



**Partnership and Place  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
19 October 2010

**Report from the Director of  
Policy and Regeneration**

Wards Affected:  
ALL

**Partnership and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Work Programme**

**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 This report sets out sets out a list of options for the Partnership & Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme. This list includes issues raised by members at the Performance & Finance Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010, the results of a survey of all members undertaken in June 2010 and the results of the One Community Many Voices consultation event on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2010.
- 1.2 The committee is also asked to agreed to set up a task group on exit strategies for those involved or likely to become involved in gang activity.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Members discuss and agree a work programme for the Partnership & Place Overview & Scrutiny 2010/11
- 2.2 That the committee agrees to set up a task group on diversion and exit strategies for those involved or likely to become involved in gang related activity.
- 2.3 That the group rooms be asked to nominate members to take part in this task group.

**3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 A well planned work programme is a critical component of a successful overview & scrutiny function. A programme of carefully selected topics can help engage the public, connect with the council's priorities, community

concerns, and has the potential to add value to the work of the council. It is therefore important that this committee's work programme is developed and agreed by its members.

- 3.2 The committee can scrutinise different subject areas in different ways depending on the subject size and the depth of investigation required. This can be done by in depth task groups, issue specific meetings, or short discrete agenda items. In all cases the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to require the attendance of the council's Executive and officers to answer questions at their meetings. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 also gave overview and scrutiny committees power to require information from 'relevant partner organisations'.
- 3.3 It is possible that the committee will have more subject areas that it would like to consider than time and resources available. To help prioritise the committee should consider the following criteria:
- Whether overview and scrutiny investigation will lead to an effective outcome / impact
  - The degree of fit with corporate or community strategy priorities
  - Public concern
  - Stakeholder or partner concern
  - Scope for efficiency gains
  - Whether it duplicates other work?
  - Time and resources
- 3.4 To help the committee put together its work programme for 2010/11 a survey of all members was conducted in June 2010. In addition a consultation event One Community Many Voices was held on 28<sup>th</sup> September to launch the new overview & scrutiny structure and to seek suggestions from a wide range of people. The list attached at appendix A includes the outcomes of these consultations as well as suggestions made by members of the Performance & Finance Overview & Scrutiny Committee in 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010.
- 3.5 The committee will also need to follow up on the recommendations made via task groups completed in the last municipal year. These are:
- Services for Women exiting prostitution
- 3.6 During the last municipal year members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee expressed an interest in a task group being set up to pick up on any conclusions of a research report examining the extent of gang activity in Brent. A brief scope for a task group review looking at diversion and exiting strategies for those involved or likely to become involved in gang related activity is attached at appendix B.

- 3.7 Committee work programming is an on-going process and members are strongly encouraged to suggest items for review as and when they arise. Suggestions can come from;
- Ward issues that are also relevant across the borough,
  - The local impact of a major national issue, for example the concerns about the impact on services of the economic climate
  - Members of the public.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

5.1 None

## **6.0 Legal Implications**

6.1 None

## **7.0 Diversity Implications**

7.1 None

## **8.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)**

8.1 None

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