

<b>Committee:</b> Overview & Scrutiny	<b>Date:</b> 1 April 2014	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>Agenda Item:</b>
<b>Report of:</b>  Service Head for Corporate Strategy & Equality		<b>Title:</b> Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2014/15  <b>Wards Affected:</b> ALL		

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides the committee with progress to date in developing the Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for the municipal year 2014/15. The draft work programme has been informed by discussions with senior officers and a Committee workshop session facilitated by the Corporate Strategy and Equality Service.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The committee is asked to approve the programme of reviews, challenge sessions and agenda items.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting on 8th July 2014 the Committee agreed the process for developing its work programme for the current municipal year. This included:
- Corporate Strategy and Equality (working with Directorate SPP teams) provided a briefing note 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, and
  - A work programme development session for all Committee members.
- 3.2. The work programme development session was held on Monday 14th July and was facilitated by members of the Corporate Strategy and Equality Service, who provide policy support for the Committee. The workshop was chaired by Cllr Joshua Peck.
- 3.3. Committee members identified a number of potential areas for scrutiny review work, and assessed these against an agreed list of criteria for meaningful and productive scrutiny topics:
- Is there a great deal of public interest in the topic?
  - Is it an area with a large budget?

- Is the service performing well? Are local people and service users satisfied with the service?
- Is it a key issue for Members?
- Is the issue already being looked at by other bodies?
- Is there new government guidance or legislation that requires a policy change?
- What can a review achieve? Is there an opportunity to influence change?

3.5. Following this discussion a proposed list of scrutiny review topics and methods of scrutiny was agreed (see Table 1).

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

Directorate	Topic	Method of Scrutiny	Scrutiny lead member	Service Head lead
CLC	Improving cycling safety	Challenge session	Cllr John Pierce	Jamie Blake
	Drug enforcement	Scrutiny Review	Cllr John Pierce	Andy Bamber
	Customer satisfaction and value for money of leisure centres	Scrutiny Review	Cllr Abjol Miah	Shazia Hussain
D&R	Member involvement in Section 106 decisions and the quality of Section 106 funded social housing	Challenge Session	Cllr Dave Chesterton	Owen Whalley
	The implications of conservation areas for the extension of family homes	Challenge Session	Cllr Joshua Peck	Owen Whalley
	Town centre policy and delivery	Scrutiny Review	Cllr Joshua Peck	Andy Scott
Resources	Specification and management of council contracts (with case studies on Veolia and Greenwich Leisure Limited)	Challenge session	Cllr Abjol Miah	Barry Scarr
ESCW	Effectiveness of literacy and numeracy on outcomes for children and families	Scrutiny Review	Cllr Denise Jones	Anne Canning
	Support for carers	Challenge session	Cllr Asma Begum	Dorne Canareck

3.6. The proposed scrutiny topic areas have also been used to develop an agenda forward plan for the Committee's meetings in 2014-15 (see Appendix 1). These will include regular 'spotlight' sessions focused on key areas of interest that emerge during the course of the year, with sessions with the police Borough Commander and Registered Social Landlords planned, as well as with council services.

- 3.8. At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 22nd July the list of proposed Scrutiny Review and Challenge Session topics and outline forward plan (Appendix 1) was presented to the Committee for further discussion. No amendments were made.
- 3.9. In addition the Health Scrutiny Panel have held a work programme workshop and identified the following topics for review work in 2014-15:
- Review of self-management programmes for patients with long term conditions (Scrutiny Review)
  - Barts Health: Transforming Services, Changing Lives (Challenge Session)
  - The role of housing providers in improving health of residents (Challenge Session)
- 3.10. The Corporate Strategy and Equality Service will work with the OSC chair, scrutiny lead members and directorates to agree the scope of individual review work topics. A final work programme will be presented to the Committee on 2nd September for approval.

