



**Resources and Public Realm
Scrutiny Committee**
21 February 2018

**Report from the Director of
Performance, Policy &
Partnerships**

**Update on Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny
Committee 2017-18 Work Programme**

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	1
Background Papers:	N/A
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Amina Khatun Senior Policy & Scrutiny Officer Amina.khatun@brent.gov.uk 020 8937 3151

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report updates the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee's draft work programme for the remainder of 2017-18. The work programme covers a broad range of items and policy areas across corporate resources, regeneration and environment, transport and community safety and was selected by members of the committee based on criteria for effective scrutiny. It also sets out the remit for the committee and its responsibilities for scrutiny.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Members are asked to agree changes to the work programme set out in Appendix A.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Scrutiny is a member-led process which looks at the performance of Brent Council and other organisations in the borough to ensure that they deliver good quality services to local residents. The role is to challenge effectively and the committee endorses the principles of effective scrutiny which have been

developed by the Centre for Public Scrutiny. They are to provide a 'critical friend' challenge to Cabinet, be independent-minded, drive improvement in public services, and finally to provide a voice for concerns of the public and Brent's communities. The committee sets out to do this in a constructive way.

2017-18 work programme

- 3.2 In order to scrutinise effectively and to co-ordinate its activities with the Cabinet's forward plan of decision-making the committee agreed its own work programme for 2017-18. These included the items it would discuss at committee and its task groups for the municipal year.
- 3.3 Members decided on items which best suit the criteria for effective scrutiny in Brent. It is up to the committee to select the items for inclusion in its work programme, however ideas were brought together from a number of sources to assist members in their choices.
- 3.4 Ideas included suggestions from service areas, performance and budget monitoring information, the Cabinet forward plan. There are also a number of statutory items which have to be on the committee's work programme such as annual complaints report and the annual report on the Safer Brent Partnership. The work programmes remain fluid with the flexibility to prioritise items of significant borough wide importance, and where officers and the chair agree changes.
- 3.5 As members of the committee will be aware, the originally-scheduled task group report on community cohesion will not be on the agenda for March 2018, as the task group did not proceed due to the delay to work on the next Stronger Communities strategy. Therefore the committee has three items on its agenda for March
- the annual Safer Brent partnership report;
 - engagement and consultation review; and
 - an update on the small and medium enterprise task group.
- 3.6 As noted in the report on the scope for the proposed task group on viability assessments elsewhere on this agenda, that task group will report to the committee in the next municipal year.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no implications.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no implications.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 There are no implications.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 There are no implications.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

8.1 There are no implications.

Report sign off:

PETER GADSDON

Director of Performance Policy &
Partnerships.