

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Inclusive Economy – Task and Finish Goup

Terms of Reference

The Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee is responsible for carrying out the functions of an overview and scrutiny committee in respect of matters relating to the Environment Directorate, including the regeneration function originally located within the directorate. The council has recently established a Community Wealth Building directorate which includes responsibility for both physical regeneration and economic development. The responsibility for oversight of this work currently remains with the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

Community Wealth Building is one of the 'Five Missions' in the Islington Together 2030 plan and is therefore of strategic importance to the Council. The primary purpose of the Task and Finish Group is to expand the committee's knowledge of the recent work being done to promote an inclusive economy and to consider if there is scope for proposing some ideas to the Executive, or the development of a full Scrutiny Review in future years.

Membership:

Membership of the Task and Finish Group will be drawn from the members of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. Relevant officers and representatives of some external organisations will be invited to present to the Task and Finish Group about the work they do and the challenges they are seeking to address.

Meetings:

The following meetings are proposed, these will be organised by the Chair as virtual meetings, lasting approximately one hour each and will take place shortly before the next three meetings of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

Meeting 1: Green jobs

Focus on creating employment - suggested speakers to include an officer from the Inclusive Economy and Jobs teams to speak apprenticeships at the Holloway prison site and a speaker from the Greener Jobs Alliance.

Meeting 2: Affordable workspaces

Focus on encouraging start ups and support for small local businesses - suggested speakers to be representatives of organisations currently operating Affordable Workspaces.

Meeting 3: The Reuse Economy

Focus on reuse and it's economic benefits / sustainability including progress with Bright Sparks and the library of things – suggested speaker from Waltham Forest Council to talk about the success of their reuse shop.

A Democratic Services officer will attend each meeting to take notes.

Outcome:

The Chair will verbally update the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee under the Chairs Report agenda item at the meeting following each Task and Finish Group meeting.

At the conclusion of the three task and finish group meetings, the notes taken will be summarised in a short report by Democratic Services. The report will be submitted to a formal meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and the committee will determine whether or not:

- a) there is sufficient evidence to inform meaningful recommendations to the Executive
- b) if the report should just be noted,
- c) or if the report will be used to form the basis of a full Scrutiny Review to be undertaken by the committee in a future year.

If the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee considers there is sufficient evidence to make meaningful recommendations to the Executive, the draft outline of these recommendations will be agreed at the committee meeting and Democratic Services will draft a short recommendation report. The report will include legal and financial implications and be submitted to a future meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for approval to submit the report to the Executive.

Timeline:

The Task and Finish Group meetings are intended to be held ahead of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meetings scheduled to take place on the following dates:

17 October 2023

23 November 2023

25 January 2024

It is anticipated that the initial report back will be scheduled for consideration at the next Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting on 7 March 2024.

If, following consideration of the initial report back, it is the Committee's view that some recommendations should be formally made to the Executive, Democratic Services will draft a recommendation report to be submitted to the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for approval at the meeting on 16 April 2024.