

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 17 March 2020	Meeting Name: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Report title:		Scrutiny Commission Chair Updates	
Ward(s) or groups affected:			
From:		Scrutiny Commission Chairs	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the overview and scrutiny committee note the scrutiny commission chair updates as set out at paragraphs 5 to 39 of the report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The overview and scrutiny committee established four scrutiny commissions for the 2019/20 municipal year;
 - Education and Business Scrutiny Commission – Membership (Councillors Peter Babudu, Chair, William Hougbo, (Vice-Chair), Karl Eastham, Renata Hamvas, Eleanor Kerslake, Lorraine Lauder MBE, Eliza Mann, Lynette Murphy-O'Dwyer (co-opted member) and Martin Brecknell (co-opted member)
 - Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission – Membership (Councillors Victoria Olisa, Chair, David Noakes, Vice-Chair, Helen Dennis, Paul Fleming, Maria Linforth-Hall, Darren Merrill and Charlie Smith)
 - Housing Scrutiny Commission – Membership (Councillors Gavin Edwards, Chair, Hamish McCallum, Vice-Chair, Jack Buck, Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE, Jon Hartley, Nick Johns, Bill Williams, Cris Claridge (co-opted member), Ina Negoita (co-opted member)
 - Environment Scrutiny Commission – Membership (Councillors Leanne Werner, Chair, Graham Neale, Vice-Chair, Radha Burgess, Tom Flynn, Richard Leeming, Damian O'Brien, Michael Situ and Jeremy Leach (co-opted member)
3. The general terms of reference of the scrutiny commissions are set out in the council's constitution (overview and scrutiny procedure rules - paragraph 5). The constitution states that:

Within their terms of reference, all scrutiny committees/commissions will:

- a) review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the council's functions

- b) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the cabinet and council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time in areas covered by its terms of reference
- c) review and scrutinise the performance of the council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas
- d) question members of the cabinet and officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects and about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area
- e) assist council assembly and the cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues
- f) make reports and recommendations to the cabinet and or council assembly arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process
- g) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants
- h) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working
- i) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance
- j) conduct research and consultation on the analysis of policy issues and possible options
- k) question and gather evidence from any other person (with their consent)
- l) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the scrutiny process and in the development of policy options
- m) conclude inquiries promptly and normally within six months.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. The latest developments in respect of the scrutiny commissions' work for the 2019/20 year are set out in the scrutiny commission chair updates detailed below.

Councillor Peter Babudu, Chair – Education and Business Scrutiny Commission

5. The Education and Business Scrutiny Commission is busy completing its two main reports, on exclusions and the accessibility of procurement, and using its roving remit to look into the cross-cutting issue of Council activity to help local SMEs navigate the post-Brexit environment.
6. On exclusions, since our last update we have taken evidence from other boroughs on how they are preventing and tackling exclusions, from Ofsted on the new inspection framework, and from the Church of England and Catholic Dioceses. Members of the commission have also visited Southwark's Pupil

Referral Unit and attended a conference for Southwark school heads and senior leaders on exclusions.

7. We have identified a range of recommendations, focused on moving Southwark towards a zero exclusions policy supported by schools and the council. To get there, we are working on recommendations related to the Council's data collection practices, school-Council partnership working, schools' conduct and Council-funded alternative provision (Southwark's PRU).
8. On procurement, we have taken evidence from officers who have been piloting methods to make procurement opportunities more accessible, an additional Business Improvement District, from a south London procurement initiative, from the Southwark Chamber of Commerce's initiative for supporting BAME-led businesses in accessing procurement opportunities, and from South Tyneside where we heard about their success in significantly increasing the amount of local procurement and social value delivered for the authority.
9. We have identified recommendations on what data the council collects on local procurement and demographic characteristics, ways to support local SMEs (including micro-businesses), and finally on adapting procurement practices (including monitoring) to increase the amount of local procurement from Southwark's diverse range of SMEs, including how we better embed social value across all Council procurement. We are also developing recommendations to improve how the Council encourages private companies to do more local SME procurement in Southwark.
10. We have also interviewed two Cabinet members since the Commission's last update, the Cabinet Member for Children, Adults and Schools, Cllr Jasmine Ali, and the Cabinet member for Jobs, Business and Innovation, Cllr Stephanie Cryan. We heard from Cllr Ali on the great performance of schools in the borough and her plans for improving alternative provision, and from Cllr Cryan on ongoing efforts to support people into apprenticeships and jobs and to support increased business diversity and local benefit through initiatives like the Pioneers Fund.
11. In our next meeting we will be taking some last evidence and reviewing draft exclusion and procurement reports. We have also used the Commission's roving remit to ask the Cabinet member for Finance, Performance and Brexit about how the Council's Brexit-readiness's activity is going to help local SMEs navigate the emerging business environment, now that we have left the European Union.

