


LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN		WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE: Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2023/24 and Action Tracker		
REPORT OF: Executive Director Supporting Communities		
FOR SUBMISSION TO: Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee		DATE: 13 th November 2023
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT This paper provides an update on the work programme for the Committee for the year 2023/24 and tracks actions from previous meetings.</p> <p>LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - ACCESS TO INFORMATION: No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report</p> <p>CONTACT OFFICER: Emma Haigh Head of Strategy Supporting Communities 5 Pancras Square London N1C 4AG Telephone: 020 7974 8832 Email: emma.haigh@camden.gov.uk</p>		
<p>RECOMMENDATION:</p> <p>The Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee is asked to:</p> <p>(i) note and identify any issues or areas for consideration within the proposed work programme for 2023/24 and to note the actions taken arising from previous meetings.</p> <p>(ii) agree to extend the time limit for submitting the Circular Economy Panel final report to November 2023.</p>		
<p>SIGNED:</p> <p></p> <p>Gillian Marston, Executive Director of Supporting Communities</p> <p>DATE: 30 October 2023</p>		

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report provides an outline of the proposed 2022/23 work programme for the Committee at Appendix A. It also presents an update on progress in following up on actions from previous meetings.

2. Terms of reference

- 2.1 The Committee has the following terms of reference:

1. To scrutinise the Council's cultural and environmental policies and the provision, planning, financing, management and performance of services relating to culture, environment, regeneration, community safety, parking strategy and operations, and the voluntary sector provided by the Supporting Communities and Corporate Services Directorates and other service providers.
2. To be the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee.

3. General information about planning the work programme

- 3.1 The work programme should be informed by the corporate priorities of the Council, the priorities of the relevant portfolio holders, and issues raised by our communities.
- 3.2 The Joint Chairs of Scrutiny have been working with the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS), members of the Cabinet, other scrutiny committee members and senior officers to review the Council's scrutiny function and develop options for the future improvement of scrutiny. The Joint Chairs of Scrutiny have proposed that the following prioritisation criteria be considered as a good practice approach to supporting the ruthless prioritisation of individual scrutiny committee agenda items:
- Will improve outcomes for residents and local communities and/or value for money;
 - Is of significant relevance to residents and local communities;
 - Will contribute to the understanding and/or delivery of agreed strategic priorities;
 - Will help develop a shared understanding of a problem, its challenges, opportunities and possible solutions;
 - Will promote wider engagement with local residents, communities and the local voluntary and community sector (VCS);
 - Will increase collaborative working, sharing of information, networking and engaging across stakeholders.
- 3.3 The Committee covers a wide range of services as seen in the terms of reference. The structure chart at Appendix C identifies the key senior officers who hold these services within their divisions.
- 3.4 A provisional work programme is available at Appendix A. Further changes can be made as the Committee considers appropriate. The Committee is asked to

review the contents of the work programme and provide their views on what the Committee may wish to discuss during the 2022/23 municipal year. There may also be matters that emerge during the year that warrant amendments to the programme.

- 3.5 The Committee is also invited to consider what, if any, forthcoming key Cabinet decisions it wishes to look at in advance of those decisions being taken. Forward Plan items under the Committee's remit are set out at Appendix B.
- 3.6 An action tracker, which updates on progress in following up the Committee's actions, is at Appendix D.

4 Scrutiny Panels

- 4.1 The Committee can form scrutiny panels to look at more specific areas under its remit. These are task-and-finish panels and should be established with clear terms of reference and target date to report back to the main Committee.
- 4.2 The Committee is constitutionally limited to one panel at a time, and co-ordination of Panels should be agreed by the Joint Chairs of Scrutiny Committee to ensure effective use and co-ordination of resources across all scrutiny committees.

5 Legal comments of the Borough Solicitor

- 5.1 There are no legal comments arising from this report.

6 Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

- 6.1 There are no finance comments arising from this report.

REPORT ENDS

Appendix A: Culture and Environment Work Programme 2023/24

Meeting date and theme	Item
Monday 13 th November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual report of the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities – Councillor Callaghan• Environment Services - Waste, recycling and street cleansing (NB ask Rachel if sent to legal)• Report of the circular economy scrutiny panel, chaired by Cllr Julian Fulbrook.

