



Partnership & Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee

14th June 2012

Report from the Director of Strategy, Partnership & Improvement

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Partnership & Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out sets some options for the Partnership & Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme. These include issues raised and requested made by the committee during 20011/12.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members discuss and agree a work programme for the Partnership & Place Overview & Scrutiny 2012/13

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 Partnership & Place 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 2011/12 a Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee was held on 2nd June. The joint committee was formed by members of the One Council, the Partnership and Place and the Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committees. The meeting provided the opportunity for members to use the latest information from the council's evidence base to inform a work programming exercise which enable cross committee input into each of the committee's work programmes.

3.5 Committee work programming is an on-going process and the committee Chair's have requested further public events, like the One Community Many Voices event, to be held later in the year. In addition 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.

3.6 ***Suggested topics***

1. Registered Social Landlord Performance information – the committee receives information on the performance on registered social landlords that operate in Brent. A number of RSL's will be invited to attend the meeting.
2. Employment in Brent. In 2011/12 the committee held a meeting which focuses in Employment in Brent to which Job Centre Plus, Work Programme providers and the college of North West London were invited. Members raised concerns about reaching the hard to reach group, the Work Programme provider's ability to deliver within the current economic climate, and performance measures. The Committee agreed to hold a further Employment focussed meeting in 2012/13.
3. Policing in Brent. The Borough Commander will be invited to discuss policing issues in Brent

4. Integrated Offender Management. In March 2012 the committee asked for a briefing on the Integrated Offender Management project.
5. Crime Performance Information and Community safety updates. Members will receive regular information on crime data and community safety in the borough.
6. Council for Voluntary Services Brent. The chair of the recently formed CVS Brent attending a meeting of the Partnership & Place OSC in March 2012 to provide an overview of the vision and strategic aims. The committee asked the chair to return in six months to provide an update on implementation.
7. Partners for Brent. Members will receive a regular update on progress in delivering the work programme of the partnership groups.
8. Members of the committee have suggested looking at parking in the borough.

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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