The Council is invited to note the Annual Scrutiny Report 2014/15.

FOR INFORMATION

1. Following the end of the Municipal Year, attached is the Annual Report for 2014-15 of the Council's Scrutiny Committees.

2. A hardcopy of the Scrutiny Annual Report has been provided as part of this agenda for ease of reference, although in general hard copies of the report will not be produced to keep costs down and in keeping with our environmental commitments.

3. As in previous years, the report will be made available on the Council website.

4. Councillors are asked to share the report with residents and businesses to show the work of the Council’s Scrutiny Committees over the past year and how the public are welcome to provide their input.

FOR INFORMATION

Tony Redpath
Director of Strategy and Local Services

Background papers used in the preparation of this report: None other than previously published documents.

Officer Contact: Mrs Jacqui Hird, Scrutiny Manager. Tel: 020 7361 2634
Annual Scrutiny Report 2014/15

Chairman’s Foreword

Scrutiny is a Councillor-led statutory function within the Council. It is responsible for holding decision makers to account on behalf of borough residents and helping to develop policies and initiatives and propose changes to services that will make the borough a better place in which to live and work.

This Annual Scrutiny Report covers the first year of the new Council following the local elections in May 2014.

In the following chapters, Scrutiny Chairmen have given a personal account of the work undertaken by their own Scrutiny Committee over the year. This contains details of some of the successes of scrutiny and reflects different approaches which have been taken with the aim of helping the Council meet some of the challenges it faces.

This report shows that Scrutiny Committees do much more than simply scrutinise Cabinet: they determine their own priorities and undertake review work leading to recommendations directed not just to the leadership of the Council, but also to external organisations including the Police and NHS organisations.

The Scrutiny Steering Group, comprising the five Scrutiny chairmen, met twice during the year with the Leader, Cllr. Nicholas Paget-Brown, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategy, and the Town Clerk to scrutinise financial performance and plans for the future. This reflects the important role of Scrutiny at a time of financial restraint.

The Scrutiny Steering Group has also considered a variety of other matters relating to the effectiveness of the Council’s scrutiny, including scrutiny and risk, attendance of senior officers at meetings and the funding for scrutiny.

The effectiveness of Scrutiny in addressing risk was considered, prompted in part by external events involving child abuse and exploitation in Rotherham and Oxfordshire as well as failings at Mid-Staffordshire Hospital. Scrutiny chairmen considered work undertaken by the five Scrutiny Committees to identify risk in their particular service areas, and
considered whether risk management arrangements had operated satisfactorily over the year and how these might be improved.

Scrutiny chairmen reviewed the attendance of Executive Directors and Directors at meetings. The most senior Council officers cannot attend every meeting but Scrutiny Chairmen were interested to note the diligence of some Executive Directors in attending, while others were more sporadic. Scrutiny chairmen accepted that a pragmatic approach must be taken, with Executive Directors accepting the need to attend those Scrutiny meetings where they are needed most (i.e. where they can add most value) - for example when a Directorate’s highest priority issues and key challenges are topics on an agenda.

Scrutiny chairmen continue to feel that the impact and effectiveness of Scrutiny will be enhanced with increased resourcing. As a consequence the modestly increased funding for the year 2015/16 will be used enable Scrutiny committees to access independent expert advice to further enhance the quality of their review work and Members’ ability to challenge and probe issues robustly. Support has already been identified for a range of reviews relating to Procurement, Adult Social Care and Housing Occupancy. It is anticipated that this will deliver a year in which Scrutiny will be able to live up to its strapline ‘Robust Review, Constructive Challenge’.

I cannot sign off without making particular mention of Cllr. Robert Freeman, who has now moved on from the chairmanship of the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee to a new challenge as Mayor for 2015/16. I would like to thank him as his experience, commitment and contribution have been considerable and he will be missed. I welcome, in his place, Cllr. Charles Williams, who will chair the Committee in 2015/16.

Finally I would stress that Scrutiny at the Royal Borough has an ‘open door’ to public suggestions for scrutiny topics. Ideas can be sent to us by letter, email or via the Council website www.rbkc.gov.uk/scrutiny.

