baseline to be established 09/10	LAA – “statistically significant improvement”
NI 147 Care leavers in suitable accommodation	90.9%	90%
NI 148 Care leavers in education employment or training	68.18%	78%
NI 149 Adults receiving secondary mental health services in settled accommodation	Baseline to be established 09/10	LAA – “statistically significant improvement”
NI 150 Adults receiving secondary mental health services in employment	10.5%	-
Housing Revenue Account		
Provisional outturn (May 2009)	-£5,026k	-£5,451k