

16 September 2015

Ordinary Council

Annual Report of the Audit, Scrutiny and Transformation Committee

Report of: *Audit, Scrutiny and Transformation Committee*

Wards Affected: *All*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of the 2015/16 work plan for the Audit, Scrutiny and Transformation Committee and the previous year's scrutiny work. The Constitution requires that Council receives an annual report from the Audit, Scrutiny and Transformation Committee on the scrutiny work programme.

2. Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 That the Annual Report of the Audit, Scrutiny and Transformation Committee detailing the 2014/15 scrutiny work undertaken at paragraph 4 and the 2015/16 work programme at Appendix A be noted.**

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 On 29 June 2015 the Audit, Scrutiny and Transformation Committee agreed its work programme for 2015/16. The approved work plan is at Appendix A
- 3.2 The Committee's work programme is kept under review throughout the year and Members can request for in-year changes to be considered by the Committee through the Chair.

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

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

- 4.2 At the Audit & Scrutiny Committee on 1 July 2014 the scrutiny work programme 2014/15 included the following:
- William Hunter Way Lessons Learned
 - Crossrail
 - Member/Officer Communications/ Members Casework
 - Local Council Tax Support Scheme
 - IT Resilience and Business Continuity
 - Budget Scrutiny
 - Community Safety Partnership Annual Review
- 4.3 Post the Audit & Scrutiny Committee 1 July 2014, the work programme was updated under Overview and Scrutiny procedure rule 5.4 to include a Hutton Community Centre Scrutiny Review
- 4.4 At its meeting on 30 September 2014, the Committee prioritised *IT Resilience and Business Continuity* as its next review. Due to the technical nature of the subject matter, the Committee would consider this as an officer report, rather than a task and finish group.
- 4.5 Minute 154 of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee 30 September 2014, *Internal Audit Progress Report* required that an officer report on the Customer Contact Centre be added to the Committee work programme for its meeting of 26 November 2014.
- 4.6 Minute 220 of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee 28 October 2014 amended the work programme of the committee to include a new task and finish group on *William Hunter Way Procurement*.
- 4.7 The Licensing Committee of 13 January 2015 recommended to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee that a cross party Task and Finish Group be established in order to review the process for setting of tariffs in respect of Hackney Carriage fares and advise on a future programme for tariff setting.
- 4.8 On 9 March 2015 the Committee agreed to request officer reports on the appointment of the interim Chief Executive and the Revenues and Benefits Shared Services Partnership. The creation of a task and finish group to consider member engagement with the press with regard to the Member Code of Conduct and the reputation of the Council was also approved. A call-in of decision 458 of the Asset and Enterprise Committee

18th February 2015 regarding the lease on Hutton Community Centre was also heard.

4.9 As at 9 March 2015, the Committee had received reports on, or have completed the following reviews of:

- Section 106 Agreements (from 2013/14) work programme
- Local Council Tax Support Scheme
- William Hunter Way Lessons Learned
- Hutton Community Centre Review
- Customer Contact Centre Review
- IT and Business Continuity Review (Follow up site visit)
- William Hunter Way Procurement Review
- Community Safety Partnership Annual Review
- Budget Scrutiny Review

4.10 Further details of the reports and reviews are available in the Committee minutes.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

5.1 To enact the provisions of Article 6 paragraph 6.3.3 of the Constitution that the Council receives an annual report on the scrutiny work programme.

6. References to Corporate Plan

6.1 The priority area *A Modern Council* 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.

7. Implications

Financial Implications

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7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

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7.2 The Committee exercises the functions of an overview and scrutiny committee under the Local Authorities (Committee System) (England) Regulations 2012 and exercises the functions under section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 (local authority scrutiny of health matters). It acts proactively and reactively and looks inwards and outwards. Any work programme therefore must take these matters into account as well as the fact that resources are finite.

8. Background Papers

8.1 None

9. Appendices to this report

Appendix A – Work Programme 2015/16

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