

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

WARDS: All

REPORT TITLE: Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2023/24 and Action Tracker

REPORT OF: Executive Director Supporting Communities

FOR SUBMISSION TO:
Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee

DATE:
11th September 2023

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This paper provides an update on the work programme for the Committee for the year 2023/24 and tracks actions from previous meetings.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - ACCESS TO INFORMATION:

No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report

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RECOMMENDATION:

The Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- (i) note and identify any issues or areas for consideration within the proposed work programme for 2023/24 and to note the actions taken arising from previous meetings.
- (ii) agree to extend the time limit for submitting the Circular Economy Panel final report to November 2023.

SIGNED:



Gillian Marston, Executive Director of Supporting Communities

DATE: 30 August 2023

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report provides an outline of the proposed 2023/24 work programme for the Committee at Appendix A. It also presents an update on progress in following up on actions from previous meetings.

2. Terms of reference

- 2.1 The Committee has the following terms of reference:

1. To scrutinise the Council's cultural and environmental policies and the provision, planning, financing, management and performance of services relating to culture, environment, regeneration, community safety, parking strategy and operations, and the voluntary sector provided by the Supporting Communities and Corporate Services Directorates and other service providers.
2. To be the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee.

3. General information about planning the work programme

- 3.1 The work programme should be informed by the corporate priorities of the Council, the priorities of the relevant portfolio holders, and issues raised by our communities.
- 3.2 The Joint Chairs of Scrutiny have been working with the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS), members of the Cabinet, other scrutiny committee members and senior officers to review the Council's scrutiny function and develop options for the future improvement of scrutiny. The Joint Chairs of Scrutiny have proposed that the following prioritisation criteria be considered as a good practice approach to supporting the ruthless prioritisation of individual scrutiny committee agenda items:
- Will improve outcomes for residents and local communities and/or value for money;
 - Is of significant relevance to residents and local communities;
 - Will contribute to the understanding and/or delivery of agreed strategic priorities;
 - Will help develop a shared understanding of a problem, its challenges, opportunities and possible solutions;
 - Will promote wider engagement with local residents, communities and the local voluntary and community sector (VCS);
 - Will increase collaborative working, sharing of information, networking and engaging across stakeholders.
- 3.3 The Committee covers a wide range of services as seen in the terms of reference. The structure chart at Appendix C identifies the key senior officers who hold these services within their divisions.
- 3.4 A provisional work programme is available at Appendix A. Further changes can be made as the Committee considers appropriate. The Committee is asked to

review the contents of the work programme and provide their views on what the Committee may wish to discuss during the 2022/23 municipal year. There may also be matters that emerge during the year that warrant amendments to the programme.

- 3.5 The Committee is also invited to consider what, if any, forthcoming key Cabinet decisions it wishes to look at in advance of those decisions being taken. Forward Plan items under the Committee's remit are set out at Appendix B.
- 3.6 An action tracker, which updates on progress in following up the Committee's actions, is at Appendix D.

4 Scrutiny Panels

- 4.1 The Committee can form scrutiny panels to look at more specific areas under its remit. These are task-and-finish panels and should be established with clear terms of reference and target date to report back to the main Committee.
- 4.2 The Committee is constitutionally limited to one panel at a time, and co-ordination of Panels should be agreed by the Joint Chairs of Scrutiny Committee to ensure effective use and co-ordination of resources across all scrutiny committees.
- 4.3 The Committee is asked to agree to extend the time limit for submitting the Circular Economy Panel final report to November 2023. At their last meeting, the Panel noted that the timeline for concluding the remaining pieces of work and drawing up substantive recommendations in time for the report deadlines for the September C&E meeting is extremely tight, particularly given the August holiday period and is therefore requesting an extension.

5 Legal comments of the Borough Solicitor

- 5.1 There are no legal comments arising from this report.

6 Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

- 6.1 There are no finance comments arising from this report.

