

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

WARDS: All

REPORT TITLE: Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2024/25 and Action Tracker

REPORT OF: Executive Director Supporting Communities

FOR SUBMISSION TO:
Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee

DATE:
15 July 2024

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This paper provides an update on the work programme for the Committee for the year 2024/25 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: 2nd July 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 2024/25

Work Programme 2024/2025

Meeting date and theme	Item
Upcoming meetings	
Monday 15 th July 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden response to the Circular Economy Panel Report • Clean Air Action Plan – Update • Violence Against Women and Girls update • Insight, Learning and Impact Report Q4/End of Year 2023-24
Monday 7 th October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report of the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities • Met Police reports: Turnaround Plan Current policing activity and state of the borough Facial recognition • NLWA Joint Waste Strategy • Royal Mail to discuss issues with missing post-delivery in the borough.
Monday 11 th November 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report of the Cabinet Member for Voluntary Sector, Equalities and Cohesion • Camden Transport Strategy 3-year Delivery Plan (2025 – 2028) • Update on Camden Libraries • Update on Culture
Monday 9 th December 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Plant-Based food for all Camden Internal Catering • Safer Cleaner Enforcement • Update on Biodiversity • Update on Sports and Physical Activities (including contract with Better)
Monday 13 th January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report of the Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden • Thames Water Update
Monday 24 th February 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report of the Cabinet Member for New Homes, Jobs and Community Investment

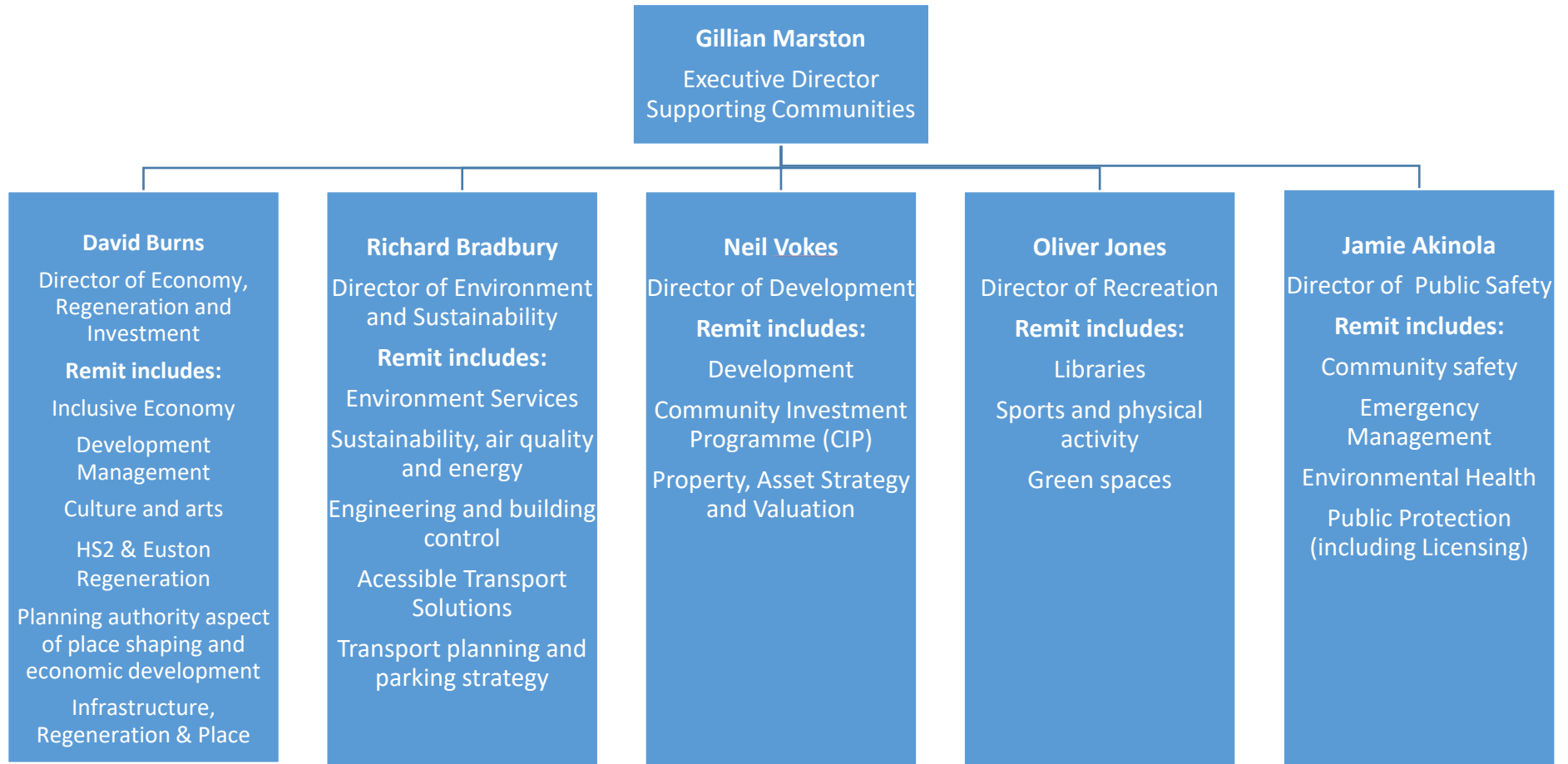
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Camden Climate Action Plan review (2023/24)
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Later in the year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•

