2014-15 Scrutiny Committee Meetings – Key Comments, Recommendations and Actions

Meeting Date	Item	Comments and Recommendation	Action
6 th August 2014	Central Middlesex Hospital Closure Assurance Transforming Healthcare in Brent	That an update be provided on the Central Middlesex Hospital A&E closure assurance at a future meeting of the committee. That a further report updating the committee on the progress made in relation to transforming healthcare in Brent be submitted to a future meeting of the committee.	Clearer understanding of the action plan proposed. Further transparency of plans between the CCG and Brent Council.
	Call In - Changes to Recycling and Green Waste Collections	An outline of the suggested course of action of the Scrutiny Committee is to: • Seek a report responding to the concerns outlined. • Question lead member and senior officers and the leader. • If necessary, set up a very brief task finish group to examine these issues in more depth. (i) that the decisions made by the Cabinet on 21 July 2014 regarding changes to recycling and green waste collections be noted; (ii) that a review be held following a period of 9 months; (iii) that efforts should be made to ensure the removal of the green waste bins be as close as possible to 1 March 2015 to minimise inconvenience to residents.	More consideration given to the impact of residents. Ensure that longer consultation is considered for such matter in the future.
	Scope for Promoting Electoral Engagement Task Group Budget Scrutiny Panel -	The scope and timeline for the task group on Promoting Electoral Engagement as set out in Appendix A to the report was agreed. The terms of reference for the Budget Scrutiny Panel as set	
	Terms of Reference	out in Appendix A to the report was agreed.	
9 th September 2014	Closure of A&E at Central Middlesex Hospital	That an update on performance at Northwick Park Hospital Accident and Emergency Department to be provided to the committee in six months time.	Further information on the progress and performance of NPH and A&E services. Holding these services to account on improved performance for residents.
	Parking Services Update	That Cabinet be requested to reappraise the existing arrangements for visitor parking permits, taking into account the serious concerns expressed by the Scrutiny Committee	Equality impact assessments to be reconsidered

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	Proposed Scope for Scrutiny Task Group on the Pupil Premium	It was proposed that the task group also examine qualitative data regarding the activities undertaken by schools. He advised that holistic activities which aimed to meet emotional as well as academic needs were also very important for a child's development and attainment. It was emphasised that some enrichment activities did not deliver immediately observable results and that this should be considered when looking at the period of study. It was further suggested that the task group engage with parents and children to discuss their experiences. The scope and time scale for the task group on the use of the Pupil Premium, attached as Appendix A to the report was approved with the condition that the recommendations be incorporated.	Recommendations made were incorporated in the tasks group's scope of work.
1st October 2014	North West London Hospitals Trust Care Quality Commission inspection compliance action plan	 Members asked for further information on plans in respect of major emergencies and emphasised the importance of ensuring key roads were open as is this had been an issue, for example, during the 7 July 2005 London bombing incidents. Members also asked whether the planned additional beds at NPH had happened and if so how many. The committee sort views with regard to the progress made since the CQC inspection and how confident was the Trust that the action plan would achieve the objectives and within the timescales set. The Chair requested that a report be presented to the committee in about two months' time updating them on progress with the action plan, including whether the measures listed were on target to be achieved within deadlines set. In addition, any members who had questions requiring specific details were to submit these to Cathy Tyson (Head of Policy and Scrutiny, Assistant Chief 	

	Executive Service) who coordinate responses from NWLHT.	
Local Safeguarding Children Board annual report	The Chair stated that a briefing note updating the work of the task group on the Pupil Premium would be provided to members. He emphasised the importance of safeguarding children and welcomed the report.	Gaps in the report which the committee raised have been considered and will be included in the next annual report
Draft school places strategy	 Whilst members appreciated the opportunity the presentation gave for pre-scrutiny prior to a report going to Cabinet, enquired whether officers were confident that primary schools could maintain educational standards as they got larger. Members also asked whether placing Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils was relatively trouble free. A question was raised as to whether schools in the north of the borough were taking more pupils than those in the south and where could details be found of pupil numbers throughout the borough. Another member asked whether school expansion posed risks in terms of whether there was sufficient infrastructure in place. The Chair concluded discussion by acknowledging the large interest from members and other councillors on this item 	
	and in noting the improvement in placing pupils in the last two years. However, he emphasised the need to sustain progress and requested that school places be considered at a Scrutiny Committee meeting in around two months' time.	
Children's centres	 Member suggested that the children centres were concentrated in a particular area and neglected the north of the borough. Members sought advice on what members should be focusing on in view of the fact that the report had already been approved by Cabinet. A member sought clarity that the children's centres provided for those children up to and including four years of age. In noting that children were entitled to nursery places between two to three years of age, she sought further reasons for how children's centres were being 	

		used. • In respect of the Barham Park building, it was noted that there were proposals for a nursery to be included; however sought clarity on this matter as Barham Park Trust had stipulated that the building was for community use only and the lack of consultation on this proposal had also angered residents. The Chair commented that the long term future of the children's centres would be clearer in around four months time and he requested that an update be provided to the	
3 rd November 2014	Employment, Skills and Enterprise Strategy consultation	committee at around that time. The Chair acknowledged the substantial work that had been undertaken in developing the strategy and the progress made so far. He requested that a progress report on the strategy be presented to the committee in two to three months' time.	
	Overall impact of the Benefit Cap in Brent after one year of implementation	 Member asked if any lessons had been learnt since the OBC had been introduced and had there been any surprising developments. Members also asked if there were any strategic issues that needed consideration in the future. In respect of resource issues, comments were sought about how significant these were and what were the expectations in the medium term. A question was raised as to where customers who moved out of the borough were moving to. A member asked if the council was able to assist Brent CAB in dealing with the increased demand that they were struggling to cope with and was there any help for single under 35 year olds on Benefits. 	
		The Chair explained that this item had been requested shortly before the meeting and this is why a presentation had been given. The importance of continuing to engage with residents about welfare reforms was emphasised and it	

