

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HELD AT 7.10 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2013

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

Members Present:

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman (Chair)
Councillor Stephanie Eaton
Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs
Councillor Rachael Saunders (Vice-Chair)
Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Helal Uddin

Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed

Co-opted Members Present:

Memory Kampiyawo – (Parent Governor Representative)
Nozrul Mustafa – (Parent Governor Representative)
Rev James Olanipekun – (Parent Governor Representative)
Dr Phillip Rice – (Church of England Diocese Representative)

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Abdul Asad – (Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing)

Guests Present:

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Officers Present:

Ngozi Adedeji – (Team Leader Housing Services, Legal Services
Chief Executive's)
Vicky Allen – (Strategy Policy & Performance Officer, Strategy,
Corporate Strategy and Equality Service, Chief
Executive's)
Jill Bell – (Head of Legal Services (Environment), Legal
Services, Chief Executive's)
Anne Canning – (Service Head Learning and Achievement,
Education Social Care and Wellbeing)
Monica Forty – (Head of Birth to Eleven, Education Social Care
and Wellbeing)

Nazrul Islam	– (Principal Reporter Harmony, Communications, Chief Executive's)
Robert McCulloch-Graham	– (Corporate Director, Education Social Care and Wellbeing)
James Pack	– (Deputy Electoral and Operations Manager, Electoral Services, Chief Executive's)
Louise Russell	– (Service Head Corporate Strategy and Equality, Chief Executive's)
Louise Stamp	– (Electoral Services Manager, Chief Executive's)
John Williams	– (Service Head, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)
Sarah Williams	– (Team Leader Social Care, Legal Services, Chief Executive's)
Angus Taylor	– (Principal Committee Officer, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)

COUNCILLOR MOTIN UZ ZAMAN (CHAIR) IN THE CHAIR

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Abdal Ullah, Scrutiny Lead for Development and Renewal for whom Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed was deputising.
- Mayor Lutfur Rahman.
- Cllr Oliur Rahman, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.
- Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor
- Mr John Wilkins, Deputy CE East London NHS Foundation Trust.
- David Galpin (Head of Legal Services - Community) for whom Jill Bell (Head of Legal Services - Environment) was deputising.

Noted

WELCOME

At this point the Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and in particular Robert McCulloch-Graham, Corporate Director Education Social Care and Wellbeing, newly appointed and attending on his first day in the job at LBTH. He also welcomed Councillor Abdal Asad, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, for attending for the Scrutiny Spotlight Session.

The Chair noted that water and refreshments had not been delivered. Accordingly he requested that the Executive ensure that appropriate

refreshments were provided at the next and future OSC meetings as a matter of priority.

Action by:

Angus Taylor (Principal Committee Officer, Democratic Services, CE's)
Jean Waterson (East India Dock Manager, Facilities Management)

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or other declarations of interest were made.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

Matter Arising

The Chair informed OSC members that:

- At the last OSC meeting he had indicated that:
 - He would be inviting the Mayor to attend the next OSC meeting [1st October], for one of a series of 'spotlight sessions' during the year.
 - He would also be requesting the Mayor's diary commitments on future scheduled OSC meeting dates, so as to identify an OSC meeting he could attend if he could not attend on 1st October.
- He had extended the invitation at Cabinet on 11th September and formalised this in a subsequent letter. Unfortunately the Mayor had declined the invitation, because of prior commitments and this was the fourth such declined invitation.
- In response to the Chair's written request for the Mayor's diary sheets, the Mayor had indicated he was available to attend the OSC meeting on 4th February 2014, however no details of his diary commitments on other scheduled OSC meeting dates had been provided. The Chair considered that as the spotlight was intended to focus on the challenges and opportunities the Mayor foresaw for delivery of improved quality of life for local people in the year ahead, with the passage of time the spotlight theme would be less meaningful. Additionally the Chair felt that the Mayor's attendance should be congruent with the 2013/14 OSC Work Programme and to determine this he required details of the Mayor's diary commitments on other scheduled OSC meeting dates.
- Therefore, with OSC agreement, he intended to invite the Mayor to the next OSC meeting [5th November} for the spotlight session, but also to again request details of the Mayor's diary commitments on future scheduled OSC meeting dates, should he not be able to attend the meeting on 5th November.

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

Resolved

That the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 10th September 2013, be agreed as a correct

record of the proceedings, and the Chair be authorised to sign them accordingly.