My fellow Scrutiny chairmen and I look forward to another constructive and productive year for the Scrutiny function.

Cllr. David Lindsay
Chairman, Scrutiny Steering Group
Chapter 1 - Adult Social Care and Health

"The Committee’s main objective is to ensure that the voice of the patient and the service user is listened to and acted on. In our work and our deliberations we have tried never to forget that everyone is entitled to the best possible safe and sensitive care whether in the hospital, in the surgery or in their own or a residential home.”

Cllr. Robert Freeman, Chairman

The Committee’s remit

1. This Committee not only scrutinises Council-run and commissioned services but also those provided by partners and the National Health Service.

In-depth scrutiny reviews

2. In-depth scrutiny reviews provide Members with the opportunity to probe topics in greater depth and to make recommendations to both the Council’s Cabinet Members and external organisations as appropriate.

3. During the year, the Scrutiny Committee concluded in-depth scrutiny reviews into:
   - The use of ‘Place of Safety’ under the Mental Health Act; and
   - Delayed discharge from hospital.

4. The Committee also set up new in-depth reviews into:
   - Adult Social Care Contract Monitoring and Safeguarding; and
   - the closure of Thamesbrook
   but these reviews have not yet concluded.

Other scrutiny work

5. Whenever there has been an adverse Care Quality Commission report on a local provider, the Scrutiny Committee has called in those providers to set out their proposals for improvement. These have included:
• Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, in relation to St. Charles Mental Health Unit and Beatrice Place;

• Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and Chelsea and Westminster NHS Foundation Trust where the reports from the Care Quality Commission stated that the two Trusts were 'requiring improvement'; and

• the Royal Borough’s Adult Social Care Department in respect of Ellesmere House and Piper House.

6. The Scrutiny Committee has:

   (i) made a number of representations regarding *Shaping a Healthier Future* - re-organising the NHS in North West London;

   (ii) examined the systems for making a complaint to local NHS trusts and ways in which the trusts respond to those complaints;

   (iii) commented on the ‘quality accounts’ of local NHS provider trusts; and

   (iv) reviewed and revised its process for rota visits to care homes and other care providers.

**Changes to the Committee’s membership**

7. The Chairman of Healthwatch Central West London, Christine Vigars, has been formally co-opted onto the Scrutiny Committee as has Louise Proctor, the Managing Director of the West London Clinical Commissioning Group.

**Thanks**

8. I should like to thank Cllr. Pascall (my Vice-Chairman), all the Members of this Committee and all the officers supporting us for their hard work at the meetings and as part of the working groups. I should also like to congratulate Cllr. Williams on his appointment as Chairman.
Chapter 2 - Cabinet and Corporate Services

"The Committee tests the Cabinet’s decisions and holds them to account on behalf of the residents who elected us.”

Cllr. Pat Mason, Chairman

The Committee’s remit

1. The Royal Borough’s Cabinet and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee has a wide remit to scrutinise business handled by the full Cabinet that does not fall within the remit of another Scrutiny Committee.

2. It carries out the functions of a ‘Crime and Disorder Committee’ in accordance with the Police and Justice Act 2006. It also considers matters of corporate management or interest including local democracy, decision-making by the Council, the Council’s budget and overall financial management; corporate policy, information and communication technology, corporate grants, community relations, and regeneration and economic development.

Introduction

3. This was my first year chairing the Committee, and it proved to be a year when the Committee took the meaning of scrutiny to a new and challenging level. At the start of the year, I believed - perhaps unfairly - that there was a tendency for Cabinet Members and senior officers to write reports and answer questions from the Committee simply because the Committee has to be reported or responded to – as against a situation where the Committee chooses carefully what it wants to look into and gets on with digging into the heart of what it has a duty to scrutinise.

4. I hope that the energetic approach the Committee took was not too much of a culture shock for officers and Cabinet Members grappling with a plethora of difficult tri-, bi-borough and other changes. We know that tri- and bi-borough working is designed to produce savings, but it is precisely because the changes involved can potentially result in unplanned financial losses for the Council and result in adverse affects to our residents’ vital services that the Scrutiny Committee felt it necessary to ‘up our game’.

