

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2005

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

Members Present:

Councillor Alan Amos (Chair)

Councillor A A Sardar (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Marian Williams

Councillor Khaled R Khan

Councillor Salim Ullah

Councillor Julian Sharpe

Councillor Simon Rouse

Lead Member:

Councillor Michael Keith – Leader of the Council

Co-opted Members Present:

Mr C Iyobhebhe

– Parent Governor Representative

Mr H Mueenuddin

– Muslim Community Representative

Officers Present:

Alex Cosgrave

– (Corporate Director, Environment & Culture)

Christine Gilbert

– (Chief Executive)

Michael Keating

– (Service Head, Research & Scrutiny)

Graham White

– (Interim Chief Legal Officer)

Sara Williams

– (Assistant Chief Executive)

John Palmer

– (Head of Street Services)

Alan Steward

– (Policy Scrutiny Manager)

Tim Hogan

– (Democratic Services)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Louise Alexander and Reverend Prebendary Ron Swan, Ms. Frances Simmons

and Mr Danny McLaughlin, Co-opted Members. The Chair moved and it was:-

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence be noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

The Chair moved and it was:-

RESOLVED

That the Section One Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 8th November, 2005 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them subject to the LAP meeting referred to in paragraph 2 on page 3 of the Minutes being amended to read "LAP 6" and the last line of paragraph 4 of Minute 9 on page 5 to read "..... implications for the proper implementation of those powers".

4. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS

There were no requests to submit petitions or deputations.

5. REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

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

RESOLVED

That there were no reports "Called In" from the Cabinet's 8th November, 2005 meeting be noted.

6. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 TOWER HAMLETS STRATEGIC PLAN MONITORING REPORT AND INDEX (O&SC030/056)

The Chair welcomed the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to the meeting. The Chair went on to explain that the Leader and Chief Executive had been invited to the meeting to discuss strategic issues arising from the monitoring report.

Ms. Gilbert began by thanking the Chair for the opportunity of addressing the meeting. Ms. Gilbert went on to provide a powerpoint presentation which highlighted the general progress made by the Council. The latest CPA results were expected to be announced on the 15th December. Ms. Gilbert then went

on to describe the changes in the CPA process, including the change to a starred rating system.

It was noted that the Authority's Education and Social Services were performing extremely well and the Authority's Children's Service had achieved level 4, only 4 other Local Authorities in the country had achieved this standard. It was noted that the Authority was not meeting its Environment/Transport targets. Housing apart from two areas was performing well.

Ms. Gilbert went on to highlight the change in emphasis for this year's CPA, which was now looking at service provision in a holistic manner, using Local Area Agreements as a tool for analysis. The Authority was also focusing on the issues of concern raised by local residents.

Ms. Gilbert then went on to answer a series of detailed questions raised by Members of the Committee, including questions related to the monitoring of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, appointment of School Governors, progress in the reduction of violent crime, Members Inquiries.

The Chair thanked the Leader and the Chief Executive for their attendance and informative presentation and **MOVED** and it was:-

RESOLVED

That the performance identified in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the report be welcomed and noted.

6.2 CLEANER SAFER PLACES BEST VALUE REVIEW - IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE (O&S031/056)

The report was introduced by Ms. Alex Cosgrave, Corporate Director, Environment and Culture. Mr John Palmer, Head of Street Services also provided detailed responses to questions from Committee Members on the work to be undertaken on anti-graffiti, fly posting and the use of litter bins as well as recycling initiatives, including the possible recycling of food waste. In welcoming the report the Committee were of the view that the numbers of key activities currently monitored should be reduced.

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

RESOLVED

That the progress made in implementing the Council's Best Value Review on Cleaner Safer Places be noted.

6.3 FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN 2005/6 (O&S032/056)

The report was introduced by Ms. Alex Cosgrave, Corporate Director, Environment and Culture and Mr Colin Perrins, Head of Trading Standards and Environmental Health (Commercial).

Mr Perrins outlined the background to the Plan and the role of the Food Standards Agency, and noted that the aim of the plan was to ensure that food was produced and sold under hygienic conditions, was without risk and was of the quality expected by consumers.

Mr Perrins and Ms. Cosgrave responded to a number of detailed questions put by Members of the Committee, including questions relating to the monitoring of food premises, the recruitment of Environmental Health Officers and the education and publicity activity carried out by the Team.

The Chair welcomed the report and **MOVED** and it was:-

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and that the Committee's comments be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

7. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF SECTION ONE (UNRESTRICTED) CABINET PAPERS

The Chair advised that questions to be put forward to the Cabinet meeting to be held on 7th December, 2005 had been tabled for consideration by the Committee by Councillor Louise Alexander.

Following discussions, the Chair **MOVED** and it was:-

RESOLVED

That questions submitted by Councillor Louise Alexander in relation to:-

- Cabinet Agenda 7.1 – Housing Strategy Statement 2005-2006 to 2007/2008 (CAB106/056);
- Cabinet Agenda 9.1 – Open Space Strategy (CAB108/056)

be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair moved and it was:-

RESOLVED

That, under the provisions of Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting for the consideration of the Section Two business on the grounds that it contains information considered to be Exempt as detailed in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972.

SUMMARY OF SECTION TWO PROCEEDINGS

During Section Two of the proceedings, the Committee considered the Section Two Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday 6th November, 2005 and Section Two Pre- Decision Question in relation to the Waste Collection and Street Cleansing Contract 2006-2007.

The meeting ended at 9.22 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Alan Amos
Overview & Scrutiny Committee