

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT TIME NOT SPECIFIED ON THURSDAY, 21 JULY 2016**

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

**Members Present:**

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Councillor John Pierce (Chair) |  |
| Councillor Abdul Asad          | – Scrutiny Lead for Communities,<br>Localities & Culture |
| Councillor Julia Dockerill     | – Scrutiny Lead for Children's Services                  |
| Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE     | – Scrutiny Lead for Resources                            |
| Councillor Helal Uddin         |  |
| Councillor Clare Harrison      | – Scrutiny Lead for Adult Health and<br>Wellbeing        |

**Co-opted Members Present:**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Victoria Ekubia | – (Roman Catholic Church<br>Representative) |
|-----------------|---|

**Other Councillors Present:**

Mayor John Biggs  
Councillor David Edgar  
Councillor Shiria Khatun  
Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs

**Apologies:**

- |                         |                                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Nozrul Mustafa          | – (Parent Governor Representative)   |
| Dr Phillip Rice         | – (Church of England Representative) |
| Councillor Mahbub Alam  |                                      |
| Councillor Amina Ali    |                                      |
| Councillor Oliur Rahman |                                      |

**Officers Present:**

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Dr Somen Banerjee    | – (Director of Public Health)                                |
| Claire Belgard       | – Interim Head of Integrated Youth<br>and Community Services |
| Mark Cairns          | – (Senior Strategy, Policy and<br>Performance Officer)       |
| Ronke Martins-Taylor | – Youth Services Development<br>Manager                      |
| Kevin Miles          | – (Chief Accountant, Resources)                              |
| Kevin Kewin          | – (Interim Service Head, Corporate)                          |

Denise Radley	– Strategy and Equality
Rachael Sadegh	– (Director of Adults' Services)
	– (DAAT Manager, Community Safety Service, Communities Localities & Culture)
Graham White	– (Interim Service Head, Legal Services, Law, Probity and Governance)
David Knight	– (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Committee receive apologies for absence from Nozrul Mustafa; Dr Phillip Rice; Councillor Mahbub Alam; Councillor Amina Ali and Councillor Oliur Rahman.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were received from Members present.

**3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES**

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

**RESOLVED**

That the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 be approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

**4. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS 'CALLED IN'**

No decisions of the Mayor in Cabinet 14th June, 2016 in respect of unrestricted reports on the agenda had been 'called in'.

**5. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS**

Nil items

**6. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTION NOTES 2016 - 2017**

The Committee received and noted an update on the outstanding actions.

**7. FORTHCOMING DECISIONS**

The Committee received and noted the published list of forthcoming decisions that provided the Scrutiny Leads with a list of those issues that they needed to

follow up with the Portfolio Lead Members and Directorates. The main points of the discussion on this item maybe summarised as follows:

### **Approval of the allocation of S106 Funding to projects including Pocket Parks**

The Committee noted that approval from Cabinet in the autumn to deliver these projects for the following reasons:

1. They help contribute to the delivery of the Pocket Parks Programme which seeks to deliver improvements to small green spaces by transforming underutilised or neglected areas of land into viable pocket parks for community use;
2. They will improve the outlook of the borough and transform under used green spaces into attractive areas for residents and workers to use; and
3. They will improve the health and wellbeing of residents and workers.

As a result of discussions on this item the Committee asked that they are provided with a progress report on this matter at the earliest opportunity.

## **8. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF UNRESTRICTED CABINET PAPERS**

The Committee considered the Cabinet agenda for the 14th June, 2016 and identified the following issues:

### **Item 5.1 Parking CPZ Policy Review Project**

**Question:** The Committee wanted to know what consultation there has been by the Lead Member and Officers with Ward Members regarding charges in and around our local markets at weekends?

**Response received since the meeting:** The parking bays across the Borough are chargeable. The formal arrangements of not charging around specific markets lasted only for a short period of time under the experimental order during the economic downturn. It has never been formally converted into a permanent arrangement but has not been returned to charging until the review of all policies that started over two years ago, which identified it as an area of policy needing review. Two Parking Workshops took place with Cabinet members discussing a number of policies including this one. The proposal to formalise this informal temporary arrangement is in line with Transport Strategy in terms of traffic management, air pollution, road safety, supply and demand of spaces, etc. No need for statutory consultation.

**Question:** What is the justification for charging £4.40 in and around Columbia Road and charging only £3.80 in and around Whitechapel? How has officer and the Executive justified the additional 60pence premium?