5. Amongst other issues we have looked at, we have taken a robust stance on scrutiny of the Council’s annual budget-setting process, examined the Council’s budgetary and financial processes and
suggested improvements. And we have set up a Procurement Scrutiny Working Group, chaired by Cllr. Andrew Rinker, to examine if the Council’s Procurement Strategy is working well across the Council, and we will make recommendations in due course to remedy any problems that we may find. I believe that the Committee has lived up to its duty to hold the Council’s executive to account during the year.

6. I want to pay tribute to all of the Committee’s Members who have contributed to the Committee’s scrutiny activity during the year - Cllr. James Husband (Vice-Chairman) and Cllrs. Adrian Berrill-Cox, Barbara Campbell, Sir Merrick Cockell, Emma Dent Coad, David Lindsay, Andrew Lomas, Daniel Moylan, David Nicholls and Andrew Rinker.

**Scrutiny of the Council’s budgeting and financial management**

7. At my first meeting, the Committee expressed concerns about the size of the forecast Council budget underspend for 2013-14 that ballooned from £15m to £30.6m. The Committee considered this could be due to poor budgeting and some failure of the budgeting process, and called in the External Auditor, KPMG and the Cabinet Member for Finance to advise the Committee why this had happened.

8. Some Members believed larger than necessary underspends, with a proportion fed to the Council’s reserves, resulted in less money being available to support vital residents’ frontline services at this time of austerity. Others said budget information needed to be made easier for scrutiny councillors to understand to enable us to do our job effectively. We agreed a number of improvements with the Council’s Chief Executive on the provision of budget information for this and future years.

**Policing and community safety**

9. The Committee invited the new Borough Commander, Chief Supt. Ellie O’Connor, to the Committee twice during the year to discuss a range of policing and community safety issues including how the new Community Police Team will work, gang violence in the north of the borough, radicalisation and anti-terrorist activity, car and bicycle theft and violence against women and vulnerable persons - also, the grooming of young people for sex, internet crime and thieves posing as Council staff or gas engineers who burgle resident’s homes.

10. Concern was expressed at the further £800m spending reduction the Metropolitan Police has to make from 2016 on top of the £500m
already implemented. There is a fear that the policing role may be radically altered to the detriment of Royal Borough residents.

Looking at how the procurement and commissioning of Council services works

11. Whether Council services are run on a tri or bi-borough basis, by external providers or by the voluntary sector, the Council’s stated aim is to reduce the cost of providing these services whilst maintaining or improving existing standards. The Cabinet and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee has a duty to test if the Council is achieving this aim given the sometimes severe upheavals caused to Council staff and the services they provide. The Committee has set up a Procurement Scrutiny Working Group to examine the Council’s Procurement – Commissioning Strategy to decide if it is fit for purpose, if it is delivering value for money contracts, if it is maintaining or damaging resident’s services in any way, and to recommend solutions to any problems that we find.

Holding the Leader of the Council to account

12. Cllr. Paget-Brown attended two meetings at the Committee’s request during the year to answer questions on the Council’s budget and the further savings he said had to be made over the next 4 years. Some Members said the Council’s overall financial position had proved robust enough through the last 5 austerity years to warrant taking the underspend levels down a notch across the business groups. This could allow more support for services used by vulnerable people, women and young people, for example. There were questions about the Mayor of London’s ten year target of 7,000 new affordable homes the Council still needs a plan to meet, about the timetable for the Council’s often-quoted estate development plans, whether estates should always be knocked down and rebuilt new and also whether the affordable housing planning gain surplus (approx £15m), could be used to refurbish existing social housing.

2014 Council ‘Your Voice’ staff survey

13. Without the dedicated work of Council staff all the year round, services to residents would suffer and the Town Hall would surely grind to a halt. So each year the Committee is keen to hear Council staff views on what it’s like working for the Royal Borough, and how they are coping with the difficult changes the Council is making to the delivery of services they provide and to their working environment.
14. The 2014 staff survey told us that overall they were positive about working for the Royal Borough, but their responses were still less positive than last year probably, the Committee was told by senior officers, due to the ongoing changes that make staff feel unstable in their jobs. Unsurprisingly, many staff are concerned about pay and conditions issues: doing more work for no pay increase, the impact of constant changes on them and the services they provide, given no chance to comment in advance on changes that affect their jobs, and complaints about bullying.

