

<b>Committee:</b> Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Date:</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2012	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted	<b>Report No.</b>	<b>Agenda Item No.</b>
<b>Report of:</b>  Louise Russell, Service Head, Corporate Strategy and Equality		<b>Title:</b>  Overview and Scrutiny Committee Outline Work Programme 2013-14		
<b>Originating Officer:</b>  Daisy Beserve – Senior Strategy Policy and Performance Officer, Corporate Strategy and Equality Service, Chief Executive’s Directorate		<b>Wards:</b>  All		

## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report provides the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with progress to date in developing the work programme for the municipal year 2013/14, and the latest version of the work programme.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The OSC is recommended to:

- 2.1. Consider and comment on the work programme 2013/14 – Appendix 1; and
- 2.2. Approve the work programme as a live document that will continue to be updated by the Chair, in consultation with the Committee.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. At its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2013 the Committee agreed the process for developing its work programme for the current municipal year. This included:
- Corporate Strategy and Equality to provide a briefing note for each Scrutiny Lead on their directorate portfolio. This included performance information and forthcoming items from the Council’s Forward Plan and Strategic Plan.
  - One-to-one meetings between scrutiny leads and corporate directors to discuss potential areas for scrutiny; and
  - A work programme development session for all Committee members.
- 3.2. A briefing note was produced for each scrutiny lead, including a summary of services within the portfolio, key challenges and opportunities, performance

information, perception and satisfaction data and forward plan items. Most scrutiny leads were also able to meet with the corporate director for their portfolio to further discuss the briefing note and other areas of interest.

#### 4. BODY OF REPORT

- 4.1. The work programme development session was held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June. Chris Holme, Interim Corporate Director for Resources, attended as the Corporate Management Team representative. Members of the Corporate Strategy and Equality Service, who provide policy support for the Committee, were also in attendance. The workshop was chaired by Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman and facilitated by Sunita Sharma, an independent scrutiny consultant.
- 4.2. The Committee identified a number of possible areas for scrutiny and a list of potential scrutiny topics and methods of scrutiny was agreed, see Table 1. The list also includes suggestions by Councillor Helal Uddin, Scrutiny Lead for Communities, Localities and Culture, who was not present at the meeting. The list reflects the Committee's aim to set a clear and succinct work programme for this municipal year, particularly in light of the 2014 local elections.

Table 1: List of potential scrutiny topics and methods of scrutiny

Potential Topic	Method of Scrutiny
Employment and Post-16 Attainment	Update on previous scrutiny reviews on employment and attainment
Decent Homes	Challenge Session
School Spaces	Challenge Session
Early Education Provision for Two Year Olds	Spotlight Session with ESCW Directorate
Special Education Needs	Spotlight Session with ESCW Directorate
Fairness Commission	Spotlight Session with the Chair of the Commission
Integration of Health and Social Care	Spotlight Session – Health Scrutiny
Right to Buy	Scrutiny Review
Career Development for Disabled Staff	Spotlight Session with Resources Directorate
Resident Engagement in the Budget Process	Challenge Session
Democratic Audit/Civic Space	TBC with Scrutiny Lead
Electoral Services	Update on Election/Individual Registration
Youth Services	Challenge Session
Localism	Spotlight Session
DAAT/DIP and Public Health Commission	Spotlight Session – Health Scrutiny

- 4.3. The potential scrutiny topic areas have been used to develop the work programme, Appendix 1, which also includes scheduled forward plan items.
- 4.4. In order to streamline the structure of Committee meetings there will be regular directorate spotlight sessions. These thematic sessions will be planned to coincide with forward plan items relating to the spotlighted directorate. Challenge sessions will take place outside of the meetings, with reports – including recommendations – brought back to the Committee for consideration and approval.
- 4.5. At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July the draft work programme was presented to the Committee for further discussion.
- 4.6. Members raised some concerns about the number of items scheduled for some meetings, whilst also recognising the need to complete most of the work of the Committee within six months. It was suggested that some topics currently scheduled for a spotlight session could be dealt with as a scrutiny lead member briefing session instead to reduce the number of items to be considered at the OSC meetings. The spotlight session on Special Education Needs, for example, could be a lead member briefing, with other members invited to attend and a report presented to the Committee.
- 4.7. As part of reducing the number of items on the OSC schedule, members also discussed moving the spotlight session on the integration of health and social care to the work programme and public health commissioning to the Health Scrutiny Panel.
- 4.8. The work programme, Appendix 1, has been updated in light of discussions at the Committee meeting and with members. However, further work is still needed to scope some of the areas in the work programme. The Corporate Strategy and Equality Service will continue to work with the OSC chair, scrutiny lead members and directorates to do so.

## **5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

- 5.1 This report describes the Overview and Scrutiny work programme in 2013-14.
- 5.2 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **6. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)**

- 6.1 Rule 8 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, contained in the Council's Constitution, provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be responsible for agreeing the overview and scrutiny work programme for the year. The recommendations in the report are consistent with that rule.

- 6.2 The activities included in the work programme appear consistent with the functions of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in Article 6 of the Council's Constitution.
- 6.3 In determining the work programme, the Committee should have due regard to the Council's public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The Council is required to have due regard, when exercising its functions, to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

## **7. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1. The One Tower Hamlets principles of reducing inequality, promoting community cohesion and building community leadership are pivotal to all that the Committee does. There are also some specific areas in this year's work programme that will explore One Tower Hamlets issues, these include: Special Education Needs, Career Development for Disabled Staff and Resident Engagement in the Budget Process.

## **8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

- 8.1. There are no direct environmental issues arising from this report.

## **9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. There are no direct risk management issues arising from this report.

## **10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. The Committee will be holding a community safety spotlight session, which will include a look at the performance of community safety partners in tackling and preventing crime and disorder. Alongside this, the Committee will also be considering the borough's Community Safety Plan and Licencing Policy.

## **11. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT**

- 11.1. The Committee plays an important role in supporting the Council to be as efficient as possible and deliver value for money for local people. It does so in a number of ways, including through the review of services and the Council's budget.

## **12. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14

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**Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)**  
**List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report**

None

**To be completed by author**

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