

Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21

Chair's Introduction

I am pleased to introduce the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2020/21.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the term 2020/21 has faced key challenges due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, during these challenging times the Overview & Scrutiny Committee has continued to function by way of virtual meetings.

The municipal year of 2020/21 had an introduction to a new scrutiny structure of 7 standing Panels. The 7 standing Panel chairs have individually tailored and suited their work programmes to areas falling under their Panel remit. The new structure has enabled and enhanced scrutiny function to be carried in wide range of services.

I would like to thank all Panel chairs, councillors, officers, residents and all stakeholders who have contributed to the working of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

I look forward to your continued work and involvement in the scrutiny function.

Councillor Susan Erbil
Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

1. Introduction

This report provides a summary of the activity of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and seven scrutiny Panels for the municipal year 2020/21.

2. Proposal

Council is asked to note the work undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny committee and panels, and to agree the proposed increase in engagement with Enfield Youth Parliament.

3. Scrutiny at Enfield

Effective Scrutiny should:

- provide constructive 'critical friend' challenge;
- amplify the voices and concerns of the public;
- be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role;
- drive improvement in public services;

A review undertaken by the Centre for Public Scrutiny of the scrutiny function at Enfield, proposed changes to the structure with a move away from task and finish scrutiny workstreams, to standing Panels better aligned to where most value could be added. The revised structure was approved and implemented following the AGM in July 2020 (held later this year due to the pandemic).

The new structure included:

An Overview & Scrutiny Committee plus the following Panels:

- Crime;
- Health & Adult Social Care;
- Children, Young People & Education;
- Regeneration & economic Development;
- Finance & Performance;
- Environment & Climate Action; and
- Housing

Work planning sessions are held at the start of the municipal year for the main OSC and Panels.

Each Panel has 4 meetings scheduled per year, and if needed additional meetings can be requested through the Monitoring Officer.

OSC has 7 meetings per year plus provisional dates used for call-in or pre-decision scrutiny.

The 2020/21 panel work programmes clearly had a focus on Covid-19. Areas covered by panels under this heading included the impact on council services, impact on Councils finances, the affect on care homes, and the mental health and wellbeing of older people, and children and young people.

The work of OSC and the Panels for 2020/21, their terms of reference, and any key points are detailed below.

4. Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2020/21

Membership:

Councillors:

Susan Erbil (Chair)

Margaret Greer (Vice Chair)

Elif Erbil

Hass Yusuf

Achilleas Georgiou

Birsen Demirel

Edward Smith

Lee David-Sanders

Terms of Reference

The leadership and co-ordination of the Council's scrutiny function is the responsibility of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1. Development, co-ordination and implementation of the overall scrutiny annual work programme for all scrutiny panels.
2. Reviewing executive decisions under the Call-in procedures
3. Leading consultation on the Budget and considering the views of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Panel.
4. To develop its own work programme.
5. To receive petitions as set out in the Constitution; and
6. To take responsibility for monitoring scrutiny reports

Meetings held and items considered by the Committee

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee held 6 business meetings and 5 call-in meetings during the municipal year 2020/21. Due to Covid, all meetings were held virtually.

July 2020

At this first meeting the Committee agreed to set the work programme for 2020/21. Members received a presentation on Local Priorities for 2020/21 from The Leader of the Council, who provided details of the priorities for the year.

In addition, the report of the Meridian Water Scrutiny Workstream was presented to OSC and it was agreed that responsibility for monitoring recommendations would pass to the Regeneration and Economic Scrutiny Panel.

September 2020

As part of the leadership and co-ordinating role of OSC, the work programmes for the individual panels were agreed.

October 2020.

A petition on the Bowes Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme had collected enough signatures to be presented to OSC. The Lead Petitioner presented the concerns of residents, before the Deputy Leader of the Council provided a response, and members debated the points. The decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was to request that the Director of Environment & Operational services and Cabinet member did not implement a permanent solution to the Bowes Low Traffic Neighbourhood until such time as a full and proper consultation exercise had been completed.