15. The Cabinet Member responsible for staff was asked to supply an action plan to the Committee in due course to deal with these and other issues mentioned by staff in the survey.

**Tackling childhood obesity**

16. The Committee jointly scrutinised a Cabinet programme proposal to tackle Childhood Obesity in the Royal Borough, with Cllr. Robert Freeman, Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee and Cllr. Mary Weale, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health and Dr Eva Hrobonova, Deputy Director of Public Health.

17. The Committee was told that a third of Year Six Children across the borough are overweight or obese, which is above the London and UK average. Childhood obesity is the cause of a range of adverse health problems that are also very costly to our health services. We heard that childhood obesity increases the risk of hospital admissions in children and young people for conditions like asthma, diabetes, sleep apnoea and pregnancy-related conditions. In adulthood their risk increases for coronary heart disease, hypertension, depression and some forms of cancer. A five year programme has begun to join up a range of Council and health services to deliver a healthy lifestyles project in the borough, starting with a healthy eating and physical activity ‘Go Golborne’ pilot programme in Golborne and other North Kensington Wards.

**Looking ahead**

18. The Committee will continue to test the Council’s Annual Budget and financial strategy, and its ability to deliver the really good level of services promised to the borough’s residents at this time of austerity. The ongoing scrutiny of the Council’s procurement and commissioning strategy, to establish if the Council could make it work better, that in turn could improve our services to the public, is likely to continue well into 2015.
19. We expect to run a session to try to find out how the coming £800 million reduction from 2016 to the Metropolitan Police budget could affect policing in the borough. We may also want to have another session on radicalisation, given recent government pronouncements on new reporting and monitoring responsibilities for local agencies and services. In the context of crime reduction, some councillors have recently suggested that we might carry out a borough-wide CCTV ‘fit for purpose’ scrutiny, especially with regard to the effectiveness of CCTV covering TMO and housing association properties. And we expect to invite the Kensington and Chelsea Social Council to brief us on the key issues of their 400 member organisations at this time of instability and change for many of them.

20. It is going to be another busy year.
Chapter 3 - Family and Children’s Services

“A good education is one of the most important gifts anyone can have – which is why we take it seriously. While we hope that as few children as possible will need to use our Children’s Services, they are some of the most vulnerable people in the borough and we take their welfare equally seriously.”

Cllr. David Lindsay, Chairman

The Committee’s remit

1. Family and Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee covers many important services, and in particular is at the forefront of the Borough’s care for some of our most vulnerable residents. The focus of this Committee continues to move away from education and towards Family and Children’s Services, itself a reflection of the overall shift in funding and government expectations.

Introduction

2. In my third year of chairing the Families and Children’s Scrutiny Committee not-withstanding the shift in emphasis away from education, we have sought to balance the desire to scrutinise schools and education with the many other commitments that the Committee has towards looked after children, broadly defined, as well as keeping a close eye on the increasing reality of tri-borough working within ongoing financially straightened circumstances.

3. Over the year, the Committee developed and explored a wide-ranging work programme and the highlights are described below. A key feature of this has been explicitly inviting suggestions from all Members of the Committee, elected and co-opted, as to items to scrutinise, thus involving all Members and trying to democratise scrutiny further. Most topics have either been included in our Work Plan, or will be scrutinised over the coming year. This is our way of trying to minimise the malign effects of blind spots. We have been also tried where possible to have a theme to a meeting, to focus attention around related issues, and to minimise unnecessary attendance by officers at our meetings.

Holding the Executive to account

4. The Family and Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee does this in a number of ways. The Cabinet Members for Children’s Services and
Education and Libraries (Cllrs. Elizabeth Campbell and Emma Will) submit reports to our meetings and are invariably in attendance. Members of the Committee have questioned them on work undertaken as well as future plans. The tri-borough Executive Director regularly attends scrutiny committee meetings as do senior officers from the Directorate.

5. Examples of matters which the Scrutiny Committee raised included:

- the review of implementation of the new transport contract for children with Special Educational Needs and disabilities (summer 2014) when the Committee spent a whole evening hearing about the difficulties from parents, education professionals and voluntary organisations as well as the Council’s officers.

