

## Governance and Resources Scrutiny Commission 2005 - 2016

### **REMIT**

The Commission's remit has a largely internal focus, covering finance and resources, law and democracy, customer and corporate support services. It also has a key role in scrutiny of the budget.

The remit covers services such as finance, ICT, human resources, and legal services. Evidence is often sought from other boroughs to help us examine how effectively the Council is run, and ensure that the public is getting value for money from services.

<b><i>Title</i></b>	<b><i>Scope</i></b>	<b><i>Links</i></b>
Governance and Resources Scrutiny Commission	Finance and Resources, Legal, HR and Regulatory Services, LBH Support Services (including functional aspects of Chief Executive's Directorate) and Corporate policies.	<i>Council:</i> Legal, HR and Regulatory Services, Finance and Resources.  <i>Partnerships:</i> Team Hackney Board, matters relating to Economic Development Partnership

### **Key Partners and Local Organisations**

Hackney Council directorates:

[Finance and Resources](#) - responsible for financial management of the Council, ICT, registration services across the authority, property, audit and anti-fraud, revenues and benefits, customer services, procurement, and facilities management.

[Chief Executive's Directorate](#) - covering corporate policy, performance, partnerships, consultation and communications, HR, legal, electoral and governance.

### **WORK OF THE COMMISSION**

#### **Scrutiny of the Council's Budget**

The bulk of the scrutiny of the Council's budget and financial planning is done by this Commission. Previously some of this was shared with OSB however the Commission will now assume full responsibility for this task.

Twice yearly the Commission considers the *Medium Term Planning* report and regularly considers reports on the *Overall Financial Position* of the Council. It also provides input on a regular basis on the *budget planning cycle* and questions the Cabinet Member for Finance. This includes examining savings proposals that come forward, monitoring financial forecasts, and holding the council to account for delivering its agreed budget and savings.

## Reviews

The remainder of the time is taken up with reviews and the Commission usually carries out one major review and one shorter review each year.

Once review reports are agreed they are sent to Cabinet for an 'Executive Response' and this goes on the Cabinet Agenda. Some scrutiny reports and their responses are also debated at Full Council. Six months after a review the Commission requests updates on the implementation of the recommendations from the relevant officers.

## Recent Reviews

Recent work has included:

- **Devolution** – The Prospects for Hackney
- **Delivering Public Services** - Whole Place, Whole System Approach
- **ICT** - This was a review of use of ICT to find out how the Council can better use it to deliver services in future, and what the implications are for both residents and staff. The final report will be agreed at the next meeting.
- **London Living Wage** – This was a review of the impact of the London Living Wage on the Council as an employer, as an employer of agency staff, and an employer of contractors providing services on behalf of the Council. The Cabinet Response is awaited.
- **Council governance** - There are lots of ways for residents to get their views heard on a public platform, but not many people do. This was an inquiry into how effective the various council meetings are in supporting residents to get their views heard. Reported July 2013.

## Links to reports of previous reviews

Over the past years the Commission has carried out reviews on the following:

[Performance Management 12/13](#)

[Customer Service 11/12](#)

[Fees & Charges 11/12](#)

[Debt Collection 10/11](#)

[Elections 10/11](#)

[Mayoral Model Review 09/10 \(PDF, 365KB\)](#)

[HR Recruitment and Retention Report 08/09 \(PDF, 330KB\)](#)  
[Team Hackney 07/08 \(PDF, 200KB\)](#)  
[ICT Review 06/07 \(PDF, 948KB\)](#)  
[Procurement Review 06/07 \(PDF, 688KB\)](#)  
[Commercial Property Disposal Report 05/06 \(PDF, 421KB\)](#)

### **One-off items**

Some recent examples of one-off items include:

- Impact of Mayoral Model
- Service First Briefing
- Review of European Parliamentary Elections
- Value for Money programmes
- Support to Members to engage with residents
- Procurement review
- Councillor Induction post elections
- Team Hackney
- HR Review – Image and reputation and Valuing People
- Debt, debtors and debt collection
- Budget setting process
- Census and population update
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Councillor
- Localism Act
- Implementation of Savings 2011/12
- Monitoring major financial changes affecting the council in [June 2012](#), covering: schools funding, council tax support grant, and local retention of business rates
- The council's capital programme in [July 2012](#) and [December 2012](#)
- Draft savings proposals for 2013/14 in [September 2012](#)
- The effect of delivering savings agreed to date in [October 2012](#)
- A proposed new council tax support scheme in [November 2012](#)
- [provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2013/14, January 2013](#)
- [Hackney's draft schedule of fees and charges, February 2013](#)
- [monitoring the council's preparation for the introduction of welfare reform, February 2013](#)
- Evaluation of introduction of Ward Forums (Dec 2013)
- Budget Scrutiny Task Groups 2015/16
- Regular budget updates (Ongoing)
- Impact of welfare reform changes on Council budget 2014/15
- Complaints annual report
- North London Waste Authority (fees and charges to Council)
- Corporate Cross Cutting Programmes
- HR Workforce Strategy
- Elections Review
- Council Restructure
- Income Generation.

## LIFECYCLE OF A REVIEW – A BRIEF GUIDE

The schematic below shows the processes involved in the completion of a typical scrutiny review.

