

Council Meeting
20 April 2010

REPORT OF THE ACTING DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER
AGENDA ITEM 5.3

5.3.1 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT AND WORK PROGRAMMES

- 5.3.1.1 At its meeting of 19 May 2009, Council adopted new Scrutiny arrangements. These arrangements were established with the intention of raising the profile, process and credibility of Overview & Scrutiny.
- 5.3.1.2 The most noteworthy changes to the operation of Overview & Scrutiny in 2009/10 have been:
- The introduction of pre-decision Scrutiny and subsequent reduction in call-ins
 - Meaningful budget and performance Scrutiny including a greater participation by Scrutiny Members in the budget process
 - The operation of targeted Task and Finish Group and Ad Hoc Committees making clear, concise recommendations on specific topics.
- 5.3.1.3 A report outlining the various strands of Scrutiny work which have taken place in 2009/10 is included at Appendix A.
- 5.3.1.4 Council is also asked to approve the work programmes for the Overview & Scrutiny Committees 2010/11. The work programmes are responsive tools, which are updated on a rolling basis following each meeting of the relevant committee to allow for issues and areas of interest which may arise throughout the course of the year.

RECOMMEND –

- (1) That the Annual Report of Overview & Scrutiny 2009/10, as set out in Appendix A, be approved.**
- (2) That the work programmes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees 2010/11, as set out in Appendices B to D, be approved.**

5.3.2 ESTABLISHMENT OF CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY PANEL

- 5.3.2.1 Council is asked to establish a Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel. The Advisory Panel will support the London Borough of Barnet's Corporate Parenting Strategy and will assist the Council in being a better parent to children and young people in care and care leavers. It will support the Council and its partner

agencies towards promoting a joint commitment to corporate parenting, in seeking to achieve continuing improvements to outcomes for children in care and care leavers.

5.3.2.2 The Panel will be chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and will be constituted of a politically-balanced group of non-executive Members to be appointed by Council. Key officers will attend the group as needed to present information

5.3.2.3 The Panel will meet on a quarterly basis, and will include on its annual work programme:

- Consideration of a range of management and financial information about children in care and care leavers
- Consideration of policies that support children in care and care leavers to be happy, healthy, fulfilling their potential and making successful transitions to adulthood
- Monitoring the progress of children in care and care leavers outcomes
- Meetings with key staff
- Hearing the views of children and young people
- Updates on new government initiatives, guidance and examples of good practice

5.3.2.4 The Panel will provide an annual report to the appropriate Overview & Scrutiny Committee or sub-Committee.

RECOMMEND -

(1) That Council establish a Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel as outlined above.

APPENDIX A

Overview & Scrutiny – 2009/10

Policy and Performance Overview & Scrutiny Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This over-arching committee has been responsible for appointing Sub-Committees and Task and Finish Groups.• Comprising 30 Members, it will have met on three occasions this municipal year.• Has undertaken initial Scrutiny of the Corporate Plan, which was later continued by the Budget and Performance Overview & Scrutiny Committee• Will exercise the Crime & Disorder Scrutiny function through meeting with Borough Commander on April 13th 2010
Budget and Performance Overview & Scrutiny Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The committee has scrutinises the Council's Corporate Performance Data on a quarterly basis• The committee has also scrutinised partners through receiving the annual review of partnerships and Barnet Homes performance information• The committee has been responsible for Scrutiny of the budget through regularly receiving the Financial Forward Plan and Risk Register, has lent its input into proposals around budget consultation and received and commented to Cabinet on the Budget headlines• Has also engaged in pre-decision Scrutiny including on the new Corporate Plan.
Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responsible for scrutinising the borough's Health partners, the committee has received reports on a number of strategies and initiatives from NHS Barnet, Barnet Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust and other stakeholders.• Regularly monitored NHS Barnet's response to the swine flu update• Responded to the Healthcare for London proposals around stroke and trauma including making representations to the Joint Committee• Established relationships and protocols for referral with the Local Involvement Network (LINKs)
Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determined the procedure for the management of call-ins, considered ten call-ins and completed a review of the arrangements after six months• Monitored the Cabinet Forward Plan and undertaken pre-decision scrutiny of Town Centre Strategies, the Housing Strategy and the Local Development Framework Core Strategy.• Monitored Task and Finish Groups• Agreed a procedure for dealing with Councillor Calls for Action
Adult Social Services Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee

- This committee has reviewed community care services for older people and vulnerable adults
- Has scrutinised services which may be needed to help people remain independent in their own homes and partnerships with other public, private and voluntary sector agencies.
- Scrutinised a number of initiatives such as the Prevention framework, the Annual Adult Safeguarding Report and the Green Paper on Adult Social Care.

Children's Service Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee

- Has looked at the Council's education services, children's social care services, function as a Local Education Authority and corporate parenting role for children in care.
- Reviewed health-related issues affecting children and young people
- Scrutinised non educational issues relevant to supporting vulnerable children and young people in Barnet in council and non-council provided services

Ad Hoc Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Icelandic Banks

- Appointed and monitored the work of an external review into the Council's deposits in Icelandic banks.
- Endorsed the recommendations of the review, which included strengthening of monitoring of Treasury Management activity.

Ad Hoc Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Utility Problems in East Barnet

- Received evidence from local residents, elected representatives, officers of the Council and utility companies on the utility problems in East Barnet in December 2009.
- Findings will be reported to Council on 20th April 2010.

