

NOTICE OF MEETING

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 28th November, 2022, 7.00 pm - Woodside Room - George Meehan House, 294 High Road, N22 8JZ (watch the live meeting [here](#), watch the recording [here](#))

Councillors: John Bevan (Chair), Simmons-Safo, Pippa Connor (Vice-Chair), Makbule Gunes and Matt White

Co-optees/Non Voting Members: Yvonne Denny (Co-opted Member - Church Representative (CofE)), Lourdes Keever (Co-opted Member - Church Representative (Catholic)), KanuPriya (Parent Governor representative) and Jakhu (Parent Governor representative)

Quorum: 3

1. **FILMING AT MEETINGS**

Please note that this meeting may be filmed or recorded by the Council for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site or by anyone attending the meeting using any communication method. Although we ask members of the public recording, filming or reporting on the meeting not to include the public seating areas, members of the public attending the meeting should be aware that we cannot guarantee that they will not be filmed or recorded by others attending the meeting. Members of the public participating in the meeting (e.g. making deputations, asking questions, making oral protests) should be aware that they are likely to be filmed, recorded or reported on.

By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings.

The chair of the meeting has the discretion to terminate or suspend filming or recording, if in his or her opinion continuation of the filming, recording or reporting would disrupt or prejudice the proceedings, infringe the rights of any individual or may lead to the breach of a legal obligation by the Council.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

3. **URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair will consider the admission of any late items of urgent business. (Late items will be considered under the agenda item where they appear. New items will be dealt with at item below).

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A member with a disclosable pecuniary interest or a prejudicial interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered:

- (i) must disclose the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, and
- (ii) may not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must withdraw from the meeting room.

A member who discloses at a meeting a disclosable pecuniary interest which is not registered in the Register of Members' Interests or the subject of a pending notification must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the disclosure.

Disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests and prejudicial interests are defined at Paragraphs 5-7 and Appendix A of the Members' Code of Conduct

5. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

To consider any requests received in accordance with Part 4, Section B, paragraph 29 of the Council's constitution.

6. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 8)

To agree the minutes of the previous meeting on 13th October as a correct record

7. MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL MEETINGS (PAGES 9 - 48)

To receive and note the minutes of the following Scrutiny Panels and to approve any recommendations contained within:

- Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel – 15th September 2022
- Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel – 6th September 2022
- Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel – 5th September 2022
- Housing, Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel – 29th September 2022

8. CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS - CABINET MEMBER FOR TACKLING INEQUALITY & RESIDENT SERVICES

To put questions to the Cabinet Member regarding areas of her Portfolio that are the responsibility of the main Scrutiny Committee:

Local welfare programmes:

- Revenue and benefits;
- Council Tax Reduction Scheme;
- Welfare advice;
- Haringey Here to Help;
- Ethical debt policy

Your Council:

- Call centre

9. UPDATE ON INTRUSIVE FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

To follow.

10. PILOT BUILDING SAFETY CASE - UPDATE

Verbal update

11. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (PAGES 49 - 78)

12. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

13. FUTURE MEETINGS

- 12 January 2023
- 19 January 2023
- 30 March 2023

Philip Slawther, Principal Committee Co-ordinator

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Fiona Alderman

Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

George Meehan House, 294 High Road, Wood Green, N22 8JZ

Friday, 18 November 2022

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MINUTES OF MEETING Overview and Scrutiny Committee HELD ON Thursday, 13th October, 2022, 7.00 - 9.30 pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: John Bevan (Chair), Pippa Connor (Vice-Chair) and Matt White

ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: Cllr Makbule Gunes, Yvonne Denny

12. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred Members present to item one on the agenda in respect of filming at the meeting and Members noted the information contained therein.

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Anita Jakhu, Kanupriya Jhunjunwala and Lourdes Kever.

14. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

16. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None

17. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting on 25th July were agreed as a correct record.

18. MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL MEETINGS

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the following Scrutiny Panels were noted and any recommendations contained within them were approved:

- Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel – 21 July 2022
- Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel – 4 July 2022
- Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel – 30 June 2022
- Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel – 28 June 2022

19. UPDATE ON THE RECCOMENDATIONS OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW INTO FIRE SAFETY

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved recommendations on Fire Safety in High Rise blocks at its meeting on 25 March 2019 and Cabinet provided a response at its meeting on 9 July 2019. A further update was provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5th October 2020. The Committee received a report which provided a further update on these recommendations. The report was introduced by Judith Page, Assistant Director of Housing Property Services. The Cabinet Member for Housing Services, Private Renters and Planning was also present for this item. The following arose during the discussion of this report:

- a. The Committee sought reassurances about residents being able to report problems and the fact that the link on the Council’s website did not seem to work properly. Members noted that one of the main learning points from Grenfell was around residents being able to report concerns. The Committee questioned whether the Council had made it easy to report problems and how this was monitored. In response, officers acknowledged that there was a degree of development required within the IT processes. It was suggested that there had likely been some teething problems as different systems had been transferred over from HfH to the Council. Officers agreed to work with the relevant admin team to ensure that an email inbox was in place for residents to report issues. Members requested that reporting mechanisms also be advertised on the Council’s website. **(Action: Judith Page).**
- b. Officers advised that, as part of the relevant legislation, the pilot building safety case was being developed in Kenneth Rollins House and this pilot would be used for the development of building safety cases for other housing blocks. The Council was also required to develop a resident engagement plan for each block. In addition, the Council had approved funding for the recruitment of five building safety managers who would be responsible for specific high rise blocks. Officers acknowledged that this had not progressed as quickly as they would have liked, but to some extent this had been down to HfH coming back in house and the challenges faced from switching over. Officers advised that they were developing pipelines for residents to report issues and that site visits and walkabouts of estates were ongoing.
- c. In response to a follow-up question on timescales, officers advised that all high rise safety blocks under qualifying categories would need a building safety case in place by September 2023. The pilot in KR House would be completed in November. The Committee requested that officers come back to the Committee with a follow-up report on how the consultation pilot went and how this was being programmed into ensure that residents were able to report problems the wider programme of developing building safety cases. **(Action: Judith Page).**
- d. Members sought an update on the programme of intrusive fire risk assessments. In response, officers advised that they had reported these to elsewhere and that they could provide this to the Committee. The Committee requested that officers

come back to the Committee with a full report on intrusive fire risk assessments along with an update in the pilot building safety case and any interim findings from the pilot, for the Committee's next meeting on 28th November. **(Action: Judith Page).**

- e. Concerns were raised about the ongoing failure to install a fire escape down from the communal walkway (onto Culvert Road) at Edgecot road. It was commented that a number of fire safety assessment had recommended the need for a fire escape but that this had not been carried out. Officers agreed to contact the Fire Safety team and get an update on the fire risk assessment for Edgecot Road and bring this back to the November meeting of OSC. **(Action: Judith Page).**
- f. The Committee sought assurances around care home provision and fire safety assessments. The Committee queried how the Council received assurances and monitored areas of concern in care homes, given that they were held by providers and reviewed by the Safeguarding Board. In response, officers noted that the CQC had strict monitoring processes in place, but that they would seek a written response from colleagues in Adults commissioning for the Committee. **(Action: Judith Page).**

RESOLVED

That the report was noted

20. CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS - CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING SERVICES, PRIVATE RENTERS AND PLANNING

The Committee undertook a verbal question and answer session with Cllr Carlin, Cabinet Member for Housing Services, Private Renters and Planning. The following arose as part of the discussion:

