

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HELD AT 6.10 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 1 MARCH 2017

**MP702, 7TH FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,
LONDON E14 2BG.**

Members Present:

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| Councillor John Pierce (Chair) | |
| Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE (Vice-Chair) | |
| Councillor Amina Ali | – Scrutiny Lead for Development and Renewal |
| Councillor Julia Dockerill | – Scrutiny Lead for Children's Services |
| Councillor Clare Harrisson | – Scrutiny Lead for Adult Health and Wellbeing |
| Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim | – Scrutiny Lead for Governance |

Co-opted Members Present:

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| Dr Phillip Rice | – (Church of England Representative) |
| Asad M Jaman | – Muslim Faith Community |
| Fatiha Kassouri | – Parent Governors |
| Christine Trumper | – Parent Governors |

Apologies:

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|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Shabbir Chowdhury | – Parent Governors |
| Councillor Oliur Rahman | |
| Councillor Helal Uddin | |

Officers Present:

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| Andrea Baker | – Director of Housing |
| Paul Dunn | – ASB Consultants |
| Janet Fasan | – (Interim Divisional Director, Legal) |
| Shazia Ghani | – (Head of Community Safety) |
| Sharon Godman | – (Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Partnerships) |

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| Yvette Holmes | – ASB Manager |
| Martin Kirby | – Chief Inspector Neighbourhood and Partnerships |
| Maxine Moar | – Program Manager |
| Ann Otesanya | – THH - Director of Neighbourhoods |
| Peter Quirk | – Senior Strategy, Policy & Performance Officer |
| Denise Radley | – (Corporate Director, Health, Adults & Community) |
| Judith St John | – (Acting Divisional Director, Sports, Leisure and Culture) |
| David Knight | – (Senior Democratic Services Officer) |

1. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were received at this meeting.

2. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS

Nil items

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Shabbir Chowdhury (Parent Governor); Councillor Oliur Rahman and Councillor Helal Uddin.

4. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

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

RESOLVED

That the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 1st February, 2017 be approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

5. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

Nil items

6. FORTHCOMING DECISIONS

Noted

7. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF UNRESTRICTED CABINET PAPERS

The Committee received and noted the agenda for the Cabinet meeting on 7th March, 2017 with particular reference to **Item 5.9 Draped Seated Woman**

“Old Flo” - selection of local hosting partner. The discussion on this item maybe summarised as follows:

The Committee:

- Noted that a decision is required on this issue in order to implement the Mayor’s pledge to return Draped Seated Woman by Henry Moore back to Tower Hamlets. In line with the decision taken by the Mayor on 1st December 2016, which set the contract approach. It was noted that officers have now completed a procurement exercise. The report outlined the outcome of that procurement process and recommended to the Mayor that the highest scoring bidder be appointed to host Draped Seated Woman “Old Flo”;
- Noted that “Old Flo” has for a number of years been on public display at the [Yorkshire Sculpture Park](#);
- Indicated that it wanted “Old Flo” to be used as a basis for educational purposes;
- Noted that the [Henry Moore Foundation](#) has done a considerable amount of work regarding the publicity regarding “Old Flo” and that will include publicity around the centenary of Henry Moore’s birth in 2018; and
- Noted that there is no budgetary provision associated with “Old Flo” and no budgets for maintaining public art. The parameters agreed by the Mayor are that all costs set out in this report will be borne by the successful hosting organisation including the provision of an education and outreach programme agreed by the Arts and Events Service.

Finally, the Committee also noted that regarding **Item 5.1 Tower Hamlets Carers’ Strategy 2016-2019** that this had been considered at the last meeting of the Councils Health Scrutiny Committee and is available on the [website](#)

8. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

8.1 Reporting ASB

The Committee received and noted a report that provided an update on the implementation of recommendations from the scrutiny review into how the council, police and social landlords promote the reporting of incidents of drug dealing, drug taking and related ASB in communal spaces and communicate the outcome of this reporting. It was noted that the report and recommendations were agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in May 2015. An action plan was then developed to address the recommendations, and the report and accompanying action plan were agreed by Cabinet in November 2015. Accordingly, the Committee noted the progress against the recommendations from the scrutiny review.

