

Democratic Services
Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD

Report of: Head of Democratic Services and Governance

Meeting of: Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date: 25 July 2022

Ward(s): n/a

Subject: Review Topics from the Council's Scrutiny Committees

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. This report summarises the scrutiny topics selected by the Council's scrutiny review committees for 2022/23.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. To note the scrutiny review topics selected for 2022/23.

3. Background

- 3.1. Each year the Council's scrutiny committees review the performance of local services and key issues that impact on residents, with a view to making recommendations for further service development and improvement.
- 3.2. The Terms of Reference of the Council's Scrutiny Committees are set out in the Council's Constitution. The Terms of Reference state that each scrutiny committee may undertake a review of its own choosing, with further reviews as directed by the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.3. The Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee is responsible for the co-ordination of all overview and scrutiny functions on behalf of the Council. The Committee is asked to note the main topics selected for review by the Council's scrutiny committees in 2022/23.

3.4. Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee

The Committee is intending to consider a topic related to the Cost of Living Crisis, financial resilience, and how the Council can best support local people in the current financial climate. The Committee is asked to consider the scope of this review elsewhere on the agenda through a Scrutiny Initiation Document.

3.5. Health and Care Scrutiny Committee

The Committee will be undertaking a review of Adult Social Care services in the borough, particularly focusing on the impact of legislative changes through the Health and Care Act 2022, the risks and opportunities associated with it, possible future developments, and the robustness of the Council's plans for responding to these changes. The review will also consider different models of service delivery. The impact on those receiving care services and their families will be considered throughout. A Scrutiny Initiation Document is being developed and will be submitted to the next committee meeting.

3.6. Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

The Committee will be undertaking a review of Visibility of Children. This will consider themes such as school attendance and wellbeing, those not in education, employment or training (NEET), children missing from education, and how the Council can hear the voice of young people in decision-making processes. A Scrutiny Initiation Document is being developed and will be submitted to the next committee meeting.

3.7. Housing Scrutiny Committee

The Committee has selected the topic 'Strategic Review of Overcrowding in Islington'. This will consider the impact and consequences of overcrowding on Islington residents both in the public and private sector, and best practice and innovative approaches to addressing this issue. The Committee will liaise with statutory and non-statutory agencies such as Children's Services, Adult Services, Health Agencies, Police Probation, and the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance on the impact of overcrowding on their work. The Committee will also consider the Housing Allocations Policy as part of this review. A Scrutiny Initiation Document will be considered at the Committee meeting on 18 July.

3.8. Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Continuing the theme of reviewing the Council's progress against its Net Zero Carbon goals, the Committee will be carrying out a detailed review titled 'Circular Economy'. This will scrutinise the progress of the Council's Circular Economy Action Plan, assess the impact of the council's development and economic development policies to ensure they are championing sustainable approaches, and how the Council can engage with residents and local businesses to support a Circular Economy in Islington. A Scrutiny Initiation Document will be considered at the Committee meeting on 21 July.

4. Implications

4.1. **Financial Implications**

4.1.1. The cost of carrying out scrutiny reviews will be met from existing budgets. The work of the Council's scrutiny committees is supported by the Democratic Services team and those council services asked to provide evidence and contribute to the committee's reviews.

4.2. **Legal Implications**

4.2.1. As set out in the body of the report. Scrutiny is a statutory function under the Local Government Act 2000. The terms of reference of the Council's scrutiny committees are set out in Part 5 of the Council's constitution.

4.3. **Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030**

4.3.1. There are no environmental implications arising directly from the report. However, the Council's scrutiny committees will consider any environmental implications arising as part of their reviews.

4.4. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

4.4.1. The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

4.4.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report. However the Council's scrutiny committees will consider any equalities impacts identified as part of their reviews.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1. The Council's scrutiny committees carry out detailed reviews into the performance of local services and make recommendations to the Executive on possible service developments and improvements. The Executive will respond to any recommendations made by the scrutiny committees, with a 12 month update on progress then being reported to the scrutiny committees. The Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and note the topics selected by the Council's Scrutiny Committees.

Appendices:

- None.

Background papers:

- None

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Head of Democratic Services and Governance

Date: 15 July 2022

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