



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Title	Cabinet Forward Plan
Date of meeting	5 March 2024
Report of	Head of Governance
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Appendices	Appendix A – Cabinet Forward Plan (Key Decision Schedule)
Officer Contact Details	Andrew Charlwood, Head of Governance Andrew.Charlwood@barnet.gov.uk

Summary

The report details the Cabinet Forward Plan for 2023/24. The Committee is requested to consider any items they may wish to request for pre-decision scrutiny during 2023-2024. Items that the Committee may wish to request for pre-decision scrutiny during 2023/24 will be include in the Committee's work programme for 2023/24.

Recommendations

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the Cabinet Forward Plan and any items the Committee may wish to request for pre-decision scrutiny during 2023/24.

1. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 1.1 The Council's Constitution (Committee Procedure Rules, Part 3C, Section 38) states: Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Sub-Committees have the power and responsibility to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive.
- 1.2 The attached Appendix A sets out the upcoming Key Decisions which the Authority proposes to take at forthcoming Cabinet meetings. The committee is requested to review the plan and determine if there are any items that the committee may wish to request for pre-decision scrutiny during 2023/24.

2. Alternative Options Considered and Not Recommended
2.1 The committee could decide to not review the Cabinet Forward Plan. However, this is not recommended as non-Executive Members should have the opportunity to have an input in major polices and strategies as they are in development.
3. Post Decision Implementation
3.1 Any item that is subject to pre-decision scrutiny will be included in the committee’s work programme for 2023/24.
4. Corporate Priorities, Performance and Other Considerations
<p>Corporate Plan</p> <p>4.1 This report is aligned with the key priorities in the new corporate plan. Built on the pillars of “caring for people, our places and the planet” and underpinned by a foundation of being Engaged and Effective. The work of Overview and Scrutiny will support the Council in becoming a ‘listening council’ collaborating and building a continuous dialogue with residents and communities. In doing so, residents are involved in decision-making and Scrutiny acts to amplify the voice of the public, on issue of concern.</p> <p>Corporate Performance / Outcome Measures</p> <p>4.2 This item will support delivery of the measure how “We act on concerns of local residents and involve them in decision making”.</p> <p>Sustainability</p> <p>4.3 None in the context of this report.</p> <p>Corporate Parenting</p> <p>4.4 In line with Children and Social Work Act 2017, the council has a duty to consider Corporate Parenting Principles in decision-making across the council. This duty will be considered when including items to the work programme.</p> <p>Risk Management</p> <p>4.5 None in the context of this report.</p> <p>Insight</p> <p>4.6 Insight data and evidence will be used to support scrutiny reviews on the work programme.</p> <p>Social Value</p> <p>4.7 None in the context of this report.</p>
5. Resource Implications (Finance and Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT and Property)
5.1 As part of the Governance review a dedicated team has been created to support the Overview and Scrutiny function and this will be delivered within the existing Governance service budget.
6. Legal Implications and Constitution References
6.1 The terms of reference of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees and Sub-Committees are set out in Part 2B and 2C of the Constitution. Procedure rules relating to Overview & Scrutiny are set

out in Part 3C of the Constitution. Further rules relating to Overview & Scrutiny are set out in Part 3D (Budget and Policy Procedure Rules) and Part 3E (Access to Information Procedure Rules).

6.2 The terms of reference of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee are set out in section 9 and 10 of Part 2B and include:

10.1.1 To oversee an agreed work programme that can help secure service improvement through in-depth investigation of performance issues and the development of an effective strategy/policy framework for the council and partners;

10.1.2 To have general oversight of the council's scrutiny function;

10.1.3 To offer challenge and critical support to the Executive's policy development function and the long-term strategic direction of the borough;

10.1.4 To anticipate policy changes and determine their potential impact on residents and to recommend changes where these are appropriate;

10.1.5 To consider the council and partners' strategic approach to service delivery, using, where necessary, the power of overview and scrutiny committees to receive information from partner agencies and to require partner authorities to have regard to reports and recommendations from the Committee, as set out under Part Five of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007;

10.1.6 To undertake detailed investigation of service/financial performance in order to recommend policy changes to the Executive and to undertake investigations;

10.1.7 To report scrutiny findings and recommendations to the Executive within 8 weeks of being published or to its next meeting, whichever is the sooner, in accordance with the council's constitution;

10.1.8 To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions in accordance with s.19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

10.1.9 To consider items included in the Forward Plan;

10.1.10 To consider Councillor Call for Action.

7. Consultation

7.1 None in the context of this report.

8. Equalities and Diversity

8.1 Pursuant to the Equality Act 2010, the Council and all other organisations exercising public functions on its behalf must have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; advance equality of opportunity between those with a protected characteristic and those without; promote 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 eliminating discrimination. The work of overview and scrutiny will be transparent and accessible to all sectors of the community.

9. Background Papers

9.1 None