

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 13 MARCH 2018

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

Members Present:

Councillor Dave Chesterton (Chair)	
Councillor Clare Harrisson (Vice-Chair)	Scrutiny Lead for Health, Adults & Community
Councillor Danny Hassell	Scrutiny Lead for Children's Services
Councillor Ayas Miah	Scrutiny Lead for Governance
Councillor Helal Uddin	Scrutiny Lead for Place
Councillor Andrew Wood	Scrutiny Lead for Resources

Co-opted Members Present:

Shabbir Chowdhury	Parent Governors
Fatiha Kassouri	Parent Governors
Dr Phillip Rice	Church of England Representative
Christine Trumper	Parent Governors

Other Councillors Present:

Mayor John Biggs	
Councillor Denise Jones	Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Community Services

Apologies:

Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim	
Councillor Rabina Khan	
Joanna Hannan	Representative of Diocese of Westminster

Officers Present:

Dr Somen Banerjee	(Director of Public Health)
Sharon Godman	(Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Partnerships)
David Jones	(Interim Divisional Director, Adult Social Care)
Denise Radley	(Corporate Director, Health, Adults & Community)
Sarah Williams	(Team Leader Social Care, Legal Services, Governance)
David Knight	(Senior Democratic Services Officer)

1. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

It was noted that there were no Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

2. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

2.1 24th January, 2018

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

RESOLVED

To agree the minutes of the meeting held 24th January, 2018 as a correct record.

2.2 22nd February, 2018

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

RESOLVED

To agree the minutes of the meeting held 22nd February, 2018 as a correct record.

3. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS

Nil items

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

Item deferred to 22nd March, 2018

5. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

Nil items

6. SCRUTINY SPOTLIGHT

6.1 Mayor John Biggs

The Committee received and noted a presentation from the Mayor John Biggs in which he outlined his vision for Tower Hamlets and looked at the key components for how Tower Hamlets will deliver the wider aspirations of residents.

In addition, the following report was scrutinised that was to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on the 20th March, 2018:

I. 2017-18 Quarter 3 (October-December) Strategic Performance Monitoring report

As a result of a full and wide ranging discussion on the presentation and the Quarter 3 Report the Committee:

- Noted the position since the Mayors election in June, 2015 and the transformation as to the way LBTH is now perceived which is set against a background of severe spending cuts which must be achieved whilst striving to address the needs of the community across a range of services. It was noted that LBTH needs to develop an outward-facing culture with an outward focus and working on the development of greater self-sufficiency;
- Noted that with the move to outcome based budgeting LBTH could break down silos and allow officers to get things done;
- Noted that to address any polarisation in the Borough's neighbourhoods it will be necessary to look at the provision of affordable housing and to empower people to make a difference;
- Noted that through the development of the Health Economy and Further and Higher Education LBTH would act as a facilitator/enabler with partner agencies and other boroughs;
- Noted that with regard to the waste management contract there would be a review of how the contract is managed;
- Noted that with the development of former commercial buildings into residential buildings it needs to be recognised that the benefits of growth must be balanced against any increase in high density housing;
- Noted that through the Infrastructure Delivery Board the Council can oversee the management of funding from Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy to support development of the infrastructure that the Council; local community and neighbourhoods want;
- Noted need to give consideration as to how LBTH meets the aspirational needs of local children including the post 16 offer;
- Noted that Community hubs can provide a means for alternative approaches to service delivery underpinned by the principles of community involvement and partnership. Such Community hubs can facilitate this by providing a place where different local partners in a Neighbourhood can come together and address the issues that matter most to them;
- Noted that the Tower Hamlets Education Partnership established by school leaders is working to deliver high quality school improvement for all Tower Hamlets schools including addressing the gap in the strategic funding; and
- Noted that regarding the management of the night time economy this is being addressed through a tasking approach.

6.3 Councillor Denise Jones - Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Community Services

The Committee received a presentation from Councillor Denise Jones (Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Community Services) that highlighted a number of key points in relation to learning disability; mental health, physical disability; dementia; older adults; carers; integrated commissioning with the NHS; the Health and Wellbeing Board; public health; school nursing and health visiting; support in hostels and other housing related support; drugs and alcohol both treatment and care. The questions and comments from Members on the report may be summarised as follows:

The Committee:

