

CABINET 17TH NOVEMBER 2011

PROGRESS ON SCRUTINY PROJECTS

Review	Methodology	Type of report	Expected date for report to Cabinet	Comments
<p>Standing Review of Better Deal for Residents Programme</p>	<p>Standing Review</p>	<p>Regular update reports to O&S and interim and final report to O&S and Cabinet</p>	<p>The final report from this project will be dependent upon the lifecycle of the Better Deal for Residents programme.</p> <p>A report of the first phase of the project was considered in July 2011.</p> <p>The group has agreed to submit quarterly reports to the Overview and Scrutiny committee.</p>	<p>The second phase of the review has started. This part of the project will consider the impact of the programme on local people and whether or not the programme is achieving its ambitions. The scope for phase two will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny committee on 1st November.</p> <p>Regular reports from the VERTO system will be made to the group. From this report, the group will consider how effectively the projects have delivered the outcomes anticipated. A timetable for consideration of specific projects is being devised,</p> <p>The group hopes to consider a number of the new projects which are included on the VERTO system to consider how far the organisation is considering the impact of proposals on residents – this will specifically support the organisation's approach to Equalities in the context of the Birmingham Judgement</p>

Standing Review of the Budget	Standing Review	Regular update reports to O&S and interim and final report to O&S and Cabinet	TBC	<p>The draft scope is due to be presented to the O&S committee in November. At its first meeting the review proposed the consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the determination and management of the Council's capital budget • the changing local government and public sector financial policy environment and the council's response to these changes • the process for setting the budget and budget/savings proposals (November/December dependent upon when papers are available) • the impact of savings proposals on residents whether or not 'in-year' savings are being delivered (April - as information becomes available)
Performance Management	Light touch review	Final report to O&S and Cabinet	Phase two – December 2011	<p>The report from the second phase of this project, which has comprised a more detailed consideration of the council's future performance management framework, will be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny committee in November.</p>
Snow clearance	Challenge Panel	Final report to O&S and Cabinet	October 2011 – response from officers in November	<p>Set in the context of increasingly harsh winter conditions, this project has considered how the council's snow clearance priorities are established and how the council can work with residents to address winter conditions. The report from the challenge panel was agreed by September 22nd meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny committee and at Cabinet in October. An officer response to the recommendations will be considered at Cabinet in November.</p>

Engaging with Young People	Light Touch Review	Final Report to O&S and Cabinet	Anticipated for February 2012	Fieldwork is currently underway. The project will investigate how young people can have more of a say in key decisions and how the council can open up new opportunities for skills development, through volunteering, to increase youth participation in the borough. The review expects to report to the Overview and Scrutiny committee in January 2012.
Debt Recovery	Challenge Panel	Final Report to O&S and Cabinet	January 2011	This project will investigate the feasibility of co-ordinating the different debt recovery processes which are in place across the council. It will also investigate whether a more proportionate approach to debt recovery could be introduced. The challenge panel will meet on 9 th November and a report to the Overview and Scrutiny committee is expected in December.

Anticipated projects

Proposals to merge Ealing Hospital and the NW London Hospitals trust are emerging. It is probable that Harrow will be invited to join a Joint Overview and Scrutiny committee with Brent and Ealing councils in the next few months as the consultation process on the proposals starts.

Subject to the agreement of the Overview and Scrutiny committee, the following projects will be scheduled:

- Customer care
- Private sector housing capacity

The scrutiny leadership group will also be holding a small challenge panel as a means of participating in the senior management restructure consultation.

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