

Committee	Date	Classification	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	7 October 2008	Unrestricted		9.1
Report of: Assistant Chief Executive		Title: Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Tracking Report: Update		
Originating Officer(s): Hannah Bailey, Scrutiny & Equalities Support Officer		Ward(s) affected: All		

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a progress report on Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the progress in implementing its recommendations.

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

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

Background paper

Name and telephone number of and address where open to inspection

Recommendation Tracking Report – March 2008

3 Report

- 3.1 As part of its regular work programme, Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) receives a regular, 6-monthly, recommendation tracking report to monitor progress in implementing past recommendations. This report had been monitoring all its recommendations since 2003/04, including those from the Committee and Working Group reviews, however as many of these have now been completed and are no longer monitored.
- 3.2 In considering the monitoring and tracking of scrutiny recommendations it was suggested that it may be useful for Members to consider revisiting a review to look at progress, its impact and the potential lessons for future reviews.
- 3.3 In November 2007, it was reported that the Scrutiny Lead Member for Learning Achievement and Leisure would revisit the Scrutiny Review on the Youth Services Plan. The Challenge Session took place on 11th December 2007. The action plan of recommendations arising from this session and update is attached at appendix 8 for Members' consideration.
- 3.4 Similarly, a Health Scrutiny Challenge Session with the PCT on the access to GP and dentistry services review was held at the Barkantine Centre in February of this year. Productive discussions were held with the PCT and a number of local GPs about the implementation of the recommendations to date. A further update on this progress is attached at appendix 11. It is also planned to hold a Challenge Session to examine the progress of the smoking cessation review later on in the municipal year.
- 3.5 The tracking report shows that overall services are implementing the majority of the recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny. This takes a number of forms from being mainstreamed into ongoing service development through to specific initiatives.
- 3.6 Appendix 1 provides an update of the tracking system. It is organised by the broad themes from the new Community Plan with the additional area of Excellent Public Services to focus on Value for Money, performance and customer services. Where there are changes since the last update, they are highlighted like **this**.
- 3.7 As noted in the report of 4th March 2008 meeting, many of the updates will not change significantly from one tracking report to the next given the nature of the recommendations. For each recommendation there is an indication of whether monitoring should continue and, if so, when a detailed update will be sought.
- 3.8 Appendix 1 summarises the progress made in implementing the recommendations arising from the reviews. This summary highlights some of the challenges faced in implementing the recommendations. Agreed recommendations can be affected by issues such as delays with the tendering process, as highlighted in both appendix 2 (improving recycling) and appendix 12 (tobacco and smoking cessation. Further to this, the update attached at appendix 6 (determination of planning applications) demonstrates that the Council has no power to compel external bodies (with the exception of the PCT) to comply with scrutiny recommendations.
- 3.9 A number of the reviews are now monitored on an annual basis and were last considered at the March 2008 meeting. A further update on these reviews will therefore be submitted to the March 2009 OSC meeting.

- 3.10 As with other corporate monitoring reports, a traffic light system is used to indicate progress. Red highlights an area where there has been no progress or there is significant delay in implementing the recommendations. Yellow indicates that the recommendation is in the planning stage or that, although there is some progress, this is less than satisfactory. Green shows that the recommendation has been achieved or progress in its implementation is satisfactory.
- 3.11 The report shows that in terms of the 14 issues monitored, 8 are at green with 6 currently at yellow, due to these reviews being in the early stages of implementation. Furthermore, in undertaking the tracking at this stage we are able to identify that with many of the recent reviews the Cabinet has responded positively to all the recommendations by agreeing to implement the recommendations from the scrutiny review. The next monitoring report in March 2009 will incorporate all the action plans from those reviews undertaken in 2007/08.

4 Concurrent Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal)

- 4.1 Under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council has a duty to deliver an effective and robust Overview and Scrutiny function. Monitoring the progress and impact of recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny ensures that this duty is discharged effectively.

5 Comments of the Chief Financial Officer

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6 Anti Poverty and Equal Opportunity Implications

- 6.1 Equalities considerations are central to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A number of reports and reviews have specific equalities themes including the interpreting and translation challenge session, which sought to respond to the issue of local and new residents' access to services, as well as those with sensory impairments.
- 6.2 Anti-poverty is key to many aspects of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This theme is reflected in both the graduate unemployment review and the access to GP and dentistry services review, which sought to respond to local health inequalities through the issue of local residents' access to vital services.

7 Risk Management

- 7.1 There are no direct risk management implications arising from this report. Monitoring of the implementation of the Committee's recommendations is important to make sure that the Council responds to the suggestions and findings of Overview and Scrutiny's work.

- Appendix 1 Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Tracking Update
- Appendix 2 Improving Recycling
- Appendix 3 Leaseholders – A Study of Customer Care
- Appendix 4 Tower Hamlets Hostel Strategy
- Appendix 5 Copy of response from DWP (recommendation 5 of the Hostel Strategy)
- Appendix 6 Determination of Major Planning Applications
- Appendix 7 Graduate Unemployment
- Appendix 8 Youth Service Plan – Challenge Session
- Appendix 9 The role of Ward Councillors in the Tower Hamlets Partnership
- Appendix 10 Interpreting and Translation Services – Challenge Session
- Appendix 11 Access to GP and Dentistry Services – Challenge Session
- Appendix 12 Tobacco and Smoking Cessation
- Appendix 13 The Use of Consultants