

**Suggested topics for Overview and Scrutiny Committee task groups  
2007**

<b>Suggested topics</b>	<b>Summary of issues</b>
Role of Council in community cohesion	<p>Since terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001, and the more recent attacks in London on our public transport systems, all councils need to think about if they are doing enough to promote good community relations and how they will respond in the event of a further attack by extremist Islamists.</p> <p>A review could develop an agreed set of protocols for Members, officers and with our partners in the event of a terrorist attack.</p> <p>The review should also lead to the development of an agreed community cohesion policy for Brent, which reflects the position of the council, its partners and wider faith and community groups.</p>
Domestic Violence	<p>Brent has one of the highest levels of reported incidents of Domestic violence per thousand of the population in England and Wales. The review could include a analysis of the effectiveness of the councils domestic violence strategy. As well as looking at how each Council department has responded to the strategy and our Partnership work with PCT, Police, Courts, probation, voluntary sector, NHS. The task group could also consider Gaps in service provision/areas of good practice</p>
Increase participation in sport	<p>A number of Council priorities, including the Corporate Strategy and the Local Area Agreement, have objectives to increase participation in sport and physical activity as a method for addressing wider objectives such as improved health and well-being and creating a vibrant, lively borough. The review could include looking at how we can develop good quality sustainable sports clubs in the borough and How we can encourage community groups to provide quality sports opportunities.</p>
Sub regional housing policy	<p>Look at the changes in regional and sub-regional approaches to the development of housing policy. The review would include The extent of the Mayor's powers and their impact at the local level. The relationship between strategy and policy development at the local, sub-regional and regional levels and, in particular, the extent to which the</p>

## Appendix 1

	<p>council can influence decision making at the wider levels.</p>
<p>Town Centre Regeneration</p>	<p>Brent Town Centres have been in decline over the years due to a number of reasons of which competition from neighbouring centres and a lack of investment in infrastructure are key contributory factors. The review would consider existing strategies and look at new ways to promote town centre regeneration.</p>
<p>Member Development</p>	<p>This review could look at the member development programme to ensure that it engages members, monitors outcomes, and is linked to the priorities of the council as well as look at developing a long term strategic approach to member training.</p>