

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Policy and Oversight Board

Date: 12/09/2022

Subject: Policy and Accountability Chair's Summary Update

Report author: Bathsheba Mall, Committee Coordinator

Responsible Director: David Tatlow, Director of Corporate Resources

SUMMARY

This report covers the areas of work and reports considered by each of the Policy and Accountability Committees, examining and exploring emerging themes in the context of the committees' individual work programmes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the updates of the Policy and Accountability Committees and discuss any areas of collaboration.
 2. To agree that any requests for Task and Finish Groups from the Policy and Accountability Committees should be considered and approved by the Policy and Oversight Board.
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Wards Affected: None.

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Doing things with local residents, not to them	The Policy and Accountability Committees aim to amplify the voices and concerns of residents and to give them a mechanism to comment on, participate in, and determine Council policy.
Being ruthlessly financially efficient	The Policy and Accountability Committees were set up to hold the administration to account and scrutinise decisions in the interest of residents.

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None.

PROPOSALS

Coordination and approval of Task and Finish Groups

1. It is recommended that any requests for Task and Finish Groups from the Policy and Accountability Committees be considered and approved by the Policy and Oversight Board to ensure the Council has the necessary level of resources available to support them through to their conclusion.

POLICY AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE UPDATES

Children and Education Policy and Accountability Committee

2. The Committee considered the following topics at its first meeting on 19 July 2022:
 - Youth Voice Update – July 2022
 - Ofsted Focused Visit – January 2022
 - Summer in the City – Summer Activities for Children and Young People
3. The Committee asked to be kept up to date on the development of the Youth Council's manifesto and implementation plan. While discussing the Ofsted visit, the Committee recommended that officers worked with the Business Intelligence team to develop predictive modelling to support recruitment and caseload management. The Summer in the City programme was commended and there was a recommendation that officers sought corporate sponsorship so that some of the activities could be offered throughout the year.

Work programme

21 November 2022 – To be agreed

24 January 2022 – Corporate and departmental medium term financial strategy

Climate Change and Ecology Policy and Accountability Committee

4. Due to report scheduling issues the meeting originally scheduled to take place in July meeting was postponed to 14 September 2022.

Work programme

14 September 2022 – draft agenda:

- H&F 2030: Climate and Ecology Strategy
- Positive Actions to Date
- Top Priorities

29 November 2022 – To be agreed

Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Accountability Committee

5. The committee considered the following items at it's meeting on 20 July 2022:
 - Public Health Update (standing item)

- NWL ICS Update On Community– Based Specialist Palliative Care Services Improvement Programme
 - Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020-21
 - Healthwatch annual report 2020-21 (deferred)
6. Council activities on both monkey pox and Covid 19 recognised the need for swift and responsive mobilisation of support services. In this context, the committee will be exploring how the heatwave has affected the borough, what has been done to mitigate, and invite the emergency planning team to explore how residents can prepare themselves better to deal with extreme heatwaves in future. End of life and specialist care service provision in North West London is currently being reviewed and early engagement with local communities had allowed the NHS borough team to work closely with lay partners and stakeholders such as HaFSON to help design engagement materials. The committee are keen to both support the engagement and contribute to any future consultation.

Areas of potential collaboration / cross-over with other PACs

- The cost-of-living crisis – The impacts on the borough and actions the Council and partners could take to mitigate them – potential for excess deaths linked to fuel and cost of living.
- Rough sleepers / homelessness – health inequalities linked to poor or inaccessible housing

Work programme

16 November 2022:

- Public Health
- NWL ICS Update on Community-Based Specialist Palliative Care Services Improvement Programme – Model of Care Working Group review of data
- Eye services

25 January 2023:

- Public Health
- Corporate and departmental medium term financial strategy

Future items:

- Immunisation and vaccination
- Children and young people – mental health and wellbeing
- West London Trust – provision of North West London mental health services
- Dentistry services

Housing and Homelessness Policy and Accountability Committee

7. The Committee considered the following items at its first meeting on 18 July:
- Housing Repairs Briefing
 - Rough Sleeping, Homelessness Prevention and Temporary Accommodation

8. The Committee requested a detailed report on the housing repairs service including an update on the capital programme, details of the housing pipeline, and plans to spend £600m to improve housing in the borough. The Committee also requested a report on income maximisation and financial inclusion – and following a discussion on daytime activities for residents in St Mungo hostels, members requested a review of the first 6 months of the collaboration pilot began in November.