**Response received since the meeting:** As agreed by Cabinet in January 2016, pay & display charges are based on three bands. The proposed pay & display charges in the market areas are therefore based on this banding. The charges become lower from west to east as follows:

- I. Mini-zones A1, A2, A5, A6, C1, C2: £4.40 / hour;
- II. Mini-zones A3, A4, C3, C4: £3.80 / hour; and
- III. Mini-zones B1, B2, B3, B4, D1, D2: £3.40 / hour.

Columbia Road is in mini-zones A1 & A2, therefore attracts the £4.40 charge whereas Whitechapel is in mini-zone A3, so is in the £3.80 band.

**Question:** What process will now happen to engage elected members; local businesses and business groups in consultation regarding these proposals?

Response: There is no need for statutory consultation. The communication plan is being put in place that will include leaflets and PCN warning notices before the formal arrangement recommences. It is envisaged that the recommencement of charging will start approximately 5/6 weeks after the decision.

**Question:** Has any mapping been done on the pressures regarding “on street parking” and if there has any consideration been given to varying the policy to address the needs of different high streets and shopping centres?

**Response received since the meeting:** Yes. There was an independent survey done of the whole Borough identifying the pressures, issues and opportunities to align the policies with the Transport Strategy and health and wellbeing agenda. The Policy and CPZ Review report has proposed policies that will attempt to address allocation of parking spaces in the future.

**Question:** The Committee wanted details on the evidence base regarding the decisions around the conversion of residents parking bays into metered bays?

**Response received since the meeting:** Bay conversions are performed on the basis of the Development Team receiving a request for review and then investigating the requirements of the area in question and forming proposals that subsequently go to the Lead Member for comment and then to statutory consultation before any bays are changed.

**Question:** The Committee wanted details of the timescales on the introduction of electric car charging points?

**Response received since the meeting:** It is subject to engaging the market, getting the best value for money and solution for the Borough. It is envisaged to have it in place within a year.

### **Item 5.7 Addendums to Character Appraisals and Management Plans**

**Question:** The Committee wanted to know what consultation there has been by officers with ward members regarding the Addendums to Character Appraisals and Management Plans for the 6 conversation areas?

**Response received since the meeting:** The Addendums were the subject of extensive consultation from the 23rd Nov 2015-18th Jan 2016. Ward members were not individually consulted in the preparation of these Addendums. However consultation events were publicised in East End Life and the Council's website and letters were sent to residents in all the Conservation Areas under review. In addition, the Addendums and the consultation were discussed at 20 January 2016 Council meeting under Petitions, Questions and Motions. As such, ward members would have been aware of the consultation undertaken for the Addendums.

The Addendums are additional informational to supplement the existing Character Appraisal and Management Plans and do not constitute a material change in direction to the original content. The 6 Addendums under consideration provides clarity where roof and rear extensions may be considered appropriate without impacting harmfully on the character and appearance of the Conservation Areas.

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

The Committee noted that the Maternity Services Report had highlighted a number of issues including;

- General Practitioner Services;
- Under Five's Provision;
- Low Health Outcomes; and
- Life Chances.

## **10. SCRUTINY SPOTLIGHT**

### **10.1 Spotlight on Youth Service**

The Committee received and noted a presentation from Claire Belgard, Interim Head of Integrated Youth and Community Service Ronke Martins-Taylor, Youth Services Development Manager regarding the Integrated Youth and Community Service (IYCS). The main points of the discussion maybe summarised as follows:

The Committee noted that:

1. The IYCS delivers targeted youth support, peer education, youth participation projects; and SLAs offering Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND); specialist sports, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) and performing arts provision;

2. A management review of delivery at youth centres had identified a need to ensure that youth centres were open according to their published timetable; and to ensure the provision of high quality youth work;
3. A separate full review of the youth service had started in January 2016 to find out what stakeholders including young people wanted from their youth service.
4. Consideration will be given to creative solutions to meet the needs of young people (e.g. empowering local communities to be able to deliver their own provision and involving the third sector in supporting the delivery of such work);
5. An Action Plan has been developed to ensure that the Service is able to deliver what the young people of Tower Hamlets actually want; and
6. Wanted to see a more imaginative delivery of the service (e.g. outreach into the local community) and a detailed dialogue to work with young people to influence the delivery of the IYCS going forward (e.g. how to address postcode allegiances; no-go-areas; gang related crime and their personal hopes; dreams and ambitions).

## **11. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **11.1 Substance Misuse Strategy**

The Committee received a report that outlined the Councils obligations under section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to formulate and implement strategies in conjunction with other specified responsible authorities for:

1. Reduction of crime and disorder;
2. Combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances; and
3. Reduction of re-offending.