At this meeting the Committee also considered a presentation on ICT and Digital Services – The Customer Experience.

February 2021

The annual budget meeting provided OSC members with an opportunity to have input into the final budget recommendations to be agreed by Full Council.

February 2021

The second meeting in February included presentations on Procurement Services and the Build the Change Programme. An update on COVID-19 included the latest data on mortality and infection rates. Detail was also provided on the roll-out of vaccines in the borough.

April 2021

OSC received 2 referrals from the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Panel.

The first referral was regarding an issue that was raised by the Teachers Unions and Youth Parliament on mental health issues due to the lockdown and the pandemic. The referral to Cabinet asked for a Mental Health Charter and action Plan in consultation with the various stakeholders including the Youth Parliament, unions and the Children, Young People & Education Scrutiny Panel.

The second referral was on Exclusions, OSC agreed to refer the item back to the Children, Young People & Education scrutiny Panel to ensure that when setting the work programmes for 2021/22, the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Panel considered continuing with Exclusions as an item in order to fully explore the areas that needed further work.

Members also considered a presentation on Business and Partnerships. As this was the last business meeting of OSC, all Chairs provided a verbal summary of the work undertaken by their respective panels.

5. Call-in

When an Executive decision is made by the Cabinet, an individual Cabinet member, or a key decision is made by an officer with delegated authority from the Executive, the decision is published, and can only be implemented, on the expiry of 5 working days after the publication of the decision, unless 7 or more councillors call it in.

If a decision is called-in, then a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is scheduled within 14 working days of the relevant call-in period. The decision maker attends the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to respond to the reasons for call-in.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee following the debate:

- Confirm the original decision; or
- Refer it back to the decision making person or body for reconsideration; or
- Refer the matter to full Council; or

In 2020/21 members called-in 5 decisions, these were:

- July 2020 - Trading Company Business Plans
- August 2020 - Adoption of the Enfield Climate Action Plan
- November 2020 - Meridian Water Environment Sustainability Strategy
- March 2021 - Farm Road Yellow Lines and Bus Route 456
- April 2021 - Whitewebbs Park Golf Course

Following debate in each of the 5 cases, the original decision was upheld

The Panel completed its planned work programme for the municipal year.

6. Crime Scrutiny Panel 2020/21

Membership:

Councillors:

Lee David-Sanders (Chair)

Joanne Laban (Vice Chair)

Sinan Boztas

Yasemin Brett

Ayfer Orhan

Vicky Pite (until Dec 20)

Kate Anolue

Derek Levy

Terms of Reference

1. To scrutinise and make a report or recommendations on the Metropolitan Police Service, Emergency services, Safer Neighbourhood Board and community safety
2. To scrutinise, and prepare reports, as necessary, about any Council actions and decisions relating to crime and community safety.

Meetings held and items considered by the Panel

The Scrutiny Panel met 4 times during the municipal year 2020/21.

September 2020

At this first meeting the Panel agreed to set the Panel's work programme for 2020/21. Members also received a presentation on Local Priorities for 2020/21, including a presentation from the Metropolitan Police.

November 2020

The Panel received and considered a detailed report on prostitution and as this is a long standing issue in the borough agreed that a follow up report would come back to the final meeting of the panel. Members also received a presentation on burglary in Enfield.

January 2021

Members received two comprehensive presentations at this meeting and provided feedback on the Safer & Stronger Communities Board Partnership Plan and serious youth violence.

March 2021

At the final meeting of the Panel in the municipal year, Members received and considered presentations on reoffending including youth reoffending, Modern Day Slavery receiving an update on the Modern Slavery Team's first year in practice. They also received an update on prostitution. The London Fire Brigade provided a presentation on the work they undertake to reduce crime and how their activity had been affected by Covid.

