

**MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**3 March 2003**

**MEMBERS:** Councillors \*Robertson (Chair), \*J 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 Dillon and Meehan.

**SC66 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Received from Councillor Lister and Ms. Berkery-Smith. Apologies for late arrival were received from Councillors Diakides and Makanji and Mrs. Shukla.

Apologies for absence were also received from Councillor Bull (Executive Member, Community Engagement and Communication) who was unable to attend for item SC71).

**SC67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** (None).

**SC68 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chair reported that she had been invited to speak again at the University of Birmingham on health scrutiny issues.

**SC69 URGENT BUSINESS** (None)

**SC70 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED –**

That Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2003 be approved and signed.

**SC71 CIVIC PRIDE CAMPAIGN – PRESENTATION**

A presentation was made on the proposals for this campaign which initially would concentrate on promoting a clean and safe environment. Plans included:-

Increased resources to tackle litter, graffiti, illegal dumping and strengthen the enforcement function, particularly in recognised problem areas or in the case of persistent offenders

An associated programme of publicity, communication and education both to raise awareness and to build community confidence in an improving street scene

Preventative strategies (e.g. designing out scope for illegal dumping)

Encouraging a sense of identity and ownership amongst people in the borough

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£2.6m. would be available over two years for service improvements, preventative strategies and capacity building with £100k annually for communications and publicity. A new structure would introduce co-ordinated working by generic enforcement teams able to deal with environmental nuisance at all levels and in conjunction with the Anti-Social Behaviour Action Team.

The Committee reinforced the need for the communications/education plans to be underpinned by visible improvements which would both lend credibility and build confidence that people could reclaim ownership of their local streets. Members also commented that these plans needed further definition and clarification.

It was noted that a number of means of assessing the success of the campaign were planned, including targets (e.g. timescales for removal of abandoned vehicles), qualitative feedback (e.g. through surveys and community meetings) and monitoring patterns of complaint.

Members stressed the importance of local improvements being planned with reference both to regional strategy, in liaison with other agencies (e.g. Transport for London) and in the case of specific initiatives, the wider locality. It was noted that there would be a role for client services in ensuring compliance by their service providers and it would also be important to ensure that individual initiatives were not self-defeating (e.g. speedy removal of abandoned cars merely increasing capacity for further car dumping).

The Committee recognised that coupled with work on promoting community identity this was an extensive initiative with much development ahead and that, directly or through its various panels, the Committee could assist by reviewing specific elements and informing future policy development.

In conclusion it was agreed that a further report would be made on those areas which the Committee could helpfully review and advise on.

### **SC72 BERNIE GRANT CENTRE – FUNDING AND DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee considered the development of this centre for mixed use (including arts/education facilities and light industrial/enterprise units) and related development of the surrounding site. It was noted that project development would be overseen by a Charitable Company of which the Council and other stakeholders such as CONEL would be members. An interim Shadow Board was currently in place with a remit for developing a robust Business Plan including wide-ranging use of the centre.

Development funding had now been negotiated with a combination of agencies including the Millennium Commission, LDA, GOL and Arts Council. As was normal practice, the Council would be required to underwrite initial building costs only by up to £3m.

The Committee noted that the Centre was relevant to the area strategy for Tottenham as a whole and that Regeneration Scrutiny Review Members had highlighted the Tottenham Green Enterprise Centre's need for further accommodation.

The Committee noted the report and that it or its Regeneration Scrutiny Panel would continue to overview the development.

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**SC73 AUDIT COMMISSION ANNUAL LETTER**

The Committee considered those elements of the Annual letter relating to the Scrutiny role and particularly the need to strengthen the scrutiny function and increasing Member involvement in it.

Members concurred that the Annual Letter provided an opportunity to review the role of the Scrutiny Committee and its sub-bodies, and their structure and operation. The recent appointment of a Head of Scrutiny, would support the future co-ordination, structuring and forward programming of scrutiny work within the Council though it was noted there was currently limited capacity for project management, particularly on technical issues.

Members were invited to contact the Head of Scrutiny with their views and comments on the role and operation of the Scrutiny function which would be discussed with the various Scrutiny Chairs.

**SC74 UPDATE ON SCRUTINY REVIEWS** (Item deferred)

**SC75 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

14 April 2003

12 May 2003

The meeting ended at 10.12 pm.

**IRENE ROBERTSON**  
Chair

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12 March 2003

**MEMBERS:** Councillors \*Robertson (Chair), #J 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

# Councillor H Brown substituting

^ Councillor Wynne substituting

**Also Present:** Councillors Aitken, Adje, Dillon, Hoban, Laird and Meehan.

**SC76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Received from Councillors J Brown, Davies, Makanji, Simpson, and Mr Sharp. Apologies for late arrival were received from Councillor Diakides, and Mrs. Shukla.

**SC77. URGENT BUSINESS:** The Chair agreed to admit the report of the Finance & Monitoring Officers (item 4 below) which had not been available for despatch with the agenda.

**SC78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** (None).

**SC79. CALL IN OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECISION RELATING TO BERNIE GRANT CENTRE:** The Chair invited those Members who had requested the Call-In to address the Committee. Councillor Hoban highlighted various paragraphs in the report to The Executive of 25 February and concerns which related to:-

- The level of financial risk involved in the proposals and therefore the project's viability
- The capacity and suitability of the Charitable Company and development agency to oversee and manage this project

In conclusion, he asked the Committee to consider referring the issue to the full Council.

The Committee noted responses by the Executive Member (Regeneration and Partnerships) and Director of Finance on the points raised as follows:-

**Project Board:** Members of the Shadow Board represented a range of skills and experience including individuals who had overseen comparable projects in the past.

**Project Management:** The Project Manager (AYH) had been selected through a competitive tendering process and was a major property management company with a proven track record.

**Financial Risk:** Complex projects such as this always carried a degree of risk though the Council's financial exposure was limited to £3m on building costs only and it would retain the freehold of the site. It was stressed that there was evident commitment from the funding partners with Ministerial support in the case of the Millennium Commission and GoL and Board approval in the case of the LDA. This support was underlined by their recent agreement to the early release of £350k.

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The Committee's attention was also drawn to the risks in not proceeding with this development which was central to the regeneration strategy for Tottenham. The development was expected to un-lock other funding and encourage other partners and agencies to invest in the area. Failure to proceed with the scheme could not only jeopardise further investment but could result in additional expenditure (e.g. English Heritage may require the restoration of Tottenham Town Hall as an alternative to current project plans).

A report of the Finance and Monitoring Officers, which concluded that the decisions had not been taken outside the policy framework was also received and noted and the Committee also recalled that it had reviewed this project in the past and would continue to do so as the scheme progressed.

#### **RESOLVED –**

1. That no further action be taken on the Call-In in respect of the decision of The Executive in respect of the Bernie Grant Centre (Minute TEX226).
2. That the Committee, through its Regeneration Panel continue to review the development of this scheme.

The meeting ended at 7.26 p.m.

**IRENE ROBERTSON**  
Chair