

**Corporate Services & Partnerships Policy Overview Committee
Review Topics 2010/11**

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REASON FOR ITEM

To enable the Committee to agree the review it wishes to undertake in the 2010/11 Council year.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

1. Agree topics for in-depth review in 2010/11

INFORMATION

1. The Committee is responsible for undertaking the 'policy overview' role in relation to the services provided by the Council's Finance & Resources Group and Deputy Chief Executive's Office. The full range of services under the Committee's remit is outlined in the terms of reference at the start of the agenda. These are primarily strategic policy and internal functions such as finance, property, personnel, democratic services, legal services, ICT, economic development, as well as equalities and diversity.
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 in from 2006 to 2009, which included reviews of:

2006/7

- Members' information needs concerning decision-making
- Members' role in Audit

2007/8

- Community cohesion
- Review of Voluntary sector grants

2008/9

- Wireless town centre in Hillingdon

2009/10

- Impact of a Pandemic in Hillingdon and the Effects on Council Services
- The Impact of Public Funded Business Support and the Success of New Business Start Up within Hillingdon and how the Council could improve Business to Business Support with the Borough's Industrial Estates

SUGGESTED SCRUTINY 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