

RESPOC
Review Topics 2009/10

Contact Officer: Natasha Dogra
Telephone: 01895 277488

REASON FOR ITEM

To enable the Committee to agree the review it wishes to undertake in the 2009/10 Council year.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

1. Consider a variety of topics for in-depth review in 2009/10, and delegate these topics to the Chairman and Officers to research and report back to the next meeting.
2. Consider revisiting 2008/09 topics.

INFORMATION

1. The Committee is responsible for undertaking the 'policy overview' role in relation to the services provided by the Environment and Consumer Protection Group and the Planning and Community Services Group. The full range of services under the Committee's remit is outlined in the terms of reference at the start of the agenda.
2. Previous experience from both Hillingdon and other Councils indicates that the Committee can have the greatest impact by focusing on a work programme agreed at the start of the Council year. Similarly, focusing upon one or two items at each meeting can help Members engage with the major issues and encourage stakeholder engagement.
3. As in previous years, the Committee is recommended to use this first meeting of the year to set a work programme for the next 12 months and consider ideas major reviews which fall in their remit.
4. In considering topics, Members are reminded of the Committee's work in from 2006 to 2009, which included reviews of:

2006/7

Tackling anti-social behaviour
Increasing recycling and reducing waste
A specialist domestic violence court for Hillingdon

2007/8

Highways maintenance
Community consultation and engagement

Residents' and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee
16th June 2009 Part 1 – Members, Public and Press

Cleanliness of the environment

2008/9

CCTV Strategy

Heritage in Hillingdon

5. A list of potential topics for review to be discussed is attached. This includes suggestions made last year by the Committee and suggestions from officers.

6. In addition, the Committee may wish to consider revisiting last year's reviews. The Committee started last year the practice of revisiting its reviews last year with the aim of finding out what had happened to the recommendations agreed by the Cabinet and receiving an update on the services. It is suggested that the Committee continue to do this and revisit the 2008/9 reviews this year. Proposed dates for this have been included in the draft work programme attached to item 3.

SUGGESTED SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

1. Members discuss topic ideas for in-depth review, using the selection criteria below suggested by the Audit Commission and their knowledge of residents' priorities:

Selection criteria recommended by the Audit Commission:

(A) Possible Reasons for Scrutiny

Strong public interest

Government pressure

Included in the council plan or Hillingdon Improvement Programme

Inspection report recommendation (e.g. performance below target)

(B) Scope for Making an Impact

Area within Council's control/influence

High impact on residents

Expertise available on which to draw

Good practice available elsewhere

Members should delegate responsibility to Officers to research the review topics discussed at the meeting and provide this information to the Chairman before the next meeting. The Chairman may wish to cascade this information to the Committee Members prior to the next meeting.