Councillor Victoria Olisa, Chair – Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission

12. The Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission will be drafting its two reports in the coming weeks following some outstanding community visits to Black Thrive, a Lambeth based Organisation that provides invaluable Mental Health advice and support to marginalised BME communities, which we feel that we can learn from.
13. The Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission has focused on two main areas in its administration so far, namely the social care that the council provides in the borough and monitoring quality of this provision. Secondly focus on mental health, with an emphasis on young people, esp male suicides and also BME communities.

14. Our Scrutiny Commission has taken community and council briefings from the following people:
 - Local resident who had a negative experience of her husband receiving poor service delivery in a Southwark care home and the aftermath of her experience, with a lengthy drat of solutions for service improvement.
 - Commissioning Director for Social Care - outlining the new Mental Health strategy with the four pronged approach of Open Access hub, more resources within schools and GPs too.
 - Healthwatch Southwark - overview of the merging of the South London CCGs and potential impact on Southwark residents.
 - Former Lay Inspectors - have given evidence to our commission on the importance of the Lay Inspection project with giving a voice to service users' families to the council.
 - Briefings and presentations from Age UK Lewisham and Southwark - reiterating their commitment to expanding the Lay Inspection project to complement the councils Contract Monitoring visits cycle and CQC monitoring visits, to increase the service users and families voice and input into service delivery, which we can use in our future care provision service delivery within the borough.
 - Briefings and presentations from Dr Kevin Fenton and his team - in relation to the revision of the Community Pharmacies contract, ensuring that there is a sufficient geographical spread of needle exchange and drug (methadone) consumption service across the borough, as it is currently heavily focused in the north and central part of the borough, with the south underrepresented.
15. We have interviewed the Cabinet Member for Education, Health and Social Care, Jasmine Ali, who outlined the ambitious and far reaching plans for Mental Health provision for our young people and their families, through the £2 million funds, with the opening of the Open Access facility in Rye Lane, May 2020, which was based on the Birmingham example.
16. We have agreed and convened an additional JHOSC with Lambeth to discuss and review the proposals to relocate the mental health provision from Lambeth hospital, Landor Road to the Maudsley, Denmark Hill in 2023 in a brand new purpose 72 bed facility.
17. The Chair (myself) and two other members will be having a site visit of both locations on 27th March, to assess the viability of the CCG proposals, with a follow up 2nd JHOSC meeting during the 12 week public consultation period (March - May 2020)
18. We will be carrying out community visits to Black Thrive (Lambeth) and Southwark based BME focused mental health community groups, in order to ascertain why they are such high levels of BME residents formally sectioned by NHS services.
19. The two final reports will focus on the revised Lay Inspection service and how to amplify our residents and service user family voices, the forthcoming new nursing homes and what services are scoped for delivery and ensuring they meet the needs of the majority of the 80% of the 70% of local people who are currently receiving care outside of the borough. We will also look at other ways

to ensure that the focus on space care is maintained, including looking at the Ethical care Charter again to see whether we need to review what this means for our staff.

