

Overview & Scrutiny in Hackney

Everything you need to know

What do we scrutinise?

The council takes lots of decisions every day about how to provide public services and spend money.

These decisions are taken by the local Cabinet, made up of the Mayor...



...and 7 Cabinet Members



How do we do it?

To make sure these decisions are taken fairly, that local people get a say on how policies are produced, and that services are provided in the best possible manner, many of the other councillors sit on 'Scrutiny Commissions'

Overview & Scrutiny

In Hackney we have 5 Commissions

Children & Young People



We look at all services for children and young people, including those provided by The Learning Trust and Social Services

Community Safety & Social Inclusion



We review issues of crime AND community safety. We also look at support for the voluntary sector, community cohesion & adult learning

Governance & Resources



We review the way the council operates, including how the budget is prepared AND agreed

Health in Hackney



We look at all health services, adult social care AND services for older people

Living in Hackney



We have a remit for all housing issues, as well as leisure & culture, planning, sustainability, waste and street cleanliness

And an overarching management committee called the Overview & Scrutiny Board



Made up of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Commissions, we coordinate the function and run special projects to scrutinise council performance

As mentioned before, we also review other public services, including



Working together for a safer London



So how does this work in practice?

At the start of the council year (June) each of the Commissions pick the 2-3 topics they want to review

They then decide who they want to talk to, what sort of information is needed to make a proper assessment, and the timelines to get all this done

Most importantly, we talk to the people who use the services, AND the organisations which represent them. This is how we usually get the most honest picture of how well the council (or public partner) is doing

The Commission councillors (along with the trusty support officer, who collates all the information and is the contact point for the review) then get to work looking at the particular service's performance, finding out who in the country does it better (and "borrowing" their ideas!), and looking for improvements that can be realistically implemented in Hackney



I'm interested, how do I get involved?

You CAN come to AN evening meeting, have A cup of tea AND see how we hold all those decision-makers to account

You CAN submit evidence to reviews ON A variety of topics

You CAN suggest A new topic for A Commission to review next year

You CAN give us A call, send us AN email, or write us A letter, ON ANY of the topics we have reviewed- or anything else really, we're A friendly bunch!

Thanks for your interest- please let us know if you have ANY comments or questions



scrutiny@hackney.gov.uk
020 8356 3341

Room 134, Hackney Town Hall, Mare St EB 1EA