		was requested that the committee receive regular updates on this issue.	
26 th November 2014	Care Quality Commission Quality Compliance and Quality Improvement Action Plan	Members sought an update was sought on Delayed Transfers of Care, responding to the committee's queries NWLHT advised that the CQC had commented on the open and frank culture amongst staff.	
		That an update on the progress made in addressing the recommendations of the CQC be presented to a future meeting of the committee.	
	Local Impact resulting from Changes to maternity, neonatal, paediatric and gynaecology services at Ealing Hospital	The committee questioned what contingency plans were in place if it was found that the proposals were not feasible or appropriate. It was questioned whether similar modelling had been undertaken regarding the anticipated dispersal of service pressures for A&E units following the closure of the unit at Central Middlesex Hospital (CMH).	
		That the committee be provided with an update on the implementation of the proposed changes to maternity, neonatal, paediatric and gynaecology services at Ealing Hospital at a future meeting.	
	Developing Central Middlesex Hospital	The committee sought further information regarding the provision of in-patient mental health service at the Park Royal site. Queries were raised regarding the consultation activities undertaken, including the number held and how they were advertised.	
		 Further details were sought regarding the services available in the North of the borough and the procedures in place to deal with large scale health emergencies. A view was put that consultation on changes to primary care had been poor. Councillor Daly requested that details of the number of beds to be removed across North West London under SaHF be provided to her in writing. 	
		(i) That the update report be noted	

	Promoting Electoral Engagement - Scrutiny Task Group report	 (ii) That further information regarding the proposals for Central Middlesex Hospital be provided to the committee in writing and include a breakdown of the financial implications of the proposals. That the recommendations of the 'Promoting Electoral Registration' task group as detailed in the report be endorsed. 	Since the report was agreed by service areas, the Programme Management Office has been tasked with developing a project to support the implementation of the recommendations. The Project started in
Oth I			January 2015 with an advertising campaign. The team have completed promotional activities and are now focusing on outreach and community engagement activities. Since the beginning of the project voter registration has increased by 2768.
6 th January 2015	Safer Brent Partnership Annual Report 2013 - 2014	The Chair welcomed the SBP report and stressed the need to continue dialogue between the partners in the SBP and the community. He requested that the committee receive an update on the work of the SBP in around six months' time.	Refocus on VAWAG stats, number may be going up, but this is due to more confidence in reporting and better recording of incidents.
	Interim feedback from the Budget Scrutiny Task group	Members suggested that the Investments and Pensions Manager be invited to the next Budget Scrutiny Task Group meeting. The Chair concluded by stating that there was still much work to do before the final task group report and the recommendations it would make.	The Cabinet responded positively to the concerns raised and the debates held by the Budget Panel Task Group of the Scrutiny Committee. The Budget Panel's report and recommendations were included as part of the Final Budget Report which was agreed by the meeting of Full Council in March 2015.
10 th February 2015	Current Status of Systems Resilience Group and Winter Pressure Update	 The committee commented that they had been told at previous meetings that transferring staff from the closed A&E at CMH to NPH would lead to improvements in staffing levels and clarification was sought as to whether this had been demonstrated. An explanation of the difference between bank and agency staff was requested and members asked what the 	

	Brent Education Commission - six month update on the implementation of the Action Plan Annual report academic year 2013-14: Standards and achievement in Brent schools	ring fenced grant in respect of delayed transfers of care was specifically for and what was the size of the grant. • Members added that he had a positive personal experience when he had needed to visit the A and E at NPH around Christmas time and the service he received was efficient. The Chair added that in some reports, the information was provided was not always as clear as it could be and was difficult to explain to residents and he asked that this be taken into account in future reports. He asked that an update on the SRG be provided at a future meeting. (i) that the contents of the report be noted and that a further update be received in the autumn of 2015; (ii) that the introduction of a proportionate approach to school improvement and the more robust challenge offered to schools at risk of underperforming be welcomed; and (iii) that the local authority's role in progressing a shared approach to supporting schools with its key educational partners, including Brent Schools Partnership and the two Teaching School Alliances be welcomed. The Chair requested that an update on this item be presented to the committee at a meeting in the autumn of 2015. (i) that the priorities proposed for 2014-15 intended to accelerate improvement be noted; and (ii) that the progress made in the overall performance of	
4.44-2.5		Brent's primary schools in 2013-14 be welcomed.	
11 th March 2015	Update on Customer Access Strategy	 Members asked whether the testing would be undertaken borough wide and it was commented that the triage system had worked well to date and asked whether there was training for staff in dealing with particularly complex issues. Members also asked what would be ideal way in which residents would describe the service they had 	

	 experienced as far as the council was concerned. Members sought further information on what service areas had been underperforming and how was misdirecting of calls by the switchboard being monitored or picked up. In terms of calls reported as misdirected, it was asked if this was formally recorded. Comments were made regarding a danger of making the council too remote from the community by shifting access via IT and telephony channels and removing opportunities for direct contact with residents 	
	The Chair requested an update on this item for the December 2015 Scrutiny Committee meeting. That the progress being made in implementing the aims of the new Community Access Strategy be noted	
Housing pressures in Brent	Member stated that issue of extensions in rear gardens needed to be investigated more.	
	Another member queried whether information held on landlords was confidential and	
	 Member commented that it was regretful that the large housing stock the council had in the 1980s had been eroded by selling a significant proportion to housing associations at lower cost over the past few decades. It was added that he felt that the council's Pension Fund should invest more in housing. 	
	The Chair requested an update on this item in six months' time, including details of the number of people who were leaving the borough. That the report on housing pressures in Brent be noted.	
Unemployment and Work Programme	The Chair emphasised the importance of the non disclosure agreement being reached between the Work Programme	The issue of cooperation with work programme providers has been
providers	providers and the council. He added that it would be useful	highlighted and a greater urgency to