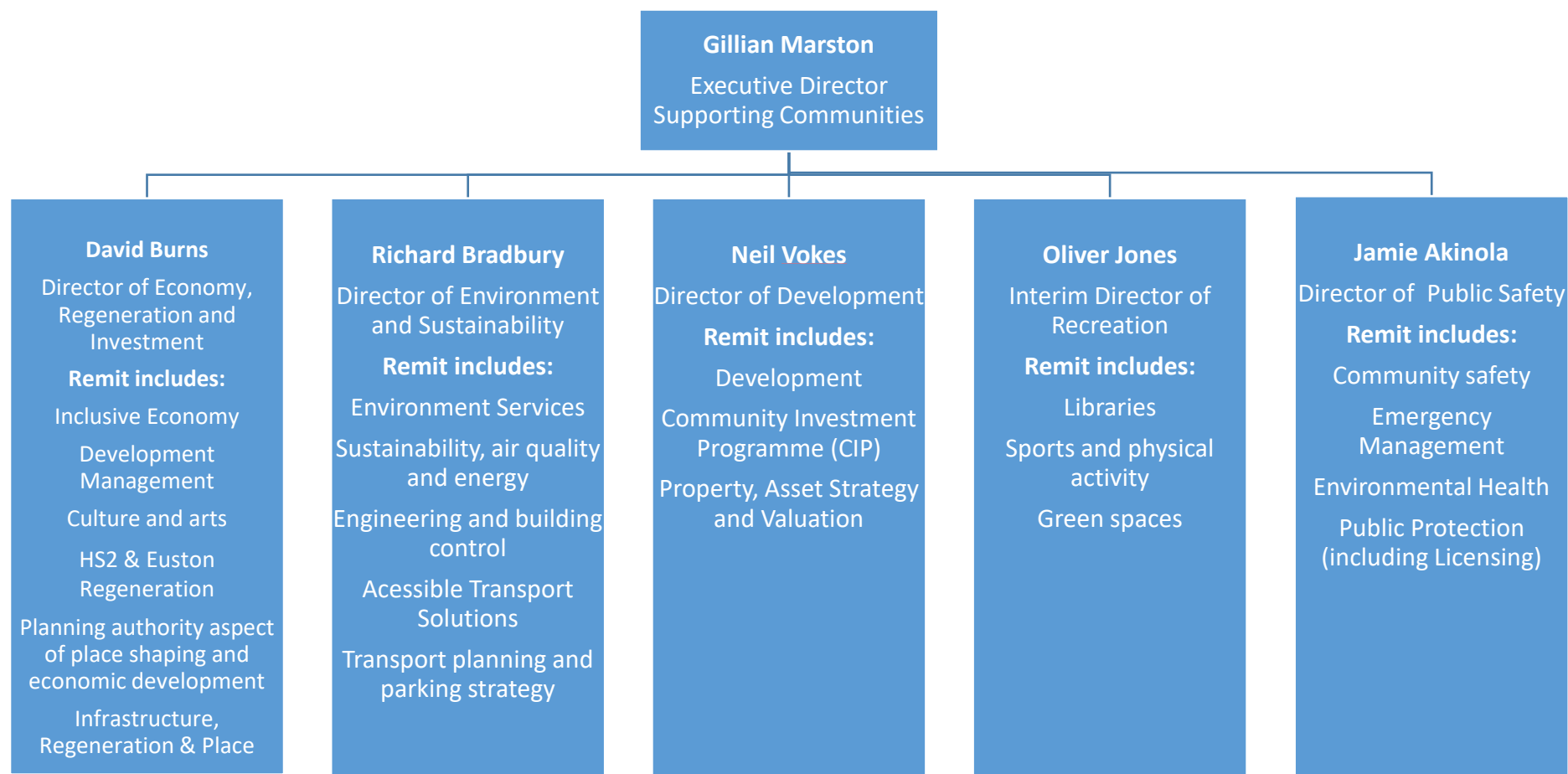
Upcoming meetings

Meeting date and theme	Item
Thursday 14 th December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual report of the Cabinet Member for Voluntary Sector, Equalities and Cohesion• NLWA Joint Waste Strategy• Dockless Bike Hire update
Monday 22 nd January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual report of the Cabinet Member for New Homes, Jobs and Community Investment• Met Police Turnaround Plan• Violence Against Women and Girls Update• NLWA Joint Waste Strategy
Monday 26 th February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report from Cabinet Adviser on Safety for Women and Girls - Cllr Djemai• Safer Cleaner Enforcement• Climate Action Plan Annual Review including Climate Resilience Plan• Transport Strategy delivery update• Use of pesticides

Appendix B: Forward Plan items under the Committee's remit (1 November 2023 – 29 February 2024)

Item	Summary	Decision-making body	Indicative decision date
Camden Youth Justice Plan 2023-25	To consider approval of the plan that outlines service priorities for the Youth Justice Service.	Cabinet	20 December 2023
Freight and Servicing Action Plan	To consider the draft Freight and Servicing Action Plan for the freight and servicing sectors, which identifies how these sectors contribute to transport challenges and how these will be addressed.	Cabinet	28 February 2024

