

Communities, Regeneration and Housing Policy & Scrutiny Committee

Date:	14 October 2021
Classification:	General Release
Title:	2020/21 Work Programme
Report of:	Head of Governance and Councillor Liaison
Cabinet Member Portfolio:	Cabinet Member for Housing and Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration
Wards Involved:	All
Policy Context:	All
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1. Executive Summary

1. This report asks the committee members to consider items for the Committee's 2021/2022 work programme.

2. Meeting dates for the 2021/2022 year

- 2.1 The Committee is advised that the scheduled meeting dates for the 2021/2022 year are:
 - 17th November 2021
 - 26th January 2022
 - 17th March 2022

3. Suggested topics

- 3.1 The October meeting will cover Air Quality in the Borough, a priority for the Council. The Committee is therefore asked to reflect on and discuss the suggested work programme for the remainder of the municipal year.
- 3.2 The Committee will also note that the work programme includes a list of suggested task group topics for its consideration. Committee members may have other suggested topics for task group work. Otherwise, the Committee is asked to review this list.

If you have any queries about this report or wish to inspect any of the background papers, please contact Hannah Small.

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Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference

Appendix 2 – Work Programme

Appendix 1. Terms of Reference

COMMUNITIES, REGENERATION AND HOUSING POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COMPOSITION

Eight (8) Members of the Council (five Majority Party Members and three Minority Party Members), but shall not include a Member of the Cabinet.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

(a) To carry out the Policy and Scrutiny functions, as set out in Article 6 of the Constitution in respect

of matters relating to all those duties within the terms of reference of the Cabinet Members for

Communities and Regeneration and the Cabinet Member for Housing.

(b) To carry out the Policy and Scrutiny function in respect of matters within the remit of the Council's

non-executive Committees and Sub-Committees, which are within the broad remit of the Committee,

in accordance with paragraph 13(a) of the Policy and Scrutiny procedure rules.

(c) Matters within the broad remit of the Cabinet Members referred to in (a) above which are the

responsibility of external agencies.

(d) Any other matter allocated by the Westminster Scrutiny Commission (WSC).

(e) To have the power to establish ad hoc or Standing Sub-Committees as Task Groups to carry out the

scrutiny of functions within these terms of reference.

(f) To scrutinise the duties of the Lead Members which fall within the remit of the Committee or as

otherwise allocated by the Westminster Scrutiny Commission.

(g) To scrutinise any Bi-borough proposals which impact on service areas that fall within the Committee's terms of reference.

(h) To oversee any issues relating to Performance that fall within the Committee's terms of reference.

(i) To have the power to scrutinise those partner organisations whose services fall within the Committee's terms of reference.

(j) To consider any Councillor Calls for Action referred by a Ward Member to the Committee

February 2021

**Appendix 2. Draft Work Programme 2021/2022
Communities, Regeneration & Housing (CRH) Policy and Scrutiny Committee**

ROUND ONE 10th May 2021		
Agenda Item	Reasons & objective for item	Represented by
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr David Harvey
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration, Cllr Heather Acton
Report of the Metropolitan Police Service	To update the committee on crime within Westminster	Superintendent Michael Walsh (Metropolitan Police Service)
Ward Budget Programme	To update the committee on a recent review of the Ward Budget Programme and discuss the recommendations for updating the programme	Richard Cressey, Director of Governance and Councillor Liaison Matt Gaskin, Senior Member Services Officer

ROUND TWO 6th July 2021		
Agenda Item	Reasons & objective for item	Represented by
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr David Harvey
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration, Cllr Heather Acton
Nuisance noisy vehicles and car meets	To discuss enforcement options for both Council and Police, current limitations in legislation and the experience of RBKC	Raj Mistry, Executive Director of Environment and City Management Calvin McLean, Director, Public Protection & Licensing

ROUND THREE 14th October 2021		
Agenda Item	Reasons & objective for item	Represented by
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr David Harvey
Written Update from Cabinet Member	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration, Cllr Heather Acton
Air Quality	Review of initiatives in Westminster aimed at reducing poor air quality, including the Air Quality Action Plan and the Draft Code of Construction Practice	Ceridwen John, Head of Environment Policy and Projects

