

# MUNICIPAL YEAR 2009/2010 REPORT NO. 69B

## MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

CMB  
- 8th September 2009  
Cabinet  
- 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009  
Council  
- 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2009

## REPORT OF:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

<b>Agenda - Part:</b> 1	<b>Item:</b> 9
<b>Subject:</b>  SCRUTINY ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10  WARDS: None Specific	
Cabinet Members consulted: N/A Other Members consulted – Overview & Scrutiny Committee	

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report and Appendix 1 sets out the annual work programme for the Council's Scrutiny Panels and Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC).
- 1.2 The Council's Constitution requires that the combined work programmes proposed by each Panel are adopted by Council (as an annual scrutiny work programme), on the recommendation of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, following consultation with the Cabinet and Corporate Management Board (CMB).
- 1.3 CMB & Cabinet are being invited to comment on the Scrutiny Annual work programme recommended by OSC, prior to its consideration by Council.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 CMB & Cabinet are requested to consider and comment on the combined Scrutiny Panel Work Programmes.
- 2.2 That Council formally adopt the Annual Scrutiny Work Programme 2009/10 (as detailed in Appendix 1) having considered any comments from CMB & Cabinet.

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Enfield Council has a successful scrutiny function with examples of strong community engagement and tangible challenges to the Council's Executive. This continues to be recognised nationally with Enfield being cited as one of ten national hallmarks by the Home Office for effective partnership working in relation to its Crime & Safety scrutiny function. Whilst there are no national indicators for scrutiny, Enfield has developed its own scrutiny evaluation framework and tracking system to monitor progress being made against the implementation of scrutiny recommendations. The results from both of these systems are reported to OSC annually for monitoring purposes and to assist members in the ongoing organisation and development of the scrutiny function.
- 3.2 Enfield has adopted a mixed thematic & functional scrutiny structure with an Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) established to manage the overall function and Scrutiny Panels. In July 2009 Council also agreed to establish an additional standing Scrutiny Panel, with a remit focussed around Place Shaping and Enterprise. This is due to commence meeting in September 2009.
- 3.3. As a result of government legislation introduced during 2007/08 new powers have also been introduced that give scrutiny more power to hold a wider range of the Council's key external strategic partners to account. The aim behind the new powers is to increase local democratic accountability of key public services. In addition the Councillor Call for Action has also now been introduced, which provides members with an opportunity to raise local issues via scrutiny when other methods of resolution have been exhausted.
- 3.4 The areas covered by each of the Council's Scrutiny Panels are as follows:

<b>Scrutiny Panel</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Vice-Chairman</b>
Overview and Scrutiny	Councillor Prescott	Councillor Pearce
Adult Social Services	Councillor McCannah	Councillor G.Savva
Children's Services	Councillor Giladi	Councillor E. Hayward
Crime & Safety	Councillor R. Hayward	Councillor Stafford
Environment, Parks & Leisure	Councillor Prescott	Councillor Bond
Health	Councillor Pearce	Councillor During
Housing	Councillor Georgiou	Councillor Chamberlain
Place Shaping & Enterprise	To be notified	Councillor Goddard

- 3.5 The main role of OSC, alongside dealing with call-in, is to provide leadership and co-ordination of the Council's scrutiny function. A key function is to review the combined annual work programmes produced by each panel in order to:
- ensure that the Council's scrutiny function is achieving its overall purpose and each Panel's time is being efficiently and effectively used;
  - ensure that the overall work programme is realistic, focussed and well balanced;

- effectively co-ordinate and manage the allocation of resources between Panels to support the scrutiny function and individual reviews;
- identify and address any gaps or overlaps between the individual Panel work programmes and any potential for joint working; and
- approve for adoption by Council, following consultation with CMB & Cabinet, an overall annual scrutiny work programme;

3.6 The annual scrutiny work programme has, as in previous years, been based on a combination of the individual work programmes produced by OSC and each Panel for 2009/10. The individual Panel work programmes (with the exception of Place Shaping & Enterprise, which is still to commence meeting) have been collated and attached as Appendix 1. CMB, Cabinet and Council are asked to note that:

- a. in order to enhance the planning and development of scrutiny work programmes:
  - an induction event was held in May 2009 for Scrutiny Chairman & Vice-Chairman, to provide an outline of the key issues and criteria needing to be taken into account when planning and setting scrutiny work programmes.
  - Members also received an update from Ed Hammond (Senior Policy Advisor – Centre for Public Scrutiny) on implementation of the new powers for scrutiny contained within the Police & Justice Act 2006 and Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, including Councillor Call for Action, as well as the proposals likely to impact on scrutiny within the Local Democracy Bill.
  - Following the induction event each Panel then held a work programme planning workshop to formulate their programmes for 2009/10;
- b. In order to ensure the most effective use of officer support and member time each Panel will again be looking to limit the number of detailed reviews being undertaken at any one time to two;
- c. The work programme from the Place Shaping and Enterprise Scrutiny Panel has not been included, as the Panel has still to hold its first meeting. Once approved the work programme will be included within the annual scrutiny programme of work;
- d. Each of the work programmes will need to be treated with a degree of flexibility as Panels may amend some of the work they have initially identified as their work programmes develop and scopes for each review are finalised;
- e. The individual work programmes will be subject to ongoing development and continuous review by each Scrutiny Panel.