REPORT ENDS

Appendix A: Culture and Environment Work Programme 2023/24

Meeting date and theme	Item
Monday 11 th September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culture• Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden• Tree Strategy Update• Lithium powered vehicles• Safety concerns relating to Routemaster buses – Transport for London• Report of the circular economy scrutiny panel

Upcoming meetings

Meeting date and theme	Item
Monday 13 th November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual report of the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities• Evening and Night-time Economy Strategy• Environment services contract• Use of pesticides• Report of the circular economy scrutiny panel
Thursday 14 th December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual report of the Cabinet Member for Voluntary Sector, Equalities and Cohesion• Climate Resilience Plan• NLWA Joint Waste Strategy

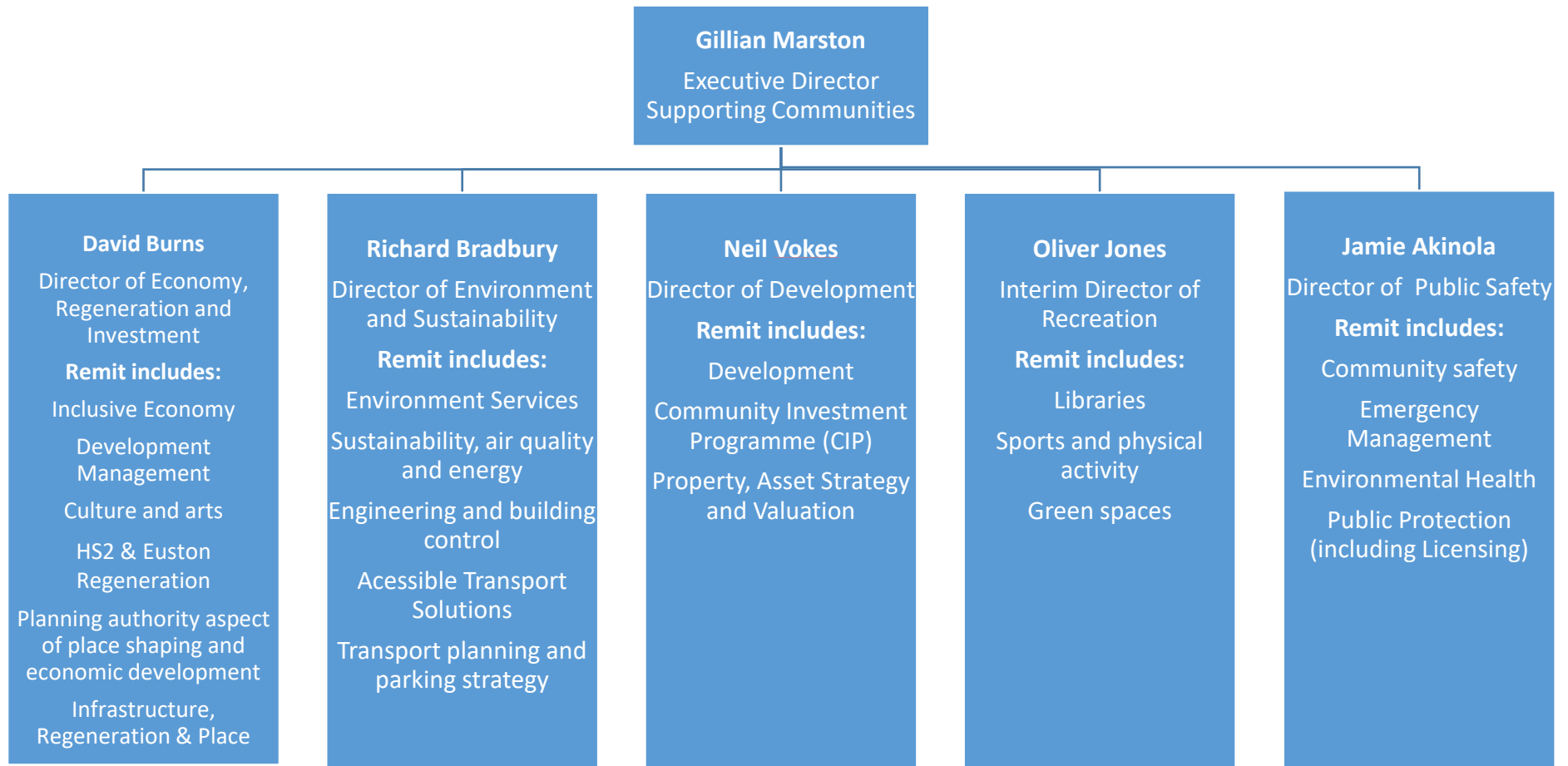
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dockless Bike Hire update
Monday 22 nd January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual report of the Cabinet Member for New Homes, Jobs and Community Investment• Met Police Turnaround Plan• Violence Against Women and Girls Update
Monday 26 th February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report from Cabinet Adviser on Safety for Women and Girls - Cllr Djemai• Safer Cleaner Enforcement• Climate Action Plan Annual Review• Transport Strategy delivery update

