



**Resources and Public Realm
Scrutiny Committee**
19 July 2023

**Report from the Corporate Director
of Communities and Regeneration**

**Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Work
Programme 2023/24**

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	One Appendix A – 2023/24 Committee Work Programme (Draft)
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	<p>Jason Sigba, Strategy Lead – Scrutiny, Strategy and Partnerships Jason.Sigba@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>Tom Pickup, Policy Partnerships and Scrutiny Manager, Strategy and Partnerships Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>Janet Latinwo, Head of Strategy and Partnerships, Strategy and Partnerships Janet.Latinwo@brent.gov.uk</p>

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present the Committee’s work programme for 2023/24.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 That the Committee’s work programme (set out in Appendix A) be agreed.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The work programme outlines the items which the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee will consider during the municipal year.
- 3.2 The programme is in line with the remit of the Committee which is set out in the Council Constitution (under the Terms of Reference for scrutiny committees¹):

Corporate policy, partnerships and resources; Budget; Customer services; Commercial services; Planning policy; Environmental policy; Public realm; Employment and skills; IT; Recycling; Regeneration; Transport and highways; Community safety; Property; Emergency planning and business continuity.

The Committee is also the Council's "crime and disorder committee" for the purposes of Section 19 of the Police & Justice Act 2006 and as such may review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of the crime and disorder functions by the responsible authorities (as defined by section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) who make up the Safer Brent Partnership, in order to make reports or recommendations to Full Council.

- 3.3 To ensure that scrutiny is effective, committee members prioritised items for inclusion in its work programme at its annual work planning meeting. This process ensured that items selected aligned with:
- The strategic priorities set out in the Borough Plan 2023-27
 - Areas of local community concern
 - Significant issues affecting a significant number of residents/wards
 - Emerging policies, strategies, or key decisions where there is strong interest for scrutiny input.

Nonetheless, this method of prioritisation is in line with best practice².

- 3.4 The work programme of a scrutiny committee is intended to be a flexible, living document that can adapt and change according to the needs of a committee. The 2023/24 work programme will therefore be regularly reviewed throughout the municipal year by the Committee and updated accordingly where necessary.
- 3.5 The Committee will also lead a task group in Autumn 2023 scrutinising the Council's draft budget proposals for 2024/25. The findings of the Budget Task Group will be reported to the Resources and Public Realm Committee at its meeting on 24 January 2024.

¹ Brent Council Constitution Part 4.

<https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s132905/Part%204%20June%202023%20Terms%20of%20Reference%20.pdf>

² The Good Scrutiny Guide (Centre for Public Scrutiny).

<https://www.cfqs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CfPS-Good-Scrutiny-Guide-v4-WEB-SINGLE-PAGES.pdf>

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. However, budget and financial issues are addressed in the 'Financial Implications' section of any reports to the Committee, requested as part of its work programme.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7.0 Climate Implications

7.1 There are no climate implications arising from this report.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications

8.1 There are no human resources/property implications arising from this report.

9.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

9.1 Non-executive members were involved in developing the work programme as part of their membership of the Committee.

9.2 In developing its work programme, the Committee held sessions with stakeholders, cabinet members, corporate directors, and the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee to temperature check key priority areas, avoid work duplication, and most importantly confirm the work programme reflects matters of local community concern.

Report sign off:

Zahur Khan

Director of Communities and
Regeneration