

Meeting of the

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 4 January 2017 at 6.00 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

	PAGE NUMBER	WARD(S) AFFECTED
3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES		
To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 8 th December, 2016.	1 - 8	All Wards
6. FORTHCOMING DECISIONS	9 - 12	All Wards
7. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE QUERY AND ACTION LOG 2016/17	13 - 16	All Wards

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HELD AT 6.45 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2016

**ROOM C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor John Pierce (Chair)
Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE (Vice-Chair) – Scrutiny Lead for Resources
Councillor Amina Ali – Scrutiny Lead for Development and
Renewal

Councillor Abdul Asad
Councillor Julia Dockerill – Scrutiny Lead for Children's Services
Councillor Clare Harrison – Scrutiny Lead for Adult Health and
Wellbeing

Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim
Councillor Helal Uddin

Co-opted Members Present:

Victoria Ekubia – (Roman Catholic Church
Representative)
Dr Phillip Rice – (Church of England Representative)

Other Councillors Present:

Mayor John Biggs
Councillor David Edgar (Cabinet Member for Resources)
Councillor Sirajul Islam (Cabinet Member for Housing Management and
Performance)

Apologies:

Councillor Oliur Rahman

Officers Present:

Zena Cooke – (Corporate Director, Resources)
Janet Fasan – Head of Legal (Operations)
Sharon Godman – Service Head, Strategy, Policy &
Performance

David Knight – (Senior Democratic Services Officer)
Shanara Matin – (Scrutiny Policy Officer)
Neville Murton – (Service Head, Finance &

Peter Quirk

- Procurement)
– Senior Strategy, Policy &
Performance Officer
– (Director of Adults' Services)

Denise Radley

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Oliur Rahman.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations were received.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

The Chair **Moved** and it was:-

RESOLVED

That the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 26th October, 2016 was approved as a correct record of the proceedings subject to the following amendment:

Item 12.4 Progress Update on Cycling Safety Challenge Session

The Committee wanted an update on what consultation there had been with Hackney Council on the feasibility of keeping the cycle path in the Park open to cyclists in the evening.

4. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINY LEAD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES, LOCALITIES AND CULTURE

The Committee noted that there was a vacancy for the position of the Scrutiny Lead for Communities, Localities and Culture. Accordingly the Chair asked if there was any Member who wished to be considered for the appointment of Lead Scrutiny Member for Communities, Localities and Culture. As a result of discussions on the report Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim and Councillor Abdul Asad both indicated that they wished to be considered for this vacancy and were invited to address the Committee as to why they felt able to undertake the work of the scrutiny aligned to this Directorate.

As a result of considering their respective presentations the Chair **Moved** and it was:-

RESOLVED

To **defer** consideration of the appointment for the position of the Scrutiny Lead for Communities, Localities and Culture.

5. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

Nil items

6. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS

Nil items

**7. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE QUERY AND ACTION LOG
2016/17**

The Committee received and noted an update on the outstanding actions.

8. FORTHCOMING DECISIONS

The Committee received and noted the published list of forthcoming decisions.

9. SCRUTINY SPOTLIGHT

9.1 Welfare Reform Spotlight

The Committee considered the presentation from the Deputy Mayor that highlighted a number of key issues relating to Welfare Reform and this was followed by questions and comments from Members which are summarised as follows:

- How do we provide clear pathways to advise people especially those in the poverty trap that is preventing them from climbing out of welfare dependency?
- How do we work with our partner agencies?
- What practical support do we actually offer families regarding Universal Credit?
- How can the Council and its partners identify any issues those in receipt of benefits will have with the introduction of direct payments?

A summary of the response is set out below:

- A fact sheet is being prepared for Councillors to enable them to advise their constituents and their dependents;
- There is a Welfare Reform Task Group that is made up of key agencies. It has developed a robust Action Plan to provide information and advice following the introduction of Universal Credit. Practical Advice is also available from the local Food Banks; and
- The Council and its partners identify any issues through public health and the data collected by Job Centre Plus. Also local authorities are lobbying the DWP about the amount of support those being transferred onto the new system will receive.

