

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:
26 February 2024

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 2024/25 and to note the actions taken arising from previous meetings.

SIGNED:



Gillian Marston, Executive Director of Supporting Communities

DATE: 14 February 2024

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report provides an outline of the proposed 2024/25 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 2024/25 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.

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 26 th February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report from Cabinet Adviser on Safety for Women and Girls • Camden Evening and Night-time Economy •

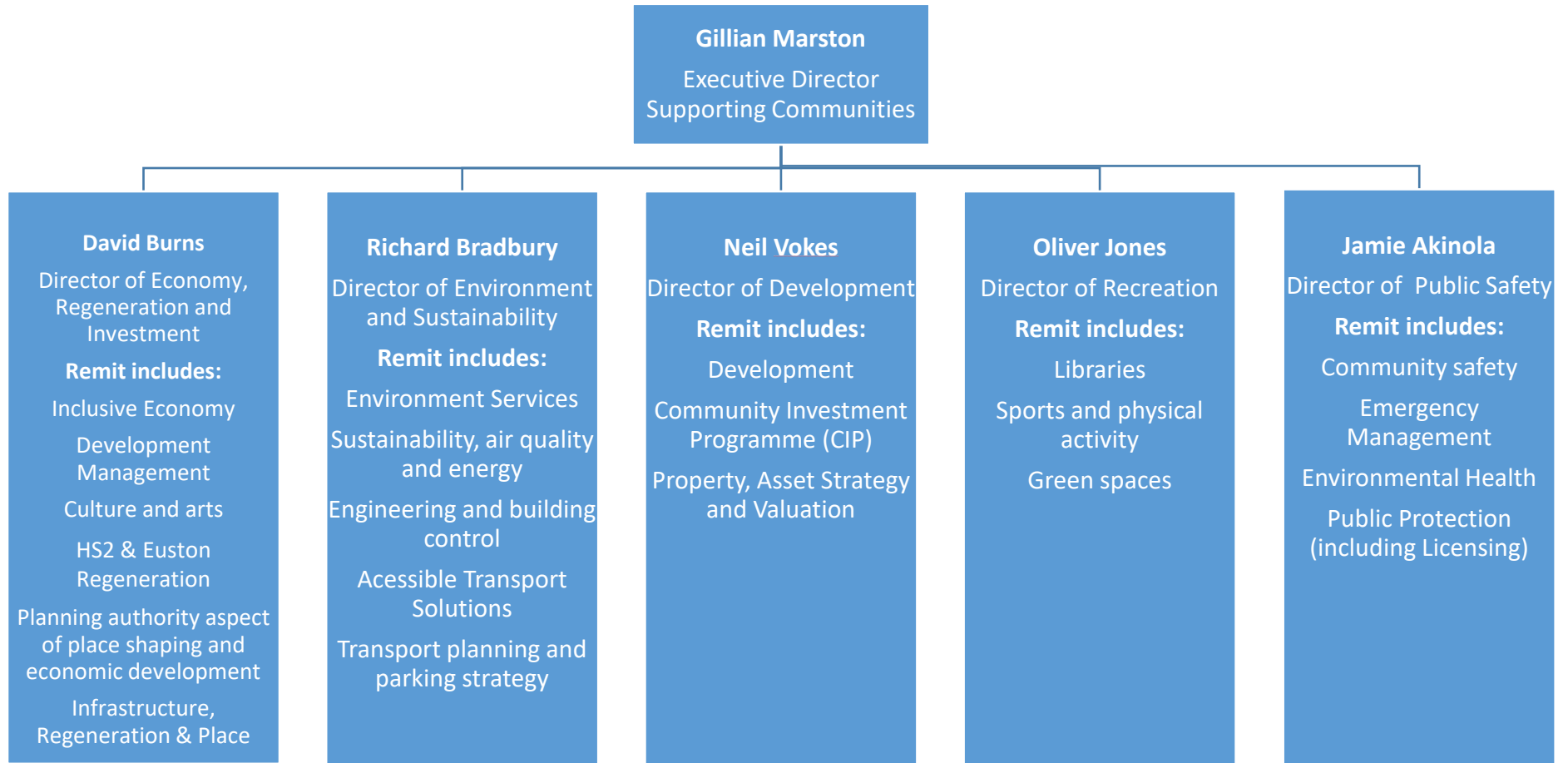
Meeting date and theme	Item
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Upcoming meetings	
Work Programme 2024/2025	
Monday 15 th July 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden response to the Circular Economy Panel Report • Violence Against Women and Girls update and response to Cabinet Adviser's recommendations • NLWA Joint Waste Strategy. • Clean Air Action Plan - Update
Monday 7 th October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report Back on the Implications of using Plant Based food for all Camden Internal Catering
Monday 11 th November 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Cleaner Enforcement • Met Police reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Turnaround Plan ○ Current policing activity and state of the borough ○ Facial Recognition •

