

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 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 Rachael Saunders (Vice-Chair)
Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Abdal Ullah

Councillor Judith Gardiner

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 Kabir Ahmed –
Councillor Ohid Ahmed – (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Alibor Choudhury – (Cabinet Member for Resources)

Guests Present:

Dave Stringer – (Borough Commander Metropolitan Police)

Officers Present:

Andy Bamber – (Service Head Safer Communities, Crime Reduction Services, Communities, Localities and Culture)
Emily Fieran-Reed – (Head of Community Safety Partnership, Domestic Violence & Hate Crime, Community Safety, Communities Localities and Culture)

David Galpin	– (Head of Legal Services (Community), Legal Services, Chief Executive's)
John Hoang	– (Communication Team Leader, Communications, Chief Executive's)
Frances Jones	– (Service Manager One Tower Hamlets, Corporate Strategy and Equality Service, Chief Executive's)
Shamima Khatun	– (Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer, Corporate Strategy and Equality Service, Chief Executive's)
Louise Russell	– (Service Head Corporate Strategy and Equality, Chief Executive's)
Paul Thorogood	– (Interim Service Head Finance and HR Development, Resources)
David Tolley	– (Head of Consumer and Business Regulations Service, Safer Communities, Communities Localities & Culture)
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 Amy Whitelock, Scrutiny Lead for Children & Adults, for whom Councillor Judith Gardiner was deputising.
- Mayor Lutfur Rahman.
- Stephen Halsey, Head of Paid Service and Corporate Director Communities Localities and Culture, for whom Andy Bamber, Service Head Safer Communities, Communities Localities and Culture, was deputising.
- Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillor Gardiner.

Noted

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor Gardiner declared a personal and professional interest in agenda item 8.1 Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16 as the content/recommendations in the report were pertinent to the future of the Probation Service in Tower Hamlets and Councillor Gardiner was a serving Probation Officer.

Action by:

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

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

Matter Arising

The Chair:

- Informed OSC members that at the last OSC meeting Councillor Rachael Saunders, Vice-Chair OSC (in the Chair), had indicated that he would be inviting the Mayor to attend the next OSC meeting [10th September], for one of a series of 'spotlight sessions' during the year. This 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, and consequently with the passage of time the spotlight theme would be less meaningful. Councillor Rachael Saunders, Vice-Chair (representing the Chair) had extended the invitation at Cabinet on 31st July and the Chair had formalised this in a subsequent letter. Unfortunately the Mayor had declined the invitation, because of prior commitments and this was the third such declined invitation. The Mayor had indicated he was available on several future dates, but these were not scheduled OSC meeting dates and the Chair considered that the Mayor should attend one of the latter. Therefore, with OSC agreement, he intended to invite the Mayor to the next OSC meeting [1st October} for the spotlight session, but also to request details of the Mayor's diary commitments on future scheduled OSC meeting dates, should he not be able to attend the meeting on 1st October. This was in order to identify a meeting he could attend, and thereby prevent non-attendance and disrespecting of the OSC through this.

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

Resolved

That the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 23rd July 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 - COMMUNITY SAFETY

8.1 Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16

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 item 8.1 "Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16" be considered in conjunction with agenda item 5 "Scrutiny Spotlight - Community Safety" because the content of the items was thematically linked. Accordingly the Chair **Moved** and it was:-

Resolved

1. That the order of business be varied to allow for Agenda Items 5 and 8.1 below be considered in conjunction:
 - Agenda item 5. Scrutiny Spotlight - Community Safety
 - Agenda item 8.1 Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16
2. Subsequently return to the order of business detailed in the agenda.

Special Circumstances and Reasons for Urgency

The Chair informed members of the Committee that the special circumstances and reasons for urgency associated with the proposals were detailed on the front page of the report and that the Constitution required that he agree these before OSC consideration of the report could take place. The Chair subsequently agreed the special circumstances and reasons for urgency as set out on the front page of the report and also set out below:

The Community Safety Plan is a statutory document that the Council is obliged to deliver at the earliest available opportunity. A request was made by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny to clarify the public consultation section of the plan; this was done by amending the appendices requiring additional legal input. Deferment would adversely impact on the Council's ability to engage with the Partnership to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Gardiner declared a personal and professional interest in agenda item 8.1 Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16 as the content/ recommendations in the report were pertinent to the future of the Probation Service in Tower Hamlets and Councillor Gardiner was a serving Probation Officer.