Future Shape Overview & Scrutiny Panel

- Undertook pre-decision scrutiny of the work of the One Barnet Programme Board (the project board responsible for implementing the Future Shape programme), looking in detail proposals relating to:
 - Establishment of a Joint Venture Company for Regeneration / Local Asset Backed Development and Investment Vehicle; and
 - Commissioning of Planning, Housing and Regulatory Functions.
- Made recommendations to the One Barnet Programme Board and Cabinet Resources Committee on the proposals.

Overview & Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups

- Task and Finish Groups have undertaken work on the following topics:
 - Enterprise
 - Advice Provision
 - School Place Planning
 - Road Resurfacing
 - Homelessness and Young People

- Recycling and Waste Minimisation
- Task and Finish Groups comprise five Members, and conduct clearly-scoped, time-limited work with the intention of producing a small-number of SMART recommendations for the Cabinet.

APPENDIX B

Policy & Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2010/11

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED	INFORMATION	REPORT ORIGIN	LINK TO CABINET/ CORPORATE PLAN
Overview & Scrutiny Appointments	To make Overview & Scrutiny appointments, including Task and Finish Groups, as necessary throughout the municipal year.	Scrutiny office	Overview and Scrutiny committees/sub-Committees must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of Council priorities and highlight, where appropriate, policy development and pre-decision scrutiny.
Crime and Disorder Scrutiny	To exercise the statutory function in relation to Scrutiny of crime and disorder matters.	Scrutiny office	
Overview & Scrutiny Review of Effectiveness	To review the effectiveness of Scrutiny in 2009/10.	Scrutiny office	Overview and Scrutiny committees/sub-Committees must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of Council priorities and highlight, where appropriate, policy development and pre-decision scrutiny.

APPENDIX C

BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11

2010/11			
ITEMS CONSIDERED	INFORMATION	REPORT ORIGIN	LINK TO CABINET / CORPORATE PLAN
Quarterly Performance Indicators	A report presenting progress against the Corporate Plan performance indicators to be considered with a different area of particular focus at each meeting.	Internal - Performance	
Financial Forward Plan	To receive regular reports on the Financial Forward Plan and Risk Register.	Internal - Finance	
Budget Scrutiny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Receiving a report at an early meeting outlining the initial work towards the budget - Receiving a report on the draft budget headlines and discussing any issues arising - Reviewing the budget consultation proposals, including the involvement of Scrutiny 	Internal – Finance	

	- Reviewing the results of the consultation and the impact on budget decisions of Cabinet.		
Scrutiny of Partnerships	To receive the Annual Report of Partnerships, and to examine Council partnerships with other organisations.	Internal – Partnerships	
Treasury Management Strategy	Scrutiny of Treasury Management Strategy	Internal – Finance	
Draft Corporate Plan 2011/12	To consider and comment on the Draft Corporate Plan.	Assistant Chief Executive	
Barnet Homes Performance Information and Business Plan	To consider annual Barnet Homes Performance Information and Business Plan.	External – Barnet Homes	
Estates Management Strategy	To be included early in the municipal year	Internal – Commercial Services	
Restructure of Human Resources	To be consider the restructure of Human Resources	Internal - Finance	

IS Strategy	Requested at committee, 3/3/10.	Internal – Information Systems	
Major Projects in Progress	To be updated on the progress of Major Projects currently operating.	Internal - Finance	
Public Sector Spending Outlook	Outlook in terms of public spending picture in light of recession	Internal – Finance	
Parking Revenues	To receive a report on the Council's collection and spend of parking revenues.	Internal – Parking	
Cashless Operations	Report on Council moves towards cashless operations, including methods of payment	Internal – Finance	
Medium Term Financial Strategy	To receive the Medium Term Financial Strategy	Internal – Finance	

The Chairman issue regular invitations to external stakeholders to participate in discussions on relevant items where useful.

APPENDIX D

HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED		REPORT ORIGIN	LINK TO CABINET / CORPORATE PLAN
STATUTORY ITEMS	INFORMATION		
North Central Sector Commissioning	To include possible participation in a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with other North Central London boroughs.	External – NHS Barnet and Healthcare for London	
Northwick Park Accident & Emergency	To include updates on the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit	External – NW London Hospitals NHS Trust	
Barnet, Enfield & Haringey Clinical Strategy	To further scrutinise the BEH Clinical Strategy	External – NHS Barnet	
Finchley Memorial Hospital	To receive a report on the rebuild	External – NHS Barnet	
BEH Mental Health Trust 'Changing for Good' Programme	To receive a report from BEH Mental Health Trust	External – BEH Mental Health Trust	

APPENDIX D

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - update	To allow Scrutiny input into the update of the strategy	Internal – Adult Social Services & External – NHS Barnet	
Stroke and Trauma Follow-up	To receive information on blue light times as requested on 14/9/09.	External – Healthcare for London	
Quality Accounts	To scrutinise quality accounts produced by Health partners	External – Health partners	
LINKS Items	Items requested by LINKS for consideration by the committee.	External	
Substantial Variations	Changes to health services provision constituting a 'substantial variation and development' under the provisions of the Health and Social Care Act 2001.	External – NHS Acute Trusts and Barnet PCT	