20. The second report will focus on Mental Health, on how the council plans to meet the ambitious 100% of young people requiring support, how the new Open Access hub can help to meet this need, more information on how people will access this service and other community solutions targeted to certain communities, eg BME, young men in crisis etc. We will also recommend that we carry out a study of why so many of our BME young people are being sectioned in our borough and take some steer from the current Lewisham council study into the over representation of BME in Mental Health statistics, to see if there are common and / or obvious considerations and themes that we are missing.
21. We will consider (to a lesser degree) whether the merger of the 6 CCGS in the NHS Transformation agenda will have a significant impact on the health outcomes for our residents. What does that look like for services within Southwark. A key concern for me, as the Chair, is to ensure that we have very good working relationship with our NHS strategic partners at all levels, to ensure that the change process is as good as possible for all of our service users, irrespective of what service they use or agency that they interact with across their health journey within Southwark.
22. An interview will be held with the cabinet member for community safety and public health (subject to her availability), at our final meeting 16 April, on the public health part of her portfolio, and on Southwark's arrangements in response to a potential Coronavirus outbreak in the borough.
23. Lastly the April meeting will hold a session on the Coronavirus and how Public Health, the council and partners are responding.

Councillor Gavin Edwards, Chair – Housing Scrutiny Commission

24. The Housing Scrutiny Commission's report into Housing repairs is now complete and was formally signed off on 9th March, but has already been agreed to by Scrutiny Commission members via email. (They considered a draft at a previous meeting and suggested additions). The recommendations have been submitted to officers and the cabinet member, who are preparing a Cabinet paper on Housing repair. The recommendations include:
 1. The dismantling of the light client model and the genuine insourcing of repairs
 2. Giving residents a role in verifying the completion of a repair
 3. More resources being transferred from the survey to interventions to resolve long-term, incomplete repairs.
 4. Making the call centre specialist to repairs and ensuring adequate training for repairs call operators
25. A full copy of the final report can be found here:
<http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s87740/Report%20The%20Housing%20Repairs%20Service%20-%20Report%20from%20the%20Southwark%20Housing%20Scrutiny%20Commission.pdf>

26. We held an extensive Cabinet member interview with Councillor Leo Pollack on the delivery of the new homes programme. Members were reassured by the cabinet member on a range of issues including progress towards delivering on targets and the quality of design and build for new council homes.
27. The District Heating Scrutiny continues apace. We have now interviewed all the senior officers involved in District Heating, both in terms of repairs and the overall upgrading of the infrastructure. On 9th March we held a session on the Aylesbury Estate District Heating, particularly focusing on issues experienced in late 2019. This followed on from a request made at OSC. This session will inform the wider scrutiny, particularly the section on responsive repairs. We have asked for a further report to come back to our next meeting in April.
28. Also on 9th March, we held a session with residents who have experienced issue with their housing association landlord and we are enquiring into how the council interacts with housing associations, particularly when there are serious unresolved issues within the borough. We also heard from Wandle the registered housing provider and have asked them to come back to our next meeting in April to discuss follow up actions on the issues raised by the residents of Clarson House.
29. We will be asking cabinet to review existing policy on partnership working with housing associations with a view to having clear policy on issues such as fire safety compliance and resident satisfaction and other key performance indicators at the point of initiating partnership working with housing associations. We will also be asking cabinet to investigate the possibility of creating an arbitration panel to deal with serious complaints of service failure in housing associations.
30. The Housing Scrutiny Commission has also received reports and held useful sessions on Temporary Accommodation and void properties, earlier in the municipal year.
31. Overall, progress towards delivering on our work programme is very good and we continue to engage well with the wider council and other scrutiny committees.

Councillor Leanne Werner, Chair – Environment Scrutiny Commission

32. Due to the extensive remit of the Environment Commission (it touches almost every department of the council) we have already produced our first scrutiny report and we are in process of finalising out final two reports on Air Quality and the Climate Emergency Roadmap.
33. The Commission has really engaged with community organisations across the borough and we have heard from senior council officers across the council from planning, transport, public health and the environment.
34. Our first Environment Scrutiny Commission report was produced in December 2019 in response to the Climate Emergency Roadmap draft- our recommendations can be found here:

<http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s86040/Environment%20Scrutiny%20Commission%20report%20on%20the%20Climate%20Emergency%20roadmap.pdf>

35. Our first scrutiny report has helped to inform and shape the Climate Emergency Roadmap. Cabinet's responses to our recommendations can be found in this document under Item 10:

<http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/b50011446/Supplement%20One%20Tuesday%2010-Mar-2020%2019.00%20Environment%20Scrutiny%20Commission.pdf?T=9>

36. This week (10th March) we held our 5th Environment Scrutiny Commission. During this meeting we heard from Cabinet Member for Environment on the Climate Strategy, an update on community energy, the movement plan and how this has fed into decisions around school streets and low emissions neighbourhoods including the up-and-coming schemes including: a Liveable Neighbourhood pilot around Old Kent Road; Dulwich Healthy Streets; Walworth Low Emission Zone. Earlier in the month we went on a Commission field trip to Waltham Forest to look at their Mini Holland Scheme in action.

