

REPORT TO: Corporate Policy and Performance Board
DATE: 7 June 2016
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director -Community & Resources
SUBJECT: Topic Groups 2016/17
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 2016/17.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Members indicate their preferences regarding Topic Group formation for 2016/17.

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 During 2015/16, this PPB had 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 related to the review of Fees and Charges. This was a major piece of work which has recently concluded and was reported to Executive Board. The conclusion of that work would enable a further Topic Group to be set up to consider another issue should Members so wish.

3.4 The views of Members were sought at the February meeting and it was agreed that the Discretionary Support Scheme Topic Group would continue as there was still work to do, and thought would be given to setting up a second group. A suggestion has been made that some work could be carried out in scrutinising concessionary charges at Council venues, and Members are invited to consider this.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The formation of Topic Groups allows Members to carry out in depth reviews of key areas of Council policy and to form recommendations to the Executive Board, which is 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.