Overview and Scrutiny Committee

9 December 2015

2015-16 Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Wards: All

Report Authorised by: Strategic Director, Corporate Resources: Jackie Belton

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Report summary

This report sets out the Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s draft work programme, provides an update on and record of actions or recommendations arising from previous meetings and provides councillors with information relevant to the management of the committee.

Finance summary

There are no financial implications beyond the existing Scrutiny budget.

Recommendations

(1) That the work programme as drafted and the status of actions be noted (Appendix 1)
1. **Context**

1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) is responsible for overseeing and scrutinising the whole range of the Authority’s functions and responsibilities, as well as other public service providers’ work and its impact on the local community. The committee’s remit extends to all matters which impact on the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of those who live, work, and study or use services in the borough.

1.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee also exercises the council’s statutory scrutiny function in relation to health and to crime and disorder. The committee has responsibility for the review and scrutiny of matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health and related services in Lambeth (and any substantial variation thereof) in accordance with the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and relevant regulations. The committee is also the borough’s designated ‘Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee’ in accordance with the Police and Justice Act 2006 and has responsibility for scrutinising the work of the Safer Lambeth Partnership.

1.3 At the AGM on 4 June 2014, Council agreed that Lambeth’s scrutiny arrangements be amended to better reflect the changes to the structure of the council and Lambeth’s move to a cooperative commissioning council. The basis of the new model is that alongside a single Overview and Scrutiny Committee there will be a more enhanced use of task and finish groups (scrutiny commissions) which will enable more backbench councillors to pursue areas of interest and be more directly involved in policy development.

2. **Proposals and Reasons**

2.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider its work programme at each meeting. Although some flexibility needs to be retained to enable items to be added at relatively short notice, planning the committee’s work programme assists in the commissioning of reports and helps to ensure that planned work is considered in a timely manner; for instance, at the appropriate stage(s) in Lambeth’s commissioning cycle.

2.2 The committee’s draft work programme and action monitoring table is attached at Appendix 1. This is updated following completion of any actions or recommendations arising or timetabling of new items. Along with items from 2015/16, actions which are amber or red rated from the 2014/15 round of meetings are also included. The work programme should be monitored at each meeting to ensure that previous actions and requests have been completed in full.

2.3 Overview and Scrutiny is operating a different approach to its meetings in 2015/16, whereby each meeting will have a lead item but a portion will also be retained to take updates on themes of ongoing or particular interest or concern in order to ensure a flexible approach. Indicative lead items for future meetings are outlined in Appendix 1.
Scrutiny Commissions

2.4 All proposals for scrutiny commissions should be submitted to the Scrutiny Team and will be considered by the OSC Chair and Vice Chairs in the first instance. Councillors submitting a proposal for a commission are asked to provide outline information using the scrutiny commission scoping template. Commissions will only be progressed when adequate resource has become available in the Scrutiny Team.

2.5 The Resident Involvement in Housing Commission has completed its research and, following a consultation exercise, has finalised a series of recommendations which will form the basis of its final report. This Commission is the subject of a separate report on this agenda, which contains more detail on its work and timescales.

2.6 A one-off Education Commission was held on Monday 29 June 2015 to review issues affecting Children’s Education in Lambeth. Follow-up work is ongoing.

2.7 A Commission looking at parking-related issues in the borough, titled Equality Streets: Parking in a Liveable Lambeth, held an evidence gathering event on Monday 21 September 2015. Follow-up is ongoing and it is anticipated that the recommendations arising from this will report to Cabinet in early 2016 and contribute to an evidence base for future policy review.

2.8 A Commission has been established in response to the Ofsted children’s services inspection to support the improvement of the service and governance arrangements. The commission has held two sessions to scrutinise the actions going forward and present challenge.

2.9 A Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) is being established across the six south east London boroughs to scrutinise the work and consider proposals arising from the NHS SEL programme ‘Our Healthier South East London’. An initial informal briefing session was held for OSC chairs on 16 November 2015. There is a separate report containing more detail on proposals for the JOSC on the agenda for this meeting.

2.10 Three further commission proposals have been received, to be progressed when resources become available and following an assessment of priorities. The table included in appendix 1 contains more detail on these as well as summarising the status of all current commissions.

OSC Work Programme

2.11 In considering its future work programme and in agreeing commissions the committee may wish to take into account the council’s priorities as outlined in the presentation by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive to OSC on 21 July 2015. As the council’s activity increasingly focuses on the delivery of its outcomes framework (Appendix 2) it is worth considering these priorities when determining the focus of lead items, in prioritising and commissioning reports, in establishing commissions, and in the scrutiny of delivery of actions.
2.12 At its October meeting OSC received the Performance Report (Quarter 1 – 2015/16) which provides an overview of performance against agreed outcome indicators and key performance measures. The quarterly performance report is scheduled to be included as a regular item on OSC agendas and may also support OSC in considering what matters should be the subject of future scrutiny.

2.13 The Community Plan 2013-16 sets out the council’s approach to cooperative commissioning and explains how the cooperative commissioning cycle will allow the council to focus on outcomes, balance different priorities and involve citizens. The diagram at Figure 1 illustrates how the cooperative commissioning cycle operates; scrutiny councillors may also find it useful to bear this in mind when deciding which items to focus on in the committee’s work programme and what questions to ask when considering individual items.

Figure 1 The Cooperative Commissioning Cycle
2.14 The Forward Plan lists all key decisions that the council (including the Health and Wellbeing Board) will take over the coming months. A key decision is defined as an executive decision which will:

1. Require an amendment to the Community Plan Outcomes Framework or require a recommendation to Council to amend the Budget and Policy Framework;
2. Result in the local authority incurring expenditure, raising income or making of savings in excess of £500,000;
3. Have a significant impact on:
   a) communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in Lambeth, or
   b) wellbeing of the community or the quality of service provided to a significant number of people living or working in an area, or
   c) communities of interest

2.15 The plan is therefore a useful tool for identifying forthcoming decisions where the committee could add value. The Forward Plan can be found via the following link: [http://moderngov.lambeth.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RD=0&RPId=137&bcr=1](http://moderngov.lambeth.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RD=0&RPId=137&bcr=1)

3. **Finance**

3.1 There are no additional capital or revenue implications arising as a direct result of this report. The work programme will be undertaken within the existing budget provision for Scrutiny within the Corporate Affairs Division of Corporate Resources.

4. **Legal and Democracy**

4.1 There are no direct legal implications, but advice on specific work programme items may be provided in the future.

5. **Consultation and co-production**

5.1 All members of the council are entitled to suggest items for scrutiny work programmes in accordance with the council’s scrutiny procedure rules. Suggestions are also invited specifically from scrutiny members as part of their community leadership role and from members of the public. The council’s website includes a form for the submission of suggestions and for public notice questions.

6. **Risk management**

6.1 None.

7. **Equalities impact assessment**

7.1 An equalities impact assessment of the work programme has not been undertaken. Reports commissioned by the committee will be expected to address any equalities issues. Any recommendations arising from commissions will have equalities implications considered at the drafting stage.

8. **Community safety**

8.1 None.
9. **Organisational implications**

9.1 None.

10. **Timetable for implementation**

10.1 See Appendix 1.

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