37. Our final reports on Air Quality and the Climate Change Roadmap will be signed off on the 21st April.

38. Some (draft) highlights from our Air Quality report include:

- A bold programme of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. When prioritising Low Traffic Neighbourhoods a transparent criteria (Needs Assessment) should be adopted that looks at levels of pollution, transport links, levels of deprivation, car usage, schools and the number of hospitals and vulnerable communities sited in an area.
- Investment is needed in public transport, cycling and walking, and these need to compliment Low Traffic Neighbourhood interventions.
- A boroughwide greenery programme including using native hedges to screen to against air pollution, ecological planting and also improve the environment and place making.
- Setting a target of how many parking spaces we want to reduce, adding a cost to the spaces; this needs to be done alongside a boroughwide bike storage programme.
- Driving down total vehicle usage over time so that by 2030 only a limited number of EV vehicles are in common use on Southwark roads.
- A new Air Quality public health focused communication plan is needed that highlights serious harms to health and which explains why Southwark will take a similar approach to banning smoking, e.g. brought wide action to tackle Air Quality.

39. Some (draft) highlights from our Climate Road Map report include:

- Restoration has to be at the heart of what we do if we are to achieve carbon zero.
- We need to move forward with our community energy plans.

- Social justice must be front and central of our actions.
- Targets need to be set to drive down car usage.
- Carbon Offsetting-there needs to be a reduction overall, increase the price, and ensure there is a plan agreed with the community on how this will be invested.

Policy implications

40. This report provides an update on the work of the scrutiny commissions. Any policy implications arising from the work of the scrutiny commissions are set out in the cabinet response to scrutiny commission report recommendations.

Community impact statement

41. The role of overview and scrutiny committees is to hold the executive (cabinet) to account for the decisions and actions that affect their communities.

42. Effective overview and scrutiny is described as¹:

- Providing constructive 'critical friend' challenge;
- Amplifying the voices and concerns of the public;
- Being led by Independent people who take responsibility for their role; and
- Driving improvement in public services.

43. The scrutiny commission chair updates provide detail on how the scrutiny commissions have been undertaking this role which impacts directly on communities.

Resource implications

44. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

Legal implications

45. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

Financial implications

46. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

REASONS FOR LATENESS

47. It was not possible finalise the report detail in time for the main agenda dispatch.

REASONS FOR URGENCY

48. The overview and scrutiny committee is responsible for developing and co-ordinating the work programmes for the commissions. The scrutiny chair

¹ Centre for Public Scrutiny

updates will enable the overview and scrutiny committee to consider and review the work of the scrutiny commissions prior to the municipal year end.

49. There is only one more meeting of overview and scrutiny committee for this municipal year which will review this year's work programme and inform the work programme for 2020/21. The discussion at this meeting will assist with preparations for the final overview and scrutiny committee scheduled for 28 April 2020 and the Chairs annual report on the year's scrutiny activity.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Housing Scrutiny Commission agendas and minutes 2019/20	Southwark Council Website	Fitzroy Williams 020 7525 7102
Link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=520		
Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission agendas and minutes 2019/20	Southwark Council Website	Julie Timbrell 020 7525 0514
Link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=519		
Education and Business Scrutiny Commission agendas and minutes 2019/20	Southwark Council Website	Julie Timbrell 020 7525 0514
Link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=518		
Environment Scrutiny Commission agendas and minutes 2019/20	Southwark Council Website	Julie Timbrell 020 7525 0514
Link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=517		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Doreen Forrester-Brown, Director of Law and Democracy	
Report Author	Scrutiny Commission Chairs Everton Roberts, Head of Overview and Scrutiny (Acting)	
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Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
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