At each meeting, the Panel also received Safer & Stronger Communities Board Performance Management data, commented and provided a monitoring overview. The Panel had noted that lockdown had impacted on crime figures and that going forward the analysis on year on year crime figures would need to take this into account.

The Panel continued to work in partnership with the Metropolitan Police and remains committed to maintaining links with the Safer and Stronger communities Board (Enfield's Community Safety Partnership).

The Panel completed its planned work programme for the municipal year.

7. Children, Education & Young People Scrutiny Panel 2020/21

Membership:

Councillors:

Achilleas Georgiou (Chair)

Birsen Demirel

Ergun Eren

Ahmet Oykener

Bernie Lappage (until March 21)

Glynis Vince

James Hockney

Derek Levy

Terms of Reference

1. To examine and report the policies and services of the Council as they impact on children and young people in the borough.
2. To promote the participation, engagement and influence of children and young people in the services which affect them
3. To receive the monitoring and progress reports as they relate to children and young people in the borough

Meetings held and items considered by the Panel

The Scrutiny Panel met 6 times during the municipal year 2020/21.

September 2020

At this first meeting the Panel agreed to set the Panel's work programme for 2020/21; this was a newly formed Scrutiny Panel agreed as part of the Constitution changes to the Scrutiny function of the Council. Members also received a presentation on Local Priorities for 2020/21. The effects of Covid 19 was a theme running through the work programme.

December 2020

The Panel received and considered the draft Children and Young People's Plan- Empowering Young Enfield and the draft Early Years Help For All Strategy including the work that had been undertaken to develop this. The Panel provided comments and feedback for consideration prior to these items going to Council for approval.

December 2020

The Panel received presentations and provided comments on Fostering and on Covid 19 and the re-opening of schools.

January 2021

Members also received a presentation on School Finances including the Dedicated Schools Grant and the overall Education Budget

Members considered items on Exclusions including; details of Visits and work undertaken by the former Exclusions Workstream, a report on Secondary School Exclusions, Secondary Behaviour Support Service- Annual End of Year Report, a report on Primary Behaviour Support

Service, details of School Survey 2020 and Baseline and Review Assessment Questionnaire, Enfield Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service- update on waiting times and a update on Speech & Language Therapy. After a detailed discussion the Panel agreed to refer this item to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration for inclusion on next year's work programme of the Children young People & Education Scrutiny Panel and onto Cabinet for them to note the findings of this work.

February 2021

Members received comprehensive presentations at this meeting on Mental Health, and the support available to schools and Headteachers, and Special Educational Needs & Disabilities. Members of the Youth Parliament and the teachers unions attended the meeting, and following discussion requested that a referral was made to the Overview & Scrutiny committee asking them to refer to Cabinet that the Council should produce an action orientated mental health charter and policy and provide the resources to make changes that will support young people and staff on matters such as information, uncertainty and staff wellbeing. In producing this the Council is asked to work with the various stakeholders including the unions and the Youth Parliament and with the involvement of the Children Young People and Education Scrutiny Panel

March 2021

At the final meeting of the Panel, Members received and considered presentations on the vulnerable children and young people youth provision and environment. Members also reviewed the recommendations from the Poverty & Health Inequality Commission as they related to children and young people and provided feedback and comments on this.

The Panel completed its planned work programme for the municipal year.

8. Environment and Climate Action Scrutiny Panel

Membership:

Councillors:

Hass Yusuf (Chair)

Mahmut Aksanoglu (Vice Chair)

Tolga Aramaz

Lindsay Rawlings

Maria Alexandrou

Charith Gunawardena

Daniel Anderson

Elif Erbil

Terms of Reference

1. To examine and report on the strategies, policies and services of the Council and matters of importance to Enfield as they relate to the Environment.