Monday 9 th December 2024	•
Monday 13 th January 2025	• Thames Water Update
Monday 24 th February 2025	•
Later in the year	•
	•

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

Item	Summary	Decision-making body	Indicative decision date
Camden Evening and Night-time Economy	To consider for approval and adoption a strategy for the management and promotion of a safe, inclusive and vibrant evening and night-time experience in Camden.	Cabinet	28 February 2024
Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing Services Contract Renewal	To agree the Environmental Services contract renewal and extra investment in waste and recycling collection and street cleansing services.	Cabinet	28 February 2024
Parking Policy Review	To consider and agree the Parking Policy Review to amend fees and charges and terms and conditions for a variety of parking products.	Cabinet	28 February 2024

Appendix C: Supporting Communities structure related to Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee*



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

<p>the Scrutiny Committee had been issued and report back to the Committee.</p>	<p>/Community Safety Manager.</p>	<p>scrutiny committee's May meeting date at the forefront of our minds in the maelstrom of a lot of other activity taking place in the organisation at the same time. One of the explanations may have been that the invitation could have arrived sometime earlier. We apologised for this oversight at the Committee meeting.</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>Officers are taking advice from colleagues in public health and community partners with regard to the feasibility of carrying out panel's wishes and what form that could take that works for all parties taking into account the practicalities for the service provider and customers including the risks and legality.</p>	<p>Completed.</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</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</p>	<p>Completed.</p>

<p>are already in financial 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>be fully represented in the dashboard, so this 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 – re probably due to the recent safety concerns • Annual report of the Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden • Tree Strategy Update (moved from the November meeting) • Culture (the programme and what the Council’s strategy is – Arts Council cuts, preserving theatres) 	<p>Senior Strategy and Policy Officer</p>		<p>Completed</p>

ACTION	OFFICER /ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE	COMMENTS SUPPLIED BY SERVICE	COMPLETED										
September 2023													
<p><u>ROUTEMASTER BUSES AND VENTILATION</u></p> <p>To provide a breakdown of the number of people fainting on the different types of buses, fuel powered petrol buses compared to electric buses, as far as it was available after the meeting.</p>	<p>TfL Head of Buses Business Development</p>	<p>Between June 2021 and September 2023, there has been <u>15</u> fainting related cases reported.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="958 635 1704 978"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>at a bus stop</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Hybrid or Diesel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Electric</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Hybrid</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>Diesel</td> </tr> </table>	1	at a bus stop	1	Hybrid or Diesel	1	Electric	5	Hybrid	7	Diesel	Completed.
1	at a bus stop												
1	Hybrid or Diesel												
1	Electric												
5	Hybrid												
7	Diesel												
<p><u>Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden</u></p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed to provide written details to the Committee of what</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden</p>												

<p>happened with regards to issues residents had in applying for exemptions for the West Hampstead Primary School Health School Streets.</p> <p>The Council's implementation team was looking into exactly what happened and would share details when the investigation was completed.</p> <p>Officers agreed to share the carbon assessments from Lime with the Committee</p> <p>Officers agreed to obtain more information on social prescribing from Castlehaven and provide this to the Committee.</p>	<p>Director of Environment and Sustainability</p> <p>Director of Recreation</p>	<p>Response from Castlehaven Community Association</p> <p>Castlehaven have recently invested £30,000 of grant funding into the site, to improve the raised beds and boundary of the site. The site is more welcoming and easier to garden in.</p> <p>They recently held an open day/re-launch following the improvements. They manage and train up volunteers and offer community gardening sessions twice a week on the site which aims to improve participants' physical and mental health well-being through food growing, gardening, nature-themed arts and crafts and other activities. They</p>	
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		<p>accept referrals from social prescribers, community connectors, and other organisations.</p> <p>Their Green Social Prescribing is very successful as they offer therapeutic gardening sessions and have a social prescriber employed by Castlehaven Community Association</p>	
<p><u>Camden Cultural Programme Update Report</u></p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture agreed to raise the issues relating to/ preventing Grime artists not being able to use venues in Camden for their art/music with the Police.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture</p>		
<p><u>Tree Maintenance and Tree Planting Update</u></p> <p>Officers agreed to find out further information about the reason for the removal/felling of the tree outside the pub,</p>	<p>Tree Manager</p>	<p>The leaning tree on the junction of Hastings Street and Judd Street was brought to our attention through a members enquiry raised by Councillor Harrison, who thought the lean had increased. An officer inspected the tree and confirmed the lean had got worse. They recorded a defect against the tree that the root plate was beginning to lift and issued an order to our contractor to remove the tree and stump.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>

