

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 April 2003

MEMBERS: Councillors *Robertson (Chair), *Brown (Vice Chair), *Adamou, Davies, *Dawson, Diakides, *Dobbie, *Lister, *Makanji, *Simpson and *Williams.

Non-voting Members: Mr. B. Aulsberry and I Shukla (REJCC non-voting Representatives).
Ms S. Berkery-Smith and Mr L Haward (Church Representatives), *Ms E. Pine and, Mr R. Sharp (Parent Governors).

Present

Also Present: Councillors

- C80. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Received from Councillors and Makanji for lateness.
- C81. URGENT BUSINESS:** The Chair reported that there was no urgent business to raise
- C82. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** (None).
- C83. MINUTES:** The minutes of the meetings held on the 3 and 12 March 2003 were approved and signed by the Chair.
The Committee had no matters to raise on the minutes as tabled.
- C84. UPDATE ON SCRUTINY REVIEWS**

(A) A presentation was made by Councillor Dobbie, the Chair of the Crime and Community Safety Panel on Anti Social Behaviour – Harassment.

In reporting on the review Councillor Dobbie made particular reference to the recognition by the Panel that the recommendation contained within the report could not be introduced overnight. He made reference also to the social and cultural changes that would need to take place to ensure that the public recognised that anti social behaviour and harassment was, although not always a criminal offence, damaging to the community and the society we live in.

Councillor Dobbie accepted that the funding for such initiatives would need to come from the local authority and on the need to train people in the various specialist areas covered by the generic term "Anti-Social Behaviour."

Finally the Chair of the Panel recorded his appreciation to the Panel Members and Rob Mack for their hard work and commitment to the review and also gave thanks to the witnesses referred to within Appendix I of the report.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report and recommendations be approved in principle subject to the Chair of the Panel, Councillor Dobbie, holding further discussions with members of the minority group to seek their views on amendments to the recommendations which would reflect further the research which went into the preparation of the report;
- (2) That it be placed on record that the report was not critical of Housing Services

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
14 April 2003

which provided a professional and comprehensive service to Council tenants.

(B) A presentation was made by Councillor Jean Brown, Chair of the Lifelong Learning Panel on Inclusive Education – Final Report

Councillor Brown gave a slide presentation to set out and detail the inordinate amount of research work which had been carried out in preparing for the report for submission and consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The submission by Councillor Brown traced the developmental work which had been carried out since the 1990's to identify the extent and implications of "inclusion". The Chair placed on record her appreciation to the Members of the Panel and the participants in the review as referred to within Appendix I of the report, and acknowledged that it would not have been possible to undertake this research project without their professional assistance.

Councillor Lister raised issues about the lack of references in the report to the right of access to the National Curriculum and to the various models in operation in special schools and units.

Councillor Brown was clear that the report favoured the resource based provision model and that the National Curriculum access was accepted.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the report and recommendations be approved subject to the amendments on access to National Curriculum.

Councillor Lister recorded his vote against this resolution.

SC85.

REPORT ON BEST VALUE REVIEW

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Organisational Development and Performance) which set out the progress on the only review being undertaken at the moment, ie the Best Value Review of Services for Children with an Additional Educational Need and their Families.

The report set out the Reviews which were to be undertaken and the ethics which would be adopted in researching and reporting upon the review topics. In response to the Chair, the reporting officer set out the different approaches adopted in carrying out a Best Value Reviews and Focussed Reviews.

The Chair, Councillor Robertson, restated the Committee's commitment to ensuring that best value reports are undertaken in accordance with the agreed protocols and schedule and highlighted the difficulties that had arisen within the current year which resulted in delays to the programme of reviews.

RESOLVED:



MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
4 April 2003

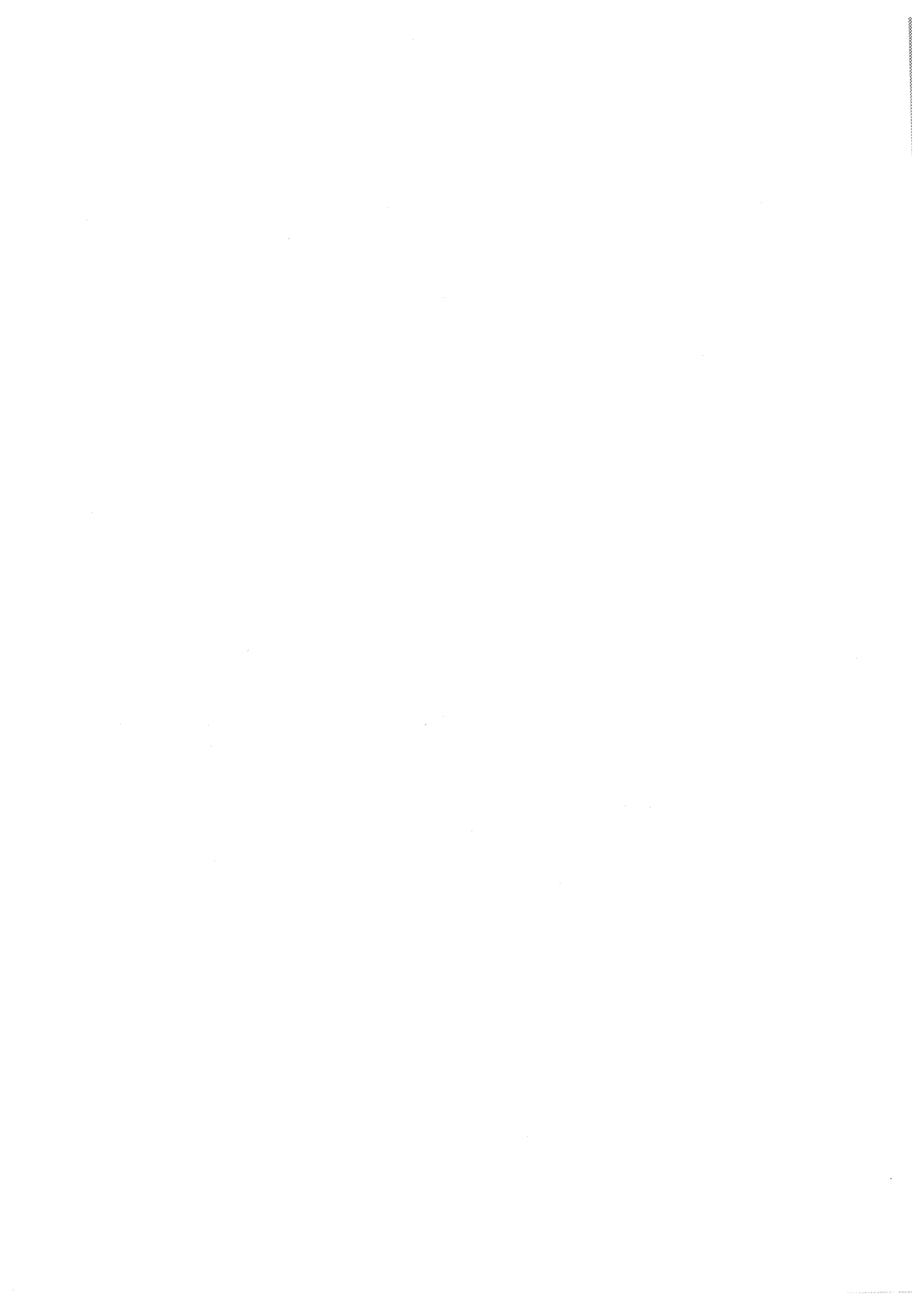
- (1) That a report be submitted to a future meeting on the relationship of and difference between the best value and the scrutiny process; and
- (2) That a programme of the best value reviews, scheduled to be undertaken, be submitted to a future meeting.

C86.

DATE OF FUTURE MEETING

12 May 2003

Meeting finished at 10.15pm



MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
22 April 2003

MEMBERS: Councillors Robertson (Chair), Brown (Vice Chair) *Adamou, *Davies, *Dawson, *Diakides, Dobbie, Lister, *Makanji, Simpson and *Williams.

Co-optees: Mr. B. Aulsberry and *Mrs. I Shukla (REJCC non-voting Representatives).
Ms S. Berkery-Smith and Mr L Haward (Church Representatives), Ms E. Pine and, Mr R. Sharp (Parent Governors).

* Present

Also Present: Councillors Beacham, Davidson, Floyd, Millar, Prescott , Santry and R Crompton

SC87. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Received from Councillors J Brown, Lister, Robertson and Simpson,

CHAIR OF MEETING : In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Councillor Makanji was elected chair for the purposes of the Special Meeting.

SC88. URGENT BUSINESS: (None)

SC89. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: (None).

SC90. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS: (None)

SC91. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF LEASEHOLDER SERVICES: The Committee considered the report of the Housing Scrutiny Panel and the Chair of the Panel, Councillor Diakides, gave a resume of the consultations, negotiations and deliberations which the Panel had undertaken in the course of the preparation of the report and recommendations now before the Committee. Councillor Diakides reported also in detail upon the Executive Summary which set out the key message and broad conclusions and the relationship between the service users and service providers. The Committee was made aware of the level of uncollected income and the current legal cases which have resulted in a number of legal challenges from leaseholders. Finally Councillor Diakides outlined the Panel's views on the Financial Management and Income Collection Systems and the need to improve the Quality and Performance Management Systems.

The Chair indicated that if the report was approved it would be referred to the Haringey Leaseholders Association, the housing services and other stakeholders for response and that it needed to be "fine tuned" to reflect the number of leaseholders affected by the proposals and more detail on how to resolve the structural and financial arrangement problems referred to within the report. Furthermore the Chair stated that the leaseholders should be given the same period for consultation as the Executive ie 6 weeks. The Chair expressed the view that the final report should provide a comparison with private leaseholders and be drafted in a more friendly user style.

RESOLVED:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomes the report of the Housing Scrutiny Panel on leaseholders services and resolves that the draft report be submitted to the leaseholder representatives and other stakeholders for comments and response before it is finalised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

SC92. NEW ITEMS OF BUSINESS: (None)

Meeting finished at 7.10pm

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
22 April 2003

COUNCILLOR MAKANJI
IN THE CHAIR