

mayor and cabinet the mayor

- is elected by the whole borough to lead and speak for the whole borough;
- chooses up to nine councillors to form the cabinet with specific areas of responsibility;
- sets out major decisions to be taken in a monthly Forward Plan;
- proposes budget and key policy;
- takes decisions to implement policy within policy framework;
- considers recommendations for actions with officer advice

the cabinet

- provide advice to the mayor;
- jointly with the mayor take decisions relating to contracts

council

- 54 elected councillors, three for each of the 18 wards
- appoints overview & scrutiny committee and other committees
- approves policy framework and budget

overview and scrutiny

- meets at least once a year and is ultimately responsible for overview and scrutiny;
- delegates work to other scrutiny bodies - six select committees, two business panels, all of which are formally sub committees of overview and scrutiny;
- the business panel co-ordinates the work programmes of select committees;
- the six select committees draw up work programmes each year to hold the Mayor and senior officers to account for decisions; check performance; examine issues in depth and make recommendations for policy development;
- responsibility for scrutinising health services and health issues with the healthier communities select committee, which makes suggestions to the local health trusts for action and improvements;
- the safer stronger communities select committee has responsibility for fulfilling the overview and scrutiny functions in relation to crime reduction and equality of opportunity;

statutory committees

- standards committee
- health & well being board

regulatory committees

licensing (x2). These committees are responsible for all entertainment licensing and the provision of late night refreshment.

planning (x4). The planning committees consider planning matters across the whole borough. The Strategic Committee only considers strategic regeneration proposals.

other committees

- audit panel
- appointments
- elections
- health & safety
- pensions investment

working parties

- constitution working party

business panel

- children & young people select committee
- healthier communities select committee
- public accounts select committee
- safer stronger communities select committee
- sustainable development select committee
- housing select committee