<p>Officers agreed to collect the planting figures from Dream for Trees, Growing Green and other community groups.</p> <p>Officers agreed to look in to the reasons the whitebeams were on the biennial reduction cycle.</p>	<p>Tree Manager</p> <p>Tree Manager</p>	<p>This location has been recorded as a vacant tree pit in our data base and will be replanted as part of this year's tree planting season.</p> <p>We collect figures for tree planting after the planting season has finished. Dream for Trees and Growing Green will be approached to share their tree planting numbers in the borough at this time. Once all the figures have been collated we will publish the results through our web pages here around May/June.</p>	
<p><u>Fire Safety Risks Associated with Lithium-ion Batteries</u></p> <p>Officers agreed to discuss with colleagues in Housing about a register of people with lithium -ion battery powered vehicles in their homes, so that those with bad or old batteries could be advised when an upgrade was required.</p>	<p>Director of Environment and Sustainability</p>		

<p><u>Work Programme</u></p> <p>The Use of Pesticides on the Work Programme to be moved to a later date – probably February/March.</p> <p>NLWA Joint Waste Strategy to be moved to the January meeting and the Committee was looking to invite Thames Water back for an update also in January 2024.</p>	<p>Senior Policy and Strategy Officer / Principal Committee Officer</p>		
<p>ACTION</p>	<p>OFFICER /ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE</p>	<p>COMMENTS SUPPLIED BY SERVICE</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>
<p>November 2023</p>			
<p><u>Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities</u></p> <p>A report on the incident and what took place in Huntley Street outside the University College London Hospital (UCLH) involving a group of homeless people and some of the Council's contracted service providers and</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Safer Communities</p>		

<p>partners be circulated to the Committee.</p> <p>If members had any questions to write direct to the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities for a response.</p>	<p>All members</p>		
<p><u>Impact of Policing on local communities in Camden and the Police response to the concerns raised</u></p> <p>The Police would look to provide a statistical breakdown of the police force in terms of diversity to the Committee at a future date.</p> <p>To provide information to the Committee on how many of the 70,000 under reported crimes related to Camden and Islington and whether the 25% of stop and searches, purpose not recorded applied to Camden and Islington BCU.</p> <p>The Police team responsible for facial recognition to attend a Scrutiny Committee meeting at a future date to</p>	<p>Superintendent of Police</p> <p>Superintendent of Police</p> <p>Superintendent of Police</p>	<p>Response received from Superintendent of Police</p> <p>Response received from Superintendent of Police</p> <p>Response received from Superintendent of Police</p>	

respond to any questions or concerns it might have.			
<u>Circular Economy Report</u> The Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden to prepare a response to the recommendations, and to report back to the Committee.	Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden / Director of Environment and Sustainability	Moved to the next municipal year.	
<u>Environment Services- Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing</u> Officers to provide a breakdown of feedback on the views of residents on rubbish collection in the West Hampstead and Fortune Green ward areas.	Head of Environment Services		
<u>Work Programme</u> For the December 2023 meeting the following items were expected <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual report of the Cabinet Member for Voluntary Sector, 			Completed

<p>Equalities and Cohesion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dockless Bike Hire Update – Lime and Human Forest to be invited. • NLWA Joint Waste Strategy – (The Director of Environment and Sustainability to confirm with NLWA if this was possible in December) 			
ACTION	OFFICER /ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE	COMMENTS SUPPLIED BY SERVICE	COMPLETED
December 2023			
<p><u>Deputation Plant Based Catering for Internal Camden Events</u></p> <p>Officers to provide a report back on the implications of using plant-based food for all Camden internal catering events before recommendations are made to Cabinet.</p>	<p>Director of Environment and Sustainability</p>	<p>There is a lot of work taking place through the Food Mission, including the development of the Camden Food Buying Standards. It would be appropriate for the report back to Committee to take place after completion of that work.</p>	

<p><u>Save the London Motorcycle Deputation</u></p> <p>The response to the motorcycle deputation including why an individual could only register one vehicle whereas there were categories of people in the borough who had a good reason to have two different types of vehicle or modes of transport be included as part of the wider context of the Transport Strategy update report to the Committee in February.</p>	<p>Director of Environment and Sustainability / Head of Transport Strategy and Projects</p>		
<p><u>Insight Learning and Impact Report Quarter 2 2023/24</u></p> <p>In relation to Regeneration and Planning to provide more information on how artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning would be used. To request further clarification from colleagues in Planning and report back to the Committee.</p>	<p>Director of Recreation</p>	<p>Artificial intelligence, machine learning etc is likely to impact the service, therefore we need to explore potential for artificial intelligence to improve customer service, for example to automate repetitive processes such as validations or provide responses to the most common customer queries, and machine learning for analysing consultation responses, summarising technical reports etc, so staff can focus on value added work. We may also explore with developers the use of AI in how we engage residents on visions and masterplans, by using image generators to show different options for sites or public realm, to help make engagement more participative.”</p>	<p>Completed</p>

<u>Work Programme</u> To look into scheduling an additional Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting between the meeting on January 22 nd , 2024, and 26 th February 2024.	Principal Committee Officer	Extra Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting scheduled on 6 th February 2024	Completed

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