Action by:

Angus Taylor (Principal Committee Officer, Democratic Services, CE's)

4. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

5. SCRUTINY SPOTLIGHT - EDUCATION, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING DIRECTORATE

Councillor Abdal Asad, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, gave a short presentation, which provided the OSC with a requested update on several key issues including:-

- Progress towards targets for individual budgets for social care, and the support available to service users in designing their care packages.
- The number of in house homecare workers retained by the Council following service restructure, and management arrangements during the transition.
- Commissioning of service hubs for people with learning disabilities, and public health commissioning.

Robert McCulloch-Graham, Corporate Director Education Social Care and Wellbeing, Anne Canning, Service Head Learning and Achievement, and Monica Forty, Head of Learning and Achievement Birth to Eleven, were also in attendance for this item and highlighted the main challenges facing the directorate regarding delivery of improved services for children including:

- Pupil Place Planning
- Pressures facing the Special Education Needs (SEN) Service
- Legislative changes underway to SEN Policy
- Adoption targets
- Troubled Families Programme
- Academies and free schools
- Early Learning provision for eligible two year olds (detailed Powerpoint presentation with slides **Tabled**, a copy of which would be interleaved with the minutes).

A comprehensive discussion followed, which focused on the following points:

- Consideration that Tower Hamlets was under-performing compared with other similar London Boroughs (LBs) in turning troubled families around, with clarification sought as to the reasons for this. *LBTH had undertaken significant work in this area for some time, had performed well compared with other LBs and nationally and funding had been secured for another year of the Troubled Families Programme (TFP). LBTH was innovative in approach and Job Centre Plus were now engaged with the initiative, which had previously been a block to progress.*

- Whether there were any early indications that conversion to academies and free school status, was impacting on the viability of existing community schools, as subscription to their school rolls fell. *Several schools had already converted, others conversions were underway and there would be more in the future. Pupils at an academy/ free school coming from the catchment area for other community schools, would leave places at the latter for take up by other pupils. As the market opened a displacement effect was anticipated, but this was currently manageable, and the LEA would continue to work collaboratively to serve the needs of the community given it had no legal powers over such schools.*
- What were the potential consequences of not meeting the statutory entitlement to early learning provision for two year olds (providing the required pupil places). Also whether Children's Centres provision was included in the figures for early learning provision for two year olds. *Government appeared to now realise that expectations of two year old provision placed on local councils were unrealistic/ undeliverable and was looking for ways to scale back required provision. Children's Centres were not included unless they operated a linked childcare project for two year olds.*
- Was there sufficient capital funding for two year olds pupil places, given it was understood a bid for Mainstream Grants Programme funding for a nursery scheme had been unsuccessful. *The Council was focused on optimising numbers of pupil places for 2 year olds from spend. Approximately £1.2 million funding was available but over £10 million (based on benchmarking with comparative boroughs) was required to meet the number of places currently required.*
- Concern also expressed that capacity was stretched to provide free provision of early learning provision for two year olds, for those eligible, and also 15 hours of this did not fully support families back into employment, what provision was their to top up. *Parents in work lost eligibility for free provision of early learning places, unlike those on welfare benefits, and this did result in a tension around provision which the Fairness Commission was examining.*
- Both Mayor Rahman and Government had now announced initiatives to provide free school meals; was there a difference in the eligibility criteria, and if the Government scheme would cater for all those intended to benefit from the Mayor's scheme what would funding for the latter now be used for. *Free school meals would be provided to all those eligible under the schemes, and Officers were currently working through the financial implications with the Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children's Services.*
- Absence of a Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), required under statute since April 2013, and the consequences of that given an understanding that Government Funding of £10 million was at risk unless agreed by such a board. Also commented that despite the remit of the Health Scrutiny Panel to scrutinise Public Health, requests from its Chair to be provided with the agenda papers of the Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board had not been met, and this was a minimum requirement if Board meetings were not public and attendance was by invitation. *Government had emphasised*

*the importance of the HWB role regarding Public Health and Adult Social Care and discussions were underway between relevant stakeholders and the Cabinet Member Health and Wellbeing hoped the HWB would be formally established soon. In the meantime he chaired the Shadow Board considered substantive issues as required eg Care Quality Commission inspections underway at Barts and the London NHS Trust. **Officers would ensure future provision of such agenda papers to the HSP Chair.***