Areas of potential collaboration / cross-over with other PACs

- Financial and digital inclusion
- The cost-of-living crisis – The impacts on the borough and actions the Council and partners could take to mitigate them

Work programme

14 November – draft agenda:

- Housing Repairs
- St Mungos collaboration pilot – 6 month review

23 January 2023:

- Corporate and departmental medium term financial strategy

Future items:

- Income maximisation and financial inclusion
- Licensing scheme for private rented sector
- Greening Council Homes

Social Inclusion and Community Safety Policy and Accountability Committee

9. The Committee considered the following items at its first meeting on 18 July 2022:
- Refugee Update
 - Local Enforcement Team
10. The Committee welcomed that the council is seeking formal designation as a borough of sanctuary for refugees and asylum seekers, and that the council continues to lobby against the government's inhumane proposals to send asylum seekers to Rwanda, advocating for open, safe routes for asylum seekers. The Committee will have a themed standing item on Local Enforcement Team given the varied range of its remit and positive impact on resident wellbeing and safety.

Areas of potential collaboration / cross-over with other PACs

- Cost of living, in the context of community safety. There was a clear link to increased crime during economic uncertainty. It would be helpful to include the perspective of different community groups and communities.
- Development of a Food Strategy
- Digital inclusion, looking into what the Council is doing both internally and with outside partners. Similarly, looking into what is happening more generally in the borough and how the Council can help.

Work Programme

22 November 2022:

- Local Enforcement Team Update
- Violence Against Women and Girls, to coincide with the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign
- Gang violence and the exploitation unit. The Gangs Unit had been established for two years and would be a complementary item to the VAWG piece.

24 January 2023:

- Local Enforcement Team Update
- Corporate and departmental medium term financial strategy

Future items:

- Look into the Council's procurement strategy and whether it funds goods produced using modern slavery.
- To work with residents to put on more neighbourhood events, whether regular or as a one-off. Invite people from the Better Brackenburg project to tell us about their work and how the model can be replicated.
- Monitor the creation of a new Community Engagement Strategy – in consultation with the Cabinet Member.

The Economy, Arts, Sports, and Public Realm Policy and Accountability Committee

11. The Committee considered the following items at its first meeting on 27 July 2022:

- The Challenges and Priorities for the Economy
- The Challenges and Priorities for the Public Realm

12. In terms of the local economy, the Committee considered the key challenges and priorities for delivering the Council's ambition to transform H&F into a Global Economic Hotspot and the economic challenges and opportunities that the Authority is responding to, including the impact of the recent pandemic and current high level of inflation. A key point was that the work within The Economy department was cross cutting and should link with priorities identified across the council. Key challenges and priorities for the public realm offered opportunities for cross cutting themes that could be considered with other committees.

Areas of potential collaboration / cross-over with other PACs

- Street environment – Impact of the built environment linked to rough sleeping, community safety, health inequalities
- Cost of living – non-payment of rates, non-payment / withdrawal from council services, voids, potential impact on council revenue

Work programme

28 November 2022:

- Waste and recycling

1 February 2023:

- Corporate and departmental medium term financial strategy

Future Items:

- The cost of fly tipping within the borough and the balancing act between prevention and reaction / response to the issue.
- The importance of managing parks and green spaces (given the paucity of private gardens) and the opportunities to improve the borough's Green Flag status.
- Street work inspections, its impact on residents and importance of publicising these works.
- Waste and recycling and the ways in which this could be improved.

LIST OF APPENDICES

None.