		if there could be more information on how the council could assist Work Programme providers and their clients and that there needed to be a more joined up approach. He requested that the committee receive updates on unemployment levels and Work Programme providers on a quarterly basis. That the report on unemployment levels in Brent and the	resolve some of the minor partnership issue is now at the forefront to the committee's agenda. Non disclosure agreements are being completed.
30 th April 2015	Environmental Sustainability Agenda	 • In the subsequent discussion, the committee queried the ways in which the council could effect behavioural change regarding waste and recycling amongst residents and businesses. • The committee also questioned how retailers could be encouraged to reduce packaging and the financial benefit for the council of improved recycling rates. • Members sought further details regarding relationships with partner agencies, such as TFL and Northwest London Hospitals Trust. With regard to the former, it was queried what work had been done to identify pollution hotspots in the borough, whether there was any correlation with bus routes and how active reporting could be encouraged when buses were left running whilst parked. • The committee raised several queries regarding air pollutants and the use of diesel fuel, seeking information on when TFL would be introducing non-diesel buses, how the council would encourage the use of non-diesel private and commercial vehicles, how traffic flow could be improved across the borough and the number of charging points provided in Brent for electric vehicles. • Further information was sought regarding the work done with property developers across the borough, in recognition of the challenges for the existing infrastructure of increased road users. • Officers were also asked to comment on whether consideration had been given to seeking an extension of 	Highlight to the committee the work undertaken across key service areas to address the issue of sustainability. Focusing on five key areas: transport and travel; air quality; in-house carbon management; street lighting and parking; public realm and waste; and parks and biodiversity.

	the Mayor of London's bike hire scheme. • Members requested details of the number of staff responsible for addressing issues of sustainability and whether these were sufficient to support progress in this area. That an update on the Environmental Sustainability Agenda be to the committee in six months time.	
Future Commissioning intentions of Brent Clinical Commissioning	 Members questioned the quality of engagement with community groups, emphasised the failure to meet national performance standards in the previous year, questioned what was being done differently to address these issues and sought specific timescales for achieving improvements. Members queried what action was being taken to raise awareness of dementia amongst different communities, including the provision of materials in a variety of languages. Members sought clarity regarding Brent CCG spending for 2014/15, noting that having accounted for commissioning for acute and community care there remained approximately a further £80m unaccounted for. Members further queried the 2014/15 spending on enhanced GP services and the work undertaken to evaluate their success. That an update be provided to a future meeting of the committee 	
Use of Pupil Premium Grant Scrutiny Task group	(i) that the recommendations of the task group be endorsed (ii) that subject to Cabinet agreement of the recs, an update on the implementation of the task group's recommendations be provided to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee The recommendations of the Pupil Premium Task Group be endorsed, subject to Cabinet approval. The committee	To date, the work done by the task group has raised the profile of the Pupil Premium. It has also encouraged further partnership working by the council, schools, Children Centres, parents, children and all educational providers. The task group has opened up the

		receive an update on the implementation of the Task Group's recommendations at a future meeting of the committee.	discussions for innovative use of the PPG in Brent.
	Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/15	Committee members were invited to submit feedback on the draft report which would be finalised for the end of May 2015. The draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2014/15 was noted.	The Annual report highlights the work that the scrutiny committee has undertaken this year. Focussing on the part that the committee has played in key council decisions which have lead to improved outcomes and services for residents.
	Equalities and HR Policies and Practices Review and draft Action Plan	 Concerns were raised regarding the number of staff failing to receive supervisory appraisals, the implications this had for staff progression and whether managers were using the appraisals as an effective tool to support staff. Clarity was sought on the policy for medical appointments and assurance was requested that this was not considered a reasonable adjustment for disabled employees. The issue of unconscious bias was raised and it was strongly suggested that this form a core element of any training provided around recruitment. Further details were requested regarding the training and support provided to members appointed to the Senior Staff Appointments Sub Committee. With regard to BME representation at senior management, members queried how the council compared to other boroughs and whether there was an opportunity to learn from the practices of other local authorities. The Chair highlighted the importance of ensuring that there was robust monitoring of the action plan and the committee agreed that an update should be provided on the progress 	Outcomes and services for residents.
16 th June	Paediatric Services -	achieved in six month's time.	laint report produced on hehalf of Drent
2015	CCG	Members requested a copy of the data modelling which was used by Shaping a Healthier Future to assure the CCG of the projections of demand to underpin the case for	Joint report produced on behalf of Brent Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and London North West Healthcare NHS Trust

	paediatric service would be achieved within reduced costs.	Hospital taking place on 30 June 2016.
	The committee requested that they receive a further update from the CCG on the information used to reach assurance on the safe and smooth transfer of services at their meeting in February 2016. CCG /NWLHT agreed to this request.	
Access to GP services Interim Task Group Report	 The committee requested that the final report on the access to GP services should include further information on: Details of the location of GP hubs, public awareness of the GP hub mechanism and any evidence of the public's confidence in their GP. How the future publicity campaign for GP hubs will be delivered. Members requested information on how many GP's were sited in single GP practices or in practices with more than one GP. The also requested information on the numbers of GP's who are approaching retirement age. Information was requested on how many GP practices were experiencing difficulties in recruit trained staff and if this was related to housing costs. Any information on how GP's are addressing recruitment problems. Information on the numbers of people registered with a GP, number of people not registered and those who may still be registered with a GP in Brent but have moved away. Members requested that the additional information 	Interim feedback on the work of the Scrutiny Task Group focused on Access to Extended GP Services and Primary Care in Brent. Provided an outline of the task group scope, methodology and an overview of emerging findings and recommendations.

	requested is included within the final report of the task group on GP services which will be considered at the July meeting of the Committee.	
ent Public Health odate	 Members requests that the financial return for Public Health expenditure made to the Department of Health is also circulated to scrutiny. Members asked for a detailed breakdown of the numbers of people offered and accepting a health check update by GP practice It was requested that a breakdown of the drugs and alcohol budget with numbers of patients in treatment by type of treatment is provided to the committee. This should include the indicative figures for the range of spend per patient for different types of treatment packages. The number of people who have been helped to stop smoking by GP practice. There was also a request for some future work to be undertaken on the school nurse service. This has only recently come under the councils contracting responsibilities and further work is being undertaken on the future contractual priorities. 	Highlight new local authority Public Health responsibilities and how the Council is discharging this responsibility as a result of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
	Members commented that the report while outlining the expenditure and priorities for improving public health did not provide a picture of the impact made in tackling health inequalities. Would like further information on the actual change in prevalence of preventable health conditions.	
cess to affordable ildcare	 Members requested further information on the use of discretionary housing payments to support childcare costs for people moving into employment who have been affected by changes in welfare benefit payments. It was asked if any work has been undertaken to assess the impact of support given to parents to access employment. 	Focused look at the challenge of providing access to affordable and quality Childcare.