- the provision of play services in the borough.

- concerns expressed about proposals relating to the Maxilla Children’s Centre in a motion at the Council in April. At the following Scrutiny Committee meeting three residents spoke and we reviewed the issues in detail.

**The ongoing changing focus of the Committee**

6. Schools are increasingly autonomous, particularly academies which are funded directly by DfES and which have full control over their admissions policies. The above notwithstanding, all seven academies have stressed the importance of ongoing close relationships with the Council, so the Council does retain some influence. The Committee has continued to take an interest in education because we all appreciate providing a good education to our young residents is one of the most valuable things that we as a Council can give. As part of this scrutiny, the Committee considered updates on school results as well as OFSTED inspection reported. The Committee also held a meeting at the new Aldridge Academy and heard from the Principal, Mr David Benson, at our November 2014 meeting.

7. As noted before, the focus and emphasis of the Committee has changed and so there has been a greater emphasis on children’s and social services. Examples of Children’s Services matters the Committee has scrutinised included:

- early help services in the borough;

- the implementation of the Children’s and Families Act and changes to the way services are delivered to children with special educational needs;
• the ‘Focus on Practice’ programme;
• the proposed Early Help Strategy, recent development and the next steps for the Early Help Service in the borough; and
• the initial findings on the review of the library services, which was preceded by a tour of the Central Library.

8. The Committee held a themed meeting in March to consider the wider issues impacting on children and young people. This included reports on obesity and diabetes, initiatives to enable young people to be more active and as well as hearing about work currently undertaken to prevent Female Genital Mutilation. A Joint Working Group with Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee on the Health Needs of Children in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea also reported during the year.

9. The Committee reviewed the Local Safeguarding Children Report and heard from the independent chairman about work over the last year. In conjunction with this, the Committee also considered reports into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham, this included considering the recommendations from the national reports to ensure that the Council is operating effectively.

Looking ahead

10. Members actively contributed their ideas and suggestions for the work programme for the coming year. Some of the topics that we are planning to scrutinise in the coming months include:

• the Troubled Families Programme;
• the ‘Prevent’ Strategy in relation to young people;
• youth offending and youth crime;
• strategies to reduce NEETS (not in education, employment or training) numbers and financial and operational support for apprenticeships; and
• missing children.

Thank you

11. I would like to thank all Committee Members, including our co-optees, for their contribution and participation in the meetings.
Chapter 4 - Housing and Property

"Housing and Property remain centre stage for the Council. The Council has ambitious plans to improve our housing stock, as well as to use our property assets more effectively."

Cllr. Quentin Marshall, Chairman

The Committee’s remit

1. Difficult economic times increase the need for the Council to have a coherent, well thought-out strategy to make best use of its property assets. It is the Housing and Property Scrutiny Committee’s responsibility to ensure this strategy is in place and ensure it is implemented effectively. This Committee also assesses how the Cabinet Member is responding to important housing issues which impact upon the lives of local residents.

2. To date, one of the most important contributors to the savings needed to offset our reduced central government grant has been from our property portfolio of both operational and non-operational assets. While dealing sensitively with the impact some of these changes involve, maintaining services without placing a greater burden on taxpayers by using our property assets better must be sensible.

3. The Committee has spent considerable time scrutinising both the limited number of asset sales or lettings made by the Council, as well as the significant outsourcing contract for our property services. In both cases, the Committee has challenged Council officers on performance and value for money. I can report that, broadly, the Committee has been satisfied with the outcomes achieved, although we cannot be complacent. Property services in particular have scope to improve as the new systems bed in. While we can observe what we hope are temporary and specific deficiencies, it is worth reminding ourselves of the huge savings the contract has enabled, money that otherwise would have had to have been found by cutting front line services.