2. To consider environmental matters on request from another standing committee and report its opinion to that standing committee.
3. To take into account in its deliberations the cross cutting themes of the achievement of sustainable development, climate change, and the impact on health of Enfield residents

Meetings held and items considered by the Panel

The Scrutiny Panel met 4 times during the municipal year 2020/21. This included an additional meeting in March which was not on the original work programme. A 5th meeting, scheduled for 29 April 2021 was cancelled due to purdah.

September 2020

At this first meeting the Panel agreed to set the work programme for 2020/21. Members received a presentation on Local Priorities for 2020/21 from The Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader and Director of Environment and Operational Services who provided details of the priorities for the year.

In addition, a presentation was given on the Meridian Water Environment Strategy and it was agreed that further information on this subject would be provided later in the year.

December 2021

The Parks and Green Infrastructure Strategy, also referred to as the Blue and Green Strategy, relates to all parks, open spaces and water courses in the borough. As part of the consultation and engagement process, the Scrutiny Panel received a draft copy of the strategy and provided comments to be included in the final draft.

A further item at this meeting was a presentation on Waste Service Changes and Fly-tipping. During the pandemic, the levels of fly-tipping had increased and Members wanted to determine how the Council were dealing with this issue.

February 2021

The Climate Action Plan had been widely presented throughout the Council at its inception and had been subject to Call-in. The Panel required to know how the implementation of the plan had progressed since the launch.

Members were informed about reducing carbon emissions, LED street lighting, Chase Restoration Project, active and sustainable travel and engagement with schools

March 2021

This was an additional meeting, not on the original work programme but added at the request of the Panel. There had been much publicity linked to the introduction of Low Traffic Neighbourhood Schemes (LTNs) around Bowes Road and Fox Lane and Members felt it was important to scrutinise

the current situation and future proposals. Members were informed of the engagement and consultation to date, the purpose of LTNS and potential plans for the Edmonton area.

April 2021

The meeting in April was to be a single item agenda, re-visiting the Meridian Water Environment Strategy. The meeting was cancelled due to purdah but it was planned to carry this item over to the new municipal year.

9. Finance and Performance Scrutiny Panel

Membership:

Councillors:

Birsen Demirel (Chair)

Tim Leaver (Vice Chair)

Mahym Bedekova

Christine Hamilton

Yasemin Brett

Anne Brown

Lee David-Sanders

James Hockney

Terms of Reference

1. To examine the draft budget proposals for the next financial year and to report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of their annual budget meeting.
2. To examine, monitor and report to Overview and Scrutiny on matters relating to the finance and performance of the Council and its partners
3. To consider finance and performance matters on request from another standing committee and report its opinion to that standing committee.
4. To consider the quarterly monitoring reports provided by the Council

Meetings held and items considered by the Panel

The Scrutiny Panel met 4 times during the municipal year 2020/21.

September 2020

At this first meeting the Panel agreed to set the Panel's work programme for 2020/21; this was a newly formed Scrutiny Panel agreed as part of the Constitution changes to the Scrutiny function of the Council. Members also received a presentation on Local Priorities for 2020/21, including the Council's response to the financial challenges of Covid-19.

November 2020

The Panel received and considered the draft proposals for the Budget 2021/22 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2025/26. As part of their consideration, the comments made by the Panel were reported onto the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to feed into the Council's budget consultation processes, prior to formal approval at Cabinet and full Council in February 2021.

Members also received a presentation on the Impact of Covid 19: Finance and Performance, and discussed the challenges being faced by the Council in the light of the pandemic. In conclusion, the Panel noted that the Council had reacted positively during the pandemic and a good foundation had been established on which to continue to support residents in the Borough.

At each meeting, in accordance with its terms of reference, the Panel also received and noted any quarterly monitoring reports which had been considered by the Cabinet, including both financial and performance monitoring reports, as detailed in the minutes of the Panel meetings.

January 2021

Members received two comprehensive presentations at this meeting on the Housing Revenue Account – Updated Business Plan; and, Income and Debt Recovery Strategy.

