

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:
7 October 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: 24/09/2024

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 |
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| Upcoming meetings | |
| Monday 7 th October 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report of the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities - Update on Social Media Companies response towards Violence against Women and Girls • Met Police reports: Turnaround Plan Current policing activity and state of the borough • Facial recognition |
| 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 • NLWA Joint Waste Strategy • Royal Mail to discuss issues with missing post-delivery in the borough. |
| 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 Planning and a Sustainable Camden • Update on Response to Circular Economy Panel • Thames Water Update |
| Monday 24 th February 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report of the Cabinet Member for New Homes and Community Investment • Camden Climate Action Plan review (2023/24) |

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| Later in the year | • |
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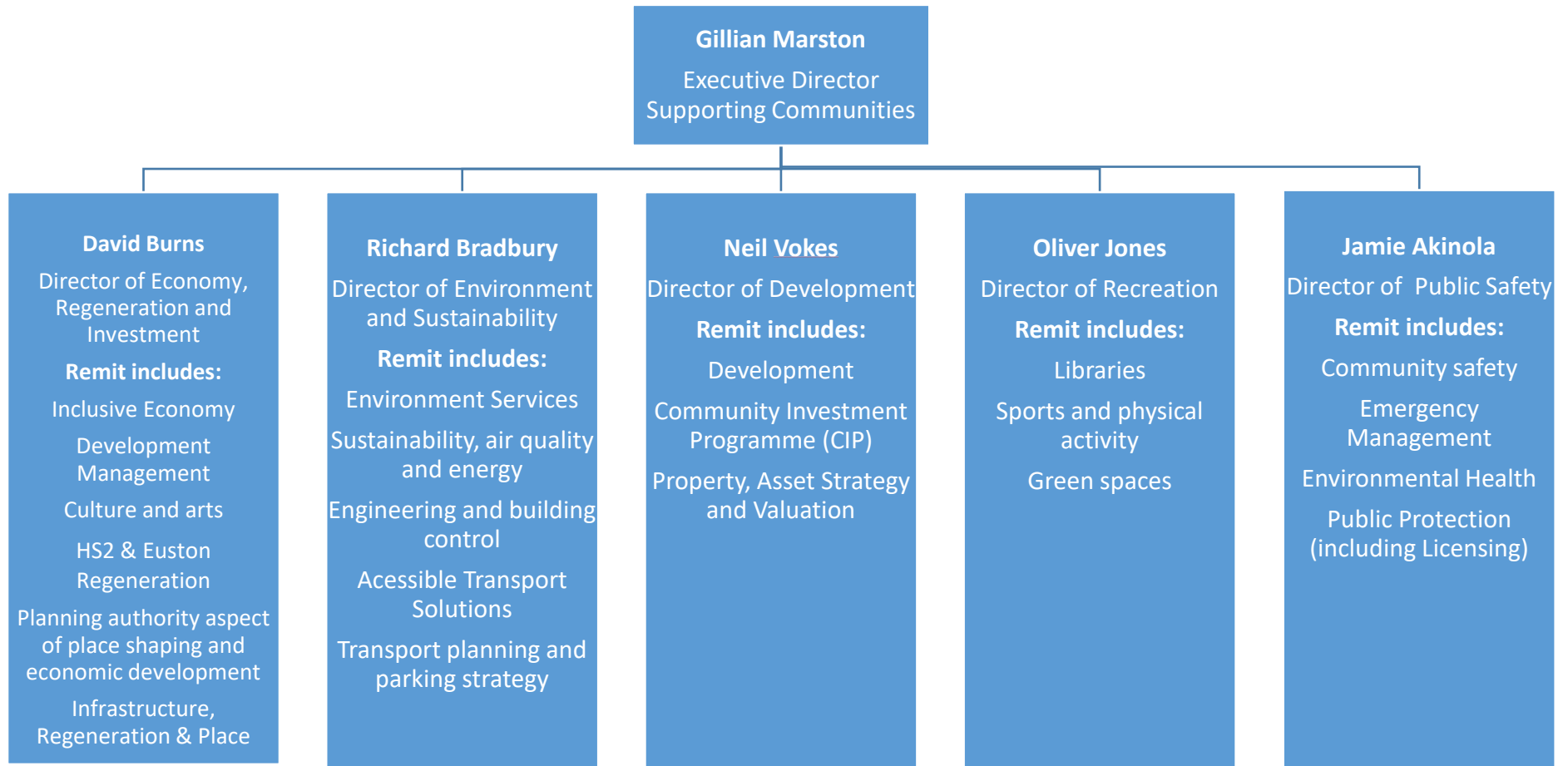
Appendix B: Forward Plan items under the Committee's remit (1 October 2024 – 31 January 2025)