Mr Dave Stringer, Borough Commander Metropolitan Police, gave a detailed presentation on performance relating to crime/ community safety and associated challenges/opportunities in Tower Hamlets as follows:

- Providing a comparative analysis (with neighbouring boroughs) of levels of reported crime summarised in a **Tabled** colour version of the chart set out at Appendix 5 to the report (pg 114 agenda pack). Also highlighting the detection level for reported crime (26% of overall crime solved over the past 12 months, one of the highest rates in London).
- Highlighting challenges and opportunities relating to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB):-

- ASB levels were second-highest of London boroughs and it formed a very large proportion of matters that concerned the community.
- High levels around nuisance, alcohol / drugs and prostitution (latter numbers small and limited to certain areas but never the less a problem). A vice unit has recently been established and vice crime was now starting to fall.
- Acknowledged linkage of domestic abuse and prostitution/ other criminality & social issues were being addressed through a strategy to tackle violence against women & girls. The good practice of the Partnership in addressing domestic abuse was now being replicated to tackle prostitution, and other councils were now learning from LBTH.
- There were excellent drug and alcohol treatment facilities in LBTH, but an ancillary consequence was that substance misusers came to the borough for treatment and tended to stay along with some of the associated ASB; and this contributed greatly to the increased levels of alcohol related crime in LBTH and Hackney unlike other LBs. The Partnership was now undertaking consultation on a cap on the number of premises licenced to sell alcohol, which should help mitigate alcohol related ASB.
- There had also been a huge increase in social life and establishments in the Shoreditch area, particularly amongst young people, with associated alcohol and drug related ASB. This was being tackled strategically with Hackney and Islington councils. Partnership investment in a rapid response team had been extremely beneficial, allowing intensive levels of focused intervention/ enforcement. Youth outreach work was also helpful.
- Opportunities included: innovative youth outreach work eg Schools Watch initiative. Encouraging the Council to consider a more robust licensing regime with a saturation policy dimension (which would also assist with ASB issues in the Shoreditch area). Also supporting the work being undertaken on domestic abuse and prostitution. There had been a 10% decrease in the latter in the previous year, but more could be done given the level had also fallen in other LBs which indicated a general downward trend.
- Highlighting challenges and opportunities relating to property related crime:-
 - A challenging area in the Borough. Historically comparatively low, but over past 4 years had risen, particularly robbery. This impacted greatly on individuals, especially if knives were used, and also contributed to inter-group tensions and retaliatory violence. Much of this crime was driven by residents with a drug misuse habit.
 - If examined over the last 12 months levels of property crime were still rising, however they had dropped over the last 6 months particularly in Mile End. This was due greatly to targeted intervention through operation Carbon, the largest single day drug operation undertaken by the Metropolitan Police (MP), with approximately 80 arrests. The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Programme (team recently co-located in Bethnal Green), a Partnership initiative working with drug misusers in prison and in the community aiming to reduce reoffending, had also contributed.

- The supply of drugs via motor vehicles made the police work more complex, but more extensive use of powers under S.59 of the Act would help mitigate this.
- Outlining improved performance/ direction of travel on victim satisfaction and overall public confidence in the police, as shown in a recent survey which had been academically benchmarked and which the Metropolitan Police (MP) considered to be technically robust. These improvements welcomed by the OSC.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor, introduced, and highlighted key points, in the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16, which set out:-

- The statutory duty to produce a Community Safety Partnership Plan (CSPP) and required content thereof.
- The Strategic Framework within Tower Hamlets and congruence of the proposed CSPP with this.
- Highlights of partnership performance during 2012/13, methodology and the findings of the Partnership's Strategic Assessment 2012, which included performance trends over 2009-12.
- Outcome of public consultation identifying public's crime priorities for the CSPP.

Andy Bamber, Service Head Safer Communities, and Emily Fieran-Reed Head of Community Safety Partnership, Domestic Violence and Hate Crime, were also in attendance for this item.

