

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Tuesday 9 February 2021 at 7.30 pm
Microsoft Teams - Online

This meeting is a virtual meeting which is being hosted on Microsoft Teams. Councillors and registered public participants will be sent access details nearer the date of the meeting.

Members of the public who wish to watch the meeting can do so via a livestream which will appear on the Council's YouTube page
<https://www.youtube.com/user/HarlowCouncil>

1. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive Councillors' declarations of interest (if any) in relation to any matters on the agenda.
3. Minutes (Pages 3 - 7)
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2020.
4. Matters arising
5. Written questions from members of the public
To receive any questions from members of the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.
6. Written questions from Councillors
To receive any questions from Councillors in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.
7. Responses of the Cabinet to Reports of the Scrutiny Committee
To consider responses (if any) of the Cabinet to reports and recommendations from the Committee.
8. Policing and Community Safety Annual Review - Presentation and Q&A with the Police (Pages 8 - 9)
9. Work Plan (Page 10)
To review the Committee's work plan for the current year.

10. Allotment - Topic Submission Form (Pages 11 - 12)

11. References from Other Committees

12. Matters of Urgent Business

Such other business which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be received as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances to be specified in the minutes.

**MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON**

13 October 2020

7.30 - 8.05 pm

PRESENT**Committee Members**

Councillor Tony Edwards (Chair)
Councillor David Carter (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Joel Charles
Councillor Bob Davis
Councillor Maggie Hulcoop
Councillor Shannon Jezzard
Councillor Shona Johnson
Councillor Emma Toal
Councillor Nancy Watson

Officers

Simon Hill, Head of Governance
Adam Rees, Governance Support Officer

22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Simon Carter.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

24. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2020 are agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

25. MATTERS ARISING**a) Minute 14 - Matters Arising**

The Committee noted that more information on paddling pools costs had been circulated.

b) Minute 19 - Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2020/21

Councillor Hulcoop explained that she and Councillor Edwards had met Officers to discuss work carried out on domestic abuse within the Community Impact Officer work stream for Covid-19 recovery. She updated the Committee on the work which was being carried

out and said that she would continue to have discussions on the matter with Officers.

26. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

None.

27. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

None.

28. **RESPONSES OF THE CABINET TO REPORTS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

None.

29. **POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ANNUAL REVIEW**

- a) Topic Submission Form

RESOLVED that the topic submission form be agreed.

- b) Agreement of Scope and Questions

The Committee considered a list of questions for potential submission to the Police for a presentation, and question and answer session at a subsequent meeting.

The Committee agreed that the question on county lines would be amended to look at reinforcement of work going forwards following the recent raids earlier in the month.

It was also agreed the questions on the prevalence of shoplifting, and bicycle use in the town centre, would be added.

RESOLVED that the questions appended to the minutes would be submitted to the Police.

30. **WORK PLAN**

The Committee received a report summarising its work plan for 2020/21. The Committee noted that a quote had been received from a consultant to carry out the Delivery of Council House Building Programme and Housing and Accommodation Requirements for Adults with a Moderate/Severe Learning Disability reviews.

The Committee agreed that for each review, a Councillor from both of the Political Groups would be nominated to engage with the consultant.

RESOLVED that the work plan be noted.

31. **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

None.

32. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

Police priority	Questions
More local, visible and accessible policing	What progress has been made regarding Policing in the Town Centre and neighbourhood areas?
Cracking down on antisocial behaviour	<p>What preventative methods are you using to combat issues such as anti-social behaviour?</p> <p>In cracking down on ASB, have there been any multi agency case conferences on ASB in Harlow?</p> <p>Is the use of AirBNB or similar an emerging crime in Harlow? What steps have been taken to close down these venues, referring to party 100+ Nicholls Field or similar music event in warehouse areas</p> <p>What additional resources are being used to address issue of unlawful Traveller Encampments in the absence of current injunction?</p> <p>Because of the enforcement ruling now on face masks and no more than 6 meeting. Do the Police have enough numbers to deal with those residents who disobey these rules under COVID situation?</p> <p>Has there been an increase or decrease in shoplifting following the Covid restrictions?</p> <p>Has there been an increase or decrease in cyclists within the town centre following the Covid lockdown?</p>
Breaking the cycle of domestic abuse	
Tackling gangs and serious violence	<p>Modern Slavery questions: Is it an issue in Harlow? Have there been any charges brought over the past three years? What was the nature of the slavery – domestic service/prostitution/massage parlours/nail bars/car washing/agriculture/other? Is it something about which we should be aware? How can we be aware? To whom should we report an suspicions?</p> <p>In tackling gangs and serious violence, how successful has Harlow Divn been and where is there a need for improvement?</p>

	<p>What prevention work is taking place in Harlow Divn to discourage young people from joining gangs?</p> <p>County lines? Following on from the recent raids which saw 19 people arrested on 8 October, what is being done to reinforce this work going forwards?</p>
Disrupting and preventing organised crime	
Protecting children and vulnerable people from harm	With the high number of Permitted Developments in Harlow and families being transferred from London Boroughs, is information being shared around violence & vulnerability and potential victims?
Improving safety on our roads	In improving road crime are there any Community Speedwatch groups in the Harlow area?
Other Questions	
	Overall what are the current issues for your service in Harlow ?
	Are there any ways that you feel we could/ should improve joint working?

Agenda Item 8

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Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2020/21

Work	Tuesday 14 July 2020	Tuesday 1 September 2020	Tuesday 13 October 2020	Tuesday 1 December 2020 CANCELLED	Tuesday 9 February 2021	Tuesday 16 March 2021
Policing and Community Safety Annual Review			Topic Submission Form Agreement of scope and questions		Presentation and Q&A with the Police	
Review of Overview and Scrutiny	Final Report	Report on Fast Track Process				
Housing and Accommodation Requirements for Adults with a Moderate /Severe Learning Disability		Topic Submission Form				
Allotments		Topic Submission Form			Topic Submission Form	
Delivery of Council House Building Programme		Topic Submission Form				Final Report
Domestic Abuse in Harlow During Covid-19 Lockdown		Topic Submission Form				

Scrutiny Committee – Review Topic Submission Form

Councillor Name and other Councillors supporting submission	Tony Durcan, Simon Carter, Tony Edwards, Maggie Hulcoop and Shannon Jezzard
Review Topic	Review of Allotments
Links to the Council's priorities	Wellbeing and Social Inclusion A Clean and Green Environment
What priority level is this item?	Medium
Terms of reference (to include the scope of the review)	To establish what land has, and is going to be, set aside for allotments To review current allotments access and availability To understand the benefits and challenges faced by current allotment users To determine whether sites should continue as single use sites, or be used as a co-operative type of community usage, or a mix of both To make recommendations on how the sites can be best utilised for all sectors of the community
Purpose and objective of the review	To improve the provision of allotments in Harlow in line with best practice and the needs of the community
Methodology/approach (methods to be used for gathering evidence)	Background information requested from Officers Questionnaires for current allotment tenants
Written evidence required	General background information Relevant legislation Questionnaire responses
Potential witnesses	Relevant Portfolio Holder/s Relevant Officers Allotment tenants
Potential Stakeholder involvement (who are the stakeholders and how will	Allotment tenants HTS (Property and Environment) Ltd Allotment Association

their views be sought)	
Site visits (where and when)	Allotment sites – Following receipt of background information and questionnaire responses
Publicity (methods to be used)	Social Media Direct contact with allotment users
Resources (people, expenditure)	Officer time to provide clerical support and analyse questionnaire results Suitable staff and funding to make necessary alterations to allotments
Barriers/dangers/risks (any weaknesses or potential pitfalls in the review)	Lack of Officer resources Limited response to questionnaire Lack of financial resources
Measures of success	Increased use of allotments More accessible allotment sites