BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

AGENDA ITEM: 8   Page nos. 3 – 9 (Supplement)

Meeting	Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date	1 June 2011
Subject	**Task & Finish Group / Scrutiny Panel Update**
Report of	Scrutiny Office
Summary	This report provides Members with an update on the position relating to the current Task & Finish Groups and Overview & Scrutiny Panels.

Officer Contributors	Andrew Charlwood, Overview & Scrutiny Manager
	Melissa James, Overview & Scrutiny Officer
	Andreas Andreou, Overview & Scrutiny Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	All
Enclosures	None
For decision by	Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Contact for further information:

Andrew Charlwood, Overview & Scrutiny Manager, Corporate Governance Directorate

020 8359 2014, andrew.charlwood@barnet.gov.uk

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Sub-Committee consider the progress of the current Task and Finish Groups / Scrutiny Panels as set out in sections 9.1 to 9.7 of this report.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and Task and Finish Groups must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council's priorities.

2.2 The three priority outcomes set out in the 2011/12 Corporate Plan are: –
- **Better services with less money**
- **Sharing opportunities, sharing responsibilities**
- **A successful London suburb**

3. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

3.1 Annual Council, 19 May 2009, Agenda Item 13.2.1, Report of the Special (Constitution Review) Committee, Overview and Scrutiny: New Arrangements

3.2 Policy & Performance Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 2 June 2010, Agenda Item 7 (Overview & Scrutiny Appointments)

3.3 Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 12 July 2010, Agenda Item 8 (Task & Finish Group Update)

3.4 Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 13 September 2010, Agenda Item 10 (Task & Finish Group / Scrutiny Panel Update)

3.5 Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 1 November 2010, Agenda Item 10 (Task & Finish Group / Scrutiny Panel Update)

3.6 Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 16 December 2010, Agenda Item 12 (Task & Finish Group / Scrutiny Panel Update)

3.7 Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 24 January 2011, Agenda Item 8 (Domestic Violence Task and Finish Group – Final Report)

3.8 Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 24 January 2011, Agenda Item 12 (Task & Finish Group / Scrutiny Panel Update)

3.9 Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 11 April 2011, Agenda Item 9 (Task & Finish Group / Scrutiny Panel Update)

3.10 Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 28 February 2011, Agenda Item 12 (Task & Finish Group / Scrutiny Panel Update)

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

4.1 None.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

5.1 In addition to the Terms of Reference of the Committee, and in so far as relating to matters within its remit, the role of the Committee is to perform the Overview and Scrutiny role in relation to:

- The Council's leadership role in relation to diversity and inclusiveness; and

- The fulfilment of the Council's duties as employer including recruitment and retention, personnel, pensions and payroll services, staff development, equalities and health and safety.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

6.1 None in the context of this report.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

7.1 None in the context of this report.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

8.1 The scope of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees is contained within Part 2, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution.

8.2 The Terms of Reference of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees are set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Constitution).

8.3 Item 6 of Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference states that the role of the Committee is:

"To coordinate and monitor the work of scrutiny panels and task and finish groups, including considering reports and recommendations and referring to the relevant decision-making body."

9.   BACKGROUND INFORMATION

9.1   Early Intervention and Prevention Services for Children Task and Finish Group

9.1.1   The membership of the Early Intervention and Prevention Services for Children TFG was approved at the Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 13 September 2010.

9.1.2   The TFG met on 4 October 2010 to discuss and agree their terms of reference. Councillor Brian Salinger was appointed as Chairman. The Acting Deputy Director for Children's Services attended the meeting and provided an overview of early intervention and prevention services in the borough.

9.1.3   On 10 November 2010, the TFG held a round table discussion with Head Teachers on early intervention and prevention services in schools. On 6 December 2010, a second round table discussion took place with Specialist Practitioners working across the borough.

9.1.4   A further meeting took place on the 5 January 2011 where the TFG met with the Director and Deputy Director of Children's Services to discuss the Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy.

9.1.5   Further meetings of the TFG took place on 28 February, 2 March and 9 March 2011. The Chairman of the TFG will be in attendance to provide an update to the Committee on the work undertaken by the Group in these meetings.

9.1.   The TFG have agreed their report and recommendations which are expected to be reported to the Committee on 11 July 2011.

9.2   **Fostering and Adoption Recruitment Task and Finish Group**

9.2.1   The membership of the Fostering and Adoption Recruitment TFG was approved at the Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 13 September 2010.

9.2.2   The TFG met on 17 January 2011 to discuss and agree their terms of reference. Councillor Reuben Thompstone was appointed as Chairman. The Acting Deputy Director of Children's Services attended the meeting and provided an overview of the issues facing Children's Services in relation to foster carer recruitment/retention, as well as issues in recruiting adoptive parents for hard to place children.

9.2.3   Two Members of the TFG attended a meeting on 28 January 2011 with Children's Services Fostering Team and Insight Service to investigate the possibility of developing customer profiles to help target recruitment marketing towards key groups of Barnet residents.

