
Meeting	Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date	18 th April 2012
Subject	Task and Finish Groups / Scrutiny Panels – Recommendation Tracking
Report of	Scrutiny Office
Summary	This report provides the Committee with an update on the implementation of recommendations made by Overview & Scrutiny Task & Finish Group accepted by Cabinet.

Officer Contributors	Melissa James , Overview & Scrutiny Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	All
Enclosures	Appendix A – Task & Finish Group Recommendations
For decision by	Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That the Committee consider and comment on the progress made in implementing Task & Finish Group/ Scrutiny Panel recommendations accepted by Cabinet, as set out in Appendix A.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet, 10 October 2010, Decision 5 (Report of the Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee: Task and Finish Group: Service Options for Remodelling Older People's Housing with Support)
- 2.2 Cabinet, 10 October 2010, Decision 8 (Report of the Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee: Task and Finish Group: Council's Response to Cold Weather)
- 2.3 Cabinet, 1 January 2011, Decision 6 (Report of the Housing Allocations Overview and Scrutiny Panel: Majority and Minority Reports)
- 2.4 Safer Communities Partnership Board, 7 March 2011, Item 2 (Report of the Domestic Violence Task and Finish Group)
- 2.5 Cabinet, 14th September 2011, Decision 11 (Report of the Fostering and Recruitment Task and Finish Group)
- 2.6 Cabinet, 20th February 2012 Decision 10 (Report of the Supply of Secondary School Places Overview and Scrutiny Panel)

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Panels and Task and Finish Groups must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council's priorities.
- 3.2 The three priority outcomes set out in the 2012-13 Corporate Plan are: –
- Better services with less money
 - Sharing opportunities, sharing responsibilities
 - A successful London suburb

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 Failure to monitor the progress made in implementing recommendations made by Task & Finish Groups and Overview & Scrutiny Panels which have been accepted by Cabinet carries a reputational risk to the authority through a failure to demonstrate the outcomes from Overview and Scrutiny work.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 Pursuant to the Equality Act 2010 ("the Act"), the council has a legislative duty to have 'due regard' to eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality

and fostering good relations in the contexts of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy, and maternity, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

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

- The Council's leadership role with respect 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 Task and Finish Group reviews have the scope to consider value for money issues which identify how well the Council is managing and using its resources to deliver value for money and better and more sustainable outcomes for local people.

6.2 Where there are financial implications linked to recommendations, these are identified by the Task and Finish Group/Scrutiny Panel for Cabinet to consider alongside recommendations.

6.3 Any financial implications will be managed within existing Service Directorate budgets.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

7.1 Under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's executive arrangements are required to include provision for appointment of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee with specified powers, including the power to make recommendations in respect of council functions. In respect of the exercise of the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee's powers to coordinate and monitor the work of overview and scrutiny task and finish groups / scrutiny panels, it is good practice to monitor the progress and impact of recommendations made.

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 8 of Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference states that its role 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 In May 2009, the council adopted a ‘task and finish’ group approach to some of their overview and scrutiny work. Council agreed that task and finish groups would be time-limited to ensure that recommendations were made to the relevant decision-making body in a timely manner. On the whole, task and finish groups have completed their work over a three-month period. However, this timescale is flexible where circumstances mean that a review should be run over a shorter or extended period.

9.2 Since May 2009, a total of eleven task and finish groups and scrutiny panels have concluded their work on the following topics:-

- Enterprise in the Borough (3rd February 2010)
- School Places Planning (3rd February 2010)
- Advice Provision in the Borough (22nd February 2010)
- Homelessness and Young People (12th April 2010)
- Road Resurfacing (12th April 2010)
- Recycling and Waste Minimisation (6th September 2010)
- Remodelling Older People’s Housing with Support (20th October 2010)
- Council’s Response to Cold Weather (20th October 2010)
- Housing Allocations Overview and Scrutiny Panel (10th January 2011)
- Domestic Violence (7th March 2011)
- Fostering Recruitment (14th September 2011)

Dates that these groups reported their findings to Cabinet are detailed in brackets.

9.3 A further four task and finish groups have recently completed their work :

- Health and Social Care Integration (4th April 2012)
- Early Intervention and Prevention Services (Children’s Services) (4th April 2012)
- Contract Monitoring and Community Benefit (4th April 2012)
- Carbon Footprint (4th April 2012)
- Secondary School Places Overview and Scrutiny Panel(9th January 2012)

9.4 In order for the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee to have an effective oversight of the work of task and finish groups, it is important for council services (or external bodies) to evidence the extent to which recommendations accepted by the Cabinet (or external agency) have

been implemented. To this end, the Scrutiny Office requested that services provide an update on the implementation of accepted recommendations at six-monthly intervals (from the date of reporting to Cabinet or external agency).

9.5 Updates are now due in relation to the following task and finish groups and overview and scrutiny panels:

- Remodelling Older People's Housing with Support
- Housing Allocations Overview and Scrutiny Panel
- Domestic Violence
- Fostering and Recruitment

9.6 An update from services in relation to the scrutiny panels/task and finish groups (referred to at 9.5 above) is set out at **Appendix A**. The Committee are requested to comment on information provided in the update report.

9.7 Information contained within the Task and Finish Group update report will also be circulated to Members that served on the relevant task and finish. Those Members will be requested to feed back any comments that they have on the updates provided by services to the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman and Scrutiny Office. Any comments will be reported to the Committee to enable appropriate action to be taken.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None.

Legal: JH

Finance: MC/JH