		Members asked to receive an update on the implementation of the overall Child Poverty strategy in 2016.	
14 th July 2015	Brent Housing Partnership - Performance	 Questions were asked on the cost of BHP modernising its computer systems, income from leaseholder charges and details of where the charges had been defended against legal action. Members of the committee questioned the delays in job completions. Members also asked how cases of anti social behaviour and illegal sub-letting were handled. Members requested further information from BHP on Void times, complaints, communication with residents, seeking possession and illegal sub-letting. 	An overview of BHP 2014/15 performance, providing a demonstration of how it works to deliver objectives set out by the council.
	Developing Scrutiny Work Programme 2015/16	 It was confirmed that the Budget scrutiny panel would be reconvened to consider the budget for 2016/17. The committee asked that a briefing paper be provided on how the protection of pubs had been incorporated into the Development Management Plan. That a briefing paper be provided on the admissions policies adopted by different types of schools. That the chair, education co-opted members and a senior officer from the Children and Young People's department meet to discuss the education related topics. (i) That the arrangements and principles for the effective operation of the Scrutiny Committee, as set out in paragraphs 3.1 – 3.6 of the report submitted, be noted; (ii) That the proposed process for defining the annual work programme for scrutiny detailed at paragraphs 3.10-3.14. 	Arrangements of the future operation of the Scrutiny Committee and the process for developing a robust work programme.
12 th August 2015	The Councils future Transport Strategy	The Committee expressed concern that the strategy was too brief and lacked ambition. Members felt that it lacked evidence in places whilst making certain assertions and was rooted in the possibilities as they related to Transport for	An opportunity for the Scrutiny Committee to review and comment on the councils draft Long Term Transport Strategy (LTTS) before it is submitted to Cabinet.

London (TfL) and the availability of funding rather than going beyond this into areas where the Council needed to send out strong messages and councillors needed to lobby to address some of the major transport concerns in the borough.

- The LTTS has been developed to provide strategic direction to the transport investment throughout the borough over the next 20 years (2015-2035)
- Scrutiny Committee recommends that Cabinet defer taking a decision on approving the Long Term Transport Strategy for Brent so that fuller consideration can be given to the points raised on it by the Committee;
- Scrutiny Committee requests that Cabinet note the comments made by the Committee and agrees to the recommendations below being more fully addressed in the finally agreed strategy:
- i. The strategy needs to be more ambitious and incorporate reference to schemes on which the Council might need to lobby in order to see them progress.
- ii. The strategy should not be restricted to only those schemes and improvements that might be supported by TfL and included in LIP submissions, especially bearing in mind the forthcoming London Mayoral Election when a new Mayor will be elected who might have different priorities. There is a need for the serious public transport issues and road usage problems to be addressed.
- iii. Reference should be included of the Dudden Hill rail line and it's potential.
- iv. The possibility of a conflict of approach with neighbouring boroughs and the need to develop shared visions with other boroughs on those transport issues at the borough boundary should be articulated.
- v. Greater focus should be given on equality of access from the different geographical areas of the borough (North/South East/West).

		 vi. A review of the document should be undertaken to remove some of the assertions made or support them with more evidence based statements and give a clearer focus to the strategy, bearing in mind that many of the 'daughter' strategy papers have yet to be written. vii. The strategy should include demographic evidence and have a greater focus on access to primary locations such as hospitals, schools, leisure centres etc. viii. Greater prominence should be given to the work being undertaken with schools to improve safety and congestion around schools. ix. A stronger message should be included on the health effects of diesel and the implications of this around the movement of freight. 	
	Food Standards Audit	 Members of the committee questioned Officers and the lead member on structure and staffing of the team. Members made inquire about the numbers and the profile of Brent businesses, with emphases on the risk categories. Members were keen to know what penalties the council could face if improvements are not made. Members wanted to know how the budget for the services was currently being spent and how this related to the improvements required. One Member questioned how the present situation impacted on the health of local residents. The findings of the Food Standards audit carried out in July 2014, the issues arising, response to date and the planned actions were noted. 	A detailed look into the July 2014 Food Standards Authority audit of the Councils discharge of its Food Safety Act 1990 duties. The report further highlighted the audit reports findings and the Councils responses including the action plan the Council is using to monitor progress.
9 th September 2015	Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust - Care Quality Commission report and action plan	 Members were most concerned with the mental health services ad questioned the savings and cuts made by CNWL and where these cuts had been made. Members were concerned with the number of patients absconding from units and asked for further clarification on patients who were subject to section 17. 	The published Care Quality Commission (CQC) report on the quality of services provided by Central North West London NHS Foundation Trust and an action plan has been developed by the Trust to respond to the findings of the inspection.

