

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/2011 REPORT NO. 46A

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

Cabinet
- 15th September 2010
Council
- 22nd September 2010

REPORT OF:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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Agenda - Part:	1	Item:	8
Subject: SCRUTINY ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11 WARDS: None Specific			
Cabinet Members consulted: N/A Other Members consulted – Overview & Scrutiny Committee			

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

- 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. Enfield won a Centre for Public Scrutiny award for its work around community engagement on the Young Peoples Life Opportunities Commission and was also shortlisted for a national Municipal Journal achievement award for its response to Councillor Call for Action.
- 3.2 In the absence of any national indicators, 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.
- 3.3 Enfield has adopted a mixed thematic & functional scrutiny structure with an Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) established to manage the overall function and Scrutiny Panels. The structure and remits of the Panels have remained unchanged, following the local borough elections in May 2010. The areas covered by each of the Council's Scrutiny Panels are as follows:

Scrutiny Panel	Chairman	Vice-Chairman
Overview and Scrutiny	Councillor Simon	Councillor Anolue
Adult Social Services	Councillor G Savva	Councillor Joannides
Children's Services	Councillor Cranfield	Councillor Kaye
Crime & Safety	Councillor Prescott	Councillor Cicek
Environment, Parks & Leisure	Councillor Sitkin	Councillor Zinkin
Health	Councillor Rye	Councillor Hamilton
Housing	Councillor Anolue	Councillor Smith
Place Shaping & Enterprise	Councillor Simon	Councillor Lamprecht

- 3.4. 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: These include:
- The Councillor Call for Action, providing members with an opportunity to raise local issues via scrutiny when other methods of resolution have been exhausted.

- 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 2010/11. The individual Panel work programmes have been collated and attached as Appendix 1. In order to enhance the planning and development of scrutiny work programmes:

- an induction event was held in June 2010 for all scrutiny members, to provide an outline of the key issues and criteria needing to be taken into account when planning and setting scrutiny work programmes. This event was very well attended, which OSC felt reflected the commitment and interest, especially amongst new councillors, in playing an active role in scrutiny;
- Each Panel then held a work programme planning workshop to formulate their programmes for 2010/11;

In addition CMB, Cabinet and Council are asked to note that:

- a. 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;
- b. 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;
- c. 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 (28 July 2010) undertook a review of the combined Panel work

- a. The ambitious nature of the work programme; whilst welcome it would require each Scrutiny Panel to maintain a focus on the key outcomes and objectives being sought;
- b. The significant number of Working Groups already established by Panels to undertake detailed scrutiny reviews. In total 13 Working Groups had been established across the 7 Panels. Whilst OSC was keen to encourage member engagement in detailed scrutiny reviews there would be a need to keep the number and scheduling of reviews under review in order to maintain the capacity of member and officer resource available to support each review and the scrutiny function as a whole;
- c. the range of scrutiny activity planned in relation to youth issues, with the need to ensure that relevant links are established between Panels and that young people are involved (as appropriate) in the review process;
- d. the need to consider the impact of the White Paper on NHS Reform in terms of not only the role of Health, but also the Adult Social Services and Children's Services Scrutiny Panels;
- e. the need for each Panel to maintain capacity within their work programmes to deal with any issues referred under the CCfA or petition process;
- f. that the latest advice regarding the Enfield Leisure Centres Scrutiny Commission was that the review would need to remain suspended, pending the outcome of associated legal proceedings.

4.4 OSC has continued to recognise the importance of the scrutiny functions role in relation to the Council's performance management framework. Given the changes in the national performance management framework introduced by the new coalition Government scrutiny will this year be looking to develop its role in relation to the new/existing performance frameworks for local public services, as well as increasing its focus on activity being undertaken by the Enfield Strategic Partnership. In developing these processes members remain 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

- 5.2 Cabinet is being invited to comment on the combined Panel Work Programmes recommended by OSC, prior to their consideration by Council as the basis of the Annual Scrutiny Work Programme for 2010/11. Any comments made by Cabinet will be reported to Council for consideration on 22 September 2010.

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 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. 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

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

our communities. Relevant studies will include reviews around the provision of primary care, housing allocations, primary pupil places & getting people into work.

9.2 Growth & Sustainability

Growth and Sustainability are key areas of work specifically identified in the work programmes for the Place Shaping & Enterprise and Environment, Parks & Leisure Scrutiny Panels over 2010/11. As part of the approach towards scrutiny in Enfield all Panels are being encouraged to consider issues relating to sustainability and the support that can be provided to secure further inward investment in the borough.

9.3 Strong Communities

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. Community engagement has been recognised as a particular strength of scrutiny in Enfield and its intended to continue encouraging this approach over the coming year, particularly for example, in relation to the review of gangs, young people and knife enabled crime and personalisation of care

10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

10.1 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;

10.2 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.