

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

CABINET – 28 SEPTEMBER 2006

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

THE ROYAL BOROUGH'S ANNUAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose

This paper sets out the annual work programme of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees and invites Cabinet members to express their interest in any reviews about which they wish to be kept informed.

FOR INFORMATION

1. INTRODUCTION

This report sets out the annual programme of reviews agreed by Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs) at their September round of meetings. Where applicable it indicates whether the results of the review are likely to be referred to the Cabinet as a whole, or just to the relevant Cabinet member, for a response.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In June 2006, the Scrutiny Steering Group agreed its approach to the development of the annual programme across all OSCs. The Annual Programme has been produced on the basis of consultation with OSC members, meetings between the relevant Executive Directors and OSC Chairmen, discussions with the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership and the Youth Forum, and an item on the Council's website seeking the views of the public.
- 2.2 OSC Chairmen also agreed criteria for selecting the final list of topics for the programme. These were: the potential value added by the review, the importance of the topic to residents, the timeliness of the review and the availability of resources to undertake the work.

- 2.3 The Programme set out below was agreed by the OSCs at the September round of meetings.

3 CABINET AND CORPORATE SERVICES OSC

- 3.1 Economic Regeneration: This is an in-depth review led by cross-cutting Member Working Group. The OSC will initially take a position paper on regeneration opportunities for Council and on the basis of this will decide how to take the work forward. Councillor Paget-Brown is the Cabinet Member with responsibility for this area and at this stage, it is envisaged that Cabinet is likely to receive a report to which it might need to respond.
- 3.2 Benefit Take-up Monitoring: A sub-group comprising Councillors Cunningham, Blakeman, Lady Hanham has been established to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of a report following an OSC review of this. Cabinet could possibly expect follow-up monitoring report to which it might need to respond.
- 3.3 Briefing on new Local Government White Paper: This is an officer report and at this stage, nothing is envisaged to be reported to Cabinet.
- 3.4 Review of Corporate Grants Sector: The OSC will initially receive a scoping report and will then decide whether or not it will take this piece of work forward. Should it be taken forward, it is likely that Cabinet could expect a report to which it might need to respond.
- 3.5 Safer Neighbourhoods, Impact of Safer Neighbourhood teams and PCSOs: This is intended to be an in-depth led by Member Working Group. Councillor Paget-Brown is the Cabinet Member with responsibility for this area and can expect a report to which he might need to respond.
- 3.6 A Review of Overview and Scrutiny in the Royal Borough: This is a short, sharp cross-cutting review led by this OSC. Cabinet can expect a report to which it would need to respond.
- 3.7 Besides these short sharp or in-depth reviews, this OSC will also monitor Council performance through its regular review of the Council's Vital Signs and Vital Improvements reports, and will also be scrutinising the Council's budget relevant to its remit. It has considered position papers on how it might effectively scrutinise partnerships within its remit. Finally, it regularly holds the Cabinet Members within its remit to account through the reports they are required to place before each OSC meeting, at which their activities and decisions are also scrutinised.

4 FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OSC

- 4.1 Scrutiny of the expenditure on the two new schools planned for the Royal Borough: This will be an in-depth review led by a Member working group which will be chaired by Councillor Cox, with Councillors Borwick, Lasharie and Levitt as the other members. Councillor Husband could expect recommendations from this working group to which he might need to respond.
- 4.2 Scrutiny of Children's Centres: This will be the subject of review by a member working Group to be chaired by Councillor Coates, with Councillors Atkinson, Campbell and Condon-Simmonds as the other members. Councillor Ritchie could possibly expect recommendations from this working group to which she might need to respond.
- 4.3 Overview of the Children's Trust: This will be the subject of a review by a member working group chaired by Councillor Lindsay, with Councillors Johnson and Mills and, if he was willing, Mr Robert Atkinson, as the other members. Councillor Ritchie could possibly expect recommendations from this working group to which she might need to respond.
- 4.4 Besides these short sharp or in-depth reviews, this OSC will also monitor Council performance through its regular review of the Council's Vital Signs and Vital Improvements reports, and will also be scrutinising the Council's budget relevant to its remit. It will consider how best it can scrutinise partnerships within its remit, something which will be taken forward by the Children's Trust working group. Finally, it regularly holds the Cabinet Members within its remit to account through the reports they are required to place before each OSC meeting, at which their activities and decisions are also scrutinised.

5 HEALTH OSC

- 5.1 Over the coming year the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be taking a close interest in the implementation of the Kensington and Chelsea PCT's Turnaround Plan, since it has implication for health and social care services across the board in the Royal Borough. A subgroup has been set up to look at the PCT's commissioning priorities, and its report will go to the PCT Board for a response and to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Adult Social Care for information.
- 5.2 Another subgroup will be looking at the PCT's consultation arrangements on the future of services at St Charles' Hospital. The report of this subgroup will go to the PCT Board for a response and will be sent to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Adult Social Care for information. The Committee has asked for a "position statement" on the impact of migrants, who are not registered with

GPs, on local health and social care services. Further work on this topic will depend on the conclusions reached by the Committee on the basis of the position statement.

