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|   | <h2>Children and Education Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee</h2>                          |
| <b>Title</b>   | <b>Work Programme for Children and Education Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee 2023/24</b> |
| <b>Date of meeting</b>   | 07 March 2024  |
| <b>Report of</b>   | Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer  |
| <b>Wards</b>   | All  |
| <b>Status</b>  | Public   |
| <b>Urgent</b>  | No   |
| <b>Appendices</b>  | Appendix A – Children and Education Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee Work Programme       |
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| <b>Summary</b>   |  |
| <p>The report sets out the Work Programme for the Children and Education Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee March to May 2024.</p> <p>The work programme will be considered at every meeting of the Sub-Committee.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee can make any amendments necessary, to enable it to respond to issues of concern or to request new pre-decision items ahead of their consideration by Cabinet/Council.</p>             |  |
| <b>Recommendations</b>   |  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Children and Education Overview and Education Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee comments on the March to May 2024 work programme.</li> </ol>  |  |
| <b>1. Reasons for the Recommendations</b>  |  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 The Council’s Constitution Part 3C Committee Procedure Rules states: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider its outline work programme, and that of the Overview and Scrutiny sub-committees, at its first meeting following the Annual Meeting of Council...and report the agreed outline work programme to the first available ordinary meeting of the Council.</li> </ol> |  |

1.2 The work programme includes suggestion and input from Councillors, officers, members of the public, community groups and the voluntary sector.

*A strong and effective work programme underpins the work and approach of Scrutiny. But work to develop and refine the work programme requires support. The input of executive members, senior officers, and external partners will all assist scrutiny Members to effectively fulfil their role as critical friends constructively challenging decision makers. [CfGS 2022]*

1.3 The work programme should reflect the Council's priorities and should be targeted on issues where scrutiny can add real value. Good practice guidelines for setting overview and scrutiny work programmes state that if scrutiny is to be effective in driving service improvement and making a real difference to outcomes for local people, its work programme must be:

- Informed by the priorities and concerns of local people.
- Led by scrutiny members.
- Manageable and realistic
- Integrated effectively with corporate budget-making and strategic planning and policy setting processes and add value in contributing to the achievement of the Council's corporate objectives.
- Reflect a proactive approach to driving service improvement, rather than being simply reactive in response to decisions of the Executive.

1.4 The attached work programme reflect this approach.

## **2. Alternative Options Considered and Not Recommended**

2.1 There is no alternative in the context of this report.

## **3. Post Decision Implementation**

3.1 The 2023-2024 work programmes and scrutiny topics was presented to Full Council on 11 July for agreement.

## **4. Corporate Priorities, Performance and Other Considerations**

### **Corporate Plan**

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.

### **Corporate Performance / Outcome Measures**

4.2 This item measure how "We act on concerns of local residents and involve them in decision making".

### **Sustainability**

4.3 None in the context of this report.

### **Corporate Parenting**

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. This is especially relevant for the work programme for the children and education sub-committee.

**Risk Management**

4.5 None in the context of this report.

**Insight**

4.6 Insight data and evidence will be used to support scrutiny reviews on the work programme.

**Social Value**

4.7 None in the context of this report.

**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 Council's Constitution Part 2B – Terms of Reference and Delegation of Duties to Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council, Article 10.1.1 states that the Committee will 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.

6.2 The Council's Constitution Part 3C - Committee Procedure Rules, Article 36.1 states that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider its outline work programme, and that of the Overview and Scrutiny sub-committees, at its first meeting following the Annual Meeting of Council

6.3 Article 36.2 - In setting the outline work programme, account will be taken of the need to scrutinise forthcoming policy, for example, the budget and other major policies or strategies in development, whilst leaving flexibility to allow additional items to be added to the agendas for committees and sub-committees and to commission task and finish group reviews during the year in response to new requests for scrutiny.

6.4 Article 52.1 - Overview and Scrutiny Committee may conduct reviews via informal Task and Finish Groups but the findings must be reported back to the relevant Committee or SubCommittee.

6.5 Article 36.3 - The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will report the agreed outline work programme to the first available ordinary meeting of the Council.

6.1 Under the Barnet Constitution Part 2 C, the Children & Education Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee shall perform the overview and scrutiny role and function in relation to:

- All matters as that relate to Children's Social Care
- All matters which relate to services pertaining to the education and well-being of children and young people including youth services
- Receive and comment upon any external inspections and reviews.

## **7. Consultation**

- 7.1 Consultation and engagement of Councillors, Officers, members of the public, community groups and the voluntary sector was undertaken to provide input into the work programme and will be ongoing as the work programme is implemented.
- 7.2 The Scrutiny team has engaged with Councillors through the political assistants and Officers. The team also undertook a public consultation exercise on engage Barnet and in the Barnet First eNews letter. The results of the consultation have been included in appendix Di for consideration by the committee and inclusion into the work programme for the committee and the sub-committee.

## **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