

For General Release

DRAFT REPORT TO:	FULL COUNCIL 15 JULY 2014
AGENDA ITEM NO:	9
SUBJECT:	BUSINESS REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND STRATEGIC OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
LEAD OFFICER:	Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, Director of Democratic & Legal Services
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Sean Fitzsimons Chair, Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:	The constitutional requirement that Council receive a Scrutiny Business Report.

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 Council is asked to note the Scrutiny work programme for 2014/15 (attached) and scrutiny activity since Annual Council on 3rd June 2014.
- 1.2 Council is asked to agree to establish a Streets and Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee with the Membership and Terms of Reference set out in the report also on the agenda of this meeting.
- 1.3 All Members are asked to consider the opportunities offered by Local Action Mini Reviews and what contribution they or their constituents can make to these or to the topics selected for Scrutiny as part of the 2014-15 initial scrutiny work programme.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the report of the Chairman of the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee, covering the period from Annual Council on 3rd June to 14th July 2014 as required by the Constitution. The Constitution allows 10 minutes for this item, which includes up to 2 minutes for announcements

3. DETAILS

This report provides an account of Scrutiny activity carried out between 3rd June and 14th July 2014.

4. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

5. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

The Council's Constitution (Part 4a Council Procedure Rules 3.05) states that the purpose of the Scrutiny Business Report is "To update the Council on Scrutiny activity since the previous Council meeting. Also to advise on any major issues that needs to be considered by Scrutiny. Incorporating (1) written questions and (2) oral questions on the items contained in the Business Report".

The Constitution allows 10 minutes for this item, which includes up to 2 minutes for announcements.

6. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

CONTACT OFFICER: Solomon Agutu, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer, 020 8726 6000 X 62920

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

ATTACHMENTS:

- Report from the Chairman of the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee
- Initial Scrutiny Work Programme 2014/15

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE
SCRUTINY AND STRATEGIC OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

3rd JUNE TO 14TH JULY 2014



**Councillor Sean Fitzsimons
Chair, Scrutiny & Strategic Overview Committee**

1. SCRUTINY 2014/15

The first meeting of the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee of the new municipal year took place on Tuesday 1st July 2014.

The Committee agreed recommendations relating to **Scrutiny Committee Membership and Terms of Reference** for itself and its existing Sub-Committees relating to Health, Social Care & Housing and Children & Young People.

The Committee resolved not to co-opt a Crime and Disorder representative in 2014-15. Instead the Committee agreed to explore the potential of seeking applications from individuals who could attend meetings as a **Co-optee** in order to contribute a wider community perspective. Members also agreed to investigate the potential of bringing together a panel of people with specific interests and areas of expertise to contribute to scrutiny meetings.

At the meeting, Members resolved to form the **Streets and Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee** in acknowledgement of the importance of sustainability, green and clean, the street scene, cycling and waste collection to residents. Full Council will make appointments to this new Sub-Committee on 15th July and it is expected to have a very busy inaugural year.

In addition, Members considered and agreed to add new approaches to scrutiny in Croydon. The intention is to cut through bureaucracy and help all Back bench members of the Council make a difference to residents by encouraging their involvement and participation in scrutiny.

Specifically Committee Members agreed to a process of **pre-decision scrutiny** on major policy initiatives in order to provide transparency as policies are developed. It is not intended to slow down the decision-making process but to become involved in the thinking behind policies and the consultation process on such policies.

The Committee welcomed a new initiative to establish a process by which back bench Members can conduct **Local Action Mini Reviews**. In the past scrutiny has commissioned task and finish groups which have investigated a topic over several months with considerable input from Members, outside witnesses and officers of the Council.

This new process of Local Action Mini Reviews is designed to provide all Members (not just Scrutiny Committee Members) with the opportunity of investigating and making recommendations on local issues or matters of interest which they feel merit action.

Members will lead the process under the auspices of the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee or relevant Sub-Committee using the asset of community knowledge to help with research and the development of ideas. The Committee will consider the resulting recommendations – with the whole process lasting weeks rather than months. Members will be provided with more information about this process in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, the Scrutiny Committees have a busy year ahead looking at topics as diverse as mental health, fly-tipping, safeguarding, flooding and the annual Council Budget. The Health Scrutiny Members are also expected to be busy with a revised version of BSBV¹ expected later in the year. We have reinstated the practice of inviting Cabinet Members to attend at least one Scrutiny meeting in a municipal year. We will therefore be welcoming Cabinet Members as they set out their stall, talking about their ambitions for their portfolio areas and answering questions from the committee members.

Forthcoming meetings:

- **Health, Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee**, Tuesday 8th July 2014 at 6:30pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Croydon.
- **Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee**, Tuesday 22nd July 2014 at 6:30pm in Room F10, the Town Hall, Croydon.
- **Streets and Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee**, Wednesday 23rd July 2014 at 6:30pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Croydon.