	Members questioned how long children where waiting form CAMHS appointments from referrals and how referrals were made for children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). One of the property of the country of the property of the prope	
	 Questions were asked about the numbers of restraining incidents, how many took place at Park Royal which was of particular concern and how many were recorded as being supine restraint. Reference was also made to the use of rapid tranquilisation restraint. 	
	The committee requested a progress report in 6 months and a separate report in 3 months on the redesign of services in light of saving cuts.	
Scrutiny task group on Access to extended GP services and primary care in Brent	 Task group members explained that they had not been able to look into the optimum size for a practice but it was clear that there was a range of varied opening hours and gaps in service during lunch hours and Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. It was the decision of the GP on hours of service and the task group had not been able to obtain full information on what out of hour's service there was. Members expressed surprise that communication plans were not integral to the delivery of services. It was the understanding of the task group members that the CCG would consider the recommendations of the task group and make a formal response. The task group would meet again in six months time to consider the response of the CCG and progress with implementation of their recommendations. 	The committee received the report of the task group that had been established to review the primary care element of Brent CCG's transformation programme and assess the extent of the changes and investment made in the Brent GP networks and primary care services.
	That the recommendations made by the task group be approved and an action plan developed across partner organisations to take them forward;	
	That a progress report on implementation of the	

		recommendations be submitted to the committee in six months time.	
	Terms of reference for task groups on Fly Tipping and CCTV	That the scope, terms of reference and timescale for the task group on CCTV in Brent, as set out in the appendices attached to the report submitted, be agreed.	The reports set out the proposed scope for the Scrutiny task group on Fly Tipping in Brent on Close Circuit Television (CCTV) in Brent
		That the scope, terms of reference and timescale for the task group on fly tipping in Brent, as set out in the appendices attached to the report submitted, be agreed.	
	Scrutiny forward plan and key comments, recommendations and actions	The Chair circulated a proposal for a task group on school governance and invited members of the committee to suggest issues to be included in its scope.	
		The Chair suggested the following further items to be subject to scrutiny: • school admission policy • children and young people mental health • adoption • the Council's budget setting (to be the work of a task group) • housing associations • section 106 and CIL	
		That the scrutiny forward plan and the key comments, recommendations and actions be noted.	
8 th October 2015	2015 Parking Strategy	 It was suggested that the strategy could include more on changes that could made in the future, the impact of parking restrictions on businesses and how to amend CPZs. Also raised was the impact of planning permission for developments without parking spaces in the south of the borough and the amount of income from parking enforcement. 	The Committee received a report on the 2015 Parking Strategy. The strategy draws together existing policy into a single document, with the aim of providing a clear statement of the council's strategy intent with regard to parking services, which will inform the development of future individual policies. The Scrutiny committee was asked to consider and

- Members questioned who was the focus of the council's vision? Residents or visitors? Enforcement of traffic schemes and CPZs was also raised.
- Questions were raised on parking enforcement outside schools and the need for more analysis of opening and closing times, school expansions and the need for more improved signage for parking restrictions.
- Members queried comparison with other local authorities and the arrangements in place to work with neighbouring boroughs on shared boundaries.
- The committee agreed that the north and south of the borough experienced different problems given the shortage of off-street parking and relatively small parking spaces between houses in the south compared with the north of the borough's commuter parking problems.
- Concern was also expressed over parking around schools and the likelihood of accidents and the need for parking arrangements to be in place for visitors to places of worship.
- Members suggested a need for a hierarchy of on-street street parking. It was suggested a distinction be drawn between parking 'need' and parking 'demand', citing the example of people with disabilities who depended entirely on the use of their cars. Additionally, local businesses should be prioritised and also essential workers and care workers should not be given a lower priority than residents.
- It was felt that a one hour parking restriction in a particular area would help alleviate the impact of CO2 emissions. Views were expressed in support of children being encouraged to walk to school and parking charges being reduced to encourage shoppers into the borough.

comment on the strategy and forward their comments to the Cabinet for their consideration at the meeting on 16th November 2015.

	 Questions were also raised on modern camera technology and whether efforts had been made to generate income. The view was also put that the Strategy should be less optimistic in tone so as to manage expectations, given the council's financial position. That the 2015 Parking Strategy be noted and comments forwarded to the Cabinet for their consideration at the meeting on 16 November 2015. 	
Complaints Annual Report 2014-15	 Concerns were expressed at the relatively high number of complaints fully or partly upheld at first stage and also at final stage. Members questioned the possible reasons behind findings of poor customer care, the extent to which it was attributable to a lack of training or low staff morale and whether there were patterns between services. Members also questioned the response times and heard that most were resolvable within the 20 days target and questioned whether straightforward cases where the council was at fault were accepted and apologies issued at an early stage. Members requested justification for the view expressed in the report that customers resorted to the complaints process as a means of having a negative decision reviewed. Members also questioned what action was being taken to compensate cases where homeless families have been kept in bed and breakfast accommodation longer that the maximum six weeks. Concern was also expressed at complaints over Veolia staff behaviour suggesting the need for independent audit. Members agreed on the need for improved communication with the public. 	The scrutiny committee received an overview of the corporate complaints received by the council during the period April 2014 to March 2015.

		 Concern was also expressed at the length of time taken to complete repairs and questioned why this was the case especially for urgent cases involving residents' safety. The Committee suggested that staff should be more empathetic and less judgemental of complainants. The committee suggested that there was a democratic deficiency with many residents not aware of the council. A change in terminology from customers to residents was suggested to help bring about an attitudinal change. RESOLVED: (i) that the council's performance in managing and resolving complaints be noted; (ii) that the actions being taken to improve response times 	
		to complaints and reduce the number of complaints which escalate to the final review stage be noted; (iii) that a progress report be submitted in six months' time.	
	Fly Tipping task group scope	RESOLVED: that the scope be noted.	The Committee considered the proposed scope for the Scrutiny task group on Fly Tipping in Brent. The task group had been requested by the Scrutiny members in response to communicated concerns from Brent residents.
5 th November 2015	Brent Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report	 Members of the committee asked a series of questions regarding the OFSTED inspection concerns. Members enquired about the funding cuts faced by the Metropolitan Police and how this would impact on the work of the Board. Members asked question regarding data on FGM and work on anti radicalisation. Members also expressed concern that the Board did not have a specific strand of work on looking at the welfare of those children who were homeless. The Committee recorded its concern over the issue of 	The independent chair of the Brent Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) present the LSCB annual report to Scrutiny members.