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

Item	Summary	Decision-making body	Indicative decision date
Update of the Council's Medium Term Financial Position (All Wards)	To consider an update on the Council's Medium Term Financial position and outlook, including the provisional revenue outturn for 2023/24 including use of reserves, the provisional capital outturn and an update of the capital programme.	Cabinet	17 July 2024
Decommissioning of Open Plus Technology in Five Libraries	To consider decommissioning the Open Plus system, which is a self-service system providing library access, at five libraries.	Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture	26 July 2024
Fitzrovia Area Safe and Healthy Street Scheme- Phase 1	To consider the approval of public realm improvements on Whitfield Street, Howland Street and Tottenham Mews.	Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden	29 July 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

Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee Action Tracker 2023/24

ACTION	OFFICER /ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE	COMMENTS SUPPLIED BY SERVICE	COMPLETED
6 th February 2024			
<p><u>Camden Transport Strategy Annual Update 2023</u></p> <p>Specific issues relating to motorcycle safety would be covered and included in the 3-year delivery work programme which will be presented to the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet later in the year.</p> <p>Information to be provided to specifically show what the differences were between cars and motorcycles and why the policy</p>	<p>Director of Environment and Sustainability / Head of Transport Strategy and Projects</p> <p>Transport and Travel Planning Manager/Head of Transport Strategy and Projects</p>		

<p>relating to motorcycles was being applied,</p> <p>Officers agreed to provide information to the Committee member on what steps had been taken to resolve the issues raised by disabled resident in Hampstead Town Ward.</p> <p>To provide information on health benefits derived from the Transport Strategy such as decline in certain conditions such as asthma etc</p>	<p>Director of Environment and Sustainability</p> <p>Head of Sustainability Air Quality and Energy</p>	<p>Please note that we currently hold no quantitative data about health benefits associated with the Transport Strategy. This is because it is very challenging to isolate the beneficial impact of reduced transport emissions from other changes in urban air quality and exposure to indoor air pollution. However we can still be confident that any reduction in air pollution and exposure to it will be helping to reduce the overall health burden caused by air pollution.</p> <p>Air pollution causes 4,100 premature deaths in London every year. Road transport contributes approximately 31% of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and 20% of particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) air pollution emissions in Camden. Camden's Transport</p>	
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		<p>Strategy aims to create less polluted places by reducing NO₂ and particulate matter PM_{2.5} air pollution, through a range of policy measures and projects intended to reduce motor traffic and to encourage a shift towards the least polluting vehicles for unavoidable vehicle journeys.</p> <p>Monitoring data shows that annual average NO₂ and PM_{2.5} air pollution reduced at all monitoring locations in Camden from 2019 to 2022, by an average of 31% for NO₂ and 19% for PM_{2.5}. This change is due to a combination of local and regional interventions, and continual improvement in vehicle engine performance. The reduction in road transport air pollution will help to alleviate the overall health burden associated with poor air quality in Camden, with expected reductions in development and/or symptoms of respiratory (asthma, COPD) and cardiovascular (heart disease, arrhythmias, stroke) conditions, dementia, diabetes and other long-term illnesses. Additionally, an increase in active travel will also yield health benefits from increased physical activity.</p>	
<p><u>Use of Pesticides in the Public Realm</u></p>			

<p>Officers to look into providing information on the Council's website about its policy on pesticides in the public realm</p> <p>Officers agreed to provide the Committee with an update on the Biodiversity Action Plan in the new municipal year.</p>	<p>Director of Recreation / Green Spaces Operations Manager</p> <p>Director of Recreation / Green Spaces Operations Manager</p>	<p>The Council website includes a page on Weeding in Camden https://www.camden.gov.uk/weeding-in-camden This includes our approach to weeding, reducing use of herbicides, staff safety, biodiversity and advice on home use of weed killers.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
ACTION	OFFICER /ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE	COMMENTS SUPPLIED BY SERVICE	COMPLETED
<p>26th February 2024</p>			

ENDS