9.2.4 A further meeting of the TFG took place on 9 February 2011 with the Foster Carers Support Group to provide Members with the opportunity to hear foster carers opinions relating to the Fostering Service.

9.2.5 A meeting of the TFG took place on 22 February 2011 with representatives from the independent fostering agency, Supported Fostering Services, to obtain input from the independent fostering sector.

9.2.6 On 23 February 2011, the Group met with the Independent Chairman of the Fostering Panel to allow them to receive views on the selection process for foster carers.

9.2.7 In addition to the above meetings, the TFG met with the Chairman and Manager of the North London Adoption and Fostering Consortium on 4 March 2011.

9.2.8 On 11 April 2011, the Group received evidence from the Fostering Team and the Cabinet Member of Education, Children and Families and considered possible recommendations.

9.2.9 The TFG met on 18 April 2011 to consider the draft report and agree their recommendations.

9.2.10 The TFG have agreed their report and recommendations which are expected to be reported to the Committee on 11 July 2011.

9.3 **Purchasing and Procurement Task and Finish Group**

9.3.1. The Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee established a TFG on Purchasing and Procurement at their meeting on 16 December 2010. Membership of the TFG was confirmed at the Sub-Committee meeting held on 24 January 2011.

9.3.2 The TFG met on 9 March 2011 to discuss their terms of reference. Councillor Brian Schama was appointed as Chairman. The Assistant Director Commercial Assurance and Procurement Manager attended the meeting and provided an overview of the issues currently facing the Procurement Service. The TFG considered a report on Purchasing and Procurement presented to the Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee at their meeting on 28 February 2011 to inform their review.

9.3.3 The TFG met on 24 May 2011 to refine and agree their terms of reference.

9.3.4 Further meetings of the Group are scheduled to take place on 14 June and 6 July 2011.

9.3.4 Officers will report any further progress at the Sub-Committee meeting.

9.4 **Carbon Footprint Task and Finish Group**

9.4.1 The Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee established a TFG on Carbon Footprint at their meeting on 16 December 2010. Membership of the TFG was confirmed at the Sub-Committee meeting held on 24 January 2011.

9.4.2 The TFG met on 14 March 2011 to discuss and agree their terms of reference. Councillor Brian Salinger was appointed as Chairman.

9.4.3 The TFG met on 27 April 2011. The Chairman of the TFG will be in attendance to provide an update to the Committee on the work undertaken by the Group at this meeting.

9.4.4 Officers will report any further progress at the Sub-Committee meeting.

9.5 **Safeguarding in Organisations Working with Children Task and Finish Group**

9.5.1. On 16 December 2010, the Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee established a TFG to consider Safeguarding in Organisations Working with Children. Membership of the TFG was confirmed at the Sub-Committee meeting held on 24 January 2011.

9.5.2 The work of this TFG will commence when resources become available within the Scrutiny Office.

9.6 **One Barnet Overview & Scrutiny Panel**

9.6.1 The Policy and Performance Overview & Scrutiny Committee re-established and appointed the membership of the Future Shape Overview & Scrutiny Panel at their meeting on 2 June 2010.

9.6.2 The Scrutiny Panel met on 8 June 2010 and considered the following items:

- Future Shape Overview & Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference
- Future Shape – Background Information
- Project Briefing and Assessment Plan: Development and Public Health Services
- Project Briefing: Transport Review
- Customer Services Organisation
- Highlight Report
- Potential Site Visit Locations

9.6.3 The Scrutiny Panel met again on 10 August 2010 and considered the following items:

- Future Shape Overview and Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference
- Revenue Income Optimisation

- SAP Optimisation
- Development and Public Health Services
- Adult Social Services

9.6.4 The Scrutiny Panel met again on 21 September 2010 and considered the following items:

- Future Shape Overview and Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference
- Development and Public Health Services
- Prototyping
- Equalities Impact Assessments
- Improving Engagement with Residents Through The Web

9.6.5 The Scrutiny Panel met again on 10 November 2010 and considered the following items:

- One Barnet Overview and Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference
- Highlight Report
- One Barnet Business Case
- Revised Terms of Reference for the One Barnet Programme Board
- Governance Matters
- Customer Services Strategy

9.6.6 The Scrutiny Panel met again on 23 February 2011 and considered the following items:

- One Barnet Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Revised Terms of Reference
- One Barnet Programme Highlight Report
- New Support Organisation / Customer Services Organisation – Options Appraisal

9.6.7 The Scrutiny Panel met again on 23 March 2011 and considered the following items:

- One Barnet Overview and Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference
- One Barnet Programme Highlight Report
- Development and Regulatory Services Business Case

9.6.8 Following a review of Overview and Scrutiny arrangements, the work of the One Barnet Overview and Scrutiny Panel has been incorporated into the remit of the Budget and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee. That Committee will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of any recommendations made by the Panel in relation to One Barnet projects.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None