



SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL 3 – 2019/2020

LOCAL EFFECTS OF NATIONAL ISSUES

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

The membership of the Panel was agreed at the Council meeting of 7 May 2019.

The work of this Panel would assist the Council in meeting the commitments of the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan including its three priorities for the borough – genuinely affordable housing, opportunities and living incomes, and a healthy and great place for all.

MEMBERSHIP

The nine appointed Members on the Panel are as follows:

Cllr Paul Driscoll (Chair)
Cllr Gary Busutil (Vice Chair)
Cllr Shahbaz Ahmed
Cllr Jaskiran Chohan
Cllr Tejinder Dhani
Cllr Dee Martin
Cllr Karam Mohan
Cllr Chris Summers
Cllr Anthony Young

Co-optees

The Panel may choose to co-opt additional non-voting advisory members from relevant external organisations in accordance with Scrutiny's framework for the nomination, appointment and retention of non-voting advisory members to Ealing Scrutiny Panels.

This will be done at the first meeting of the Panel.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

The Panel has five meetings scheduled in the year and the dates for these are as follows:

Thursday 18 July 2019
Thursday 26 September 2019
Tuesday 19 November 2019
Thursday 20 February 2020
Thursday 23 April 2020

All meetings will commence at 7.00pm and be held in Perceval House, 14-16 Uxbridge Road, London, W5 2HL unless a special site visit has been arranged. The Panel is expected to complete its work by the end of April 2020.

SCOPE

The main ***purpose*** of the Scrutiny Panel is to review the local effects of national issues in the borough.

The ***scope*** of the Scrutiny Panel, which was drawn up by Councillors at the Annual Scrutiny Conference on 9 May 2019, is to consider the following key areas regarding the local effects of national issues:

- An Overview of the Financial Pressures Upon the Council and the Impact – including strategic cost shunts/underfunded burdens, supply/demand pressures and actions, outcomes-based budgeting, budgeting choices, impact of Brexit and the devolution of business rates.
- Universal Credit – the changes, the impact e.g. Council Tax scheme, implementation, update on the present position, casework, roles of the various agencies and community groups, benchmarking with others and what other boroughs are doing well that we could emulate.
- Potential Changes to the Housing Act: Tenancy Law – the changes, impact, affordability, the Council's preparedness, inspections, intervention, best practice examples elsewhere and how these could be replicated locally.
- New Environment Bill – the proposals for local government, potential implications, contributing to the Government's consultation, carbon reduction changes, environmental protests in London, etc.

The Panel will:

- ensure that the views of all the major stakeholders are incorporated in the review (e.g. London Councils, community groups, foodbanks, Ealing Advice Service, Department for Work and Pensions, Job Centre Plus, charities e.g. Zacchaeus 2000 Trust, etc.);
- not duplicate the work of other Panels or Committees looking at any related issues; and
- not widen its remit without the express agreement of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

OUTCOMES

The key ***expected outcomes*** are:

- to ensure that despite the financial and other constraints the Council's services and processes are robust in delivering the challenges arising from the borough's population growth and the consequent increase in demand for public services that this drives in a sustainable way.
- to make recommendations for sufficient funding from the Government's Spending Review for the local authority, greater financial self-sufficiency to enable decisions about the local communities and driving growth in the borough.

TASKS

The Panel will undertake the following **key tasks**:

- consider the current position on the Council's financial position, increasing demands and how this compares with the London and national pictures.
- review the implementation of the Universal Credit scheme and consider what could be done to minimise the adverse impact.
- review the potential impact of the proposed changes to the Housing Act – Tenancy Law and consider the Council's preparedness for it.
- Identify and evaluate best practice arrangements within and outside the borough for innovative solutions.
- identify the problems and solutions for further improvements in the provision of the Council services.

Other

- identify and evaluate perceptions on the issues;
- identify the best ways in which any changes can be communicated effectively across the borough; and
- comment to officers/Portfolio Holder(s) and make written recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the outcomes.

METHODOLOGY

The Panel will take a strategic approach in undertaking policy review and development work by adopting a deliberative, investigative and evidence-based methodology and in reaching its conclusions the Panel will have due regard to value for money considerations.

The Panel will strive to be proactive, responsive, flexible and willing to shape its own agendas and workloads. This will involve working in an open, transparent, accountable and inclusive manner through an outward looking focus involving partners and the public. The Panel will ensure that its approach to such working is inclusive of the views of Ealing's diverse communities.

The specific methods to be applied by the Panel will be agreed at the first meeting.

EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT

The Panel will decide how it will undertake external engagement in accordance with Scrutiny's Communications Strategy.

The Panel can choose to co-opt relevant non-voting advisory members from the local community on it and actively seek views of the private and voluntary sectors, residents and other interested organisations on specific matters.

The Panel will maintain a close connection with the Wards and accept referrals from the public.

WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel is responsible for devising its own Work Programme including work to be undertaken between meetings e.g. training sessions, site visits, focus groups, mystery shopping, research, working groups, etc.

The Work Programme is a forward plan that identifies issues to be addressed at each meeting. It is a rolling programme of work that will be amended throughout the period. Items can be addressed as and when they arise or come to the attention of the Panel. The agenda for the subsequent meeting will be agreed at each meeting.

FUNDING

Unless otherwise arranged, any proposed expenditure (other than staff time) must be contained within the budget for Legal and Democratic Services, for which the Director is the budget-holder. The Scrutiny Unit does not have its own dedicated budget.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Panel is also a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Panel will have its Terms of Reference agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chair may report the Panel's progress at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings and will present a final report. The Panel will also make recommendations for future work programmes. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will do an overall annual scrutiny report to the Council.

KEY INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

Portfolio Holders

Councillor Julian Bell (Leader plus Policy Overview, Regeneration and Transport)
Councillor Yvonne Johnson (Deputy Leader, Schools and Children's Services)
Councillor Jasbir Anand (Business and Community Services)
Councillor Joanna Camadoo-Rothwell (Community Safety and Inclusion)
Councillor Bassam Mahfouz (Finance and Leisure)
Councillor Peter Mason (Housing, Planning and Transformation)
Cllr Binda Rai (Health and Adult Services)

Shadow Portfolio Holders

Councillor Greg Stafford (Leader of the Opposition plus Leader's Portfolio, Policy, Performance and Development, Transformation and Future Ealing)
Councillor Anthony Young (Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Finance)
Councillor Joanna Dabrowska (Infrastructure and Planning)
Councillor Seema Kumar (Council Services and Safer Communities)
Councillor David Millican (Chef Whip, Children and Education)
Councillor Joy Morrissey (Health and Wellbeing and Housing)
Councillor Alexander Stafford (Business, Communities, Prosperity and Employment)
Councillor Nigel Sumner (Public Realm)

Service Officers

Ross Brown (Chief Finance Officer)
Alison Reynolds (Director Customer Services)
Joanna Pavlides (LWA and Benefits Support Manager)
Mark Wiltshire (Director of Safer Communities and Housing)
Gillian Marston (Director of Environment)
Joanne Mortensen (Sustainability Programme Manager)

Committees

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