ROUND FOUR 17th November 2021		
Agenda Item	Reasons & objective for item	Represented by
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr David Harvey
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration, Cllr Heather Acton
Capital Works Program	To discuss the strategic priorities for the capital works programme over the next five years	Debbie Jackson, Executive Director of Growth, Planning and Housing Neil Wightman, Director of Housing Jim Paterson, Divisional Head of Housing Property

ROUND FIVE 26th January 2022		
Agenda Item	Reasons & objective for item	Represented by
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr David Harvey
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration, Cllr Heather Acton
Affordable Housing SPD	To review the affordable housing supplementary planning document (SPD)	Debbie Jackson, Executive Director of Growth, Planning and Housing Deirdra Armsby Director of Place Shaping & Town Planning Marina Mollà Bolta, Planning Officer
Rough Sleeping Strategy	To discuss the development of the Council's Rough Sleeping Strategy, whether there is the correct balance of enforcement and supportive measures and to discuss the	Debbie Jackson, Executive Director of Growth, Planning and Housing Kerry Simpkin, Head of Licensing, Place & Investment Policy Kirsty Munro, Principal Policy Officer

ROUND SIX 17th March 2022		
Agenda Item	Reasons & objective for item	Represented by
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr David Harvey
Cabinet Member Q&A	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration, Cllr Heather Acton
Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy	To discuss the development of the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for residents and visitors to the City	Raj Mistry, Executive Director of Environment & City

		Kerry Simpkin, Head of Licensing, Place & Investment Policy Kirsty Munro, Principal Policy Officer
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SUGGESTED UNALLOCATED ITEMS

Agenda Item	Reasons & objective for item	Represented by
Fire Safety Act and Building Safety Bill	To discuss how the Council is implementing the Fire Safety Act and central concerns on the Building Safety Bill – it has been noted that the new legislation has financial and reputational risk for the Council.	Debbie Jackson, Executive Director of Growth, Planning and Housing Neil Wightman, Director of Housing Deirdra Armsby Director of Place Shaping & Town Planning
Pandemic recovery and financial vulnerability of residents	To discuss how the council supports its residents that are financially vulnerable and how monitoring and data mapping could be improved to target support to those most vulnerable	TBC
Building Emissions	To discuss how the council can lower building emissions from listed buildings. A joint discussion between Climate Policy Team and Town Planners	Raj Mistry, Executive Director of Environment & City Deirdra Armsby Director of Place Shaping & Town Planning Amy Jones, Climate Resilience Programme Director Ceridwen John, Head of Environment Policy and Projects
Westminster Connects	To discuss the future of Westminster Connects and the co-ordination and information sharing between VCS and WWC	Director of Communities (TBD?) Christine Meads, Strategic Commissioner responsible for Westminster Connects
Social Housing	To discuss the Allocation Policy and whether it is working efficiently for residents as well as those on the housing register and the implementation of the Social Housing Charter	Debbie Jackson, Executive Director of Growth, Planning and Housing Neil Wightman, Director of Housing
Youth violence, exploitation and Modern Slavery – enforcement and support	To discuss the Metropolitan Police’s KCPO pilot and the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty on Councils And how the Council supports victims of exploitation.	Metropolitan Police & Council

SUGGESTED TASK GROUPS AND STUDIES

Subject	Reasons & objective	Type
Dangerous cladding on high rise buildings	<p>Council has been proactive in removing dangerous cladding from social housing. This should be praised, as other local authorities have been less proactive. However, potentially many private buildings (and/or housing association) still have dangerous cladding on properties rendering the properties worthless, dangerous, and subject to high interim fees.</p> <p>A task group should ascertain how many residents are affected by dangerous cladding and what levers the Council has to encourage developers and central Govt to remove the cladding as soon as possible and pay for spiralling costs.</p>	
How the council supports those with NRPF	<p>There are many different categories of people in Westminster with No Recourse to Public Funds. As people do not have access to benefits, most of the financial burden for supporting these people falls on local authorities.</p> <p>A task group could investigate the financial burden this places on Westminster City Council and investigate what supportive measures the Council could put into place and lobby central Government on.</p>	(Possibly joint with B&C P&S Committee)
Green/Sustainable Transport	<p>A task group could investigate how the council can facilitate and promote greener alternatives to transportation in Westminster.</p> <p>Greener alternatives to using cars and private hire vehicles include walking, cycling, e-scooters and car sharing.</p>	