

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 8 JUNE 2010

**M71, 7TH FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,
LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Ann Jackson (Chair)

Councillor Stephanie Eaton
Councillor Tim Archer
Councillor Rajib Ahmed
Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer
Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Lesley Pavitt
Councillor Zenith Rahman

Co-opted Members Present:

Mr Mushfique Uddin – (Muslim Community Representative)

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Helal Abbas

Officers Present:

Afazul Hoque – (Scrutiny Policy Manager, Scrutiny & Equalities,
Chief Executive's)
David Galpin – (Head of Legal Services (Community))
Mohammed Ahad – (Scrutiny Policy Officer, Scrutiny & Equalities,
Chief Executive's)
Katie McDonald – Scrutiny Policy Officer
Hafsha Ali – (Acting Joint Service Head Scrutiny & Equalities)
Keiko Okawa – (Intern, Equalities & Scrutiny, Chief Executive's)
Chris Saunders – (Interim Political Advisor to the Labour Group)
Amanda Thompson – (Team Leader - Democratic Services)

1. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/ 2011

COUNCILLOR ANNE JACKSON IN THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the new Municipal Year.

Councillor Stephanie Eaton **MOVED** that Councillor Tim Archer be elected Vice-Chair.

Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer **MOVED** that Councillor Rajib Ahmed be elected Vice-Chair.

Following discussion and a **VOTE** 5 in favour and 2 against it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Rajib Ahmed be elected Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2010/2011.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Harun Miah and Canon Michael Ainsworth who had been nominated as a Co-opted Member.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

4. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the unrestricted minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2010 be agreed as a correct record.

5. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURAL MATTERS

5.1 Overview & Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference, Membership, Quorum, Dates of meetings, Protocols and Guidance

Miss Amanda Thompson, Democratic Services, introduced the report detailing the Committee's Terms of Reference, Membership, Quorum and meeting dates for the 2010/2011 Municipal Year.

The report also set out suggested protocols and guidance to facilitate the conduct of the Committee's business and meet its statutory and constitutional requirements.

RESOLVED

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Terms of Reference, Membership, Quorum and meeting dates be noted, and that the protocols and guidance be adopted.

5.2 Appointment of Scrutiny Lead Members, Co-options to Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Health Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference and Appointments

Miss Amanda Thompson introduced the report and advised the Committee of the need to agree the new scrutiny lead portfolios and lead members based on the Community Plan themes.

The Committee was also requested to agree the co-option of representatives in respect of education matters and also the Tower Hamlets Local Involvement Network in accordance with statutory requirements and the Council's Constitution.

The report further advised of the establishment of the Health Scrutiny Panel by full Council, and the need to make appointments to this Panel and appoint a Chair.

RESOLVED

1. That the Scrutiny Lead Portfolios based on the Community Plan be agreed and the following Scrutiny Leads be appointed:-

Councillor Zenith Rahman – A Great Place to Live
Councillor Rabina Khan – A Prosperous Community
Councillor Lesley Pavitt – A Safe and Supportive Community
Councillor Tim Archer – A Healthy Community
Councillor Ahmed Adan Omer – One Tower Hamlets
Councillor Rajib Ahmed – Excellent Public Services

2. That the co-option of representatives in respect of education matters as detailed in the report be agreed; and that Mr Abhab Miah who was appointed Parent Governor Representative in January 2009, continue as a co-opted member until his term of office expires in 2011;
3. That the establishment of the Health Scrutiny Panel and the appointment of Members thereto as detailed below be noted;

Councillor Tim Archer (Chair)
Councillor Abdul Asad
Councillor Alibor Choudhury
Councillor Kosru Uddin
Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Shelina Akhtar

4. That the co-option of representatives from the Tower Hamlets Local Involvement Network to the membership of the Health Scrutiny Panel be agreed.

6. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS

None.

7. REQUESTS FOR DEPUTATIONS

None.

8. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

There were no Section One reports 'called in' from the meeting of Cabinet held on 7th April 2010.

9. SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT

9.1 Reducing Childhood Obesity and Increasing the Availability of Healthy Choices - Report of the Scrutiny Review Working Group

Councillor Tim Archer introduced the report submitting the recommendations of the Reducing Childhood Obesity Working Group for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members of the Committee welcomed the report and made a number of comments about the importance of promoting healthy eating and exercise as well as focusing on the planning and business issues in relation to fast food outlets.

Councillor Archer welcomed all comments and advised that it had been very difficult to keep the work of the review manageable given the fact that it needed to be completed in a year, and suggested that the findings of the working group could form the basis of new separate reviews.

Councillor Archer advised that NHS Tower Hamlets had also conducted a 'Healthy and Active' campaign during the last year and that this would also help address the problem.

Following the discussion Members of the Committee

RESOLVED

1. That the draft report be agreed, and

2. That the Joint Acting Service Head, Scrutiny and Equalities be authorised to agree the final report before its submission to Cabinet, after consultation with the Scrutiny Lead for A Healthy Community.

10. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF UNRESTRICTED CABINET AGENDA

The Chair **moved** and it was **RESOLVED**

That the following Section 1 pre-decision questions be submitted to Cabinet for consideration:

Agenda Item 6.1 Ocean new Deal for Communities – Delivery Plan for 2010/11 – Ocean Estate Regeneration (CAB 001/101)

1. With reference to paragraph 3.5 of the report, can you clarify what lessons have been learnt from the first phase pilot refurbishment and to what extent the success of the pilot has been down to amount and timing of contractor visits?
2. Can you explain how the regeneration plan for Ocean Estate will ensure the best use of community space and how will it cater for the needs of all sections of the community?
3. With reference to paragraph 3.6 of the report, what residual freehold titles do the Council currently hold?

Agenda Item 6.2 Lettings Policy and Lettings Plan (CAB 002/101)

1. Housing for young offenders has been highlighted as a key priority in last year's scrutiny review on Youth Offending and the Children and Young People's Plan included in this Cabinet agenda. Paragraph 6.22 does not clarify which group young offenders will be in and therefore could you explain what priority group they will be and how this has been decided?
2. What is the level of support given to rough sleepers on application to the Council for housing?
3. With reference to paragraph 6.23 does this allow for those that are basically 'sofa surfers'?
4. In addition to equalities issues what consideration has been given in the development of the new Lettings Policy to mitigate cohesion issues that arise over perceived housing inequality?

Agenda Item 7.1 Children and Young People's Plan Annual Review 2009-10 (CAB 004/101)

1. With reference to page 336 of the Cabinet papers and priority 4, can you explain what work has been done to improve diagnosis and entry to access for disability services for young people?
2. Can you explain how disabled young people are supported during transition from Children Services to Adult Services?
3. Can you provide details of the primary to secondary Transition Support Programme and clarify to what extent this continues during the first year of students' secondary education?
4. In preparation for a period of fiscal tightening can you clarify to what extent this has been considered in priority setting for year 2 and 3 of the plan?

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

None.

The meeting ended at 7.50 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Ann Jackson
Overview & Scrutiny Committee