

REPORT TO: Corporate Policy and Performance Board
DATE: 3 March 2015
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Policy and Resources
SUBJECT: Topic Groups 2015/16
WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members' views in relation to the formation of Topic Groups for 2015/16.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Members provide guidance on their approach to Topic Group formation for 2015/16.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Policy and Performance Boards have the ability to form Topic Groups on areas on which they wish to carry out in depth reviews. The only restriction that exists is that the organisation needs to have the capacity to support them effectively.

3.2 At present, this PPB already has two Topic Groups ongoing. One which oversees the operation of the Council's Discretionary Support Scheme, which has been highly effective and provided significant guidance to the Executive Board and Officers, in relation to the delivery of that extremely important service.

3.3 The other Topic Group relates to the review of Fees and Charges. A major piece of work that it is still in its infancy but will undoubtedly pick up pace and require significant Member and Officer commitment.

3.4 It is felt that both Topic Groups are important to continue and would provide a sufficient work programme for Members through the next Municipal Year.

3.5 The views of Members are requested.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The formation to Topic Groups allows Members to carry out in depth reviews of key areas of Council policy and to form recommendations to the Executive Board. An important part of the role of Scrutiny.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 It is important when forming Topic Groups to ensure that the organisation has the capacity to support them effectively.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 It is important that Topic Groups are focused on the Council's priorities.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 There are no equality and diversity issues associated with this report.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 None.