- Assurance sought and given, in the context of anecdotal evidence received, that the commissioning budget for care packages for the disabled had not been reduced. Had there been changes to the care packages for those on personalised budgets? *A time limited pilot project with Real[to provide a support planning service for individuals designing care packages] had now ended and all support was provided in-house; there was no reduction in support.*
- Assurance sought and given on the extension of the in-house contract for Domiciliary Care, given discrepancies in information provided on staff numbers and conditions. Was in-house service provision being moved onto provision by contract, and was this a choice or requirement? *The quality of the homecare service for existing service users was being safeguarded, but it was no longer accepting referrals. There would be a further review of staffing should numbers fall.*
- Given the difficulties in identifying suitable properties for provision of early learning pupil places, what consideration had the Mayor given to using Council assets for this rather than sale to generate income. Had the Cabinet Member with portfolio pressed the case for this approach with the Mayor. Provision of early learning pupil places for two year olds had been added to the key criteria considered by Officers in Development and Renewal directorate when considering the future use/ disposal of assets **(Cabinet Member undertook to provide a more detailed written response)**. However it should be noted that large empty buildings may not be appropriate for such provision, as outside space was key; also revenue funding additional to any LEA grant for a 2 year old provision was essential for project viability.
- What duration of training was required for Child Care staff to reach level 2 or 3 standard. Given the anticipated demand a strategic approach with Development & Renewal to engage local training and education providers to train local residents for this would have multiple benefits. *At least a year of training to Level 2. Officers concurred further strategic work in this area would be beneficial although the workforce development team had already examined apprenticeship models with the University of East London and Tower Hamlets College, although this model had disadvantages.*
- Requested that the **Powerpoint presentation** on Early Learning provision for eligible two year olds **be emailed to all OSC members.**

The Chair:

- Commented that as OSC Chair he would be pleased to put the case on the use of Council assets for the provision of early learning pupil places for two year olds to the Mayor.
- Thanked Councillor Asad and Robert Anne and Monica for attending the Scrutiny Spotlight session.
- **Moved** and it was:-

Resolved

That the information given in the scrutiny spotlight presentations, be noted.

Action by:

Robert McCulloch-Graham (Corporate Director Education Social Care and Wellbeing)

Anne Canning (Service Head Achievement & Learning, ESCWB)

Angus Taylor (Principal Committee Officer, Democratic Services, CE's)

6. SCRUTINY SPOTLIGHT - MAYOR

The Scrutiny Spotlight did not proceed as Mayor Lutfur Rahman had been unable to attend.

7. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

The clerk informed OSC members that:

- No unrestricted decisions of the Mayor in Cabinet on 11th September 2013 had been "Called In".
- No recent unrestricted decisions of the Mayor outside Cabinet, taken under executive powers, had been "Called In".

8. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Variation of Order of Business

At this juncture the Chair informed OSC members that he considered it appropriate that the Order of Business be varied so that agenda items 8.1 and 8.2 were considered in reverse order to that detailed in the agenda, to ensure Officers in attendance for the Scrutiny Spotlight and agenda item 8.2 not be unnecessarily delayed from leaving the proceedings. Accordingly the Chair **Moved** and it was:-

Resolved

That the Order of Business be varied as below:

- Agenda Item 8.2 "Reviewing the impact of the Children's Centres restructure – report of the Scrutiny Working Group Progress Report" be considered as the next business.
- Agenda Item 8.1 "Electoral Matters Update" be considered thereafter.
- Subsequently the OSC return to the order of business detailed in the agenda.

However for ease of reference OSC deliberations and subsequent decisions taken, are set out below in the order detailed in the agenda.

8.1 Electoral Matters Update

Please note that the order of business was varied by resolution of the OSC earlier in the proceedings to allow this item of business to be considered after agenda item 8.2. However for ease of reference, OSC deliberations in respect of agenda item 8.1, and subsequent decisions taken, are set out below in the order detailed in the agenda.

Mr John Williams, Service Head Democratic Services and also Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer, introduced and highlighted key points in the report, which provided an update on various matters concerning electoral registration and the conduct of elections, including the development of a local protocol and other ongoing work in liaison with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and the Electoral Commission to ensure the integrity of the electoral registration and election processes. Louise Stamp, Electoral Services Manager, and James Pack, Deputy Electoral and Operations Manager, were also in attendance for this item.