Appendix C: Supporting Communities structure related to Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee*



* NB: This is not the full top level Supporting Communities structure chart

Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee Action Tracker 2022/23

[illegible]

<p>Royal Parks would check with their colleagues to find out when the invitation to attend the Scrutiny Committee had been issued and report back to the Committee.</p>	<p>/Community Safety Manager.</p>	<p>him although Committee Secretariat may know when it was sent.</p> <p>I think the point we were making at the meeting was that while TRP was preparing the communications announcement on Primrose Hill, we did not have the scrutiny committee's May meeting date at the forefront of our minds in the maelstrom of a lot of other activity taking place in the organisation at the same time. One of the explanations may have been that the invitation could have arrived sometime earlier. We apologised for this oversight at the Committee meeting.</p>	
<p><u>Sports and Physical Activity for Children and Young People</u></p> <p>(1) To inform community centres to provide guidance and signpost</p>	<p>Head of Sport and Physical Activity/Community Sport and Physical Activity Manager</p>		

people to conduct health checks before starting exercise classes.			
<u>Corporate Performance Report Quarter 4 End of Year 2022/23</u> To provide an explanation to the Committee regarding the Cost of Living Dashboard Q4 2022/23 table on page 115 of the agenda, as the top line relating to "Households	Director of Recreation	<p>These numbers have declined recently for two reasons. The first is that PiP incorporated some Universal Credit Datashare (UCDS) information into LIFT for the first time in February. As new, different data becomes available it provides more accurate and reliable income and tenure information for UC households. It also includes UC deductions and sanctions, so this causes more households to be classed as in poverty or cash shortfall. Because of the structure of this data, it takes a couple of data refreshes to be fully represented in the dashboard, so this explains the changes between February and March. Secondly, the changes between March and May are due to annual benefit uprating, which increases household income relative to costs, meaning fewer households are in cash shortfall.</p>	Completed.

<p>with a cash shortfall – those households either at risk or are already in financial crisis where their income is not likely to meet their essential expenditure each month”, the March 2023 figure was shown as 3,769,</p> <p>as to why this figure was noticeably lower than the trend and the opposite direction to the other indicators.</p>			
<p><u>Work Programme Report</u></p>			

<p>For the Work Programme for the September meeting members asked for items/reports on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lithium powered vehicles – re probably due to the recent safety concerns • Annual report of the Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden 	<p>Senior Strategy and Policy Officer</p>		
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tree Strateg y Update (moved from the Novem ber meetin g)• Culture (the progra mme and what the Council 's strateg y is – Arts Council cuts, preserv ing theatre s)			
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ACTION	OFFICER /ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE	COMMENTS SUPPLIED BY SERVICE	COMPLETED
September 2023			
<u>ROUTEMASTER BUSES AND VENTILATION</u> To provide a breakdown of the number of people fainting on the different types of buses, fuel powered petrol buses compared to electric buses, as far as it was available after the meeting.	TfL Head of Buses Business Development		

<p><u>Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden</u></p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed to provide written details to the Committee of what happened with regards to issues residents had in applying for exemptions for the West Hampstead Primary School Health School Streets.</p> <p>The Council's implementation team was looking into exactly what happened and would share</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden</p>	<p>Unfortunately, there were delays with implementing the Healthy School Street for West Hampstead Primary school due to disruptions with securing the relevant signage. Officers prioritised addressing the delay to ensure that the scheme could launch after the half term holiday, on 30 October, and updating residents and stakeholders with information on the new go live date and how they could apply for an exemption. The scheme launched on the 30 October and all residents who requested an exemption received a response by that time.</p>	
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<p>details when the investigation was completed.</p> <p>Officers agreed to share the carbon assessments from Lime with the Committee</p> <p>Officers agreed to obtain more information on social prescribing from Castlehaven and provide this to the Committee.</p>	<p>Director of Environment and Sustainability</p> <p>Director of Recreation</p>	<p>Response from Castlehaven Community Association</p> <p>Castlehaven have recently invested £30,000 of grant funding into the site, to improve the raised beds and boundary of the site. The site is more welcoming and easier to garden in.</p> <p>They recently held an open day/re-launch following the improvements. They manage and train up volunteers and offer community gardening sessions twice a week on the site which aims to improve participants' physical and mental health well-being through food growing, gardening, nature-themed arts and crafts and other activities. They accept referrals from social prescribers, community connectors, and other organisations.</p> <p>Their Green Social Prescribing is very successful as they offer therapeutic gardening sessions and have a social prescriber employed by Castlehaven Community Association</p>	
<p><u>Camden Cultural Programme Update Report</u></p>			