#### **4. LEGAL COMMENTS**

- 4.1 Section 21 and 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 requires all principal local authorities to appoint one or more Overview & Scrutiny committees as part of its executive arrangements.
- 4.2 Such committees have power to review or scrutinise both executive and non-executive decision-making and to make reports and recommendations to the council or its executive in connection with any local authority function.

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

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

#### **6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 None.

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

- 7.1 None.

#### **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 None.

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

9.1 None.

---

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 (AS AMENDED) SECTION 100D

LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

<b>Background paper</b>	Name and telephone number of and address where open to inspection
-------------------------	---

## Appendix 1: Overview & Scrutiny agenda forward plan 2014/15

Meeting date	Spotlight/agenda items & lead officer
8 July 2014	
22 July 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poplar Town Hall investigation (Chris Holme, Meic Sullivan-Gould, Aman Dalvi)</li> <li>• Strategic Performance and Budget Report: Q4 and Year-end (Kevin Miles &amp; Louise Russell)</li> </ul>
2 Sept 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium Term Financial Plan (Chris Holme)</li> <li>• Performance spotlight: social housing provider (Jackie Odunoye)</li> </ul>
30 Sept 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Performance and Budget Report: Q1 (Kevin Miles &amp; Louise Russell)</li> <li>• Readiness for new school curriculum (Anne Canning)</li> <li>• Substance Misuse Strategy Extension</li> </ul>
4 Nov 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on disposal of Poplar Town Hall (Chair)</li> <li>• Best Value Inspection report (TBC)</li> <li>• Complaints and Information Governance Annual Report</li> <li>• Progress Report: Removing Barriers to Youth Employment (Andy Scott)</li> </ul>
2 Dec 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spotlight: Mayor (possibly including working relationship between Mayor's Office and Corporate Mgt Team)</li> <li>• Policy on trees and resident consultation (Jamie Blake)</li> <li>• Spotlight: Police Borough Commander (Andy Bamber)</li> <li>• Performance spotlight: TBD</li> <li>• Spotlight: Implementation of Electoral Commission recommendations</li> </ul>
6 Jan 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Performance and Budget Report: Q2 (Kevin Miles &amp; Louise Russell)</li> <li>• Complaints and Information Governance Six-month Report (David Galpin)</li> <li>• Challenge session report: specification and management of council contracts (Barry Scarr)</li> </ul>
19 Jan 2015	Budget Scrutiny (Chris Holme)
3 Feb 2015	<i>Budget Scrutiny (Chris Holme)</i>
10 Feb 2015	Progress Report: Budget Consultation Challenge Session (Takki Sulaiman) Progress Report: Youth Services scrutiny review Challenge session report: The implications of conservation areas for extension of family homes (Owen Whalley)
3 Mar 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress Report: Tackling the School Places Gap Challenge Session (Anne Canning)</li> <li>• Discharge of homelessness duty (Colin Cormack)</li> <li>• Scrutiny review report: drugs enforcement (Andy Bamber)</li> <li>• Challenge session report: improving cycling safety (Jamie Blake)</li> <li>• Challenge session report: support for carers (Dorne Canareck)</li> <li>• Performance spotlight: TBD</li> </ul>

7 Apr 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spotlight: Mayor</li> <li>• Scrutiny review report: effect of literacy and numeracy levels on outcomes for children and their families (Anne Canning)</li> <li>• Scrutiny review report: customer satisfaction and value for money in leisure centres (Shazia Hussain)</li> <li>• Strategic Performance and Budget Report: Q3(Kevin Miles &amp; Louise Russell)</li> </ul>
12 May 2015	Progress Report: Tower Hamlets Council's Approach to Support Staff with Specific Learning Difficulties (Simon Kilbey)
2 Jun 2015	Performance spotlight: TBD Scrutiny review report: town centres policy and delivery (Andy Scott)

To be scheduled:

- Challenge session report: member involvement in Section 106 decisions and the quality of Section 106 funded social housing
- Reports under Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act