- Regarding the current electoral canvass a publicity leaflet on the canvass arrangements had also been **Tabled**, a copy of which would be interleaved with the minutes.
- In relation to the review of polling districts and polling places, responses to consultation were currently being processed with final proposals to be submitted to General Purposes Committee on 18th December.

A comprehensive discussion followed, which focused on the following points:

- Given the concerns expressed regarding alleged postal vote (PV) fraud in recent Council by-elections (although in the great majority of associated complaints no actual fraud had been found), what measures were being taken to prevent PV fraud at the important elections in May 2014. *All such complaints had been thoroughly investigated by the MPS and the outcome reported to a recent OSC meeting. The proposed Local Protocol included a dedicated email address for complaints and there was an undertaking to investigate these within 24 hours. The MPS had also undertaken to feedback on all investigations, initially within 48 hours.*
- Comment that the “Local Protocol” had no standing in Law, if breached; clarification therefore sought and given as to the Officer rationale for considering it would be more effective than previous protocols, also as to consequences/ sanctions for candidates who did not sign up to it. *The Protocol did not have any force in Law, and if candidates refused to sign it they could not be forced to do so. However Officers anticipated that most would be willing to sign up to it and would want to be seen to be doing so, and this would raise the profile of issues the Council was trying to address.*
- Clarification sought and given as to what measures were being taken to ensure electoral canvassers could gain entry to residences in

secure/gated blocks. The initial canvass forms were being delivered by Royal Mail and if they did not respond, this would provide a basis to take the matter up with managing agents of the properties for a visit by the canvasser in January. If required the canvasser could be accompanied by a Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officer (THEO) who would film attempted access and denial thereof by security. Legal Services advised that refusal of entry and evidence thereof would be sufficient to take legal proceedings.

- Clarification sought and given, that the election timetable allowed sufficient time to undertake a legal process to access approximately 9000 residences in secure blocks before the revised 2014 register was published.. *Canvassers would finish their work in December and could be utilised for canvass work on such residences. They would be allocated 2 or 3 such blocks which allowed sufficient time for them to complete before publication.*
- Clarification sought and given regarding mechanisms in place to detect electoral fraud through registration of additional voters up to the threshold of 6 per household which was known to trigger investigation. How would fraudulent additions of 1 or 2 voters be detected, or a significant proportion of 2 additions in a block? Also 2 bedrooms with 10 or more people registered? Consideration that Officers should comprehensively examine issues around “additions” and associated preventative measures, and report back to the OSC. *Now the Electoral Canvass had started there would be no additions to the register until the Register was published in February. Checks would be carried out where more than 6 additions to a household were registered (pre Register publication and pre Election registration deadline). All applications to register after February would be monitored and subject to stringent checks, two additional staff had been recruited for this. There would also be monthly analysis of voter growth by ward, with a data analyst recruited for this. When new tenants request a voter registration form Officers would ask if other electors at the address, should remain registered and where new electors had moved from.*
- Clarification sought and given regarding the Communications Strategy for the 2014 elections and elements to:
 - To address the complex issues of the 2014 elections (new wards and polling districts, new polling places and 3 different elections with different voting systems)
 - To combat resident perceptions of electoral fraud and instill confidence in the integrity of election arrangements.
 - Convey zero tolerance by the Council and the MPS of fraudulent registration and allowing empty properties to be used for this.
 - That visiting houses where there are postal voters, filling in the forms for voters and then obtaining their signature would not be tolerated.
 - To instill that each elector should vote for the candidate of their choice and alert them to potential criminal charges if they were not.*Discussions with the MPS on combating electoral fraud and the associated Communications Strategy had started some time ago and the MPS would be playing a key pro-active role. There would be a very large outreach initiative, and a lengthy and comprehensive advertising*

campaign to deal with the complex messages needed, and this would include a clear message on the criminal consequences to expect for electoral and PV fraud.