Councillor Ahmed and Mr Bamber emphasised that the MP were primarily responsible for tackling crime, such as burglary and robbery, with performance targets for crime set by Scotland Yard; and the role of the Council was to prioritise ways to support them in their work. The Council's investment in community safety programmes was subsequently highlighted as follows:-

- £1 million invested in programme to treat substance misuse in addition to the IOM programme aimed at breaking the drug/ crime reoffending cycle. The DIP and DAAT also supported the mitigation of issues here and together had £8 million funding.
- Resourcing the 'Dealer a Day', programme, which had exceeded targets the previous year and was on target to achieve objectives this year.
- Previous investment/ support of Partnership Task Force 1 and had now investment/ support of PTF2 (currently being recruited to).
- The Council had one of the most comprehensive CCTV operations in the country:- 24/7 with operators who were proactive. This had been successful in supporting the MP in tackling crime, with the Control Room resulting in 60-70 arrests due to the unit directing police to crime scene.
- LBTH provided funding for an additional 34 police officers whose activities were primarily focused on ASB and drugs.
- Tackling Domestic Violence was being supported through the Sanctuary Programme and also a new strategic approach to violence against women and girls particularly through the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. The measure of good practice and success was the number of victims coming forward for help.

- Partnership working was successful eg via Community Safety Partnership Board, and this was reflected in the successful response to the recent EDL demonstration in Tower Hamlets. Day to day success targeting the lower end of ASB problems was greatly due to new THEOs, with over 1,000 fines issued by them. However success to date needed building upon.

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

- Clarification/ assurance sought and given as to action that could be taken/ improved to ensure English Defence League demonstrations did not become a regular occurrence in LBTH. *Contributory elements to the successful MP operation were outlined and these would be key going forward: -*
 - *CCTV/ number plate recognition technology*
 - *Existing relationship/ mechanisms which had built community capacity to deal with such issues eg No Place for Hate Forum*
 - *Rapid Response Team a wonderful resource*
 - *Good communications*
 - *Demonstration of MP commitment with numbers present, balanced with trust in the judgement of the Police Commissioner to adhere to legal requirements of the Law on allowing democratic protest provided this did not infringe right to protect the community from hate crime.*
- Discussion on increasing victim confidence to report crime without fear and appropriate methods to seek the views of residents (consideration media walkabouts not helpful to this). *The Administration considered the recent walkabout had been helpful to ascertain resident views on community safety. Previous administrations had media initiatives for crime and the current Administration was doing the same, and the Borough Commander was working with the executive Mayor elected by local residents as would be expected. The Borough Commander indicated that cameras had not prevented residents relating their experience of ASB to him. OSC noted the commitment of the Borough Commander to door to door enquiries to ascertain resident views eg the 'Adopt a Block' initiative in Bow, and his emphasis on the importance of good communication on police activities with the Community. Also noted the increase in Neighbourhood Watch schemes and the examination of a 'Crime-stoppers' scheme.*
- The Chair 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.
- Clarification/ assurance sought and given as to the proactive methods of engagement planned in the CSPP to prevent crime and ASB. *These were outlined in Section 4.9 of the CSPP and had been outlined by Councillor Ahmed in his presentation, and included Youth Crime prevention initiatives a fresh strategy to deal with domestic abuse of women and girls and initiatives to deal with alcohol and drugs related ASB.*
- Clarification/ assurance sought and given on the recent restructure of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs), its impact on officer numbers and

delivery on assurances of greater police visibility. *OSC noted the MP commitment to increasing the visibility of the newly formed teams and also assurance that there were more officers working in them.*

