

Suggestions for topics to be scrutinised – evaluation table

A Member, Officer or member of the public suggesting a topic for scrutiny must complete Section 1 as fully as possible. Completed tables will be presented to Overview & Scrutiny for consideration.

<p>Section 1 – Scrutiny Suggestion Scrutiny of WBC policy on tall buildings following resolution at full Council meeting in July 2017</p>	
<p>Proposer: Councillor Peter Jeffree</p>	
<p>Topic recommended for scrutiny:</p> <p><i>Please include as much detail as is available about the specific such as;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>areas which should be <u>included</u> in the review.</i> • <i>areas which should be <u>excluded</u> from the review.</i> • <i>Whether the focus should be on past performance, future policy or both.</i> 	<p>Review current WBC planning policy on tall buildings and emerging policy in the draft Local Plan part 2.</p> <p>Review WBC emergency plans and procedures for major incidents.</p> <p>Review Building Regulation requirements for fire precautions in tall buildings.</p> <p>Review British Standards relevant to fire safety in tall buildings.</p> <p>Review emerging information from Grenfell investigations and public inquiry, where relevant to Watford.</p>
<p>Why have you recommended this topic for scrutiny?</p>	<p>This scrutiny topic arises from public concern about safety of tall buildings following the Grenfell Tower disaster</p>

What are the specific outcomes you wish to see from the review?

Examples might include:

- *To identify what is being done and what the potential barriers are;*
- *To review relevant performance indicators;*
- *To compare our policies with those of a similar authority;*
- *To assess the environmental/social impacts;*
- *To Benchmark current service provision;*
- *To find out community perceptions and experience;*
- *To identify the gap between provision and need*

A clearer definition of what we mean by the term 'tall building'

Identify which buildings in Watford are within that definition

(including residential and non-residential buildings)

Classification of construction methods used in Watford's stock of tall buildings

Identify best practice for fire safety management in tall buildings

Identify shortcomings in fire safety precautions in individual buildings or building types

Make recommendations for improvements where necessary

Make recommendations for future policy changes

Achieve clarity about WBC major incident emergency procedures, and make recommendations where relevant.

<p>How do you think evidence might be obtained?</p> <p><i>Examples might include</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Questionnaires/Surveys</i> • <i>Site visits</i> • <i>Interviewing witnesses</i> • <i>Research</i> • <i>Performance data</i> • <i>Public hearings</i> • <i>Comparisons with other local authorities</i> 	<p>Desktop research on Watford's current building stock - heights, construction method and materials etc.</p> <p>Desktop research on future plans for tall buildings in Watford</p> <p>Site visits to relevant buildings of different heights</p> <p>Gather relevant information from other local authorities for comparison</p> <p>Gather information and advice from the Fire Service and Building Research Establishment</p> <p>Gather information and advice from WBC building control and planning departments</p>
<p>Does the proposed item meet the following criteria?</p>	
<p>It must affect a group or community of people</p>	<p>This scrutiny is relevant to any owners, operators or occupants of tall buildings in Watford.</p>
<p>It must relate to a service, event or issue in which the council has a significant stake</p>	<p>Relevant to the Council's planning, building control and Housing functions.</p>

<p>It must not have been a topic of scrutiny within the last 12 months</p> <p><i>There will be exceptions to this arising from notified changing circumstances. Scrutiny will also maintain an interest in the progress of recommendations and issues arising from past reports.</i></p>	<p>This has not previously been a scrutiny topic.</p>
<p>It must not be an issue, such as planning or licensing, which is dealt with by another council committee</p>	<p>Tall buildings policy would fall under the remit of Planning Policy Advisory Group, is this a problem?</p>
<p>Does the topic meet the council's priorities?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify ways to manage the borough's housing needs2. Champion smart growth and economic prosperity3. Provide for our vulnerable and disadvantaged communities4. Deliver a digital Watford to empower our community5. Secure our own financial future <p><i>Please confirm which ones - in BOLD</i></p>

<p>Are you aware of any limitations of time, other constraints or risks which need to be taken into account?</p> <p><i>Factors to consider are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>forthcoming milestones, demands on the relevant service area and member availability:</i> • <i>imminent policy changes either locally, regionally or nationally within the area under review.</i> 	<p>No specific time limitations however this topic could affect policies within the draft local plan part 2 which is currently overdue for publication.</p> <p>Likely to be affected by national building regulations changes as information emerges from investigations and the public inquiry around Grenfell.</p>
<p>Does the topic involve a Council partner or other outside body?</p>	<p>Emergency procedures for major incidents are a joint responsibility with HCC and emergency services.</p> <p>Fire safety in buildings is subject to recommendations of the Fire Service and the Building Research Establishment.</p>

<p>Are there likely to be any Equality implications which will need to be considered?</p> <p><i>Protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Age</i> • <i>Disability</i> • <i>Gender reassignment</i> • <i>Pregnancy or maternity</i> • <i>Race</i> • <i>Religion or belief</i> • <i>Sex</i> • <i>Sexual orientation</i> • <i>Marriage or civil partnership (only in respect of the requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination)</i> 	<p>May have implications for age and disability</p>
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<p>Sign off <i>(It is expected that any Councillor proposing a topic agreed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee will participate in the Task Group)</i></p>	
<p>Councillor/Officer <i>Councillor Peter Jeffree in consultation with Councillor Nigel Bell</i></p>	<p>Date 09/08/2017</p>