- a. The Committee questioned what the Council was doing to prosecute rogue landlords. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that the introduction of the additional licensing scheme would mean that the Council would be actively going into tenanted properties and carrying out inspections, rather than relying on tenants to make complaints. The Cabinet Member advised that in terms of process, once an enforcement notice was issued, the landlord would have a specific amount of time to comply with that notice or the Council would then prosecute. The Cabinet Member highlighted the importance of proposed legislative changes to ban no-fault evictions.
- b. The Committee highlighted that it had previously requested that ward councillors be given access to fire safety risk assessments. It was noted that some of the smaller blocks did not have a risk assessment and the Committee sought clarification as to whether these blocks should have a risk assessment carried out. In response, officers agreed that they would undertake a manual exercise to check this and then come back to the Committee with a response. **(Action: Judith Page).**
- c. The Committee raised concerns about a lack of responses to residents when repairs were reported and suggested that, either housing manger posts were vacant following HfH coming in-house, or that residents did not know how to contact their housing managers. In response, the Cabinet Member acknowledged that each block should have a named housing manager and that she was happy to follow up with officers on the concerns raised. Yvonne

agreed to email Cllr Bevan with the specifics **(Action: Yvonne Denny)**. Cllr Carlin agreed to chase up the names of housing managers for each block. **(Action: Cllr Carlin)**.

- d. The Committee sought clarification about what support the Council offered to those who had been evicted, specifically in terms of the earlier point made around ending no-fault evictions. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that if tenants were evicted against their wishes, then there was specific legal process involved which would require a court order to be obtained. In most cases, residents could contact the Council's housing needs team, The Cabinet Member advised that if it was a family, the Council could help to pay some of its rent arrears and that in the past the Council had been able to help families secure a tenancy elsewhere in the private sector. If someone was unlawfully evicted, then this would be an enforcement issue and the Council would look to put people in contact with organisations who could support them to take legal action. In relation to single adults, the Cabinet Member acknowledged that the help on offer was limited due to a shortage of temporary accommodation places and the fact that the private rents were very expensive.
- e. The Committee sought an update about where the Council had got to with the programme to improve the standards of properties on estates from several years ago. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that the Decent Homes programme was originally based around providing new doors and windows. Since then the Council had agreed to widen the scope of these repairs to include communal spaces. The Cabinet Member advised that she was pushing for this to be called stock renewal to reflect these changes. The Council was currently going out with a big ten-year contract to undertake these works in order to take advantage of the economies of scale. Officers advised that the Council had delivered £35m of improvements last year, £45m improvements this year and that the target was to bring 100% of Council housing stock up to decent homes standards by 2025.
- f. The Chair requested an update on the revamping of the repairs scheme. In response, officers advised that this had been partially delayed due to TUPE of staff over from HfH. Officers advised that they were also bringing in resources within certain priority areas on a temporary basis, such as disrepair, until the permeant changes were made.
- g. In response to a question about the capacity of the repairs service, given the amount of new housing that was being built, officers advised that they were bringing in new operatives due to issues with the supply chain and that they were looking at direct delivery where feasible. Officers acknowledged had been some delays with resources as HfH was moved back in-house, however the service was currently recruiting at pace to fill key positions. In terms of resources, officers set out that the financial resources were there to ensure capacity within the repairs service. However, it was highlighted that there was a sector wide issue with this due to contractor supply chains. Work was underway to bring apprentices through.
- h. In response to a question about the holistic approach to stock renewal, officers advised that that 50% of stock surveys had been completed, which was the first time this exercise had been undertaken since 2015. Officers set out that a lot of work was being done on the holistic approach such as undertaking energy works, whilst undertaking repairs. Officers advised that they were confident that adopting a holistic approach was the best way to ensure value for money.

Officers advised the Committee that they had modelled the impact of a rent cap on the HRA and that they were confident this would not unduly impact stock renewal.