9.2 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Planning 2017-18 to 2019-20 - Update

The Committee considered the presentation from Councillor David Edgar (Cabinet Member for Resources) that highlighted a number of key issues in relation to the update on the Budget Consultation, development of Capital & Investment strategies and key messages from the Autumn Statement. This was followed by questions and comments from Members which are summarised as follows:

- What did LBTH commit to in order to get Central Government to agree to the four year funding settlement?
- Concerns have been expressed that the increase in the business rates will make life difficult for companies so what is being done to minimise this impact?
- What is the risk if many of the large financial businesses were to leave Canary Wharf?
- Which Minority; Black and Ethnic communities were consulted as part of the Budget Consultation?
- What discussions have there been on the Sharing of Services;
- It would be helpful to see how LBTH compares to others authorities with regard to development of Capital & Investment strategies; and
- The Committee wished to see the bases cases that have been submitted and the impacts these changes will have on communities and businesses in LBTH.

A summary of the response is set out below:

- Councils are required to develop an Efficiency Plan in order to qualify for the four year funding settlement and can be found on this [link](#);
- The Government has put in place transitional measures to minimise the impact but consideration will be given to a local scheme to help businesses in LBTH;
- It is too early to predict the impact of the recent Referendum on those Financial Businesses based in Tower Hamlets;
- The Council's Communications Team will provide the detail of which groups were consulted;
- Services such as Internal Audit; Pensions Administration and Reographics are potential areas for shared service arrangements; and
- There have been no formal discussions yet as the benefits in implementing such a service model.

9.3 Mayor's Spotlight

The Committee considered the presentation from the Mayor that highlighted a number of key issues in relation to the Key Achievement's for 2016 and the

Best Value Action Plan and this was followed by questions and comments from Members which are summarised as follows:

- The results of Air Quality reports indicate that traffic calming measures increase the emissions of some pollutants from motor vehicles;
- Who is responsible for the cleaning of the cycle superhighway?;
- How effective are the Registered Housing providers in enforcement against those who dump illegally on their estates?;
- How many schools are in the Tower Hamlets Education Partnership?;
- Work needs to be done regarding the enforcement of the 20 mph zones;
- What is being done to address residents' concerns about nitrous oxide; discarded needles; drug-related waste and anti-social behaviour?;
- There needs to be more consideration about how the Council engages with residents e.g. Wider use of the Idea Stores;
- What is being done to address the use of zero hour's contracts within LBTH?;
- What is being done to address the way Altab Ali Day is managed?;
- What is being done to address the numbers of women employed within the NHS?; and
- When considering the development of the Cycle Highway across Victoria Park consideration needs to be given to the incidence of anti-social behaviour and road safety.

A summary of the response is set out below:

- It would seem that traffic calming measures do increase the emissions of some pollutants from motor vehicles however motorists can be re-educated to understand the effects of their driving style and roads can be re-designed;
- LBTH undertakes the cleaning of the cycle superhighway;
- Discussions are being held with the Registered Housing Providers on the enforcement against those who dump illegally on their estates;
- The majority of Tower Hamlets schools are within the Partnership;
- There needs to be a regular programme of enforcement and education regarding the 20 mph zones;
- LBTH and its partner agencies are working to address the use of nitrous oxide; discarded needles; drug-related waste and addressing anti-social behaviour;
- It is recognised that there needs to be consideration of how LBTH engages with residents;
- There is not a significant number of staff employed on zero hour's contracts in LBTH;
- We are not aware of any particular issues of a contentious nature but will be considering carefully how next year's event is managed; and
- The employment of women in the NHS is being monitored by the Health and Well-Being Board and through the Inner North East London Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

10. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Nil Items

11. VERBAL UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY LEADS

The Committee noted that:

1. Inner North East London (INEL) Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be meeting on 13th December to consider an Overview of NHS 111 Integrated Urgent Care Procurement and Update on North East London Sustainability and Transformation Plan; and
2. The Review into the Night Time Economy had been convened twice so far and there would be a public session on the 13th December, 2016 and it was hoped the GLA Lead would be in attendance.

12. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

12.1 Review of proportionality and allocation of places on Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committees

The Committee noted that a number of changes in the political composition of the Council have occurred recently following the Whitechapel Ward By-Election where Councillor Shafi Ahmed was elected. In addition, Councillors Shah Alam, Abdul Asad, Aminur Khan and Rabina Khan had given notice to the proper officer that for the purposes of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 ('the 1989 Act') they are no longer members of the Independent Group.

Councillors Shafi Ahmed, Shah Alam, Abdul Asad, Rabina Khan, Aminur Khan also informed the Proper Officer that they are forming a new Group on the Council called 'Tower Hamlets People's Alliance' with Councillor Rabina Khan as the Group Leader.

Consequent to these changes it was noted that the Council had reviewed the allocation of places on its Committees, including the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on Monday 5 December 2016. It is now for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to do the same for its Sub-Committees as they are also covered by the 1989 Act. The proposed new Sub-Committee allocations are set out at paragraph 4.2 overleaf.

As a result of discussions on this report.

The Committee **agreed**:

1. The proportionality as outlined in the report;
2. The allocation of seats on each Sub-Committee:

3. The size of each Sub-Committee;
4. The increase of the Grants Scrutiny Sub-Committee to 7 seats; and
5. That Members and deputies be appointed to serve on those Sub-Committees in accordance with nominations from the political groups to be notified to the Acting Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The agenda circulated contained no exempt/ confidential business and there was therefore no requirement to exclude the press and public to allow for its consideration.

14. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Nil items

15. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

Nil items

16. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL) CABINET PAPERS

Nil items

17. ANY OTHER EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

Nil items

The meeting ended at 9.40 p.m.

Chair, Councillor John Pierce
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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FORTHCOMING DECISIONS

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EXECUTIVE WORK PLAN January 2017

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY	LEAD MEMBER	SCRUTINY LEAD	CABINET
Establishing Housing Delivery Vehicles	This report proposes establishing bespoke housing delivery vehicles to expand the Council's range of interventions in the housing market and provide a range of new homes to meet the needs of the rapidly growing local population.	Cabinet Member for Strategic Development	Scrutiny Lead for Development and Renewal	7 Feb 17
Contracts Forward Plan - Quarter 4 (2016-2017)	To note the forward plan for quarter 4.	Cabinet Member for Resources	Scrutiny Lead for Resources	7 Feb 17
Delivering the Prevent Duty; Promoting Safeguarding in Tower Hamlets	To agree the recommendations and action plan in response to the Scrutiny Review of the Prevent Strategy and delivery in Tower Hamlets.	Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety	Scrutiny Lead for Adults Health and Wellbeing	7 Feb 17
Review of Maternity Services at Royal London Hospital, Scrutiny Review Report and Action Plan	<p>This paper submits the report and recommendations of the Health Scrutiny sub-committee Scrutiny Review on Maternity Services, and the 'Action Plan' for implementation.</p> <p>The Mayor in Cabinet is required to note the scrutiny review report as agreed by the Health Scrutiny Panel on 28th June 2016 and agree the 'Action Plan' in response to the review recommendations.</p>	Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services	Scrutiny Lead for Adults Health and Wellbeing	7 Feb 17

EXECUTIVE WORK PLAN January 2017

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY	LEAD MEMBER	SCRUTINY LEAD	CABINET
Tower Hamlets Wi-Fi Strategy - Offering Providers access to Council assets	To consider the recommendations as set out in the report	Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth	Scrutiny Lead for Development and Renewal	7 Mar 17
Open Space Strategy	Review and comment on the draft Open Space Strategy following consultation and prior to consideration of adoption.	Cabinet Member for Culture	Scrutiny Lead for Children's Services	7 Mar 17
High Streets and Town Centres Strategy	To consider the scope of the strategy.	Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth	Scrutiny Lead for Development and Renewal	7 Mar 17
Draped Seated Woman - selection of local hosting partner	The Mayor has committed to bring the Henry Moore sculpture "Draped Seated Woman" (locally known as "Old Flo") back to Tower Hamlets. This report will set out the outcome of the selection process for sites and recommend to the Mayor in Cabinet which partner organisation should host the sculpture locally.	Cabinet Member for Culture	Scrutiny Lead for Development and Renewal	7 Mar 17
Business Friendly Tower Hamlets	To consider the proposed charter.	Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth	Scrutiny Lead for Development and Renewal	7 Mar 17

