

3 July 2017

Corporate Projects Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme 2017/18

Report of: *Phil Ruck, Chief Executive*

Wards Affected: *All*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Councils Annual Council approved the committee structure which included the introduction of a Corporate Projects Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 At the Policy, Projects and Resources Committee on the 20th June 2017 it was agreed that the following Corporate Projects be considered by the Corporate Projects Scrutiny Committee in 2017/18:
 - Town Hall Redevelopment – Customer Services/Member Portal
 - Leisure Strategy
 - Local Development Plan
 - Town Centre Redevelopment
- 1.3 The Corporate Projects Committee will also have responsibility to review decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions. In addition it has responsibility for the monitoring of Council service performance, including Performance Indicators, Formal Complaints and Freedom of Information requests.
- 1.4 The work of the Corporate Projects Scrutiny Committee will be delivered both by Members working in groups and through formal committee reports. The committee will be required to identify members to serve on each of the working groups. The working groups will be made up as follows:
 - 3 Conservatives
 - 1 Liberal Democrat (Or Independent)
 - 1 Labour (Or Independent)
- 1.5 The Corporate Projects Scrutiny Committee will make recommendations to the appropriate decision making committees and Council as necessary.

- 1.6 The Corporate Projects Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider its 2017/18 work programme.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Corporate Projects Scrutiny work programme 2017/18 at appendix A be approved.**

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 At the Councils Annual Council it was agreed that the committee structure would include the introduction of a Corporate Projects Scrutiny Committee.

- 3.2 At the Policy, Projects and Resources Committee on the 20th June 2017 it was agreed that the following Corporate Projects be considered by the Corporate Projects Scrutiny Committee in 2017/18:

- Town Hall Redevelopment – Customer Services/Member Portal
- Leisure Strategy
- Local Development Plan
- Town Centre Redevelopment

- 3.3 The Corporate Projects Committee will also have responsibility to review decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions. In addition it has responsibility for the monitoring of Council service performance, including Performance Indicators, Formal Complaints and Freedom of Information requests.

- 3.4 The work programme of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee should not include management or staffing issues which are the responsibility of the Head of Paid Service.

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 The Scrutiny function works best when the committee undertakes its work both in member groups and by receiving formal committee reports. It is proposed that in 2017/18, where possible, member working groups be set up as Task and Finish Groups under the terms of reference of the Corporate Projects Scrutiny Committee.

4.2 The advantages of this approach include:

- Task and Finish groups would provide a structure to make recommendations to the relevant committee.
- They would provide Scrutiny with a clear purpose, a robust work plan and appropriate officer support for its pre-scrutiny role; reports and information would be prepared by Officers.
- Consultation would be built into the policy making process ensuring robust policy development and would avoid delays at the end of the process from last minute call ins.
- A wider group of members would be included in any corporate projects.
- Membership for any task and finish group may be from across the whole Council, not just the Corporate Projects Scrutiny Committee.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 The Constitution requires that the Corporate Projects Scrutiny Committee agrees its work programme at each meeting of the Committee.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 None.

7. References to Corporate Plan

- 7.1 The vision of Transformation includes an action to improve the Council's governance arrangements, leading to faster, more effective decision-making. An effective scrutiny function is an essential element of that priority.

8. Implications

Financial Implications

Name & Title: John Chance, Finance Director

Tel & Email: 01277 312542 / john.chance@brentwood.gov.uk

- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Daniel Toohey, Monitoring Officer & Head of Legal Services

Tel & Email: 01277 312 860 / daniel.toohey@brentwood.gov.uk

- 8.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

9. Background Papers

9.1 None

10. Appendices to this report

Appendix A – Amended Work Programme 2017/18

Report Author Contact Details:

Name: Phil Ruck, Chief Executive
Telephone: 01277 312500
E-mail: phil.ruck@brentwood.gov.uk