March 2021

At the final meeting of the Panel in the municipal year, Members received and considered presentations on the financial aspects of the Dedicated Schools Grant; and other Grants – the Council's Strategy and Approach to Grant Applications.

In addition, the Panel received an overview and briefing on the CIPFA Financial Management Code and the approach being taken by Enfield. The first full year of compliance was to be in 2021/22.

The Panel completed its planned work programme for the municipal year.

10. Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel

Membership:

Councillors:
Edward Smith (Chair)
Chris Dey (Vice Chair)
Christine Hamilton
Doug Taylor
Kate Anolue
Dinah Barry
Saray Karakus
Huseyin Akpınar

Terms of Reference

1. Scrutinise the planning and provision of local health services and through this process contribute to the continuous improvement of health services and services that impact upon health.
2. Respond to consultations by NHS bodies and provide dates and publish timeframes for its decision-making process on proposals for substantial developments.
3. Comply with regulations formalising arrangements for health scrutiny.
4. Consider matters referred to the Council by the local Healthwatch and respond within 20 days.
5. Scrutinise Public Health services commissioned by the Council / Health and Wellbeing Boards.

Meetings held and items considered by the Panel

The Scrutiny Panel met 4 times during the municipal year 2020/21.

September 2020

At this first meeting the Panel agreed to set the Panel's work programme for 2020/21. Members received a presentation on Local Priorities for 2020/21 from both the Cabinet Member, Senior Management and North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group (NCL CCG) representatives. It was agreed that as a result of the pandemic, there would be a standing item relating to COVID-19 on each agenda.

November 2020

The Panel received a presentation on the Older People's Assessment Unit and challenged the re-location of the service from Chase Farm Hospital to Barnet General Hospital. Members were updated on progress of the development of the extra-care facility at Reardon Court and commented on the benefit of such schemes. Healthwatch services had been put out to tender and members were appraised of progress to date. Members received a report detailing the effects of the pandemic on residents and staff in care homes, hospital discharge procedures and finances.

January 2021

Members received two comprehensive presentations at this meeting relating to COVID-19 and flu immunisation take-up from NCL CCG colleagues and the impact of the pandemic on mental health from the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust. In addition, a brief report on the tendering process relating to extra-care provision at Alcazar Court and Skinner's Court was provided.

March 2021

At the final meeting of the Panel in the municipal year, Members received and considered the latest data relating to the pandemic, including vaccination rates. Members also received and noted the Annual Adult Safeguarding Report.

Two items on the work programme will be rolled over to 2021/22. Due to pressures on hospitals, the item on the North Middlesex Hospital's

response to the Care Quality Commission inspection was removed from the agenda in January. Although discussed briefly at the March meeting, the item referring to the reconfiguration of the NHS will be considered in much greater detail in 2021/22.

11. Housing Scrutiny Panel 2020/21

Membership:

Councillors:

Elif Erbil (Chair)

Hass Yusuf (Vice Chair)

Edward Smith

Margaret Greer

Saray Karakus

Alessandro Georgiou

Susan Erbil

Guner Aydin

Terms of Reference

1. To examine and report on the strategies, policies and actions of the Council as they relate to the Council's existing housing stock and services
2. To scrutinise the planning and provision of the Council's housing stock
3. To consider housing matters on request from another standing committee and report its opinion to that standing committee.

Meetings held and items considered by the Panel

The Scrutiny Panel met 3 times during the municipal year 2020/21. A 4th meeting, scheduled for 15 April 2021 was cancelled due to purdah.

September 2020

At this first meeting the Panel agreed to set the Panel's work programme for 2020/21. Members received a presentation on Local Priorities for 2020/21 from The Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Social Housing, and Director of Housing and Regeneration.

December 2021

As a result of the members concerns relating to the use cladding and building safety, the Panel received a detailed presentation on the Council's position and progress to address these issues. Details of the Housing White Paper were also provided for consideration by the Panel.