4. Over the coming year, the Council has ambitious plans to move forward with regenerating the Pembroke Road site. The Committee has already paid particular attention to the process being undertaken, looking carefully at how options for change were considered and stakeholders consulted.
5. Housing policy continues to evolve. The re-election of a Conservative government means the direction of existing policy will continue and probably deepen. The intention of the new government to offer housing association tenants the right to buy, financed by the sale of Council-owned high value properties, will be a particular area of focus for the Committee over the coming months. Affordable rent and fixed term tenancies, as well as the ability to discharge our housing responsibilities for those in temporary accommodation by making an offer of private sector rented housing, will remain in place. The Council has ambitious plans to increase the number of tenancies available to those on middling incomes. This will be a crucial area to monitor, especially in relation to allocations.

6. Over the past year the list of housing related matters we have scrutinised is long. Some of the highlights include:

- our regular scrutiny of TMO performance, which is of such great importance to our tenants;
- our re-housing plans;
- the work being undertaken at Grenfell Tower;
- the redevelopment of the Edenham Way site;
- expenditure in housing services, checking line by line how money is spent;
- our ongoing efforts to combat tenancy fraud;
- charges for Council-owned garages and parking spaces;
- heating and hot water charges;
- disposals in the HRA; and
- the creation of a Council-owned company to facilitate regeneration.

7. The Committee has taken care to challenge both operational detail, e.g. day-to-day spending, as well as strategy, e.g. regeneration. We will continue to monitor the ongoing activities of both departments - this work can never stop. However, over the coming year the evolution of our regeneration strategy is likely to rise up the agenda. This exciting programme should lead to better housing for our existing tenants, more housing in the borough and the revitalisation of parts of the borough that need investment.
8. From my own perspective, the provision of more housing is of particular importance. London house prices and rents continue to rise, even as the population rises. While rejecting simplistic and ineffective ideas such as rent controls, we cannot ignore the significant hardship caused by spiralling prices to renters and would-be purchasers. The best solution to this challenge is to build more housing. Building in the Royal Borough is difficult because land is in short supply and therefore very expensive. However, the Council is endowed with significant land holdings, many of which could absorb more housing while offering higher quality housing to all those involved. Working with tenants, leaseholders and other stakeholders to release this ambition is, I believe, one of the most exciting projects underway at present within the Council and is certain to occupy much of the Committee's time in the coming year.

**Thank you**

9. I would like to thank all Members of the Committee for their contribution and participation in the meetings and officers for the preparation of reports and attendance.
Chapter 5 - Public Realm

“Public Realm touches the lives of everyone who lives or works in the Royal Borough.”

Cllr. Marie Therese Rossi, Chairman

The Committee’s remit

1. This Committee has the power to scrutinise anything relating to the built or natural environment. This covers planning, waste management, flooding, parking and transport, street markets, licensing and environmental health. The Committee also has responsibility for the arts, leisure, museums and parks.

Introduction

2. This has been an eventful year for the Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, with five new Members joining the Committee following the May 2014 local elections. Over the year, the Committee has looked into a wide range of topics, such as how the Council can meet its recycling targets, ways to reduce the impact of large developments and protect the amenity for residents and securing improved transport infrastructure in the longer term through influencing the location of Crossrail 2 stations within the borough. The Committee continues to monitor efforts to meet housing need and the number of road accidents. It has also scrutinised the performance and budgets of relevant Council departments.

3. Some of the more notable topics explored by the Committee this year include:

(i) Opera Holland Park (OHP) – Plans for Transition: Friends of OHP and Holland Park attended a scrutiny meeting to set forward their views on the proposals to make OHP more financially independent of the Council. The Cabinet Member took part in this discussion and the main points made were then reported to all Cabinet Members.

(ii) The New Kensington Leisure Centre - All Members toured the completed centre soon after it was opened to view its state of the art facilities. The Committee hopes local residents will use the new facilities as fully as possible which will mean the new centre can play an important role in promoting physically active and healthy lifestyles. The Committee was impressed by the new building and congratulated senior officers involved in
the project as well as Cllrs. Ahern and Pascall for their stewardship of this important project. During our visit, our concerns over suitable provision of facilities for children were allayed.

(iii) **Garden Waste Collection Service** - In March an on-line petition was started by residents in response to proposals following the initial consultation on changes to this service including the introduction of charges. An invited representative from the petitioners presented their concerns to the Committee at its March meeting. At the time of writing the Cabinet Member has responded by consulting on alternative proposals for this service. We will ensure that residents involved in the petition have sufficient opportunity to take part in this second consultation.

