

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Policy and Oversight Board

Date: 12/1/2/2022

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 Council's 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 for future review or collaboration by the Policy and Oversight Board.
 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: All

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 meeting on 21 November 2022:
 - Youth Justice Service Inspection Outcome
 - Corporate Parenting Board Review
 - The Learning Partnership
 - Summer in the City Delivery Report.
3. The Committee commended the Youth Justice Service for achieving an overall 'Outstanding' rating in their most recent inspection by HM Inspectorate of Probation in June 2022. Members asked officers to think about how the good news and the good work the service did could be spread through community leaders and resident meetings. Members also made suggestions to improve the Learning Partnership's offer by reaching out to the borough's big businesses and private schools. Finally, the Committee discussed the Summer in the City programme and recommended putting together a more formal offer for older young people with special educational needs and disabilities in future years.

Work programme

4. 30 January 2023:
 - Children's Services Department Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Climate Change and Ecology Policy and Accountability Committee

5. At the meeting on 14 September 2022, officers were requested to:
 - Engage with Housing Associations operating in the borough about their net zero plans
 - Share information on the work of the Climate Emergency Unit which seeks to prepare progress updates for individual challenges on a regular basis; and
 - Discuss items on the Housing Retrofit Survey and progress update on the Climate Emergency strategy at the next meeting scheduled for 29 November 2022.

6. The meeting originally scheduled to take place on 29 November has been postponed to 31 January 2023.

Work programme

7. 31 January 2023:
 - Departmental Medium Term Financial Strategy
 - Clean Air Neighbourhoods (TBC, item from postponed meeting)

Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Accountability Committee

8. The committee considered the following items at its meeting on 16 November 2022:
 - Western Eye Hospital and Ophthalmology Services
 - Plans for North West London Elective Orthopaedic Surgical Hubs
 - West London NHS Trust Update.
9. Western Eye Hospital and the proposals to improve this provision were very much welcomed. The committee explored the concerns of The Macular Society and the National Federation of the Blind UK and our residents who highlighted concerns about future provision, increasing rates of impairment that were preventable and access to local ophthalmology services. A proposal for Elective Orthopaedic Hubs was welcomed by all, but it was recognised that it was important to ensure that patients retained a choice in terms of treatment and were able to travel to the hubs. The improvement plans for West London NHS Trust and how this was progressing was considered and the impact of the loss of mental health beds in Ealing. Members will continue to monitor both issues closely and welcomed ongoing opportunities for further engagement.
10. **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
 - Health and wellbeing support in the context of domestic violence and abuse, and violence against women and girls
 - Digital inclusion in primary health care services.

Work programme

11. 25 January 2023:
 - Public Health
 - Council's Budget and department Medium Term Financial Strategy
 - Model of care working group (end of life care plans for North West London).
12. 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

13. The Committee considered the following topics at its meeting on 14 November 2022:
- Introduction by Mark Lowthian, Interim Director of Housing & Transformation
 - Homelessness Partnership Update
 - Compliance Update - Keeping Residents Safe
 - Developing our Capital Works Programme.
14. The Committee discussed the need for high quality reports to fulfil their scrutiny role. Members made suggestions around reducing the number of voids in the borough's housing stock, improving the repairs service for residents and the way residents were engaged on works programmes. The Committee also requested progress reporting on long-standing repairs cases.

Work programme

15. 23 January 2023:
- Housing Department Medium Term Financial Strategy and Housing Revenue Account report

Social Inclusion and Community Safety Policy and Accountability Committee

16. The Committee considered the following items at its first meeting on 22 November 2022:
- Law Enforcement Team update
 - Gangs, Violence and Exploitation Unit – Overview
 - Domestic Violence and Abuse, and Violence Against Women and Girls – Overview.
17. The committee welcomed an update from the Law Enforcement Team on their ongoing work supporting residents, ensuring that there is high visibility and continued co-operation with the Metropolitan Police. The committee heard from The Harrow Club and Violence Intervention Project that early intervention work with young people is critical in identifying need, support positive outcomes and break the cycle of violence and abuse. The need for long-term planning and support was also emphasised and the Council is committed to treating this issue as a priority. The committee commended officers on their work to secure further funding from the Greater London Authority on support services for survivors of abuse, the ongoing consultation by the Women and Girls Network and the much-needed work of organisations such as Advance and Refuge.

18. **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.
- Mental health and wellbeing in the context of community safety.

Work Programme

19. 24 January 2023:

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

20. Future items:

- Look into the Council's procurement strategy and whether it funds goods produced using modern slavery.
- Discuss and scrutinise the work of the local Police. We will invite local community groups and organisations and encourage them to participate in the discussion.
- To work with residents to put on more neighbourhood events, whether regular or as a one-off. Invite people from the Better Brackenbury 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

21. The Committee considered the following items at its first meeting on 28 November 2022:

- Update On The Development Of The Borough's New Ten-Year Cultural Strategy
- Wheeled Bin And Food Waste Collection Prototype Survey Results.

22. The Committee considered proposals to deliver a ten-year cultural strategy for the borough that would respond to key challenges and priorities for delivering the Council's ambition to transform H&F into a cultural hub and tourist destination. A key point made was that the work should be linked with priorities identified across the council and build a co-produced provision based on resident engagement.

23. **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

24. February 2023 (date to be confirmed):

- Corporate and departmental medium term financial strategy

25. 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.

LIST OF APPENDICES

None.