

RESPOC
Review Topics 2011/12

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REASON FOR ITEM

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

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

1. Discuss preliminary topics ideas 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 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 select one or two topics for major review.

4. In selecting topics, Members are reminded of the Committee's work in from 2006 to 2010, 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
Cleanliness of the environment

2008/9

CCTV Strategy
Heritage in Hillingdon

2009/10

Street Lighting

Illegal Imported Cosmetics and Food

Planning Enforcement – construction and use of back buildings (homes in back gardens).

2010/11

Khat

Town Twinning

SUGGESTED SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

Members discuss preliminary 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