transitory families and the effect this could have on children and that all the partner agencies were fulfilling their responsibilities in this area. Members questioned the outcome of the work of the Board and the evaluation of the training. RESOLVED: (i) that the LSCB annual report be noted: (ii) that the Committee's concerns regarding the welfare of children within transitory families and temporary housing be passed back to the Board. Scrutiny task group on • The committee questioned the law on the deployment of The task group was requested by the **Closed Circuit** Scrutiny Members in response to Brent CCTV. resident's requests for increased levels of Television (CCTV) Concern was expressed that by adopting a traffic light CCTV in the borough. The purpose of the approach to deploying CCTV, this would take from areas task group was to analyse and understand of less crime which would then be vulnerable to an the effectiveness of CCTV in Brent and its increase in crime. impact on reducing anti social behaviour • Reference was made to the Cleaner Brent App and if crime, and, to review policies and this could be linked to CCTV. processes in comparison to others and best practice. The report outlines the task Councillor Denselow identified eleven of the group's findings and recommendations. recommendations as being capable of either being included in the strategy or that were already in progress. The other eleven recommendations would need to be further explored with input from other parts of the Council such as legal and planning. However, he felt all the recommendations could be implemented. RESOLVED: (i) that the recommendations of the scrutiny task group on closed circuit television (CCTV) be approved and the development of an action plan across the Council and with partner organisations be supported;

Scrutiny task group on Fly tipping	 (ii) that a progress report against the recommendations be submitted to the committee in six months time. It was suggested that the recommendation to give the Cleaner Brent App further publicity could be actioned by adding a footnote to Council correspondence. It was pointed out that a lot of the recommendations involved Veolia and it was questioned whether Veolia would take on these suggestions. With regard to the collection of bulky waste, the view was put that it was important to provide an efficient collection service to avoid it being dumped. Reference was made to the people whose job it was to go out in the borough and it was asked whether they had a duty to report dumped waste. Questions were asked on how the suggested community clean-ups might work. Councillor Southwood stated that there was nothing in the recommendations affecting Veolia that could not be implemented through the current contract the Council had 	The task group was requested by the Scrutiny Members in response to communicated concerns from Brent residents regarding increased fly-tipping levels. The purpose of the task group was to analyse and understand the borough's knowledge, behaviour and understanding of fly-tipping, and to review local fly-tipping policies and processes of the council and its partner's. The report outlines the task group's findings and recommendations
	implemented through the current contract the Council had with them. She supported the point made about language leading to a misunderstanding of what fly tipping was. She felt that none of the recommendations presented anything that was unachievable or undeliverable. She agreed that local people needed to be empowered to take action against illegal dumping. RESOLVED:	
	(i) that the recommendations of the scrutiny task group on fly tipping be approved and the development of an action plan across the council and partner organisations to take them forward be supported;(ii) that a progress report against the recommendations be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee in 6 months time.	

2 nd December 2015	Scrutiny forward plan and key comments, recommendations and actions Update on the procurement processes for five General Practice services in Brent	That the Scrutiny Committee forward plan be noted. The actions listed against the key comments and recommendations from meetings of the Scrutiny Committee during 2014/15 were noted • Members queried the consultation process; members also discussed the provision of GMS and PMS contracts and what they saw as the unannounced phasing out of GMS contracts. • The committee asked for details of any existing PMS contract holders that had a role in the CCG. It also asked for information on the performance issues with the Sudbury Surgery.	This paper is to provide the Scrutiny Committee with a briefing and update on the processes being undertaken by NHS England to procure contracts to continue services for patients of five practices across Brent.
		 The committee made enquiries regard to the standard service provision including remote access for appointments. The committee emphasised the importance of engaging with patients over how to use on-line appointment facilities. RESOLVED: (i) that the briefing and timeline for the procurement process for five GP practices in Brent be noted; (ii) that an update on progress be submitted to the 	
	CCG Commissioning Intentions	 Committee in March 2016. The Chair asked how it was intended that the CCG would move from a deficit position to a surplus with no reduction in service. Members expressed concern at the change of approach to post-discharge advice and education for mental illness shown in paragraph 8.13.a of the report. It was felt that GPs needed more training on treating mental health issues. Members felt that more work was needed on looking into mental health services and undertook to discuss this outside the meeting. 	The report provides a summary of the commissioning intentions and the processes and engagement that has supported their development.

	South Kilburn regeneration programme Scrutiny forward plan and key comments,	 Reassurances were sought that the views of Patient Voice would be taken into account and that access to the services provided was considered. Questions were asked regarding how many units of social housing were being provided as compared to private housing. Concern was expressed that as budgets got tighter less social housing would be provided. Members enquired about the slippage to the programme and how local residents were informed of this. Richard Barrett stated that he attended a tenants steering group every 2-3 months. Reference was made to complaints received from residents about the behaviour of some contractors. Questions were asked about employment opportunities within the area created by the regeneration programme. The Committee were interested in receiving more information on the work with the police in designing out trouble spots within the new redevelopments. Members were also concerned that the planned expansion of local schools would provide sufficient places for local children. Members expressed their continuing concern over the need to provide better outcomes for local people and not just provide new housing. Two new task groups will be established to look at housing associations operating in Brent and the use of Section 	This report provides an update to Members of the Scrutiny Committee of the progress of the South Kilburn Regeneration Programme. It sets out the main aims, achievements to date and ambition of the programme.
	recommendations and actions	106/Community Infrastructure Levy payments. The work programme will be updated to reflect the forthcoming approval of the terms of reference.	
6 th January 2016	Review of charges to recycling and green waste collections	 Members questioned why biodegradable sacks were not sold to those people not able to have a bin and suggested that this be explored. 	A report was presented to the Scrutiny Committee, following a previous Scrutiny Committee resolve that a review of the