2. INITIAL SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

The work programme is still being developed and there are a number of topics under consideration for inclusion. However, an initial scrutiny work programme was agreed by the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee at its meeting on 1 July 2014 and this is attached. It should be noted that discussions are being held with departments over possible subjects that could benefit from pre-

¹ Better Services Better Value

decision scrutiny. Over the summer a further review of the work programme will take place and new topics will be added to the work programme. We will bring a further report on changes to the next meeting in September 2014.

INITIAL SCRUTINY MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2014-15

This schedule provides an overview of Scrutiny meetings in 2014/15 and outlines an indicative (but not final or complete) list of topics for discussion.

SCRUTINY & STRATEGIC OVERVIEW COMMITTEE (SSOC)	1 July 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work Programme - Confirmation of Chair, Deputy Chair & Vice Chair - Establishment Streets & Environment Sub-Committee 	9 September 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4-year Budget overview & resources - Cabinet Member Finance & Treasury (Simon Hall) - Culture Trust - FM Procurement 	11 November 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Member Safety & Justice (Mark Watson) - Safer Croydon Partnership - Domestic Violence 	17 December 2014 (joint meeting with CYP Sub-Cttee) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget - Leader & CEO 	10 February 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stronger Communities Partnership + Voluntary Sector Strategy - Cabinet Member Economic Development (Toni Letts) 	14 April 2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the Work Programme
HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE (HSCH)	8 July 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work Programme - Confirmation of Chair and Vice Chair - Healthwatch Co-option - SW London JHOSC Update 	21 October 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Member Homes and Regeneration (Alison Butler) - Homelessness Strategy/ Tenancy Strategy - Annual Report (DoPH) - Health Inequalities 	9 December 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better Care Fund Adult Safeguarding - NHS England Immunisation (6mth update) - Quality of Life for people with chronic conditions 	27 January 2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mental Health - Cabinet Member People & Communities (Louisa Woodley) 	10 March 2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health and Wellbeing Board 	12 May 2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality Accounts - Review of the Work Programme
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SUB-COMMITTEE (CYP)	22 July 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirmation of Chair and Vice Chair - Work Programme - School Places and Estates Strategy 	14 October 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnership work on safeguarding (LSCB Children's Board) - Children's Social care - Services provided by the council 	25 November 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academies 	17 December 2014 (joint meeting with SSOC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget - Leader and CEO 	3 February 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Member Children, Families & Learning (Alisa Flemming) - School standards and inclusion (including attendances) 	17 March 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the Work Programme

STREETS AND ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (S&E)	23 July 14 - Work Programme - Confirmation of Chair and Vice Chair - My Croydon App - Street Lighting PFI	16 September 14 - 20mph (Portsmouth experience) - Cabinet Member Transport & Environment (Kathy Bee)	18 November 14 - Fly-tipping baseline - Flooding - Cabinet Member Clean & Green (Stuart Collins)	20 January 15 - Cabinet Member Culture, Leisure & Sport (Timothy Godfrey)	24 March 2015 - Review of the Work Programme
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In addition to items where a suitable time has been found, there are a number of other topics which have been identified but have not yet been included in the work programme. In addition to these, a 'long list' of potential topics has also been created following consultation with officers and a number of partner organisations.

SSOC items awaiting schedule

- Domestic Violence – VfM, London Council's grants scheme – what is the impact on children
- Policing
- Licensing cheap alcohol
- Development – Croydon BID
- The Transparency Agenda
- Corporate Commissioning Strategy

CYP Sub-Committee items awaiting schedule

- Academies – evaluation/monitoring of effectiveness and standards of education provided
- Youth employability
- An update on the recruitment of school leavers
- The impact of the pupil premium
- Follow-up on implementation of approved Scrutiny review recommendations
- Commissioning for Children's health (Integrated Commissioning Unit – SALT, SEN, CAMHS, LAC)
- Children's mental health services

S&E Sub-Committee items awaiting schedule

- TfL including: new First Capital Connect contract/ A23 corridor/ Bridges renewal/ Central Croydon infrastructure (2+ items?)
- Cycling
- Planning notices (are they properly displayed, what are processes for checking the procedures)
- Managing the saturation of uses eg. fast food outlets, pay day loan companies and betting offices - planning policy and regulated services

HSCH items awaiting schedule

- Housing repairs (types of repairs and costs since re-launch of strategy)
- Housing allocation strategy
- Social Housing/Housing stock (how much is being built)
- NHS England, selecting other services that are commissioned/delivered by NHS England
- BME Issues
- Croydon Health Services NHS Trust – QIPP, LIA, End of Life Care

Council Meetings – 15.07.14, 06.10.14, 01.12.14, 26.01.15, 23.02.15-Council Tax,