- Noted that there is a very clear vision for the East London Health and Social Care Partnership and the need to focus on where LBTH can address specific issues such as those with very challenging behaviour who until now have been in long term accommodation;
- Noted that there is a need to look at how the benefit from capital receipts from the sale of land is used to support key issues e.g. Key Worker Housing;
- Noted there is a need to deliver cultural change within the Directorate;
- Noted whilst there is a high percentage of agency staff at 30% within the Directorate which has highlighted the need for a targeted approach to recruitment and the establishment of a social work academy to support staff and to maintain them within LBTH e.g. moving between Children's and Adults so as to gain experience and develop their skill sets;
- Noted that a High Risk Panel has been established to look at young people in transition to adulthood which is now recognised as more difficult and complicated than in the past e.g. There is no longer a sharp distinction between childhood and adulthood;
- Noted regarding mental health issues there is a link to the levels of deprivation and the degree of need e.g. Patients from the poorest areas in the Borough have a much lower chance of recovery after treatment for common mental health problems like depression or anxiety than those from the more affluent parts of the Borough; and
- Noted that the Borough's growing young population (e.g. Those in Further and Higher Education) is one that also requires support.

7. BREXIT IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL SCRUTINY CHALLENGE REPORT

The Committee received a report that outlines the findings and recommendations from the Brexit Scrutiny Challenge Session, which was part of the Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee's work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year. The questions arising from the discussions on this report may be summarised as follows:

The Committee:

- Noted that as part of his work programme for 2017/18, the Scrutiny Lead for Governance, Councillor Ayas Miah had undertaken a Scrutiny Challenge Session focused on the potential impact of Brexit on the Council. There were a total of 10 recommendations that were agreed at the Challenge Session;
- Noted that the Challenge Session had offered the opportunity to begin exploratory discussions on the Council's resilience planning and to recommend key priorities for mitigation planning. However, due to the current uncertainty around Brexit negotiation, limited time, resources and scope, the Challenge Session was not able to discuss the impact of Brexit on Tower Hamlets as a place, such as the economic stability and community cohesion;
- Noted the key questions that the Challenge Session explored and addressed were (i) what impact could Brexit have on Tower Hamlets as a Local Authority; (ii) what are the likely challenges and opportunities of Brexit for the LBTH workforce and funding for core services; (iii) what is the likely impact of this on our local residents and regeneration schemes; (iv) how could the Council ensure that it develops a comprehensive and proactive plan to mitigating the impact of Brexit; (v) in preparing the Council for Brexit what should be the priority areas of contingency planning and how do we ensure that this is effectively communicated to all our internal and external stakeholders;
- Noted that the Council should develop policies and targeted marketing strategies to promote the Borough to retain and attract business and enable the future economic growth **e.g.** LBTH needs to be more proactive about that how do we keep businesses here;
- Noted that that consideration needs to be given on the impact of Brexit on schools and colleges across LBTH;
- Noted the need to consider the statutory local partners element in any consideration regarding Brexit; and
- Noted that the local economy includes that element which takes part in national economic activity but within LBTH.

The Chair Moved and it was:-

RESOLVED to:

1. Agree the report and the recommendations;
2. Authorise the Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Partnership to amend the draft report before submission to Cabinet, after consultation with the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and
3. Agree the scoping for the Brexit Scrutiny Review.

8. VERBAL UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY LEADS

The Committee received and noted the updates from the Scrutiny Leads which may be summarised as follows:

Councillor Clare Harrisson (Scrutiny Lead for Health, Adults & Community)

Noted that the final Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee although not quorate had undertaken a positive discussion on Sexual Health.

Councillor Danny Hassell (Scrutiny Lead for Children's Services)

Noted that the Gangs and Serious Youth Violence Scrutiny Review would be considered at the meeting of this Committee on the 22nd March, 2018. Whilst on the 19th would see the start of the Social Care Practice Week.

Councillor Andrew Wood (Scrutiny Lead for Resources)

Noted that Recreational Activities Report had been presented to the Grants Scrutiny and Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committees but would not come before this Committee until the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

9. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF UNRESTRICTED CABINET PAPERS

Noted that copies of the agenda for Cabinet meeting were available at tonight's meeting and that comments on the Cabinet agenda could be submitted up until 12:00 noon on Friday 16th March, 2018 for submission to Cabinet on the 20th March, 2017.

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

Councillor Clare Harrisson (Scrutiny Lead for Health, Adults & Community)

It was noted that this would be the last meeting that Councillor Harrisson would be attending. Accordingly, the Committee joined the Chair Councillor Chesterton in placing on record their best wishes to her and thanked her for all that she had done in developing the work of scrutiny in Tower Hamlets, particularly with reference to the area of Health, Adults and the Community .

11. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

As 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.

12. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Nil items

13. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

Nil items

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

Nil items

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

Nil items

The meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Dave Chesterton
Overview & Scrutiny Committee