

REVIEW TOPIC PROPOSALS

Committee name

Social Care, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee

Officer reporting

Anisha Teji, Democratic Services Officer

Papers with report

None.

Ward

All

HEADLINES

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the list of topics identified for the Committee's next review.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee considers its next topic for a mini review, provides a steer on the objectives, necessary witnesses and information required in order for a full scoping report to be prepared for the next meeting.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

At the meeting on 25 September 2019, the Committee endorsed the final report on its major review into Universal Credit for submission to Cabinet.

Members also discussed topics for their next review and made a number of useful suggestions. Given that the last review had been very in-depth and spanned a number of meetings, the Committee was of the mind that its next review topic should be shorter, in order to enable to it scrutinise more areas within its terms of reference over the life of its multi-year programme.

Initial Consideration (Appendix A)

Democratic Services have liaised with relevant officers following the suggestions made. An initial analysis has been made on them as set out below. Members should note that some ideas fall somewhat out of the Committee's Terms of Reference into other Committees' briefs, whilst others may benefit a detailed information report or presentation in the first instance, to determine whether there is scope for a meaningful review.

Scorecard Analysis (Appendix B)

Additionally, Members may wish to consider the topics suggested against the universal scorecard attached in **Appendix A**, which is useful in demonstrating those topics that could have the greatest impact and benefit.

Implications on related Council policies

A role of the Policy Overview Committees is to make recommendations on service changes and improvements to the Cabinet who are responsible for the Council's policy and direction.

How this report benefits Hillingdon residents

None at this stage, pending any findings approved by Cabinet.

Financial Implications

It is important that the Committee considers cost effective proposals that benefit resident taxpayers in relation to this review, which would ultimately be determined by Cabinet as part of the Council's broader budget planning process.

Legal Implications

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Consideration of possible mini-review topics suggested

A review on the Council's approach to autism

A review considering the Council's autism policy, how people with autism are supported in the Borough and what support is available. The review could explore how frontline staff identify and deal with people who have autism and how these situations are managed.

The Autism Act places a duty on the government to produce an Autism Strategy. Councils then report their progress against the national strategy through the Autism Self Assessment (last formally completed in Dec 2018, locally an update will be provided by Dec 2019).

In Hillingdon, there is an Autism Plan/Action Plan based around the results of the Autism Self Assessment framework. There is no statutory requirement for the Council to have its own policy/strategy. However, this work is overseen by the Autism Partnership Board (APB), which has recently been reviewed and will be relaunched in Dec 2019 with a revised focus and membership.

A review in relation to autism service, and how the Council supports and is alert to residents with autism in its service provision, would fall within the Committee's remit.

“County lines” and “cuckooing”

Concerns were raised about young people being forced to take part in gang related activity or young people being exploited by gangs. Drug dealers “cuckooed” vulnerable people by setting up shop in their homes and using it as a hub to distribute drugs. A review was suggested to consider the impact on young people, vulnerable adults and the support in place to help them avoid being drawn in to selling or taking drugs.

This review would fall largely outside the Committee's remit as it predominantly relates to police action, crime and community safety, which would fall under other committees.

Housing improvements and energy conservation

A review considering the Council's housing stock and the work being done to upgrade homes, particularly to meet energy efficiency standards. The review would explore whether more could be done to reduce the carbon footprint and manage other issues affecting tenants' environment in homes, such as poor ventilation and damp. The review would seek to identify the Council's current position and medium to long term actions required to manage this.

This review would fall directly within the Committee's remit.

Dementia Care

The Committee considered that dementia was a significant issue in the Borough, as it is nationwide. A review on dementia care could explore what was being done in the Borough to support residents. Whilst taking into account some of the groundbreaking work already taking place, the review would identify whether there were any gaps and what more support could be made available locally to residents.

Members should be aware that the Council already has a number of initiatives in place to support people with dementia. Across the Borough dementia friends coffee mornings are held to bring people together and a number of film screenings are held to provide a safe and relaxed environment, where attendees can sing, talk or move around during the film. There is also the modern dementia centre, the Wren Centre at Queens Walk.

Hillingdon is the first Borough to introduce magic tables, a facility that provides stimulating light games for people with dementia. The games are designed to provide physical, mental and social stimulation for people in the mid to later stages of dementia but can also be used by children and people with learning disabilities, autism and early-stage dementia.

The Council also has a Hillingdon Admiral Nurse based at the Civic Centre in Uxbridge and they work with families affected by dementia in the community. They aim to adopt a holistic approach to empower family carers and encourage problem solving approaches as well as providing psychological support.

