



Full Council
8 September 2014

**Report from the Assistant Chief
Executive**

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

**Report from the Chair of Scrutiny Councillor Aslam
Choudry**

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report provides a summary of the work of the council's Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Standing Order 41. It covers the period since the new Scrutiny structure and Committee was implemented in July 2014. During this period the Scrutiny Committee has been focused on defining its future work programme and providing member briefings on the role of scrutiny.

2.0 Detail

2.1 *Scrutiny Committee*

The Scrutiny Committee has formally met once since it was formed in June 2014. The Committee has also met informally on two other occasions; firstly for training and secondly to plan the Committee's work programme for 2014/15, when Councillor Choudry also provided the context for scrutiny in Brent and its future role.

2.2 *Training*

In July the Scrutiny Committee members attended a training session led by the Centre for Public Scrutiny; this focused on the committee members' legal responsibilities and how to undertake effective scrutiny. Scrutiny training was also offered to all members as part of the Member Development programme, this training focused on engaging local partners and residents and the principles of effective scrutiny.

The rest of the meeting focused on work programme planning and discussion on effective scrutiny approaches.

2.3 *Programme planning*

On Monday 7th July the members of the Scrutiny Committee attended an informal work programme meeting. All members had been invited by the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee to make proposals for items for inclusion in the work programme. A long list of items proposed by members was reviewed by the Committee.

A report on the Scrutiny work programme was delivered by Cathy Tyson – Head of Corporate Policy and Scrutiny, and discussion took place on the items proposed by members. Members were asked to:

- Note the arrangements for the future operation of the Scrutiny Committee
- Agree the proposed process for defining the annual work programme for Scrutiny

Committee members also reviewed the Council Corporate Forward Plan and considered feedback from other members on issues for Scrutiny Committee agendas and task groups.

A copy of the Scrutiny forward plan is attached (Appendix 1)

2.4 *Committee meeting*

The first Committee meeting was held on Wednesday 6th August, the committee received two health items:

1. Brent CCG's assurance process for the closure of the A&E unit at Central Middlesex Hospital and changes to related services to ensure a high quality of health care is accessible to all Brent residents.
2. Brent CCG's plans to transform the way health care is provided in Brent. The context for this proposal is the need to deliver care at a reduced cost while still achieving better patient outcomes. The plans are reflected in the CCG's five year draft strategy which is intended to put in place more integrated and locally available services and reduce dependence on acute services.

The Committee also heard a 'Call in' request – Decisions made by the Cabinet on 21 July 2014 in respect to 'Changes to Recycling and Green Waste Collection' were called in for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Standing Orders. The meeting was attended by Councillor Perrin (Lead Member) Sue Harper – Strategic Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods and Chris Whyte, Head of Recycling and Waste. The Committee agreed that the decisions should stand, with an update from the Head of Service in 9 months to the Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee also agreed two areas for task group work:

- Promoting electoral engagement - proposed scope and terms of reference
- Budget scrutiny task group – proposed scope and terms of reference

Since the meeting on 6th August the membership for the proposed task groups has been agreed and planning of the task groups' activities have started. The task groups will be meeting over the coming weeks with the aim of reporting back to the Scrutiny Committee within the next three months.

The next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee will take place on Tuesday 9th September 2014. This meeting will be considering parking services and the report from the Care Quality Commission on the quality of care provided by Northwick Park Hospital.

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