- 5.3 A major piece of work planned for the coming year is to revisit the review of Health Inequalities carried out in 2004 in order to assess what progress has been made in implementing the review's recommendations. Kensington and Chelsea PCT has been invited to join the subgroup undertaking this work. The report from this review will go to the full Cabinet, as well as to the PCT Board, for a response.
- 5.4 The Committee plans to contribute to the Kensington and Chelsea's Public Health Strategy, currently being developed jointly by the PCT and the Royal Borough. It will also be monitoring the implementation of the new arrangements for user and public involvement in local health services, and the establishment of a Local Involvement Network in the Royal Borough.
- 5.5 In March 2007, the Committee will comment on the self-assessments carried out by seven NHS organisations (The Kensington and Chelsea PCT, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, the CNWL Mental Health Trust, The Royal Brompton, The Royal Marsden, Hammersmith Hospitals and the London Ambulance service). Some of this work may well be carried out in conjunction with Westminster and Hammersmith and Fulham with whom the Committee is developing joint working arrangements.

6 HOUSING, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OSC

- 6.1 The Committee will be looking at the outcomes framework for Adult Social Care services, and taking an interest in the development of services to disabled people following the conclusion of its Disabilities Review later this year. The report of the Disabilities review will go to the full Cabinet for a response. A major strand of work in the coming year will be looking at the provision of services to older people across the Council. Once completed, this review will be sent to the full Cabinet for a response since it will consider the full range of Council services for older people.
- 6.2 A short, sharp study on the supply and demand for the whole range of older people accommodation (both public and private) in the Royal Borough will be carried out over the autumn. The outcome of this review is likely to be referred to the Cabinet member for Housing and Adult Social Care for a response.
- 6.3 The Committee will be scrutinising the Tenant Management Organisation's performance and finances, which fits with the

Cabinet's priorities on housing. Progress on the housing stock options appraisal and the Royal Borough Review of Leaseholder Services will also be regularly reported to the Committee. There will be an opportunity for the Committee to scrutinise the Housing Review Account Performance Plan, and the Sheltered Housing Strategy. The Committee will be taking an interest in the progress of the Royal Borough Review of Environmental Health and Trading Standards, and an overview report on arrangements for monitoring the performance of Environmental Health services will come before the Committee.

7 Public Realm OSC

- 7.1 Grounds Maintenance Contract: The Committee agreed to establish a sub group to consider the tendering process for the grounds maintenance contract. The intention is to hold regular meetings with councillor Paget-Brown, the Cabinet Member with responsibility for this area of work, to support him in making his decision at the end of the procurement process. Councillor Edge will Chair the group and will be assisted by Councillors Holt, O'Neill, Mrs Taylor and Miss Weatherhead.
- 7.2 Scrutiny of the 28, 31 and 328 Bus Routes: A short, sharp review with a one-off residents meeting to be held on Thursday 19 October at 6.30pm. TfL will also be attending. The Cabinet Member for this area of work is Councillor Moylan. A report will be produced which he may need to respond to. The report will also be presented to Full Council by the OSC Chairman.
- 7.3 Parks Strategy: This sub-group will be monitoring the implementation of the Parks Strategy as each of the refurbishments in the strategy are planned and carried out. Councillor Edge will chair this sub-group and will work with Councillor Holt and one Minority Party representative. Councillor Paget-Brown, Cabinet Member with responsibility for this area, can expect a report to which he may need to respond.
- 7.4 Arts Strategy: A scoping report will be submitted to the next meeting and the OSC will determine its involvement in this subject on the basis of that report. Should the OSC pick up this area of work, Councillor Paget-Brown and Cabinet can expect a report to which they may need to respond.
- 7.5 Scrutiny of Western Riverside Waste Authority: It was agreed to form a joint sub-group with Hammersmith and Fulham, to consider the WRWA waste management strategy. A joint working group is in the process of being formed and an initial meeting is to be held on 5 October 2006. Councillor Paget-Brown has responsibility for this

area of work and it is expected that the Cabinets of both boroughs will receive a report to which they might need to respond.

- 7.6 Regeneration of Golborne and Portobello Roads: This will be scrutinised together with the Economic Regeneration review led by the Cabinet and Corporate Services OSC (please see item 3.1 above). As Cabinet Member with responsibility for this area of work, he has agreed to let the Portobello Forum know that the OSC was interested in looking more closely at the regeneration of this area. This is cross-cutting work to be undertaken together with the Cabinet and Corporate Services OSC and Cabinet may expect a report to which they would need to respond.
- 7.7 Environment Strategy: The OSC agreed to wait until after the strategy's launch to decide whether there were any matters that would require its attention.
- 7.8 Besides these short sharp or in-depth reviews, this OSC will also monitor Council performance through its regular review of the Council's Vital Signs and Vital Improvements reports, and will also be scrutinising the Council's budget relevant to its remit. Finally, it regularly holds the Cabinet Members within its remit to account through the reports they are required to place before each OSC meeting, at which their activities and decisions are also scrutinised.

8 RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet is asked to note the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Programme and Cabinet members are invited to indicate any particular pieces of the proposed work programme in which they may wish to take an interest.

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