- Clarification sought and given regarding measures in place to prevent theft of PVs delivered and left visible in or on top of communal mailboxes in lobbies. Also for Royal Mail (RM) delivery to prevent information leakage on delivery dates and for the MPS to be informed of dates for hand delivery. *Those delivering PVs would be doing so by hand (not mail service) and would be instructed not to leave them in communal areas. Only the MPS would be informed of PV delivery dates.*
- Clarification sought and given regarding procedures if voters attended polling stations to vote, but were informed they had registered to vote by post. *Presiding Officers were all trained on the process and incidents were recorded and investigated after the election.*
- Concern expressed that the use of THEOs with delegated powers to move on election campaigners outside polling places [para 8.4], may present them with a conflict of interest given political candidates once elected might effectively become their employer. *Such action would be undertaken jointly by THEOs and Police Constables (PCSOs) with the latter anticipated for hot spots.*
- *Consideration that the language of the Local Protocol [section 8 pg 25] should be revised as it appeared to encourage campaigning outside polling places. Mr Williams undertook to examine this.*

The Chair summarised that

- The OSC welcomed work undertaken so far to ensure the integrity of electoral registration and 2014 election arrangements, including data matching checks using Council Tax and Housing Benefit records to help prevent electoral fraud. However Officers should comprehensively examine issues around “additions” and associated preventative measures, and report back to the OSC at a point agreed in consultation with the OSC Chair.
- The report to OSC should also encompass all possible means to protect the reputation of the Council in relation to the integrity of electoral registration and 2014 election arrangements, and the mandate of whoever was elected.
- The OSC also welcomed the proposed Communications Strategy encompassing a pro-active role for the MPS and would welcome the opportunity to provide input to strengthen it and engage the community further.
- The OSC considered that wherever possible the Borough Commander, through the Safer Neighbourhood Teams should ensure police officers rather than THEOs were used to move on election campaigners from outside polling places, in order to prevent a conflict of interest for THEOs.

The Chair also informed the OSC that at their last meeting he had emphasised the importance of politicians of all parties ensuring, in the lead up to local elections in 2014, that external partners such as the Borough Commander and Faith Leaders were not exposed to political crossfire. In this

context, he had written to the Borough Commander asking him to consider taking steps to protect his position, and that of the MPS, from such crossfire; including writing to the Mayor and leaders of all political groups at LBTH to request that his consent was obtained before they used film/ photos containing MPS Officers.

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

Resolved

1. That the contents of the report be noted; and
2. That a further comprehensive report on arrangements to ensure the integrity of electoral registration and the 2014 elections be presented for OSC consideration.

Action by:

John Williams (Service Head Democratic Services, Returning Officer, Electoral Registration Officer)
Louise Stamp (Electoral Services Manager)

8.2 Children's Centre Scrutiny Review Update

Please note that the order of business was varied by resolution of the OSC earlier in the proceedings to allow this item of business to be considered before agenda item 8.1. However for ease of reference, OSC deliberations in respect of agenda item 8.2, and subsequent decisions taken, are set out below in the order detailed in the agenda.

Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs, Scrutiny Lead Children Schools & Families, introduced the report, which provided a progress update on implementation of recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Review "Reviewing the impact of the Children's Centres (CCs) restructure" (May 2012) and subsequent OSC review of progress (April 2013) resulting in additional recommendations and requests for further information. Monica Forty, Head of Learning and Achievement Birth to Eleven, were also in attendance for this item and highlighted progress on implementation of the Review recommendations since April 2013.

- Publicising the services on offer in new Children's Centres - *information now available on the Council website.*
- Children's Centres Funding and Office Assistants/ Receptionists – *Funding had been identified for backdated pay in the restructure period, and also to recruit temporary staff to cover some vacant posts/maternity leave, however the service was operating at the margins now. There was no funding to increase capacity and any future savings required would result in a reduction in frontline staff.*
- Robust data collection – *Ofsted inspections of Governance, Communications and data were underway and going well, so any requirements arising around data collection would soon known. LBTH was*

linking up with Barking & Dagenham, noted for good practice in data capture/ analysis to undertake work on this in 2013/14. However an additional data analyst post was needed.

- Innovative Communications – *text and group calls service to communicate with parents hoped to commence in November but there remained some Legal/ technical/ training issues to address. The Parents Forum had been rejuvenated although stricter membership rules were required.*

The Chair requested that as work was undertaken to take forward the Scrutiny Review recommendations, that Officers kept Councillor Whitelock Gibbs, Scrutiny Lead Scrutiny Lead Children Schools & Families informed of progress. He then **Moved** and it was:-

Resolved

The contents of the report be noted.

Action by:

Vicky Allen (Strategy Policy & Performance Officer, Corporate Strategy & Equality Service, CE's)

9. VERBAL UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY LEADS

No updates were given.

10. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF UNRESTRICTED CABINET PAPERS

The Chair commented that, due to the postponement of the October Cabinet meeting by a week, the agenda had not been published and available for pre-scrutiny until shortly before the OSC meeting. An arrangement was consequently needed for agreement of pre-decision scrutiny questions/comments to be presented to the Mayor in Cabinet on 9th October.

Councillor Rachael Saunders, OSC Vice-Chair, considered that the report "Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Revised Draft Charging Schedule" in the October Cabinet agenda lacked clarity. Accordingly Councillor Saunders proposed that Officers draft a briefing note for all OSC members regarding the nature of CIL and the implications of the anticipated reduction in Section 106 resources for the Council.

The Chair **Moved** (taking account of the proposal from Councillor Saunders) and it was:

Resolved

1. That any pre-decision questions/comments be submitted by email to Frances Jones by 12 noon on Monday, 7th October and that the Chair agree which were to go forward to the Mayor in Cabinet on 9th October, in

consultation with Councillor Saunders, OSC Vice-Chair, and a Minority Group Member.

2. That a briefing note regarding the nature of CIL and the implications of the anticipated reduction in Section 106 resources for the Council, be circulated to all OSC members.

Action by:

Frances Jones (One Tower Hamlets Service Manager, Corporate Strategy & Equality Service, CE's) (Resolution 1)

Owen Whalley (Service Head Planning & Building Control, Development & Renewal) (Resolution 2)

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

11.1 References from full Council 18 September 2013

(1) Watts Grove Depot Project & financial mechanisms for Dame Colet House & Poplar Baths projects

(2) Executive Mayor's Car

The Chair informed OSC members that the full Council (18th September) had:-

- Considered a motion submitted by Members of the Council and agreed to "instruct the OSC to investigate the reasons for the collapse of the Watts Grove Depot project, and the sustainability and suitability of the financial mechanisms used to fund Dame Colet House and Poplar Baths and to report back to full Council (27th November) on its findings."
- Considered the report of the Acting Corporate Director Resources in relation to the Executive Mayor's Car, and agreed "That, in line with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the OSC be requested to review the report and the issues it raises and to report their findings back to Council."

The Chair **Moved** and it was:

Resolved

1. That:-
 - (a) Watts Grove Depot Project & financial mechanisms for Dame Colet House & Poplar Baths projects be included in the 2013 14 OSC Work Programme.
 - (b) The Executive Mayor's Car be included in the 2013 14 OSC Work Programme.

- (c) That both items be placed on the agenda for consideration at the next OSC (5th November), with a view to reporting OSC findings to full Council on 27th November; and
- 2. That, to enable the OSC to undertake full/ appropriate scrutiny of the issues (set out at resolution 1 above) and reach an informed decision/ conclusion, that
 - (a) The Corporate Director Development and Renewal be instructed to prepare a comprehensive report, containing all relevant information on the matter referred to at resolution 1(a) above, for OSC consideration.
 - (b) The Acting Corporate Director Resources be instructed to prepare a comprehensive report, containing all relevant information on the matter referred to at resolution 1(b) above, for OSC consideration.

Action by:

Aman Dalvi (Corporate Director Development and Renewal) [Resolution 1a, 1c and 2a]

Chris Holme (Acting Corporate Director Resources) [Resolution 1b, 1c and 2b]

Angus Taylor (Principal Committee Officer, Democratic Services, CE's) [Resolution 1 & 2]

FAIRNESS COMMISSION REPORT

The Chair informed OSC members that given the Fairness Commission (FC) report had been due to be launched/ issued on 30th September, with the Mayor to respond to its recommendations in due course, he had considered it would be more appropriate for the OSC to consider the FC report after the Mayor has made his response (rather than at the OSC meeting that evening as scheduled in OSC Work Programme), and had asked Officers to re-schedule the item accordingly.

Councillor Rachael Saunders, OSC Vice-Chair, commented that it was disappointing/ regretful that OSC had not been consulted or engaged by the FC, before their report was published, as she considered its broadbrush report could have been strengthened by such engagement. The OSC in other boroughs had been an integral and helpful element in the FC process, and Councillor Saunders had requested previously that the FC attend the OSC in LBTH.

Action by:

Angus Taylor (Principal Committee Officer, Democratic Services, CE's)

12. 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.

The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Overview & Scrutiny Committee