

Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 18 July 2017



Subject: Scrutiny of External Organisations

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1. SCRUTINY OF EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 1.1 For the information of the Committee, a schedule setting out the external scrutiny activity undertaken by the Committee over the last three years is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.2 The remaining sections of this report set out the current position with regard to external scrutiny included within the Committee's work programme for the current municipal year.

2. PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL NHS TRUST

- 2.1 (Director of Governance) As the Committee will recall, representatives of Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust attended its meeting on 6 June 2017 to respond to the concerns of members in respect of aspects of general inpatient, outpatient and emergency services provision at the hospital. The minutes of that meeting of the Committee are available elsewhere in this agenda.
- 2.2 The Committee has expressed a desire to undertake further scrutiny of the Trust's progress with regard to the achievement and delivery of its improvement plans for Princess Alexandra Hospital. An appropriate invitation will therefore be issued to the Trust with regard to the further attendance of appropriate representatives before the Committee later in the current municipal year, in order that the Committee's work programme can be updated.

3. BARTS HEALTH NHS TRUST

- 3.1 (Director of Governance) As the Committee will recall, representatives of Barts Health NHS Trust attended its meeting on 23 February 2016 to respond to the concerns of members in respect of aspects of general inpatient, outpatient and emergency services provision at Whipps Cross University Hospital. The minutes of that meeting of the Committee are available at:

<https://goo.gl/uZ1jnC>

- 3.2 The Committee has expressed a desire to undertake further external scrutiny of the Trust's progress with regard to the achievement and delivery of its improvement plans for Whipps Cross Hospital. This has therefore been included in its work programme for 2017/18.

- 3.3 An appropriate invitation has therefore been issued to Barts Health NHS Trust, although it should be noted that no date has yet been agreed with the Trust for the further attendance of appropriate representatives before the Committee. The Director of Governance will report to the Committee in this regard in order that the Committee's work programme for the current year can be updated.

4. TRANSPORT FOR LONDON

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Committee consider the scope and focus of its proposed further external scrutiny of Transport for London, in respect of local transport services and infrastructure.

- 4.1 (Director of Governance) As the Committee will recall, representatives of Transport for London attended its meeting on 19 December 2016 to respond to the concerns of members in respect of aspects of local Central Line services and infrastructure. The minutes of that meeting of the Committee are available at:

<http://goo.gl/YwkVew>

- 4.2 As part of the development of its work programme for 2017/18, the Committee has expressed a desire to undertake further external scrutiny of Transport for London, in respect of other aspects of local transport services and infrastructure.
- 4.3 In accordance with the procedures for such external scrutiny agreed in October 2016, the Committee is therefore requested to consider and agree the scope and focus of further scrutiny of Transport for London and appropriate lines of questioning, in order that prior notice of the themes and specific issues likely to be raised by members can be provided to Transport for London to ensure that maximum value is derived from this external scrutiny activity.
- 4.4 Members are also asked to give direction on the preferred approach of the Committee to the format of the external scrutiny, particularly in terms of the scope of any formal presentation that may be required from Transport for London. The Committee is requested to ensure that it identifies clear objectives for any such presentation.
- 4.5 There may be public interest in the Council's further scrutiny of local transport services and infrastructure and the Committee may therefore wish to identify appropriate proactive publicity to raise awareness of the concerns of members, so as to make the process as meaningful and useful as possible.
- 4.6 It should be noted that no date has yet been agreed with Transport for London for the further attendance of appropriate representatives before the Committee. Once members have determined the scope and focus of the proposed further external scrutiny of local transport services and infrastructure, an appropriate invitation will be issued to Transport for London in order that the Committee's work programme for the current year can be updated.

5. EPPING FOREST COLLEGE

- 5.1 (Director of Governance) As the Committee will recall, the Principal of Epping Forest College attended its meeting on 28 February 2017 to respond to the concerns of members in respect of an Ofsted report (January 2017) on its 'inadequate' judgement of the quality of its local further education facilities and services. The minutes of that meeting of the Committee are available at:

<https://goo.gl/3hnD2F>

5.2 The Committee has expressed a desire to undertake further scrutiny of the progress of the College with regard to the achievement and delivery of its improvement plans, which has therefore been included in the work programme for 2017/18. An appropriate invitation will therefore be issued to the College with regard to the further attendance of appropriate representatives before the Committee later in the current municipal year.

Resource Implications:

The recommendations of this report seek to enable scrutiny activity to effectively meet the work programme requirements of the Committee.

Legal and Governance Implications:

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities. Although external organisations are not generally required by legislation to attend before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it is hoped that most would be willing to engage constructively with the Council's scrutiny activity when invited to do so.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:

There are no implications arising from the recommendations of this report in respect of the Council's commitment to the Climate Local Agreement, the corporate Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative, or any crime and disorder issues within the district.

Consultation Undertaken:

This report seeks the identification of the overarching themes and specific issues to be subject of external scrutiny activity by the Committee. No further consultation is considered necessary.

Background Papers:

None

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities.

Equality:

There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations of this report.