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| Meeting           | Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee   |
| Date              | 7 February 2013   |
| Subject           | <b>Task and Finish Groups / Scrutiny Panels – Recommendation Tracking</b>   |
| Report of Summary | Scrutiny Office<br><br>This report provides the Committee with an update on the implementation of recommendations made by Overview & Scrutiny Task & Finish Groups accepted by Cabinet. |

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| Officer Contributors      | Anita Vukomanovic, 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, 4 April 2012, Health and Social Care Integration Task and Finish Group:  
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/CeListDocuments.aspx?Committeed=120&MeetingId=6792&DF=04%2f04%2f2012&Ver=2>

## **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 section 149 of the Equality Act, 2010, the council has a public sector to have due regard to eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; advancing equality of opportunity between those with a protected characteristic and those without; promoting good relations between those with a protected characteristic and those without. The, relevant, 'protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. It also covers marriage and civil partnership with regard to elimination discrimination.

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 arising 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 reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive.

## **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 16 task and finish groups and scrutiny panels have concluded their work on the following topics:-

- Enterprise in the Borough (3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010)
- School Places Planning (3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010)
- Advice Provision in the Borough (22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010)
- Homelessness and Young People (12<sup>th</sup> April 2010)
- Road Resurfacing (12<sup>th</sup> April 2010)
- Recycling and Waste Minimisation (6<sup>th</sup> September 2010)
- Remodelling Older People’s Housing with Support (20<sup>th</sup> October 2010)
- Council’s Response to Cold Weather (20<sup>th</sup> October 2010)
- Housing Allocations Overview and Scrutiny Panel (10<sup>th</sup> January 2011)
- Domestic Violence (7<sup>th</sup> March 2011)
- Fostering Recruitment (14<sup>th</sup> September 2011)
- Secondary School Places Overview and Scrutiny Panel (9<sup>th</sup> January 2012)
- Health and Social Care Integration (4<sup>th</sup> April 2012)
- Early Intervention and Prevention Services (Children’s Services) (4<sup>th</sup> April 2012)
- Contract Monitoring and Community Benefit (4<sup>th</sup> April 2012)
- Carbon Footprint (4<sup>th</sup> April 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). Six-monthly updates will be requested over a period of eighteen months to monitor implementation. Monitoring will only continue after this eighteen month period if Members specifically request this to happen for a certain Task and Finish group.

9.5 Updates are now due in relation to the following task and finish group:

- Health and Social Care Integration Task and Finish Group

9.6 An update from services in relation to the task and finish group 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 group. 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.

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| <b>Cleared by Finance</b> | <b>MC/JH</b> |
| <b>Cleared by Legal</b>   | <b>SS</b>    |