

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	28 July 2009
Subject:	Scrutiny Work Programme Update
Responsible Officer:	Alex Dewsnap,. Divisional Director, Partnership Development and Performance
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Paul Osborn, Communication and Corporate Services Portfolio Holder
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report provides an update on the scrutiny reviews currently underway

Recommendations:

Councillors are recommended to:

- I. Note progress on the individual projects

Section 2 – Report

Background

This report outlines progress made on the individual projects currently underway as part of the current scrutiny work programme. The Overview and Scrutiny committee meeting on 3rd September will receive a more detailed report outlining the timetable and scheduling of the projects that have been identified for completion in the work programme for 21009/10.

Standing Review of NHS Finances

The draft report from the review has been prepared and has been included in the agenda for Overview and Scrutiny committee on 24th September.

Standing Review of Budget

The second phase of the budget review has commenced. The review is considering three strands of work:

- shared services - focusing on asset management - the group considered the place strategy and the council's approach to asset management at its meeting on 16th June;
- revenue income maximisation - a survey of officers strategic approach to fees and charges is being undertaken; and
- the capital budget - visits to other boroughs (Wandsworth, Camden, Newham, Hillingdon) have been undertaken.

The evidence gathered under these three streams will be discussed in round table session with the Leader and Director of Finance during the autumn.

Sustainability

The review's investigation is focussed around three themes:

- Consideration of the Climate Change Strategy
- Support to the borough's business base
- Community cohesion

The report from the Climate Change Strategy challenge panel was presented to the O&S committee in June.

A conference to investigate the impact of the recession on the cohesiveness of the community will take place on 29th July.

A survey of local businesses is planned to assess the level and kind of support that they would like to receive to sustain them through the recession. This will be used to support proposals being developed by the Economic Development team.

Extended schools

The final report of this review will be considered at the September Cabinet meeting.

Healthcare for London

Harrow Overview and Scrutiny Committee's response to the consultation was submitted prior to the 8 May deadline, following a challenge session with a number of local NHS and Council key players. An update report is on this evening's agenda and a verbal update will also be provided.

Grants Criteria

Report from this project was submitted to the Grants Advisory Panel and is also on this evening's agenda.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications specific to this report.

Performance Issues

There are no performance issues specific to this report.

Risk Implications

There are no risks associated with this report.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Not required.

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	No
2.	Corporate Priorities	No