The main points of the discussion on this report may be summarised as follows:

The Committee noted that:

1. The current Substance Misuse Strategy adopted by LBTH and partners in 2012 had expired in March 2016. Development of a new partnership strategy commenced in August 2015;
2. A draft strategy was agreed by MAB for consultation purposes in January 2016. Consultation has now completed and amendments made to the Strategy (As set out Appendix 1 of the report);
3. The Strategy is a partnership strategy and requires agreement at Full Council.
4. The Substance Misuse Strategy 2016-2019 is part of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy in Tower Hamlets (the Community Safety Plan);
5. The Substance Misuse Strategy 2016-2019 is part of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy and the Mayor as the Executive has

- responsibility for preparing the draft strategy for submission to the full Council to adopt;
6. The draft Substance Misuse Strategy 2016-2019 and Action Plan will be referred to the strategic partners for approval that the Strategy be adopted by their respective organisations;
  7. If any further changes are made to the draft Substance Misuse Strategy 2016-2019 or if, for any reason, any of the strategic partners do not approve the Strategy then a further report must be submitted to Cabinet for the Mayor to consider and make a fresh recommendation to Full Council;
  8. There is a need for a co-ordinated response to Substance Misuse with neighbouring boroughs;
  9. Apparently a significant percentage in the Borough is undertaken by local residents and this is being addressed through the Gangs Strategy;
  10. The new psychoactive substances (NPS), legal highs have been linked to a number of deaths and hospital admissions over the years. These legal highs are psychoactive drugs that contain various chemical ingredients, some of which are illegal while others are not. They produce similar effects to illegal drugs like cocaine, cannabis and ecstasy. They are sold in a variety of forms - powder, pills, liquids, capsules, perforated tabs and smoking mixtures. Accordingly, the Substance Misuse Strategy will need to address every substance that might be misused;
  11. There needs to be a thorough and rigorous education programme for both retailers and communities. This would need to be backed up by a comprehensive enforcement programme involving all partner agencies. As well as offering drug users and their families the help and support that they need to address substance misuse;
  12. The Borough's Substance Misuse Programme is considered to be an exemplar of best practice; and
  13. The profile of substance misuse is changing and the Strategy now being developed through the multi-agency teams reflects the need to address harm reduction.

## **11.2 The Council's Provisional Financial Outturn 2015/16**

The Committee noted this monitoring report which detailed the financial outturn position of the Council at the end of Quarter 4 for 2015/16 compared to budget, and service performance against targets. The report also included projected year-end position for the:

- General Fund Revenue and Housing Revenue Account;
- Capital Programme; and
- Reserve movements.

A summary of the discussion is set out below:

The Committee noted that:

1. Consideration is being given to make the best possible use of the reserves to address to deliver the Council's priorities; and
2. By next year Revenue Support Grant (RSG) will account for only 16% of spending power; by 2019 to 2020 only 5% for Local Government and ultimately the RSG will disappear altogether with the move to 100% business rates retention. Accordingly, the Committee asked for clarity on the future financial position given this reduction in the RSG.

### **11.3 End of Year Strategic Performance Monitoring Report**

The Committee received and noted this monitoring report which detailed the Council's progress in delivering activities within the Strategic Plan and performance for Strategic Measures at year end. The Committee noted the progress in delivering the Strategic Plan at year end and the performance of the Strategic Measures at year end.

### **11.4 Implementation of Charging Policy for Community Services in Adult Social Care**

The Committee noted that a decision was made in February 2016, as part of the Council's budget setting process for 2016/17, to introduce charging for community adult social care services. A summary of the discussions on the proposals for community care charging arrangements is set out below:

The Committee:

1. Noted that a communications plan is now being undertaken to support the assessment of the impact of the policy on service users and identify ways to mitigate any adverse impacts. Consultation commenced on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and will continue until 19<sup>th</sup> August 2016. The plan has been developed to enable effective management of communications with all stakeholders. As outlined in Appendix A of the report;
2. Was informed that an information booklet, survey and the letter which has been sent to individual customers who receive one or more of the services which are covered by charging;
3. Was advised that feedback from the consultation will be collated and will form part of the report on charging which will go to cabinet in October prior to implementation of the scheme; and
4. Wanted details on the numbers of people who will have to pay for community care in the future; what help will be provided and how fast adjustments can be made if required to the new system. In response it was noted that work is being undertaken on the implementation of the system with regard to an individual's situation e.g. how to explain; how to reassure and how to ensure people are getting the benefits due to them.

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

Nil items

**13. 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.

**14. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

Nil items

**15. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS 'CALLED IN'**

Nil items

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

Nil items

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

Nil items

**Chair, Councillor John Pierce  
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**