

Non-Executive Report of the: Overview & Scrutiny Committee 5 th October 2015	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Service Head for Corporate Strategy & Equality	Classification: Unrestricted
Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2015/16	

Originating Officer(s)	Mark Cairns
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

This report provides Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the draft 2015/16 work programme informed by a Committee workshop session facilitated by an external consultant.

Recommendations:

The Committee is recommended to:

- Agree the work programme attached as Appendix 1.

1. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 1.1 At its first meeting of the year on 7th July, the Committee decided to hold a “Transparency Commission”, which would be the focus of its next three meetings (late July, September and October). Therefore, its conventional work programme would only begin with its November meeting, lasting to the end of the year.
- 1.2 For this reason, as well as the delays to the wider committee calendar resulting from the election of a new Mayor, workplanning and its preparation has taken place at a later stage than is typical this year. Briefings were prepared for each committee portfolio lead by directorate SPP teams with input from the corporate SPP team, including a summary of services within the portfolio, key challenges and opportunities, performance information, perception and satisfaction data, forward plan items, and possible topics for review or challenge sessions.
- 1.3 Following this, a dedicated work programme development session was held on 1st September, with all Committee members invited, including co-optees.

This was facilitated by a consultant with considerable experience of development with O&S members.

- 1.4 At the session, members of the committee learned about the optimum conditions for carrying out a successful work programme, and received an officer overview of the main priorities of the council and the challenges it faces. Following this, members discussed these in small groups, and then proposed topics for the work programme. All members were then asked to indicate their support for those topics proposed by others. The draft work programme has largely been developed from those receiving the most member support.
- 1.5 The table below sets out the proposed topics, arranged by portfolio and suggested method for scrutiny. For reference, at spotlight sessions the attendee will be questioned and held to account by the committee on a range pertinent issues within their remit, and need not be focused on a report. Reviews allow members to examine a topic in-depth over multiple sessions with directorate support, with a view to developing a report with recommendations for improvement. Challenge sessions have a similar purpose, but with only one session and typically in slightly less depth.

Portfolio	Topic	Method of Scrutiny	Service lead
CLC	Crime and disorder including council-police relationship, crime performance, and plans regarding police savings	Spotlight sessions (2)	Andy Bamber
	Youth Service	Spotlight session	Andy Bamber
	Enforcing 20mph speed limit	Agenda item	Simon Baxter
	Recycling	Challenge session	Simon Baxter
	Prevent	Review	Andy Bamber
	Progress update: challenge session on extensions in conservation areas	Agenda item (progress update on earlier challenge session)	Owen Whalley
D&R	Homelessness	Challenge session	Jackie Odunoye
Children's Service	Relationship with academies, and new arrangements for support of schools	Agenda item	Kate Bingham, Terry Parkin
	School Governors	Agenda item	Terry Parkin
	LSCB review of child sexual exploitation	Agenda item	Nacima Patel
	Progress update: review on improving	Agenda item (progress update	Terry Parkin

Portfolio	Topic	Method of Scrutiny	Service lead
	post-16 educational attainment	on earlier review)	
	Places for two year-olds	Agenda item	Terry Parkin
	Special Educational Needs	Review	Terry Parkin
	Planning for school places	Agenda item	Kate Bingham
LPG	Electoral processes	Agenda item	John Williams, Louise Stamp

- 1.6 The proposed scrutiny topic areas have been used to develop a programme for the Committee's meetings in 2015-16 (Appendix 1). In addition to these, the programme includes the Transparency Commission work which has already commenced, and the investigation into the sale of Poplar Town Hall, which remains to be completed from the previous year's Committee. Items are also included which have routinely been included in the OSC work programme in the past, such as the quarterly budget and finance report, the annual complaints and information governance report, and reporting on covert surveillance under RIPA powers – at present, it is anticipated that this will continue. It also includes progress updates which are due on a review and challenge session carried out in previous years, and items which officers anticipate the Committee would likely welcome, such as at least one further spotlight with the Mayor, early discussion of a future gambling policy, and consideration of an LSCB review into child sexual exploitation. The Committee's annual report to full Council is also scheduled for the end of the year.
- 1.7 Consideration of budget proposals has been provisionally scheduled for the early November meeting, following discussion with the Service Head for Finance and Procurement. However, extraordinary meetings for budget scrutiny in January and February remain in the Committee's calendar for the time being.
- 1.8 Naturally, this programme will be subject to change as the year progresses – for example, more Mayor's spotlights may be agreed. It will also have to account for decisions which are called in.

2. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 2.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations within this report.

3. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 3.1. The Council is required by Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 to have an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to have executive arrangements which ensure the committee has specified powers. Consistent with that obligation Article 6 of the Council's Constitution provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants and may make reports and recommendations to the Full Council or the Executive, as appropriate, in connection with the discharge of any functions

4. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

5. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct implications from this report. However, in selecting topics for its work programme, the Committee should have regard to contributing to the continuous improvement of the council, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

6. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 6.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The work programme proposes two opportunities for the Committee to examine crime and disorder reduction issues, and question the police borough commander, through spotlight sessions.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

- Appendix 1 – work programme

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- State NONE if none [and state EXEMPT if necessary].

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

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

- N/A