| Item | Summary | Decision-making body | Indicative decision date |
|---|---|--|--------------------------|
| Procurement Strategy for a Parking Management System and Associated Services (All Wards) | To consider the procurement strategy for a Parking Management System and associated services. | Cabinet Member for Planning and a Sustainable Camden | 1 October 2024 |
| Christchurch Hill and Flask Walk/ Well Walk Area Safe & Healthy Streets Scheme (Hampstead Town) | To consider proposals for a Safe and Healthy Streets scheme for Christchurch Hill and Flask Walk/ Well Walk Area, including pedestrian safety, public realm improvements and rain gardens, a trial Healthy School Street for Christ Church Primary School on Christchurch Hill, and other measures, subject to detailed design and statutory process. | Cabinet Member for Planning and a Sustainable Camden | 2 October 2024 |
| Procurement Strategy for a Retrofit at Scale Pilot (All Wards) | To consider the procurement strategy for a retrofit at scale pilot, which will explore new and innovative ways of funding housing energy efficiency projects, to help Camden achieve its 2030 carbon net zero target. | Cabinet | 9 October 2024 |
| Treasury Management Annual Report and Mid-Year Strategy (All Wards) | Cabinet is asked to note the annual report and Mid-year strategy and recommend to Council for approval. | Cabinet | 9 October 2024 |

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| <p>*Opening Up Camden Libraries: Decommissioning of Open Plus Technology (Camden Square; Camden Town; Gospel Oak; Hampstead Town; Kentish Town South; Kilburn; South Hampstead; West Hampstead)</p> | <p>To consider creating inclusive neighbourhood spaces by decommissioning the open plus system at five libraries. Open Plus technology offers libraries the flexibility to extend access to library materials and spaces beyond staffed hours and allows staff to complete their non-frontline duties whilst still allowing the public to access the library.</p> | <p>Cabinet Member for Jobs, Young People and Culture</p> | <p>18 October 2024</p> |
| <p>A Revised Approach to the Camden Climate Fund (All Wards)</p> | <p>To consider changes to the Camden Climate Fund's eligibility criteria and the amounts awarded through the fund, which helps businesses and third sector organisations in Camden cut their carbon emissions and lower energy bills.</p> | <p>Cabinet Member for Planning and a Sustainable Camden</p> | <p>29 October 2024</p> |
| <p>Goods Way Safe and Healthy Streets (King's Cross; St Pancras and Somers Town)</p> | <p>To consider proposals for Goods Way Safe and Healthy Streets, including changes to cycling, crossings, parking and loading, urban greening, and the introduction of a new bus stop and mobility hub.</p> | <p>Cabinet Member for Planning and a Sustainable Camden</p> | <p>11 November 2024</p> |
| <p>Camden Transport Strategy Delivery Plan 2025-28 and Local Implementation Plan (All Wards)</p> | <p>To consider the proposed Camden Transport Strategy (CTS) Delivery Plan for 2025/26- 2027/28, incorporating the proposed 3-year submission to Transport for London (TfL) under the Local Implementation Plan (LIP) and other TfL funding programmes.</p> | <p>Cabinet</p> | <p>13 November 2024</p> |

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| Euston Area Plan (EAP) Update (Bloomsbury; Camden Town; Regent's Park; St Pancras and Somers Town) | <p>To consider approval of a six-week public consultation on the draft Euston Area Plan (EAP) update.</p> <p>The EAP is a strategic planning framework to guide the redevelopment of Euston station.</p> | Cabinet | 13 November 2024 |
| Camden Parks Tennis Courts: Lawn Tennis Association Venue Registration and Introduction of Tennis Coaching Licences (Highgate; Holborn and Covent Garden; Kilburn) | To consider a proposed change to the way tennis coaching is managed at Camden parks sites, with the introduction of tennis coach licences and registration of venues with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). | Cabinet Member for Planning and a Sustainable Camden | 10 December 2024 |
| Review of the Camden Medium Term Financial Strategy (All Wards) | To note the council's funding outlook, financial position and risks, including any new investment decisions. To consider new Fees and Charges for the 2025/26 financial year. | Cabinet | 11 December 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 2024/25