February 2021

The newly formed Housing Advisory Service was the subject of a comprehensive presentation which included the staffing structure, finances and range of services provided to residents. The presentation also

provided Members with information on the new allocations policy, temporary accommodation and homelessness.

Due to purdah, items relating to Responsive Repairs and the Role of Housing Associations were carried over to 2021/22.

12. Regeneration & Economic Development Scrutiny Panel

Membership:

Margaret Greer (Chair)
Claire Stewart (Vice Chair)
Mahmut Aksanoglu
Tim Leaver
Susan Erbil
Huseyin Akpinar
Edward Smith
Maria Alexandrou (Until March 21, replaced by Andy Milne)

Terms of Reference:

1. To examine and report the services, policies and proposals from the Council that impact on the future and current regeneration and economic development in Enfield
2. To consider matters relating to regeneration and economic development on request from another standing committee and report its opinion to that standing committee.

Meetings held and items considered by the Panel

The Scrutiny Panel met 5 times during the municipal year 2020/21. This included an additional meeting in October which was not on the original work programme. A 6th private workshop meeting, scheduled for April 2021 was cancelled due to the death of the Duke of Edinburgh when all meetings were cancelled that week.

September 2020

Members held their work planning session to set the work programme for the year. The Cabinet member and Executive Director attended to present the priorities for the year to assist with this process. The Panel then received a detailed presentation by officers on Planning Reform.

October 2020

Members considered both the Cultural Strategy and the Economic Development Strategy at this meeting. The four key objectives in the new strategy will help provide the right conditions for emerging industries and capitalise on Enfield's unique strengths. The strategy will be looking to bring in the right people to pull in future talent and create work for people in Enfield. It would help to promote Enfield as a place to do business, bring in investors like the Microsoft building in Enfield Town and develop local town centres to meet future needs. Enfield could be a key part of the overall London offer. It also needed to celebrate its cultural heritage and diversity.

December 2020

At this meeting members received presentations on both the Local Plan & Housing Needs and Skills & Training. Members agreed to a proposal for a series of workshops early in the new year to assist in progressing Enfield's vision and policies. Regarding the item on Skills & Training, members received a presentation for discussion on the impact of COVID on unemployment and employment in London and the borough and how Enfield is working with Local London to address unemployment and skills.

February 2021

For the item update on Local Plan Policies, the panel received a presentation and timetable from the Head of Strategic Planning and Design updating members on the work being done on emerging local plan policies.

The next item on the agenda was the Housing Delivery Test 2020 and Draft Housing Action Plan. Members received a presentation and considered the item, members agreed that the issue of Housing delivery would be kept under review by the Panel.

Members received a presentation for discussion on the regeneration work being carried out on the Alma, Ladderswood and New Avenue estates.

March 2021

There were 4 items at this meeting, Meridian Water addressing local needs; The panel received a presentation from Jamie Eagles and Ian Freshwater (Senior Regeneration Officers) updating members on the Meridian Water Programme and addressing local needs.

Meridian Water Scrutiny workstream report; the panel received a report and presentation from the Programme Director Meridian Water updating them on progress against the four themes in the Scrutiny Workstream Report.

Improving the Planning process, members received a presentation for discussion on the work being carried out to improve the Council's planning processes, and finally members considered the item on Joyce & Snells Estate regeneration.

13. Conclusion

As a result of the committee's work, members completed their work programmes with a few adjustments throughout the year, including additional meetings for urgent items, or revising the work programme to take account of the rules of Purdah. These items were picked-up at the work planning sessions held in June/July 2021.

- 14.** Enfield Youth Parliament are currently invited to attend and contribute to the work of both the OSC and Children, Young People, and Education Scrutiny Panel. Both members, and the Youth Parliament see this as a positive role and are keen to increase engagement with all Panels, helping to make the voice of young people heard across the Council. With that in mind, a member of the Youth Parliament will be invited to attend all Panel meetings from now on.