Budget Scrutiny Panel	 Members raised the issue regarding the benefits of the Cleaner Brent app, it was stated that there is patchy knowledge and use of it across the borough. Question were raised on how the intelligence gathering regarding fly tipping incidents is kept and whether this could be made available on a ward by ward basis. Concern were also raised that the same hotspots for fly tipping existed. Issue of disposal of Christmas trees were raised, it was stated that for next year consideration could be given to providing an improved service. Surprised expressed that at time of writing report Q3 data was not available and a request that this be provided to members of the committee. Members questioned how it had been established that the amount of green waste had fallen and whether it had transferred to residual waste. Concerns were expressed over contractual arrangements regarding increased take up of the service, investment in additional resources and final financial benefit to the Council. Concern expressed that approximately one third of the £120k raised over and above the cap benefitting Veolia rather than the Council. Explanation sought on exactly how money was divided up, who authorised it and when this action was taken. Members stated that scrutiny members had a bigger 	garden waste service should be held following a period of 9 months. A Budget Scrutiny Panel was put together
Report	 Members stated that scrutiny members had a bigger role in the budget discussions at an earlier stage in the process. He expressed his disappointment that the budget report presented to Council in November 2015 did not mention any input from Scrutiny. Members discussed maximising income by carrying out more enforcement and at the same time providing a self financing community benefit rather than simply 	by Brent's Scrutiny Panel was put together by Brent's Scrutiny Committee Chair, Councillor Matt Kelcher, in December 2015, to analyse and scrutinise the proposed budget for Brent Council for the financial year beginning in April 2016. A report was presented summarising some of the Panel's broad thoughts about the

	Scrutiny forward plan and key comments, recommendations and actions	 Members suggested that more could be done to lever in national bodies to carry our pieces of work within the borough. Members suggested that use of facilities at the Civic Centre could be made more attractive if better parking provided such as by negotiating with surrounding businesses for use of parking space. Members also suggested developing a Civic Enterprise strategy through which many of the issues raised by the committee could be developed. General criticism that budget paper did not present a coherent strategic view or address issue such as value for money and productivity. That the committee's forward plan, key comments and actions be noted subject to items raised at the meeting being added. 	direction and content of the Council's budget.
9 th February 2016	Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services in Brent: Current provision and future developments	 Members welcomed this item and the ambition shown it the report submitted to the committee. Members questioned the available funding and if the 3.4 mil was enough to deliver planned services. Members queried the comparisons between adults and children's mental health budgets. Members also questioned what percentage CHAMS was of the overall CCG budget. Members also wanted to know the links between suicide and self harm. Members also queried the numbers of suicides. Members asked about the number of referrals and then queried how many children were seen in 12/13 and 14/15. 	The report provided an overview of the current Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) available in Brent, and the improvements and investments identified in the CAMHS Local Transformation Plan as a response to 'Future in Mind'.

Safer Brent Partnership Annual Report 2015	 Members queried the referral waiting times at Northwick Park and St Mary's and raised concerns over the very long waiting times. Members wanted to know the reasons behind the increase in service users numbers; from 45-70 Members were also curious about demographical information concerning boys aged 10 and girls aged 15. Questions were asked about the breakdown of THAMS between secondary and primary schools; and what other mental health provisions were in schools. Members started by asking about the figures for fear and perception of crime. Members then inquired about the priority of VAWG, especial children living with domestic violence and forced marriages. Members question the number of visits/training in schools suggestion that this number was low and more work needed to be done concerning sex and relationships education (SRE). Members brought up the subject of Islamophobia and a series of incidents that have taken places on TFL buses. There were discussions regarding the treatment of rough sleepers in the south of the borough. Members also discussed the attendance of the statutory partners, namely the Fire service and the CCG. The National probation service was also discussed. Members inquired about the member's survey and data sharing. They were particularly concerned about 	The Safer Brent Partnership (SBP) provided its annual report. The SBP is the statutory community safety partnership under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Under the act the council has a legal responsibility to consider the impact of crime and disorder in relation to council services and to collaborate with local partners to reduce crime, disorder, substance misuse and reoffending.
Proposed Scope for Scrutiny Task Group on	sharing information relating to gangs and anti-social behaviour. That the scope, terms of reference and timescale for the task group on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and	The reports set out the proposed scope for the Scrutiny task group on Community
Community	Section 106 in Brent, as set out in the appendices attached	Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106

	Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 in Brent Proposed Scope for Scrutiny Task Group on Housing Associations in	to the report submitted, be agreed. That the scope, terms of reference and timescale for the task group on Housing Associations in Brent, as set out in the appendices attached to the report submitted, be agreed.	In Brent The reports set out the proposed scope for the Scrutiny task group on Housing Associations in Brent
	Brent Scrutiny forward plan and key comments, recommendations and actions	That the committee's forward plan, key comments and actions to be noted subject to items raised at meeting being added.	
24 th February 2016	Education Commission update -including the Annual Standards and Achievement report 2014-2015	 Members acknowledged the strong improvement in some areas which was a credit to the schools and teachers concerned. However, the poorer performance in the secondary sector was noted, specifically by black Caribbean boys. Discussion took place around the new requirements for reporting at key stage 1 and 2 levels and the introduction of a new curriculum that was more demanding. Members asked questions on the national funding formula and the number of school exclusions. Members of the committee raised concerns regarding the performance of Academies and Free Schools. Members felt that there was not much mention of the role of the parent within the report. A member of the committee felt more comparative data with neighbouring boroughs should be provided and expressed the view that in some communities it was customary for children to receive supplementary education thereby driving up performance. The point was also made that the situation regarding the performance of black boys was a long standing 	The Brent Education Commission report, Ambitious for All: a shared responsibility, was endorsed by elected members in June 2014. This report updates members on progress against the priorities identified by the Commission and presents evidence of the commission's impact, through the significant improvement in Brent's inspection outcomes, standards and achievement, and the improved outcomes for most groups of pupils including the disadvantaged group which is supported by the Pupil Premium Grant.

	one.	
	RESOLVED: That the report and comments made at the meeting be noted.	
SEND reforms and implementation	 Members queried the 20 week target for completing assessments, the point was made that completed care plans were bulky and not practical for everyday use. Members inquired to the number of 2, 3 and 4 year olds with statements Members were concerned that schools may not have resources to cope with implementing the new arrangements The committee questioned the physical accessibility of schools for children with physical disabilities. A committee members asked questions regarding the SEND application approval rates. RESOLVED: (i) That the progress on implementing SEND reforms and the areas to be developed be noted; (ii) That issues identified within the report be identified for reporting back in more detail to future meetings of the appropriate scrutiny committee. 	The report set out the key changes arising from The Children and Families Act which came into effect on 1st September 2014, and provides an update on Brent's progress in delivering the national programme of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) reforms.
Adult Social Care Local Account 2014/15	 The point was made that there needed to be monitoring of assessments to identify where cases had been refused and to ensure resources were being used most effectively. The provision of respite care was raised. The provision of incontinent pads was raised and the request was made for the Council to check that the appropriate ones were being issued. 	The purpose of Brent's Local Account is to communicate priorities and to provide Members, residents and service users with a key accountability mechanism by which self-regulation and improvement activities can be systematically monitored and reported. The document attached at Appendix A is the full version of the report.