Appendix B: Forward Plan items under the Committee's remit (1 September 2023 – 31 February 2024)

Item	Summary	Decision-making body	Indicative decision date
Subsurface Technology Electric Pathways (STEP) Electric Vehicle Charge Points Trial	To consider and make a decision on officer recommendations for the future of Subsurface Technology Electric Pathways (STEP) charge points beyond the trial.	Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden	28 September 2023
Parking and Healthy Streets Consultation in CA-F, Camden Town, Controlled Parking Zone - May 2023	To consider and make a decision on officer recommendations following a public consultation on options for hours of control of CA-F Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) and healthy street improvements in the CPZ.	Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden	3 October 2023
Parking and Healthy Streets Consultation in CA-L, Kentish Town (West), Controlled Parking Zone - May 2023	To consider and make a decision on officer recommendations following a public consultation on the options for the hours of control of CA-L Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) and healthy street improvements in the CPZ.	Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden	3 October 2023
Camden Youth Justice Plan 2023-25	To consider approval of the plan that outlines service priorities for the Youth Justice Service.	Cabinet	15 November 2023
Review of the Camden Medium Term Financial Strategy	To note the council's funding outlook, financial position and risks, including any new investment decisions.	Cabinet	20 December 2023

Freight and Servicing Action Plan	To consider the draft Freight and Servicing Action Plan for the freight and servicing sectors, which identifies how these sectors contribute to transport challenges and how these will be addressed.	Cabinet	28 February 2024
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Appendix C: Supporting Communities structure related to Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee*



* NB: This is not the full top level Supporting Communities structure chart

Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee Action Tracker 2022/23

Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee Action Tracker 2023/24

ACTION	OFFICER /ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE	COMMENTS SUPPLIED BY SERVICE	COMPLETED
July 2023			
<p><u>Primrose Hill Briefing – Royal Parks</u></p> <p>To provide more detailed information on the crime stats in the Primrose Hill Area to the Committee was available.</p> <p>Royal Parks would check with their colleagues to find out when the invitation to attend the Scrutiny Committee had been issued and report back to the Committee.</p>	<p>Nick McLaughlin Police Inspector Royal Parks Operational Unit /Community Safety Manager.</p> <p>David McLaren Royal Parks -Chief of Staff /Community Safety Manager.</p>		

<p><u>Sports and Physical Activity for Children and Young People</u></p> <p>(1) To inform community centres to provide guidance and signpost people to conduct health checks before starting exercise classes.</p>	<p>Head of Sport and Physical Activity/Community Sport and Physical Activity Manager</p>		
<p><u>Corporate Performance Report Quarter 4 End of Year 2022/23</u></p> <p>To provide an explanation to the Committee regarding the Cost of Living Dashboard Q4 2022/23 table on page 115 of the agenda, as the top line relating to “Households with a cash shortfall – those households either at risk or are already in financial</p>	<p>Director of Recreation</p>	<p>These numbers have declined recently for two reasons. The first is that PiP incorporated some Universal Credit Datashare (UCDS) information into LIFT for the first time in February. As new, different data becomes available it provides more accurate and reliable income and tenure information for UC households. It also includes UC deductions and sanctions, so this causes more households to be classed as in poverty or cash shortfall. Because of the structure of this data, it takes a couple of data refreshes to be fully represented in the dashboard, so this</p>	<p>Completed.</p>

<p>crisis where their income is not likely to meet their essential expenditure each month”, the March 2023 figure was shown as 3,769,</p> <p>as to why this figure was noticeably lower than the trend and the opposite direction to the other indicators.</p>		<p>explains the changes between February and March. Secondly, the changes between March and May are due to annual benefit uprating, which increases household income relative to costs, meaning fewer households are in cash shortfall.</p>	
<p><u>Work Programme Report</u></p> <p>For the Work Programme for the September meeting members asked for items/reports on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lithium powered vehicles – due to the recent safety concerns • Annual report of the Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden • Tree Strategy Update (moved from the 	<p>Senior Strategy and Policy Officer</p>	<p>The work programme has been updated accordingly.</p>	<p>Completed</p>

<p>November meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture (the programme and what the Council's strategy is – Arts Council cuts, preserving theatres) 			
ACTION	OFFICER /ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE	COMMENTS SUPPLIED BY SERVICE	COMPLETED
November 2023			
			Completed

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