

**THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA
CABINET AND CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
19 SEPTEMBER 2016**

SCRUTINY ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2016-17

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY CHAIRMAN

This paper sets out the current position of working groups set up during the Municipal Year 2015/16. It also gives details of suggestions for working groups and substantive agenda items for the Municipal Year 2016/17. Members of the Committee are invited to put forward additional topics for inclusion in the work programme.

FOR DISCUSSION AND AGREEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Each year, the Scrutiny Steering Group arranges a consultation on possible review topics for the next year's Scrutiny Programme. Suggestions are invited by a questionnaire to all councillors and senior managers and also from members of the public via the Scrutiny website. A paper summarising the suggestions is put to the September round of Scrutiny Committee meetings to inform decisions on next year's scrutiny programme.
- 1.2 This paper sets out the various suggestions received for the Cabinet and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee. Committee members are welcome to suggest additional topics for consideration to the Chairman. These should be within the remit of the Committee and not a topic that has been the subject of a recent Working Group or agenda item. For any suggestions that are accepted, committee members will need to consider whether they are most appropriately dealt with as agenda items or by a Working Group of the Committee.

2. POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR IN-DEPTH REVIEWS

- 2.1 The Procurement Working Group presented a draft report to the Scrutiny Committee in July 2016 and the final report is elsewhere on the agenda.
- 2.2 Following consultation with Councillors, senior officers and members of the public, the topics included in Table One are the suggested topics for the Municipal Year 2016/17.

Table One

Topic	Reasons for Inclusion in the Scrutiny Programme
Staffing Matters, for example recruitment and retention (Councillor suggestion)	Staff are key to the delivery of all the Council's services
The Community Policing Team (Cabinet Member suggestion)	The contract is due for renewal next year so there is an opportunity for the Scrutiny Committee to provide thoughts and views on the specification.
Metropolitan Police consultation on the re-organisation of Borough Commanders (Officer suggestion)	The Scrutiny Committee is the Council's statutory crime and disorder committee.
The infrastructure for superfast broadband (Officer suggestion)	It is 3 years since the infrastructure was agreed but it is progressing very slowly. Residents and businesses have expressed concerns. The provider, BT Openreach, would be asked to attend to give evidence to a working group or special committee meeting.

- 2.3 The following extract on review topic selection is taken from the Royal Borough Scrutiny Guide:

"In order to facilitate the process of selection, criteria for selecting topics for review have been agreed and include:

- a) the importance of the issue to the residents of the Royal Borough
- b) the availability of resources
- c) the timeliness of the issue
- d) the expected value added to the work of the Council by the review
- e) the need to obtain a balance of different types of reviews in the programme.

In taking a decision on which topics to take forward, each committee is advised to limit itself to two in-depth studies at any one time. The criteria should be applied systematically to **all** the topics that are nominated for review as part of the consultation process, including any that emerge after the programme has started. Once an Annual Programme is agreed, additional topics are added if and when circumstances require."

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Committee is invited to:

- decide which topic or topics should be taken forward for investigation in 2016/17;
- suggest other items which should be included in the programme.

**Cllr Pat Mason
Scrutiny Committee Chairman**

Background papers: None

Report contact details: Jacqui Hird, Scrutiny Manager
Jacqui.hird@rbkc.gov.uk