	The Chair asked what number of people using the carer's hub who received this support.	
	RESOLVED: That the performance and contextual information contained in the Adult Social Care Local Account 2014/15 report be noted.	
Brent Safeguarding Adults Board – governance arrangements	 It was agreed that clearer messaging was needed on what was adult safeguarding with reference to case studies and the impact on carers. The committee was informed that Fiona Bateman would soon be stepping down as chair of the Brent Safeguarding Adults Board. 	The report supports the Independent Chair presentation of the Safeguarding Adults Board's Annual Report for 2014-15.
	RESOLVED: That the Brent Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2014/15 be noted and suggestions made for next year's report be addressed.	
On-street Parking Service Offer and Charge in controlled Parking Zones; and Parking Statutory Guidance	 The Chair raised the potential equalities impact of reducing the number of permits to two per household with certain communities more likely to have multiple generations living at the same address. A member expressed the view that the message was not getting through that there were too many cars in the borough for all of them to have parking spaces and that planning policy needed to enforce this message. Members raised questions regarding the impact on those with informal care support arrangements. Members inquired about larger motorbikes requiring a permit. The increased level of parked commercial vehicles 	The report is being submitted to Cabinet on 14 March 2016 and sets out a series of changes to the way in which the council manages, and charges for, on street parking.
	 causing disruption to residents was raised. It was suggested that a range of pricing for larger vehicles should be considered as well as for engine 	

		size.	
		Size.	
		RESOLVED:	
		That the comments made above be taken into account	
		during the consultation on the street parking service and	
		charges.	
	Scrutiny forward plan	The request was made for the information sought on the	
	and key comments,	number of social housing units within the Kilburn	
	recommendations and	regeneration area requested at the meeting of the	
	actions	committee on 2 December 2015 be forthcoming.	
		That the committee's forward plan have commented and	
		That the committee's forward plan, key comments and	
		actions to be noted subject to items raised at meeting being added.	
5 th April	Call-in Report on	Following consideration of the report, the further information	The decisions of Cabinet to approve a
2016	Tackling Illegal Rubbish	supplied and contributions from the Lead Member,	proposal to enter into a pilot contract with
	Dumping and Litter with	Councillor Southwood and lead officers, the committee	Kingdom Security Limited for the delivery
	Uniformed Street	decided not to submit any recommendations to Cabinet.	of a payment-by results, cost-neutral
	Patrols		uniformed service for the enforcement of
		However, the chair wished to make clear the following views	street scene and environmental offences
		of the committee:	in the borough for a period of 12 months
			have been called in for scrutiny.
		The issue of littering and illegal rubbish dumping is	
		clearly a hugely important one for our residents. The	
		idea of using foot patrols to issue fixed penalty notices to offenders is an interesting one and the	
		Committee accepted the need for a trial period to	
		determine whether this will work practically in Brent.	
		Due to the start-up costs associated with a short	
		term trial the Committee accepted the Cabinet's	
		decision to do this through a private provider with	
		some experience in the field e.g. Kingdom;	
		However, if the trial is a success, the Scrutiny	
		Committee expressed its clear preference that this	
		does not become yet another service permanently	

National Adoption	outsourced from local government to private contractors, and that Brent Council works to provide it in house so that we can guarantee good terms and conditions for the enforcement officers, build up our internal expertise and deliver a positive financial return for Brent. Scrutiny members would hope that the Council's new social value procurement strategy will help to achieve this; • Members were encouraged by the Cabinet member's positive attitude about working more closely with the Scrutiny Committee in future, and noted that it was best practice that when any recommendations emanating from Scrutiny are developed into cabinet policy, the Committee and/or Task Group are involved every step of the way.	The purpose of this report is to provide
National Adoption Reform Proposal	Summary to follow RESOLVED: Need to align the scrutiny function of Corporate Parenting Committee with the work of the relevant new scrutiny committee.	The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Council's Scrutiny Committee, as requested, about the proposals for adoption reform contained within the government's Education and Adoption Bill 2015 and how the local authority is responding to these proposals.
Brent and Harrow Systems Resilience Group – Update on Winter 2015/16and planning for 2016/17	Summary to follow Members asked for figures on meeting targets for referral to treatment (medicine and surgery), cancer targets, and numbers and breakdown of DTOC cases. RESOLVED: After receiving the requested information members felt that the data was worrying and that their concerns should be noted.	The purpose of this paper is to provide the Brent Scrutiny Committee with an update on the progress to date made by the Brent and Harrow Systems Resilience Group (SRG) with regard to managing winter pressures in 2015/16 and the impact that this has had on performance.

Access to affordab childcare	RESOLVED: Members asked for figure of the amount of grant top sliced for administration. The Strategic Director Children and Young People undertook to provide further information on the number of approaches made for an assessment of 0-5 year olds.	This is a requested update on the paper brought to Scrutiny in June 2015. It considers the challenge of providing access to affordable, quality childcare in Brent.
HR and Equalities Review	Summary to follow RESOLVED: Cllr Pavey to take back points raised. Request for how incidents leading to formal action are measured in order to prevent them reaching an IT. Suggestion that reestablishing an Accessibility Officer might be value for money.	A review of HR Policies & Equalities was carried out in October 2014 by Councillor Michael Pavey and this report provides an update on the action plan.
Scrutiny forward pl and key comments recommendations actions	The chair stated that the current forward plan will end with the next scrutiny committee meeting, a new forward plan for	