

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 3 JULY 2012**

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

**Members Present:**

Councillor Ann Jackson (Chair)  
Councillor Rachael Saunders (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Tim Archer  
Councillor Stephanie Eaton  
Councillor Sirajul Islam  
Councillor Amy Whitelock  
Councillor Helal Uddin  
Councillor Judith Gardiner

**Other Councillors Present:**

**Co-opted Members Present:**

Canon Michael Ainsworth – (Church of England Diocese Representative)  
Mr Mushfique Uddin – (Muslim Community Representative)

**Guests Present:**

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**Officers Present:**

Sarah Barr – (Senior Strategy Policy and Performance Officer,  
One Tower Hamlets, Chief Executive's)  
Louise Russell – (Service Head Corporate Strategy and Equalities,  
Chief Executive's)  
Andy Bamber – (Service Head Safer Communities, Communities,  
Localities & Culture)  
Jill Bell – Head of Legal Services (Environment), Legal  
Services  
Simone Scott-Sawyer – (Democratic Services)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fozol Miah and Memory Kampiyawo.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**3. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS**

There were none.

**4. REQUESTS FOR DEPUTATIONS**

There were none.

**5. SECTION ONE REPORTS 'CALLED IN'**

There were none.

**6. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**VARY ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Chair **Moved** that the order of business be varied. Accordingly, item 6.2 was taken first, followed by items 6.1, 7, 8 and 9.

**6.1 POLICE COMMISSIONING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Andy Bamber, Safer Communities Service Head, Communities, Localities and Culture, tabled a document and gave a PowerPoint presentation for Members on Policing and Crime. The following salient points were highlighted:

- The Police Commissioning and Community Safety was enshrined in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act – this created Police and Crime Commissioners;
- The shift from the Metropolitan Police Authority to the Police and Crime Commission was significant;
- There were 24 hour response teams, investigative teams and Safer Neighbourhood teams. There were also support services including custody arrangements, financial and HR teams.

In response to questions by some Members, Andy Bamber made the following points:

- The Council had the ability to call in the Borough Commander and hold him to account;
- The Mayor and the Police and Crime Commissioner had joint responsibility for delivering a national Policing and Crime Plan for

London – this was issued to the Metropolitan Police who in turn issued it to the Borough Commander each year;

- As a partnership, the Council had the responsibility to produce a Community Safety Plan which could influence the Borough Commander's wider agenda taking account of local issues;
- Funding – the Council's vision and objectives needed to fit in with that of the Borough Commander's in order to receive funding streams for local issues;
- Homicide was not investigated by the police, but by a central team geographically based in London;
- Where a borough was considered a "volume" contributor to crime, then it was possible to be able to access funding;
- "Prevent" does not feature as some of the data on this was still being assessed;
- Hate crime did not feature as a stand-alone item at present, although if it were escalated to "serious crime" status this would change. However, between now and March 2013, there was an opportunity for Tower Hamlets Council to influence what was placed on the agenda as regarded "prevent funding";
- There was a structural process in place to feedback local concerns through a number of consultation events taking place in the borough. These local concerns, together with the "volume" crimes statistics ultimately inform and influence the objectives for London and the London Policing Plan;
- Data showing where the highest rate of crime occurred was not readily available, but Mr Bamber endeavoured to retrieve this information. Ward based profile data was available on request from the Borough Commander;
- With reference to Cllr Uddin's concerns about safety priorities, Mr Bamber explained that as a borough, the Council carried out regular strategic assessments. These covered a host of crimes including sensitive crimes affecting communities e.g. drug dealing on estates;
- As far as the manoeuvrability of funding was concerned, these provisions were enshrined in section 92 agreements and were fixed. However, one of the agreements was due to expire in 2013 and a new one was due to start in October. It was important to note that investment must focus on locally agreed priorities.

In response to some concerns raised by the Chair, Mr Bamber endeavoured to produce data on crime detailing common assault, residential burglary, theft etc. He promised to produce a benchmarking document showing how Tower Hamlets compared to the rest of London, looking at crimes including violence, residential burglary, robbery and theft of motor vehicles etc.

Mr Bamber promised to:

- Do a breakdown and produce an analysis on the number of officers dedicated to the borough based on square mileage by September 2012;

- Consider the front counter service – there had been no response to date from the Metropolitan Police about this;
- Evaluate the future of the Safer Neighbourhood teams.

In summary Andy Bamber also agreed to produce data requirements on:

- Police officer benchmark against total notifiable offences (all crimes reported to the police);
- Police officer benchmark on borough size and population;
- Benchmarking of priority crime types across London.

Members agreed to invite the Borough Commander to discuss local Policing issues with the committee in the coming months.

The Chair also requested specific Councillor briefing from the police on local issues arising during the Olympics. Mr Bamber confirmed that there would be a visible presence in every neighbourhood team during this period. Additional policing for the borough could be sought from the Pan-London response team.

**RESOLVED:**

That the presentation be noted.

## **6.2 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

Sarah Barr, Senior Strategy Policy and Performance Officer referred Members to the workshop which took place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012 discussing the work programme.

At the meeting the Committee agreed to focus on four scrutiny reviews in 2012-13: Post-16 attainment, youth unemployment, co-regulation and the accountability of Registered Housing Providers and the allocation of mainstream grants to support the third sector.

Further topics to be dealt with through one off-events or challenge sessions included welfare reform, mental health and housing, crime and policing and street cleanliness.

**RESOLVED:**

That the officer's verbal presentation be noted.

## **7. VERBAL UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY LEADS**

Cllr Judith Gardiner expressed concern about the Community Safety Plan, and stated that she was disappointed to see that the comments made by full Council had not been picked up in the version submitted to Cabinet. Cllr

Gardiner felt the plan did not address concerns raised in relation to serious violence and vulnerable residents.

**8. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF SECTION ONE (UNRESTRICTED)  
CABINET PAPERS**

There were none.

**9. ANY OTHER SECTION ONE (UNRESTRICTED) BUSINESS WHICH THE  
CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT**

Sarah Barr, Senior Strategy Policy and Performance Officer reminded Members of the “World Pride” event organised by London Councils. Further details would be circulated via email the following day.

The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

**Chair**, Ann Jackson

Overview & Scrutiny Committee