(iv) **Notting Hill Carnival 2014** - Europe’s largest street carnival takes place in this borough and has a significant impact on the environment and community safety in the immediate area. We were able to scrutinise how effectively local residents are kept informed of arrangements for the event and that as far as is possible adequate measures are taken to protect residents from anti-social behaviour and noise during that weekend. The Committee wanted to ensure that properly publicised public meetings continue to take place before and after the event so that residents’ views, sometime passionately expressed, are heard by those involved in organising Carnival’s cultural, policing and street cleansing aspects. One result of the scrutiny discussions will be improvements in how noise and nuisance complaints are recorded and acted upon.

(v) **Draft SPD for Trellick and Edenham** - The Committee responded to this document which aims to guide architects in the layout and development of the area. We commented on the provision for affordable housing and health facilities as well as the need to increase footfall in the area.

(vi) **Revised Notting Hill Gate SPD** - As part of the public consultation process, the Committee has been given another opportunity to comment on the overall plan. The development of a plan for the area has not proved easy because of the number of landlords concerned. In response to the Committee, the Cabinet Member decided to bring forward plans to improve the public realm in advance of any major development scheme for the area.
(vii) **Improved protection for residents from large developments** - the Committee has welcomed measures to prevent life in the borough suffering unduly from traffic, as well as noise and nuisance caused by large developments. It has strongly encouraged environmental health, planning and transport officers to work closely together to reduce adverse impacts on residents from basement and other developments. It has commented on a range of documents to this effect including: a local code to minimise noise and vibration from construction sites, a draft transport and streets SDP that strengthens guidance on construction traffic management plans and, a draft SPD that compliments the new policy restricting the size of basement developments.

(viii) **Flooding** - The Committee has a statutory duty to consider the dangers of flooding and in particular our local flood risk strategy including Thames Water’s plans to alleviate sewerage flooding into the river. We are consulted on the plans for Counters Creek scheme as a number of properties in the borough have in the past been flooded.

(ix) **Portobello and Golborne markets** - The Working Group that finished last year resulted in a strategy for improving the markets and half-yearly meetings are held with key officers to ensure progress continues to be made in implementing the recommendations.

**Working groups**

4. As a Committee, we aim to run several Working Groups each year. These provide in-depth reviews of particular service areas and make recommendations for how the situation might be improved. The topics for review are decided in September each year based on suggestions by members of the public and Councillors.

(i) **Transport and Technical Services value for money** – this Working Group looked at ways of generating savings from the highways maintenance contract and suggested options for generating savings including varying materials and the specification for the contract. Officers advised on the likely impact of alternative approaches and materials, and welcomed the constructive ideas from the working group which were taken up with discussions on the new contract with the Cabinet Member. I would like to thank all the Members on this Working Group for their input.
(ii) **Rubbish collection** - Members will be leading a review to look at the outcome from a trial in Earl’s Court Ward of more focused action to prevent dumping of black bags and other rubbish. If the trial proves a success, it could be applied to other parts of the borough in particular any hotspot areas for rubbish dumping.

(iii) **The financial viability of large scale developments** (joint Working Group with the Housing and Property) - Members will be exploring ways of securing the maximum number of affordable housing units including social housing and funding towards new housing and infrastructure from large scale developments.

(iv) **Planning** – This working group continues to review planning services and explore how improvements can be made.

**The Year Ahead**

5. The Committee will continue to monitor how the Council can best secure improved transport infrastructure in the longer term through influencing the locations of Crossrail 2 stations within the borough. The Integrated Air Quality Strategy and Climate Change Action Plan is at an early stage but the Committee will be working with the Cabinet Member and officers in developing a local response to improve air quality linking these measures with actions to reduce polluting omissions. Increased waste contamination rates and falls in recycling rates will both need to be carefully monitored and my Committee will seek to identify ways to reverse these trends. Members are aware of the need to minimise littering and rubbish dumping on streets and will be assessing if the approach taken in the Earl’s Court trial should be implemented elsewhere.

**Thank you**

6. I would like to thank all Committee Members for their contribution and participation during the year.
# Key Contacts

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