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Meeting	Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date	23 April 2014
Subject	<b>Task &amp; Finish Groups / Overview &amp; Scrutiny Panels – Legacy Arrangements</b>
Report of	Scrutiny Office
Summary	This report outlines arrangements for monitoring the implementation of recommendations made by Task & Finish Groups and Overview & Scrutiny Panels in the committee system form of governance

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Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	All
Key Decision	No
Enclosures	Appendix A – Task & Finish Groups and Overview & Scrutiny Panel Recommendations Referred to Theme Committees
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	N/A
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## **1. RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 That the Committee note the arrangements for referring recommendations made by Task & Finish Groups and Overview & Scrutiny Panels to theme committees in the new committee system form of governance effective from 2 June 2014 .**

## **2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 2.1 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 11 March 2014, Decision Item 13, Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee Future Work Programme – the Committee requested that officers add an item to the work programme for the 23 April 2014 meeting on Task and Finish Groups / Overview and Scrutiny Panels – Legacy Arrangements.

## **3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the council's priorities.
- 3.2. The three priority outcomes set out in the 2013 – 2016 Corporate Plan are;
- Promote responsible growth, development and success across the borough;
  - Support families and individuals that need it – promoting independence, learning and well-being; and
  - Improve the satisfaction of residents and businesses with the London Borough of Barnet as a place to live, work and study.
- 3.3 Recommendations made by Task & Finish Groups and Overview & Scrutiny Panels take into consideration during the review lifecycle the Council's priorities, strategic objectives, outcomes and targets as detailed on the 2013 – 2016 Corporate Plan.

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- 4.1 Failure to embed the recommendations made by Task & Finish Groups and Overview & Scrutiny Panels into the new committee system is likely to have reputational implications for the Council. In undertaking scrutiny reviews, non-Executive Members have scrutinised council services or considered issues of public concern and made a number of policy proposals or recommendations for service improvements. Failure to implement these recommendations after they have been agreed by the Executive undermines the work of these scrutiny bodies. To mitigate this risk, recommendations made by scrutiny bodies will be added to the work programmes of the new theme committees to enable their implementation to be monitored by elected Members.

## **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 Recommendations made by Task & Finish Groups and Overview & Scrutiny Panels must take into account the resource implications of any recommendations they present to Cabinet. Any specific financial or resources considerations are detailed in the final reports of the individual task and finish groups or overview and scrutiny panels when they report to Cabinet.

## **7. LEGAL ISSUES**

- 7.1 The Localism Act 2011 allows Councils to return to a committee form of governance under schedule 2. The Council passed a resolution at full Council in January 2014. A committee system form of governance will come into effect from Annual Council (2 June 2014). As a consequence, overview and scrutiny arrangements will no longer exist in their current format. The Localism Act 2011 requires that health scrutiny is retained in a committee system form of governance.

## **8 CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS**

- 8.1 The scope of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees is contained within Part 2, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution.
- 8.2 The Terms of Reference of the Scrutiny Committees are included in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Council's 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 January 2014 Full Council resolved to adopt a committee system form of governance effective from Annual Council (2 June 2014). As such, overview and scrutiny committees (except for the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee) will be abolished; the Cabinet and overview and scrutiny committees will be replaced by thematic committees with decision making powers.
- 9.2 During 2013/14, a total of six scrutiny reviews have been completed as follows:

- Your Choice Barnet Task and Finish Group

- Early Years Review Task and Finish Group
- 20 MPH Zones Task and Finish Group
- Empty Properties Task and Finish Group
- NHS Health Checks Scrutiny Review
- Parking Policy (Cash Meters) Task and Finish Group

9.3 Findings and recommendations from these reviews were reported to Cabinet on 25 February and 2 April 2014.

9.4 In addition to the reviews referred to at 9.2 above, there are two additional groups which completed their work in 2012/13 and are in the 'live' monitoring period:

- Task and Finish Groups Review of Effectiveness
- Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

9.5 Under current arrangements, the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitor the implementation of recommendations approved by Cabinet at six-monthly intervals up to a maximum of 18 after the reviews report their findings and recommendations to Cabinet (the live monitoring period).

9.6 As the reviews undertaken during 2013/14 have progressed through the Council's decision-making structures, Members have sought assurance that the recommendations made by these groups will be embedded into the new governance arrangements. In accordance with this request, officers have reviewed the scrutiny reviews in the live monitoring period and are proposing to refer them to the work programmes for the following theme committees:

- Education Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Panel – **Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding**
- Your Choice Barnet Task and Finish Group – **Adults & Safeguarding Committee**
- Early Years Review Task and Finish Group – **Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee**
- 20 MPH Zones Task and Finish Group – **Environment Committee**
- Empty Properties Task and Finish Group – **Housing Committee**
- NHS Health Checks Scrutiny Review – **Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee / Health & Well-Being Board**
- Parking Policy (Cash Meters) Task and Finish Group – **Environment Committee**

9.7 The recommendations made by the Task and Finish Groups Review of Effectiveness will not be carried forward to a successor committee in the new system as the Leader has stated that Task and Finish Groups will not continue in the new system. The recommendations made by that group are included in Appendix A for information only.

9.8 As part of a project to develop work programmes for the new theme committees, officers have added the items detailed at 9.8 above to the work programmes for the new commissioning committees. Items have been allocated to committees on the basis of the themes of the recommendations that they have made. The new committees will have an opportunity to review and approve their draft work programmes at the first

meetings in the 2014/15 municipal year. The approach to allocating the recommendations to committee has been approved the Chairman of the Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Assurance Director. Governance Service Officers will ensure that Delivery Units produce reports updating the committees on the implementation of recommendations at the appropriate time.

- 9.9 The Committee are requested to note the arrangements that have been put in place to monitor the implementation of recommendations made by Task & Finish Groups and Overview & Scrutiny Panels and make comments and/or recommendations to officers regarding any refinements required.

## **10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 None.

<b>Cleared by Finance</b>	<b>JH/AD</b>
<b>Cleared by Legal</b>	<b>CE</b>