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OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE QUERY AND ACTION LOG 2016/17

8 December 2016

Meeting and agenda item	Question or request for action	Response or current status
8 December 2016 -Review of the minutes of the previous meeting	What is the current status of the discussions with LB Hackney regarding the proposal to keep the road to the south of Victoria Park open for longer and to explore ways to influence the parks statutory opening hours?	<p>Officers currently investigating costs associated with additional lighting and CCTV provision in specific areas of the park , prior to developing any potential business cases or proposals.</p> <p>Dialogue is ongoing with key partners and stakeholders.</p>
8 December 2016 - Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Planning 2017-18 to 2019-20 - Update	What is the specific nature of the efficiency statement prepared for Government as part of the multi -year funding settlement?	<p>Full details of the efficiency statement are listed on the Councils website through the following link :</p> <p>http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgn/council_and_democracy/council_budgets_and_spending/Tower_Hamlets_Council_Efficiency_Plan_2016_20.aspx</p>
	Quantify the value to the council of business rates received from the Canary Wharf business district, what is the specific share currently received by Tower Hamlets as a contribution to the councils funding.	<p>For the Canary Wharf area (based on relevant postcodes) there are 1,159 business rates assessments which grossed £192,626 112 in 2016/17, this provided the Council with £57,787,833 as a contribution to funding (based on the current retention rate of 30%) .</p> <p>The total gross collection figure for the whole Tower Hamlets area for the same period was £401 593 02 . The Canary Wharf area therefore represents 48% of the Business rates funding collected by the Council.</p>

		The proportion of retained rate income is currently 30% but this will change with the move to 100% retention in 2020, so the impact of any reduction in the business rate base or tariffs will be greater.
	Provide a full list of all of the BAME media contacted as part of the budget consultation exercise.	List of contacted BAME media organisations provided under separate cover to members of the committee.
8 December 2016 - Mayor's Spotlight session	How many of the schools in Tower Hamlets have signed up to the education partnership agreement ?	A total of 88 schools have joined THE Partnership to date, which is approaching 90% of the borough's schools. This represents a powerful statement of our schools' commitment to the principles of THE Partnership and the potential power of collaborative working. There are also nine Associate Members, representing a range of local organisations who are keen to work with school to help improve the quality of life for the boroughs children and young people.
	Quantify the range, scale and impact of the "Help to buy" scheme in Tower Hamlets (ie over the period of the scheme or snapshot at this moment in time).	The Council does not hold this data. It is a Government run scheme, further information is available on the Government Website : https://www.helptobuy.gov.uk/mortgage-guarantee/how-does-it-work/ The Government also publishes information on the Help to Buy (equity loan scheme) and Help to Buy schemes The latest : New Buy statistics: April 2013 to 30 September 2016 are listed below : https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/help-to-buy-equity-loan-scheme-and-help-to-buy-newbuy-statistics-april-2013-to-30-september-2016
	Provide an update on the impact of the Memorandum of Understanding with the local	This information has been requested and will be provided for the Committee when received.

	NHS organisations?	
	In relation to the Women in Health scheme, can you provide an update on the number of women from local communities that have been employed in NHS roles ?	The outcomes from Women in Health scheme that finished in 2016 are that of 23 participants 17 have obtained work in the NHS. .
8 December -Welfare Reform Spotlight	Provide information on the approaches the Council has taken to working with VCS and housing sector partners to develop initiatives to support benefits claimants with the impact of changes to the welfare and benefits framework.	This information has been requested and will be provided for the Committee when received.
	Outline the proposed approach to providing councillors with information, resources and suggested pathways and solutions for welfare claimants ?	The approach is currently under development.

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