- Clarification/ assurance sought and on the continuity of funding for police/ community safety activity and measurable outcomes of this. One 3 year funding stream was at year 1 another funding stream ended in 2013/14. OSC requested appraisal on developments. ***Information on funding/ numbers of police officers in the borough (both by the MP and the Council) to be provided.***
- Clarification/ assurance sought as to the nature/ function of 'Airspace', referred to in the CSPP. *This was a management tool to deal with ASB. It provided a mechanism to facilitate SNT access to ASB calls and for others to access SNTs. A written answer could be provided to Councillor Eaton.*
- Clarification sought as to the rationale for linkage of arson and ASB in the CSPP.
- Clarification/ assurance sought and given as to the role/ stance of the MP in relation to Registered Social Landlord (RSL) use of social media to monitor/ report on the activities of young people and their dispersal and the dispersal action itself. *The police had stronger powers for designated Dispersal Zones, however it was inappropriate and unlawful for young people to be moved on if they had not committed crime or ASB. The Borough Commander considered that RSLs, local Ward panels and the MP needed to liaise and coordinate in such circumstances. It was appropriate for the MP to engage with young people and if without result to approach their parents with resort to ASB contracts or tenancy action a last resort.*
- Clarification sought and given as to whether the reported reduction in Motor Vehicle crime and rise in theft against people was linked and whether there was displacement? *Vehicles were generally more secure although obvious display of easily resaleable Sat Nav units (accounting for most remaining motor vehicle crime). Large concerts in the borough had led to significant increases in theft of mobile phones (accounting for most of the increase in theft against people) however a new approach had reduced this.*
- Clarification sought and given as to whether there were career opportunities for Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) in the Metropolitan Police (MP). *THEOs were trained to an accredited standard and this would place them in a good position if applying for an MP position. However there was no automatic progression scheme from one organisation to the other, the individual would have to apply for a position and undergo the MP recruitment process.*
- Clarification/ assurance sought and given on recent public perception that CCTV was being used to generate parking enforcement income rather than being used solely for community safety. *There were 2 Council run CCTV units located separately and they did not share information/ film footage. The community safety CCTV did not engage in any parking enforcement activity.*

- Clarification/ assurance sought on the performance of the Dealer a Day initiative: what action being taken to strengthen initiative and what analysis had been undertaken of its impact on removal of dealers from streets? *Mayor Rahman was proud of an initiative he had introduced when Leader of the Council, and which was on track to meet targets. A performance breakdown (table of arrests convictions and offences) was requested.*
- Clarification/ assurance sought and given as to the inclusion of a 'Restorative Justice' (RJ) element in the CSPP, which was acknowledged to be an effective way of reducing adult re-offending. *RJ was used heavily in youth offending cases, and Officers considered that the Council and Partnership organisations, such as RSLs and the MP, were effectively equipped to use RJ where it was appropriate to do so, and this would continue.*
- Clarification/ assurance sought and given as to the risk and contingency planning undertaken to mitigate the impact of the Government proposal to privatise/ fragment the Probation Service, including maintaining the current approach to community cohesion. *The Partnership had successfully worked to reduce offending eg through the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Programme. Officers were also now represented on the Ministry of Justice Advisory Group on the local implications of break up of the Probation Service, which would relay the preferred outcomes of local councils. The Partnership was endeavouring to use this influence to ensure contractors met local needs.*
- Clarification sought as to outcome of planning application appeal relating to a Skyline facility on the Isle of Dogs. Also whether the future of this service was secure. *There was no intention to reduce the DIP or DAT service, as Public Health funding had been secured for it. Additionally re-engineering of contracts should result in more control over service delivery in this area. As the Skyline application was not part of the CSSP a written answer would be provided.*
- Consideration that the CSPP could be strengthened with additional clarity as to mechanisms by which local residents in any Ward could access SNTs, influence their priorities to reflect local aspirations and ensure these were delivered, as they had previously; as currently there appeared to be a new disconnect. *The Borough Commander responded that local voice in SNTs was important and the Adopt a Block initiative would help reinforce this at the grass roots level. Local Ward panels lacked an element of engagement with young people and a new initiative of a student panel setting the priority for a local police officer was being piloted.* The Chair considered that the Adopt a Block initiative welcomed but emphasised the importance of transparency and monitoring, also that councillors were able to provide the MP eyes and ears.
- Clarification/ assurance sought on RSL/ SNT linkage/ engagement and the importance of this given the number of events/ initiatives run by them. There was a current perception of disconnect and the Borough Commander was asked to make enquiries of MP sergeants as to invitations/ attendance.