#### **4. REVIEW OF PANEL WORK PROGRAMMES**

4.1 OSC (22 July 2009) undertook a review of the combined Panel work programmes and agreed to recommend these as the basis of the 2009/10 annual scrutiny work programme to Council, with the Place Shaping and Enterprise programme to be included, once approved.

- 4.2 Key issues which OSC focussed upon, as part of their work programme review, included:
- a. the overall size and number of items on the Panel work programmes;
  - b. areas of duplication and potential for joint working between Panels;
  - c. the attempts being made to prioritise individual work programmes to ensure that they remained realistic and manageable in terms of the resources available to support them.
- 4.3 In reviewing the work programmes for 2009/10, OSC highlighted the following issues:
- a. the potential impact arising from the introduction of Councillor Calls for Action and need for each Panel to maintain capacity within their work programmes to deal with any issues referred under the process;
  - b. the need to consider and manage any potential overlap between the work programmes from the existing Panels and programme developed by the Place Shaping and Enterprise Scrutiny Panel. Members also recognised there would be a need to coordinate and prioritise the support officer resources available to support the new Panel.
  - c. The need for each Scrutiny Panel to maintain a focus on the key outcomes and objectives being sought as a result of their reviews.
- 4.4 OSC has continued to recognise the importance of the scrutiny functions role in relation to the Council's performance management framework, which has been further enhanced as a result of the new powers contained within the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act. The scrutiny function will be looking to maintain its interest in delivery of Enfield's Local Area Agreement during 2009/10 as well as increasing its focus on activity being undertaken by the Enfield Strategic Partnership and around the Comprehensive Area Assessment. In developing these processes members are keen to look at ways in which scrutiny's involvement in the performance management framework can "add value" to the process and avoid duplicating any monitoring and performance management arrangements already in place.
- 4.5 As part of its management and co-ordination role OSC has recognised the need for each Panel to continue monitoring & prioritising their work to ensure that the members and officers involved in supporting each review have the capacity to undertake effective scrutiny. In addition OSC will continue to encourage Panels, where practical, to consider cross working on areas of potential overlap.

## **5. COMMENTS FROM CORPORATE MANAGEMENT BOARD & CABINET**

- 5.1 CMB considered the annual scrutiny work programme at their meeting on 8 September 09. Whilst the engagement of Directors and Cabinet members in the individual panel work programme planning sessions at the start of the Municipal Year was welcomed, CMB were keen to encourage future consultation with them on the forward planning of work programmes at as early a stage as possible. The time constraints involved in this process were recognized, but it was felt earlier input from Directors would allow more

consideration to be given to the scheduling of reviews and support required from each Department.

- 5.2 CMB approved the annual programme of work but was also keen to:
- a. ensure the necessary links to the Comprehensive Area Assessment were clearly identified within the work programme; and
  - b. encourage a more structured approach towards the way in which Children's Health was being picked up by the scrutiny function.
- 5.3 Cabinet is also being invited to comment on the combined Panel Work Programmes at its meeting on 16 September 09. Any comments made by Cabinet will be reported to Council for consideration at the meeting.

## **6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

To comply with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

## **7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

No other options have been considered as the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is required, under the Council's Constitution, to present an annual scrutiny work programme to Council for adoption.

## **8. DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES COMMENTS**

### **8.1 Finance**

Any cost implications of undertaking the Scrutiny Panel work programmes, that cannot be met from within the existing budget allocated to scrutiny, will need to be addressed through the financial monitoring process and review of the medium term financial plan.

### **8.2 Legal**

8.2.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 requires principal local authorities to have at least one overview and scrutiny committee.

8.2.2 Its functions are to:

- review or scrutinise decisions or actions taken by the cabinet or any non-executive part of the council;
- make reports or recommendations to the Council or the Cabinet on any issue to do with the Council's functions; and
- recommend that any decision be re-considered

8.2.3 The Council's Constitution requires the reporting of the Annual Work Programme for approval.

### **8.3 Risk Management Implications**

Under the terms of the Council's Constitution, Overview & Scrutiny Committee is required to recommend an annual programme of work for the scrutiny function to Council for consideration and adoption. Any risks relating to individual scrutiny reviews will be identified and assessed through the scrutiny review scoping process.

## **9. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The key aims for the Council's scrutiny function include:

- to review & assess the delivery and performance of services provided by the Council (along with the Health Service and Safer Stronger Communities Board);
- to assist in the monitoring & development of Council policies and strategies;

9.2 The work programmes produced by each Panel are designed to reflect these aims and as such the work undertaken by the Council's scrutiny function has a significant role to play in the Council's performance management framework.

## **10. COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Positive Impacts**

The scrutiny process provides an opportunity for elected members of scrutiny panels, and members of the local community, to actively contribute towards reviewing the delivery, performance and development of public services provided to all residents of Enfield by the Council and its partners. The work to be undertaken by scrutiny, in this respect, over the next year has been set out within the Annual Scrutiny Work Programme recommended by Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

## **11. PUTTING ENFIELD FIRST**

The work undertaken by Enfield's Scrutiny Panels can be seen to have an impact on all of the aims within Putting Enfield First:

- Aim 1 – A cleaner greener sustainable Enfield
- Aim 2 – Ensure every child matters and provide high quality education for all
- Aim 3 – A safer Enfield
- Aim 4 – A healthier Enfield where people are able to live independent lives.
- Aim 5 – Provide high quality and efficient services
- Aim 6 – Build prosperous, sustainable communities

Background Papers:

Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 22 July 2009: Review of Scrutiny Panel Work Programmes 2009/10