
| | |
|----------------|--|
| Meeting | Cabinet |
| Date | 18 April 2013 |
| Subject | Reference from Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Review of Effectiveness of Task and Finish Groups |
| Report of | Scrutiny Office |
| Summary | This report submits a reference from the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the recommendations arising from a Review of the Effectiveness of Task and Finish Groups |

| | |
|---|---|
| Officer Contributors | Andrew Charlwood, Overview & Scrutiny Manager |
| Status (public or exempt) | Public |
| Wards Affected | N/A |
| Key Decision | No |
| Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in | N/A |
| Function of | Executive |
| Enclosures | Appendix 1 – Report to Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee (11 March 2013), including: Annex 1 – Review of the Effectiveness of Task and Finish Groups |
| Contact for Further Information: | Andrew Charlwood, Overview & Scrutiny Manager, 020 8359 2014, andrew.charlwood@barnet.gov.uk |

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That Cabinet considers and gives its instructions with respect to the recommendations (that relate to Cabinet only) made following a Review of the Effectiveness of Task and Finish Groups, as referred to Cabinet by the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 As set out in Appendix 1.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 As set out in Appendix 1.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 As set out in Appendix 1.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 As set out in Appendix 1.

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

- 6.1 As set out in Appendix 1.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 As set out in Appendix 1.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS (Relevant section from the Constitution, Key/Non-Key Decision)

- 8.1 Council Constitution, Part 3, Responsibility for Functions, Section 3.8 provides that the following decision is reserved to the Cabinet meeting: "Considering recommendations made to them by overview and scrutiny committees."
- 8.2 Council Constitution, Executive Procedure Rules, Section 2.3 states that "At each meeting of the Executive the following business will be conducted: (vi) consideration of reports from overview and scrutiny committees."
- 8.3 Constitutional powers, as they relate to the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Task and Finish Groups, are set out in the report attached at Appendix 1.

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 The Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the report which considered a Review of Effectiveness of Task and Finish Groups (as set out at **Appendix 1**) at their meeting on 11 March 2013. At the meeting, the Committee agreed the recommendations contained therein.
- 9.2 The final report on the Review of Effectiveness of Task and Finish Groups is set out at **Annex 1**.
- 9.3 Cabinet are requested to provide a formal response to Recommendation 1 only.
- 9.4 In relation to Recommendation 2, the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed the actions and the Chairman and Scrutiny Office will develop appropriate responses to these.
- 9.5 Actions in relation to recommendation 3 have been substantially completed, as outlined below:

Media Engagement Project

The project is aimed at improving corporate and public understanding of the work of scrutiny and promoting the democratic decision making process. The following actions have been completed:

- New web pages outlining the work of scrutiny went live on the Barnet website in December 2012.
- Committee descriptions for scrutiny committees added to the committee papers section of the website.
- Promotion of scrutiny committees via social media (Twitter and Facebook) and strengthening of relationships with Corporate Communications.

Further engagement activity is planned in developing work programmes for scrutiny committees for the 2013/14 municipal year.

Scrutiny Member Development

During 2012/13, the following scrutiny specific member development activities have taken place which have been attended by non-Executive Members:

- Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) London Scrutiny Member Development Seminar (17 October 2012).
- Implications of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (11 December 2012) – CfPS facilitated Barnet specific session on the implications on the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- Scrutiny Skills (8 January 2013) – CfPS facilitated session on scrutiny skills including topic selection and questioning skills.
- House of Commons Select Committee Training Programme (25 February 2013) – a bespoke session to look at Scrutiny in the Parliamentary Select Committees took place at the House of Commons. Members attended a Barnet-only talk with the Chairman and Clerk of the Communities and

Local Government Select Committee. Following this, Barnet Members attended a Select Committee session.

Further member development events are planned during 2013 including a CfPS London-wide event on 18 April 2013, a Barnet specific session on scrutiny in the commissioning council and training specifically for members of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials) | MC/JH |
| Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials) | SS |