- Clarification/ assurance sought on inclusion in CSPP of mechanisms/ activity / outreach to ensure non-threatening access to advice and services against domestic violence. *A significant level of dedicated staffing was commissioned through officers in Victim Support and a one stop shop approach to obtaining advice and services was facilitated. Uniformed officers took abusers away and the victim was then dealt with by specialist MP officers/ victim support staff. The OSC welcomed the work in this area and the positive progress made at reducing the time it took victims to report abuse.*
- Some discussion took place on appropriate strategies for youth education and engagement against crime. *A programme of education in primary schools was being undertaken and it was hoped to extend this to secondary schools.*
- Clarification/ assurance sought as to ASB relating to late night music – was this increasing? was it felt appropriate to engage with perpetrators? *This was a significant issue accounting for 60 to 70 per cent of ASB calls. A positive response was normally elicited by uniformed officers and the additional THEOs were undertaking this and issuing noise abatement notices where necessary.*

The Chair thanked Dave Stringer, Borough Commander, and Councillor Ohid Ahmed for changing their arrangements at short notice to attend the spotlight session and for assisting the OSC with its consideration of the CSPP. He then **Moved** and it was:-

Resolved

1. That the information given in the scrutiny spotlight presentations of the Borough Commander and the Deputy Mayor, be noted;
2. That the contents of the report, and proposed Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16 and priorities therein, be noted; and
3. That the advice/comments of the OSC in respect of the proposed Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16, which forms part of the Council's Policy Framework, be presented to the Mayor in Cabinet on 11th September 2013 to inform his decision making on this item of business.

Action by:

Andy Bamber (Service Head Safer Communities - CLC)

Emily Fieran-Reed (Head of Community Safety Partnership Domestic Violence & Hate Crime CLC)

Colin Hewitt (Community Safety Partnership Officer)

Dave Stringer (Borough Commander Metropolitan Police)

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 31st July 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

8.1 Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16

Please note that the order of business was varied by resolution of the OSC earlier in the proceedings in order to allow this item of business to be considered in conjunction with the first item of substantive business: agenda item 5 "Scrutiny Spotlight – Community Safety". For ease of reference OSC deliberations in respect of the CSSP 2013-16, and subsequent decisions taken, are recorded in the minutes at agenda item 5 and not set out below in the order detailed in the agenda.

8.2 Licensing Policy Review

David Tolley, Head of Consumer and Business Regulations, introduced, and highlighted key points, in the report which set out:-

- The statutory requirement for the Council to review and adopt its Statement of Licensing Policy' at this point, and the purpose of the Statement.
- Stakeholder consultation undertaken to date and inclusion of potential revisions reflecting this. Consultation with OSC under the Budget and Policy Framework contained in the Council's Constitution, was an element of this.
- The background and outcome of consultation on the proposed 'No Casino' resolution, which would amend the Council's Gambling Policy, a Budget and Policy Framework matter requiring consultation with OSC.

Andy Bamber, Service Head Safer Communities, was also in attendance for this item.

The following points were highlighted by David Tolley:

- Statutory changes to the Licensing Policy summarized at Appendix 4.
- Other key proposals for consultation:-
 - Late night levy and the associated allocation of income generated between the Metropolitan Police and the Council (ratio of 70% to 30%)
 - Early morning restriction orders which would enable the Council to limit the sale of alcohol from midnight in some areas.

A discussion followed which focused on clarification being sought and given on the following points:-

- Proposals welcomed by Councillor Snowdon, a member of the Licensing Committee, including use of Ultra Violet pens to check duty paid stamps.
- Acknowledging the difficulty of imposing conditions on establishments selling single items of alcohol under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, clarification/ assurance sought and given on proposals / plans to impose conditions under Public Health (PH) provisions, now the Council was a PH authority. *Officers had examined this, and although the Council could make comments in its PH role such circumstances were not covered by the 4 Objectives of the Licensing Act 2003. The Council would endeavour to address the issue through pricing via a voluntary Community Alcohol Partnership Scheme and try to roll this out in key areas eg vicinity of hostels. The Licensing Committee could also address by adding conditions when granting applications for a license to sell alcohol.*
- Clarification/ assurance sought and given that the proposed Licensing Policy had not been skewed by the resident led organisations consulted, as listed at Appendix1 (32 being boroughwide, 15 being from Brick Lane, with only 5 from other areas). Comment that concern had been expressed previously over Metropolitan Police weighting of resources to the Brick Lane area, with residents elsewhere not receiving the attention they were due. *Wide consultation had been undertaken including all license holders, publicity in East End Life and responses facilitated through online submission.*
- Given the level of campaigning/ lobbying by the local community for a policy on sex entertainment venues (SEVs) little appeared to have been done to address this. There appeared to be a holding policy where restrictions were imposed on such venues but this implied a right for them to exist/ conduct business. Why had the Council not progressed a SEV Policy and why had it not invoked the additional powers under of closure and review provided under statute, as referred to at page 188 of the report? Officers had developed proposals for a SEV Policy and this would be considered by the Mayor in Cabinet on 11th September.
- Some concern expressed regarding the 'meeter and greeter' scheme proposed by businesses during consultation (referenced at pg 120 agenda pack), that introduction could conflict with the commitment made by the Council to reduce harassment by on street promoters (touts) and the bye law introduced to tackle this. *Assurance given of continued enforcement action on the bye law and such a scheme fell outside the scope of the Licensing Policy Statement. However engagement with local business to improve the current position would be beneficial.*