<p>The Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture agreed to raise the issues relating to/ preventing Grime artists not being able to use venues in Camden for their art/music with the Police.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture</p>		
<p><u>Tree Maintenance and Tree Planting Update</u></p> <p>Officers agreed to find out further information about the reason for the removal/felling of the tree</p>	<p>Tree Manager</p>	<p>The leaning tree on the junction of Hastings Street and Judd Street was brought to our attention through a members enquiry raised by Councillor Harrison, who thought the lean had increased. An officer inspected the tree and confirmed the lean had got worse. They recorded a defect against the tree that the root plate was beginning to lift and issued an order to our contractor to remove the tree and stump.</p> <p>This location has been recorded as a vacant tree pit in our data base and will be replanted as part of this year's tree planting season.</p>	

<p>outside the pub,</p> <p>Officers agreed to collect the planting figures from Dream for Trees, Growing Green and other community groups.</p> <p>Officers agreed to look in to the reasons the whitebeams were on the biennial reduction cycle.</p>	<p>Tree Manager</p> <p>Tree Manager</p>	<p>We collect figures for tree planting after the planting season has finished. Dream for Trees and Growing Green will be approached to share their tree planting numbers in the borough at this time. Once all the figures have been collated we will publish the results through our web pages here around May/June.</p> <p>Review of whitebeams on the biennial reduction programme.</p> <p>The number of whitebeams part of the biennial reduction programme are set out in the table below. For completeness, I have included all Sorbus that are part of the programme.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="775 1046 2018 1332"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="775 1046 1077 1230">Species</th><th data-bbox="1077 1046 1323 1230">Number on Biennial reduction programme</th><th data-bbox="1323 1046 1585 1230">Total population managed by Camden</th><th data-bbox="1585 1046 2018 1230">Percentage of the population of the biennial reduction programme</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="775 1230 1077 1332">Whitebeam (<i>Sorbus aria</i>)</td><td data-bbox="1077 1230 1323 1332">15</td><td data-bbox="1323 1230 1585 1332">387</td><td data-bbox="1585 1230 2018 1332">4%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Species	Number on Biennial reduction programme	Total population managed by Camden	Percentage of the population of the biennial reduction programme	Whitebeam (<i>Sorbus aria</i>)	15	387	4%	
Species	Number on Biennial reduction programme	Total population managed by Camden	Percentage of the population of the biennial reduction programme								
Whitebeam (<i>Sorbus aria</i>)	15	387	4%								

		Swedish whitebeam (<i>Sorbus intermedia</i>)	1	156	0.6%	
		<i>Sorbus</i> sp.	12	809*	1%	
		Total	28	1352	2%	

*I have removed *Sorbus aria*, *Sorbus intermedia* and their respective cultivars from this figure as they are covered by the two rows above.

All the *Sorbus* included in the biennial reduction programme have either been implicated in a claim or the Council has received claims from properties along the street where the trees are located. Please see the table below, which lists all the sites where the *Sorbus* are on the biennial reduction programme against the number of claims the Council has received.

Road	Number of <i>Sorbus</i>	Number of claims
WADHAM GARDENS	1	1
TALACRE ROAD	1	1
MESSINA AVENUE	3	4
LAURIER ROAD	1	3
KELLY STREET	8	2
IVOR STREET	2	2
YORK RISE	1	2

		<table><tr><td>WOODSOME ROAD</td><td>8</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>SPENCER RISE</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>BOSCASTLE ROAD</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>LADY MARGARET ROAD</td><td>1</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>28</td><td>36</td></tr></table> <p>The review of all the Sorbus part of the biennial reduction programme shows that each tree should be included on this maintenance regime. Removing them from the programme may weaken the Council's position defending subsidence claims.</p>	WOODSOME ROAD	8	6	SPENCER RISE	1	3	BOSCASTLE ROAD	1	3	LADY MARGARET ROAD	1	9	Total	28	36	
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<p><u>Fire Safety Risks Associated with Lithium-ion Batteries</u></p> <p>Officers agreed to discuss with colleagues in Housing about a register of people with lithium -ion battery powered vehicles in their homes,</p>	<p>Director of Environm ent and Sustaina bility</p>																	

so that those with bad or old batteries could be advised when an upgrade was required.			
<u>Work Programme</u> The Use of Pesticides on the Work Programme to be moved to a later date – probably February/March. NLWA Joint Waste Strategy to be moved to the January meeting and the Committee was looking to invite Thames Water back for	Senior Policy and Strategy Officer / Principal Committee Officer		

an update also in January 2024.			
ACTION	OFFICER /ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE	COMMENTS SUPPLIED BY SERVICE	COMPLETED
November 2023			
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ENDS