

REVIEW TOPICS 2011/12

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REASON FOR ITEM

To enable the Committee to agree the review/s it wishes to undertake in the 2011/12 Council year.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

Agree topics for in-depth review in 2011/12

INFORMATION

1. The Committee is responsible for undertaking the 'policy overview' role in relation to the services provided by the Social Services, Health and Housing. The full range of services under the Committee's remit is outlined in the terms of reference attached as appendix.
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 select one or two topics for major review.
4. In selecting topics, Members are reminded of the Committee's work from 2007 to 2010/11, which included reviews of:

2007/8

Caring for the Carers - A review of the Council's support for carers
Customer Engagement

2008/9

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults in Hillingdon
The Private Rented Sector in Hillingdon

2009/10

Hillingdon Centre for Independent Living
The Transformation Agenda and Direct Payments in Hillingdon

2010/11

To examine the use of Assistive Technology by Adult Social Care to support Independent Living
Hillingdon Centre for Independent Living

SUGGESTED COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Members agree one or two topics 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

Terms of Reference

The Constitution defines the terms of reference for Policy Overview Committees as:

The Following Terms of Reference are Common to all Policy Overview Committees (referred to below as “The overview role”):

1. To conduct reviews of policy, services or aspects of service which have either been referred by Cabinet, relate to the Cabinet Forward Plan, or have been chosen by the Committee according to the agreed criteria for selecting such reviews;
2. To monitor the performance of the Council services within their remit (including the management of finances and risk);
3. To comment on the proposed annual service and budget plans for the Council services within their remit before final approval by Cabinet and Council;
4. To consider the Forward Plan and comment as appropriate to the decision maker on Key Decisions which relate to services within their remit (before they are taken by the Cabinet);
5. To review or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken by the Cabinet, a Cabinet Member, a Council Committee or an officer.
6. To make reports and recommendations to the Council, the Leader, the Cabinet, a Policy Overview Committee or any other Council Committee arising from the exercise of the preceding terms of reference.

This Committee performs the policy overview role outlined above in relation to:

1. social care services for elderly people, people with physical disabilities, people with mental health problems and people with learning difficulties;
2. provision of meals to vulnerable and elderly members of the community;
3. Healthy Hillingdon and any other health promotion work undertaken by the Council and partners to improve the health and well-being of Hillingdon residents;
4. asylum seekers;
5. the Council’s Housing functions including: landlord services (currently provided by Hillingdon Homes), private sector housing, the ‘Supporting People’ programme, benefits, housing needs, tenancy allocations and homelessness and to recommend to the Cabinet any conditions to be placed on the exercise of the delegations by Hillingdon Homes.

Policy Overview Committees will not investigate individual complaints.