

	Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 19 November 2025
	Report from the Deputy Director, Democratic and Corporate Governance
Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme 2025/26 Update	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Not Applicable
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
List of Appendices:	One Appendix A – Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2025/26
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Chatan Popat Strategy Lead – Scrutiny, Governance and Scrutiny chatan.popat@brent.gov.uk Amira Nassr Deputy Director, Democratic and Corporate Governance Amira.Nassr@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 To present the Committee's work programme for 2025/26.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

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

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

3.1.1 Borough Plan 2023-2027 – all strategic priorities.

3.2 Background

3.2.1 The work programme outlines the items which the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will consider during the municipal year.

3.2.2 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):

Adult social care, Safeguarding, Children's services, Cultural services, Education, Health, Housing and Public Health and Wellbeing.

The Committee is also responsible for discharging the functions of the Council under Part 4 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 in respect of the review and scrutiny of relevant NHS bodies or relevant health service providers including:

- reviewing or scrutinising any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the borough; and
- making reports or recommendations to the relevant NHS bodies or relevant health service providers or Full Council on any other matter reviewed or scrutinised; however
- in response to any consultation by the relevant NHS bodies or relevant health service providers in respect of any proposal for a substantial development of the health service in the borough or for a substantial variation in the provision of such service, to make recommendations to Full Council only.

3.2.3 Committee members prioritised items for inclusion in its work programme at its annual work planning meeting, ensuring 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.

3.2.4 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 2025/26 work programme will therefore be regularly reviewed throughout the municipal year by the Committee and updated accordingly where necessary. The following amendments set out in this report reflect this:

¹ Brent Council Constitution, Part 4.

<https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s142996/Part%204%20May%202024%20Terms%20of%20Reference%20.pdf>

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

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

- The agenda item titled Leisure and Physical Activity has been rescheduled from the meeting on 19 November 2025 to the later meeting on 09 April 2026.
- The two agenda items scheduled for 19 January 2026 titled Update on Poverty Commission Project and Brent's response to the Cost of Living Crisis and Tackling Child Poverty in Brent will now be presented to the Committee as one item titled Tackling Poverty in Brent: Update on Poverty Commission Project, Brent's response to the Cost of Living Crisis and Tackling Child Poverty in Brent.

All changes are highlighted in red in Appendix A.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 4.1 Non-executive members were involved in developing the work programme as part of their membership of the Committee.
- 4.2 In developing its work programme, the Committee held sessions with stakeholders such as cabinet members, corporate directors, and ward councillors to temperature check key priority areas, avoid work duplication, and most importantly confirm the work programme reflects matters of local community concern.

5.0 Financial Considerations

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

6.0 Legal Considerations

- 6.1 There are no legal considerations arising from this report. However, legal implications are addressed in the 'Legal Considerations' section of any reports to the Committee, requested as part of its work programme.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

- 7.1 There are no EDI considerations for the purposes of this report. However, EDI implications are addressed in the 'EDI Considerations' section of any reports to the Committee, requested as part of its work programme.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

- 8.1 There are no climate change and environmental considerations for the purposes of this report. However, climate change and environmental implications are addressed in the 'Climate Change and Environmental Considerations' section of any reports to the Committee, requested as part of its work programme.

9.0 Communication Considerations

- 9.1 There are no communication considerations for the purposes of this report. However, communication implications are addressed in the 'Communication Considerations' section of any reports to the Committee, requested as part of its work programme.

Report sign off:

Amira Nassr

Deputy Director, Democratic and Corporate Governance