The main points of the discussion may be summarised as follows:

The Committee **Noted**:

- That the mechanisms used by Crime Reduction Partnerships to address the cause and effect of ASB can vary dependent on a community's particular situation or circumstance;
- That the way ASB is managed across the Crime Reduction Partnership is now subject to change to address those particular challenges and circumstances unique to the Borough;
- Work is being undertaken to improve the tasking of resources in a co-ordinated manner **e.g.** regular Partnership Action Groups to support victims of ASB; developing mechanisms to support stakeholders and partners in addressing ASB and support for repeat victims;
- That the MPS see the addressing of ASB to be a significant priority given how ASB is addressed will have a major impact on how the public perceive the Police Service;
- That Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) accept the importance of the role that they must play in addressing the process including how housing stock is maintained and developed **e.g.** Physical measures to address ASB;
- That there had been 1,283 calls regarding ASB to the THH ASB Team and that the "call handlers" are now part of that Team. The Team provides important support to victims throughout the process of addressing these incidents and works closely with the Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) and the Police to address the cause and effect of ASB;
- That the review of ASB has considered what works in addressing ASB and what does not;
- That the Government has introduced new guidance for dealing with ASB with a greater emphasis on community engagement;
- That across the Borough there is from stakeholders and the partners to make a real difference in addressing ASB **e.g.** how to make enforcement measures effective and make residents feel confident in reporting ASB;
- That the majority of those perpetrating ASB of locals and the kind of gang related crime not as serious as elsewhere. However, the trade in Class A drugs is not as significant as in other Boroughs;
- That the police Service are working to proactively address localised drug dealing balanced with the support for those wishing to break their addiction;
- That the partners are working to formalise the processes to be used that would effectively address the causes and not only the effect of ASB **e.g.** Greater central co-ordination;
- That a better communications programme was needed as people need to see what is being done to address ASB **e.g.** How people can report ASB; information on prosecutions for ASB and the live streaming of the Community Safety Ward Walkabouts [Community Safety Ward Walkabouts](#) and to host them on a dedicated Face Book;

- That community empowerment and a co-ordinated approach is the way forward;
- Expressed concern that the police Services practice of the regular rotation of staff has an impact on continuity and how confident t resident will be in engaging with the partners;
- That for many years' local councillors have raised their concerns about the unacceptable level an incidence of ASB in Weavers Ward.
- That Weavers is located at the border between Islington and Hackney and that Councillors have stated their concerns regarding the incidences of violent ASB and those sleeping rough on the streets. Councillors wanted to see positive measures to address all aspects of ASB including the levels of motorists driving in excess of the speed limit through residential streets and gang related ASB;
- That there is a need to address ASB as early as possible and when designing new housing stocking and renovating existing properties to minimise the incidences of ASB;
- That there needs to be improved engagement with schools; faith groups and local councillors;
- That whilst it was accepted that addressing ASB would be a lengthy one that people must see that partners are being proactive in dealing with the incidence of ASB **e.g.** Drug dealing;
- That people need to know that there has been a recognition that changes need to be made in addressing ASB and that they are being made;
- That there has been an acceptance that in the past that they have not been good at telling people what they have and are doing to address ASB **e.g.** cash seizures; night time economy; door entry systems; under aged sales; violent crime; and support for community groups to address ASB;
- That operations are undertaken to address such as underage sales;
- THH have through utilisation of the Capital Programme made significant investment in the repair and maintenance of door entry systems;
- That a contributory factor for ASB was the increase in the Borough's population; the need to provide the well-considered housing and the development of a continuing sense of community. Whilst a review of community cohesion would be essential in any debate on this issue;
- That details of OWL (Online Watch Link) which is used by the Metropolitan Police Service in partnership with local Neighbourhood Watch coordinators to communicate with residents and businesses across the Borough. OWL is an advanced solution for police & communities to grow and manage Neighbourhood Watch, School Watch, Business Watch and dozens of other schemes. OWL provides watch members with the latest messages and local crime alerts sent by email, telephone, SMS or fax. To register to this scheme please register by following this [link](#)

In conclusion, the Committee whilst welcoming the report indicated that it wanted to have an opportunity to comment on the Review of Community Cohesion before it goes to Cabinet.

8.2 RIPA Report

The Committee received and noted a report that provided a summary of the Council's use of those powers and other activities under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ("RIPA"). It was noted that the codes of practice issued by the Home Office in relation to Part 2 of the Act 2000 recommend that elected members have oversight of the Council's use of these provisions. As a result of discussions on this report the Committee indicated that it would wish to see how RIPA can be used to address ASB and under aged sales.

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

The Committee noted the following updates from Lead Members:

1. 6:00 p.m. 16th March, 2017 Review in Cohesion;
2. 5:30 p.m. 9th March, 2017 Review into the Social Value Act;
3. Health Enablement Review nearing completion;
4. Pre-school Review final meeting 10th March, 2017; and
5. Late Night Economy Review to be held at St. Leonards in Shoreditch.

10. 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.

11. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Nil items

12. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

Nil items

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

Nil items

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

Nil items

The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.

**Chair, Councillor John Pierce
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**