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

Resolved

1. That the contents of the report, and proposed Statement of Licensing Policy attached and 'No Casino' Resolution contained therein, be noted; and

2. That the advice/comments of the OSC in respect of the proposed:-
 - Statement of Licensing Policy
 - 'No Casino' resolution that would amend the Gambling Policy 2013, both of which form part of the Council's Policy Framework, be presented to the Mayor in Cabinet on 11th September 2013 to inform his decision making on this item of business.

Action by:

Andy Bamber (Service Head Safer Communities, CLC)

David Tolley (Head of Consumer and Business Regulations, Community Safety, CLC)

8.3 Strategic Performance and Corporate Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Q1 2013/14 (Month 3)

Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources, introduced, and highlighted key points, in the monitoring report which detailed the financial position of the Council at the end of Quarter 1 2013/14 compared to budget, and service performance against targets. Paul Thorogood, Interim Service Head Finance and Human Resources, and Louise Russell, Service Head Corporate Strategy and Equality, were also in attendance for this item.

A discussion followed which focused on the following point:-

- Council disposals were clearly a key way to generate income in the current environment of budgetary constraint and the OSC felt greater transparency was required in this area to facilitate scrutiny of the Council's approach to this. Accordingly OSC requested that a breakdown of all Council disposals (sale of assets), capital receipts accruing, and allocations thereof be provided to OSC members and included in future reports. **Paul Thorogood to provide in writing.**

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

Resolved

1. That Quarter 1 performance for 2013/14 be noted; and
2. That the Council's financial position as detailed in section 3 and Appendices 1-4 of the report, be noted.

Action by:

Chris Holme, Acting Corporate Director Resources

Louise Russell, Service Head Corporate Strategy and Equalities

9. VERBAL UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY LEADS

Scrutiny Lead Member Health – Cllr Saunders

Reported that Barts and the London NHS Trust had attended the Health Scrutiny Panel and advised that they had voluntarily gone into a process of 'Financial Turn Around'. (FTA) The Trust remained in control of its finances, unlike other trusts where the Government had appointed independent administrators. The Trust had appointed financial consultants to assist it with the FTA process. However the Trust Board priorities were no longer change and development but identifying savings. This circumstance had been created by Government requirements for in year one off savings from the existing Budget and ongoing issues with a Private Finance Initiative. More work was required to identify and scrutinise the savings and there were concerns regarding false economies of freezing posts and filling these with temporary staff during the FTA process.

Scrutiny Lead Member Communities, Localities and Culture – Cllr Helal Uddin

Youth Provision, which had been returned in-house for a year was being examined and it was expected there would be a Challenge Session or Spotlight later in the year.

Scrutiny Lead Member Resources – Cllr Eaton

The support given to Council staff with autism and dyslexia was being examined.

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

Resolved

That the verbal updates be noted.

10. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF UNRESTRICTED CABINET PAPERS

No pre-decision questions submitted to the Mayor in Cabinet [11 September 2013].

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

The Chair commented that the role/ function of Scrutiny was important and it was essential that OSC meetings were facilitated through appropriate provision of equipment, and the Executive was responsible for ensuring this. In this context the Chair noted that the microphones had not been working properly and this had disrupted the transaction of OSC business. Accordingly he requested that the Executive ensure that microphones fit for purpose 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)

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