This review would fall predominantly within the Committee's remit.

Child Obesity

It was reported that Hillingdon had the highest level of child obesity in the Greater London area. A review was suggested to look in more depth at why it was an issue, the plans in place to tackle it, and what more could be done to. This review would fall directly within the Committee's remit, particularly around encouraging fit and healthier lifestyles.

Houses of Multiple Occupation

A review was suggested to consider houses with multiple occupancy (HMO) in the Borough and what steps the Council had taken to identify all of the HMOs in the Borough in accordance with the new registration rules.

This review would fall somewhat also within the remit of the Residents, Education and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee. Subject to Members' views, this may perhaps benefit an information report to the Committee in the first instance, with the ability to ask officers relevant questions.

Disabled care and support

Members discussed a possible review considering disabled care and support available for families.

Members should be aware that this is a very broad area that covers a range of services, including the Children with Disabilities Team; Adult Social Work (Learning Disability; Mental Health; Localities and Hospital Teams); Occupational Therapy; Adaptations; Provider Services (external and internal); the voluntary sector; the CCG and health partners.

Should Members wish to consider this subject further, it would be helpful to provide a more specific steer to officers on what aspects would merit a meaningful review and ultimately recommendations for improvements or changes to the Cabinet. A possible way forward would be for an information report initially to ascertain any areas for review.

A topic within this field would fall within the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Life expectancy

It had been reported that the life expectancy in the Borough varies significantly between the North and the South. A suggestion was made for a review to consider this and explore this further and what role the Council can play in making a difference locally. Life expectancy at birth by gender (upper age band 90+) 2013-17 (latest data):

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Barnhill	80.7	84.6
Botwell	77.2	80.2
Brunel	78.9	83.1
Cavendish	83	84.6
Charville	81	83.8
Eastcote and East Ruislip	84.3	87.1
Harefield	77.8	81.8
Heathrow Villages	80	85
Hillingdon East	80.8	84.5

Ickenham	83.6	85.9
Manor	82.4	85.7
Northwood	83.1	85.8
Northwood Hills	82	86.6
Pinkwell	81	84.3
South Ruislip	80.7	85.1
Townfield	77.1	81.3
Uxbridge North	81.3	84.8
Uxbridge South	80.7	81.7
West Drayton	78.6	80.7
West Ruislip	81.2	83.8
Yeading	81.3	82.9
Yiewsley	79.3	82.7

This is an interesting topic that would fall largely within the remit of the Committee, particularly around public health. It is also a very broad topic and if Members wish to undertake a shorter review, it may be useful to scope this further to focus on specific areas of highest impact.

Encouraging homeownership

A review on what processes the Council currently has in place to support and encourage home ownership in the Borough. The Council's current schemes are set out on the website here: <https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/housing>. This includes, the Council's First Time Buyer Scheme, Shared Ownership, Discount Market Sale, Shared Equity and details of the national Help to Buy.

Subject to Members' views, this may benefit from a more detailed information report in the first instance, with the ability to ask officers relevant questions, before Members decide what aspects would be best to review.

Youth Services

A suggestion was put forward to consider a review on youth services within Hillingdon, looking into the universal service offer the Council provides across a range of activities.

Unless Members wish to focus on this from a looked after children's perspective, which may be something the Corporate Parenting Panel investigates, the brief for youth services falls directly under the remit of the Residents, Education and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee.

Supported Living for adults

A possible review could consider the role of supported living for adults, how it works, who lives there, the differences between the housing and the care element in supported living and the benefits to residents and the Council. This report may be more beneficial for Members as an information report that demonstrates the awareness of housing related support versus housing support and care. This would increase the Committee's understanding on who uses the services, what restrictions there are in terms of intervention and how these are monitored and managed by the Council. It would be beneficial to understand both users and the council and there is often community concerns about these types of services.

This matter would fall directly within the Committee's remit

Semi - independent living for young people -

A possible review could consider this topic, as independent living is currently the subject of national scrutiny in terms of oversight and monitoring of the quality of the unregulated provision. It is important to note that this accommodation for 16-24 year olds is not required to be registered and the quality of such provision is being questioned as to why it is not regulated by Ofsted. There are a number of issues for and against registration and the best way of managing quality and outcomes for young people and a review would challenge this. Subject to Members' views, an information report may be more beneficial on this in the first instance.

This matter would fall directly within the Committee's remit