| ACTION | OFFICER /ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE | COMMENTS SUPPLIED BY SERVICE | COMPLETED |
|--|---|---|-----------|
| 15 th July 2024 | | | |
| <p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>Officers agreed to provide the member with a response to an issue that he had raised at 6th February meeting regarding steps that had been taken to resolve issues raised by a disabled resident in Hampstead Town Ward.</p> | <p>Director of Environment and Sustainability</p> | <p>Officers continue to monitor access through footways and pavements across the area, as well as reacting to public reports of footway obstructions including through the FixMyStreet. Action is taken by issuing advice and guidance to residents and businesses creating obstructions, with enforcement action, supported by Camden’s new Community Safety Enforcement team, followed if the obstruction continues. Officers are also working collaboratively with the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) and business districts to develop a protocol on advertising boards and similar high street obstructions to ensure clearer passage through Camden’s public realm. This work is in its early phase and will report back to Committee later in the year on its progress.</p> | |

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| <p><u>Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden</u> <u>Response to the Circular Economy Panel Report</u> Officers agreed to provide the Committee with information on the work the Council was doing on the magic breakfast within the community.</p> | <p>Director of Environment and Sustainability</p> | <p><u>Magic Breakfast</u></p> <p>3,340 children in 21 of the borough's most deprived schools are now supported by the national charity Magic Breakfast (with Council funding) – up 12% on last year, and in the region of 635,000 free breakfasts per year. Take up is greater in primary schools, with some schools able to feed everyone on their school roll every morning through a combination of breakfast clubs, grab and go on arrival, and in first lesson eating. Heads are seeing a range of positive outcomes linked to concentration, social interaction, and being ready to start the day</p> <p><i>“Breakfast Club enables children to have a healthy breakfast & supports our families who do not have the resources or time to provide breakfast.” Head, Rhyl Primary.</i></p> <p>Schools can choose from a menu of products that meet the National School Food Standards. These include Bagels, bread and crumpets; Oats So Simple (various flavours),</p> | <p>Completed.</p> |

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| <p>Officers agreed to look at the issues Climate Emergency Camden raised in their email and respond providing the Committee with an update.</p> <p>To provide the Committee with a further update in the New Year on the Council's work towards a more circular economy.</p> | <p>Director of Environment and Sustainability</p> <p>Director of Environment and Sustainability</p> | <p>Weetabix, Cornflakes, Rice Krispies, Multigrain Hoops; baked beans.</p> <p>There are two key considerations around topping up school breakfasts with surplus food: use by date, to maximise shelf-life; and traceability, to ensure no potential for allergens or foreign objects in food items to be inadvertently supplied to schools</p> <p>On the Work Programme for 13th January 2025 meeting.</p> | |
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| <p><u>Violence Against Women and Girls Update</u></p> <p>Specific information /data relating to violence against women and girls would be provided by officers and the police in the Met Police report to Committee in October 2024</p> <p>Officers agreed to provide an update on Women’s safety in the online space.</p> | <p>Director of Public Safety</p> <p>Community Safety Programme Manager</p> | <p>Report on the agenda for the October meeting.</p> | |
| <p><u>Insight learning and impact report Quarter 4 End of Year 2023-24</u></p> <p>Officers agreed to provide an explanation for the dramatic drop in residual household waste per household from 406 in</p> | <p>Director of Environment and Sustainability</p> | <p>More accurate business waste declarations, Camden co-collect commercial and residential waste and then afterwards the amount of commercial waste is removed. Over the last couple of years, the Council has moved to a weighing system that better reflects the amount of waste commercial properties are producing. As a proportion commercial waste</p> | |

| 2021/22 to 358 in 2022/23. | | <p>tonnage has risen, which in turn reduces the residential amounts.</p> <p>Cost of living has likely had an impact on the amount being brought, and therefore disposed of, by residents. The drop in tonnage is not unique to Camden, other NLWA boroughs are also seeing this trend. As a detail to this, food still makes up a large part of the 'black bag' and is also very heavy comparatively, this is an area where prices have risen a lot and would consequently see a reduction in it being disposed of in the bin.</p> <p>Weight of materials – Over time materials have reduced in weight, this has effected recycling tonnages and likely to some extent effects refuse also.</p> | |
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| ACTION | OFFICER /ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE | COMMENTS SUPPLIED BY SERVICE | COMPLETED |
| 7th October 2024 | | | |
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