- i. The Committee requested an update in relation to recruiting apprentices as part of the house building programme. In response, officers advised that three apprentices had just started, with a further plastering apprentice due to start in January when the relevant CONEL course began. All of these were local people. There were an additional four apprentices already in the existing programme and the Council had offered upskilling opportunities to existing staff, of which two individuals were taken on. The Cabinet Member also identified that all major works contracts in the future would insist on the use of apprentices when the spend was above a particular financial threshold
- j. The Committee raised particular concerns about how effectively the Council communicated with its residents around repairs. In response, officers acknowledged these concerns and highlighted that there was a repairs improvement project in place to look at how this could be improved. Officers advised that the schedulers who book repairs had been brought back into the office as a way to drive improvements. It was also noted that the service was looking at whether the existing systems being used were being used in the most effective way. The Committee requested a further update around communication of repairs to a future meeting. **(Clerk)**.
- k. In response to a request for clarification about what was involved with holistic approach to improving housing stock, officers advised that this involved undertaking insulation works along with energy improvements that were required to achieve an EPC rating of 'B' for all stock. This was combined with also ensuring that when major works were carried out on a block, then smaller jobs would be done at the same time, such as painting the railings. The idea was that disruption to residents would be minimised. Officers also highlighted that they were looking to undertake a pilot for the retrofitting of air source heat pumps as part of this holistic approach.

RESOLVED

Noted

21. 2021-22 PROVISIONAL FINANCIAL OUTTURN

The Committee received the 2021-22 Provisional Financial Outturn report, as presented to Cabinet on 19 July 2022. This set out the provisional outturn for 2021/22 for the General Fund, HRA, DSG and the Capital Programme compared to budget. It provided explanations of significant under/overspends and also included proposed transfers to/from reserves, revenue and capital carry forward requests, as well as details of any budget virements or adjustments. The report was introduced by Toyin Bamidele, Assistant Director of Finance as set out in the agenda pack at pages 91-130. The following arose during the discussion of the report:

- a. The Committee sought assurances around the £16m budget pressures within Adults and Children's. Whilst acknowledging that these had been mitigated at year end, the Committee queried whether these pressures would continue into future years and how this would be mitigated in future years. The Panel questioned whether future savings would be required? In response, officers

advised that the key pressure in these services was around Covid and the complexity of care needs. Officers set out that the MTFs budget planning process was underway and that they would be working with directors and services to ensure the true costs were captured, along with an agreed way forward on how these could be mitigated.

- b. In relation to the Dedicated Support Grant, the Committee sought clarification around how the overspend was reduced from £6.7m down to £3.7m and whether this involved a reduction in services. In response, officers advised that this did not involve a reduction in services, instead it was mitigated through finding additional funding streams, such as grants. Officers agreed to provide a written response to this question. **(Action: Toyin Bamidele)**.
- c. The Committee queried the slippage in demand mitigation projects within Adults and questioned whether this would require further savings to be made. In response, officers set out that Covid was the primary factor in the slippages, but that they were looking at this as part of the MTFs setting process. Officers confirmed alternative savings of the same value would need to be found for any undeliverable demand mitigation projects.
- d. The Committee sought clarification around the reasons for a £3.6m realignment of Parking and Highways budgets (virement), as set out on page 129 of the pack. Officers agreed to come back with a written response. **(Action: Toyin Bamidele)**.

RESOLVED

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- I. Noted that the figures in the 2021-22 Provisional Financial Outturn remain provisional until the conclusion of the statutory audit process which has been extended due to the C19 pandemic and other challenges faced by our external auditors mainly due to the impact of government delays in enacting legislation to restructure the NHS.
- II. Noted that the C19 financial impact on the 2021-22 General Fund was offset by Government support.
- III. Noted that non-C19 related pressures forecast during the year were mitigated by year end.
- IV. Noted that statutory comments are included in the original report to Cabinet.

22. 2022/23 FINANCE UPDATE QUARTER 1

The Committee received the 2022-23 Quarter One Finance Update report, as presented to Cabinet on 13 September 2022. This report set out the forecast financial position for the Council as at Quarter one. It focused on the significant budget variances including those arising as a result of the forecast non-achievement of approved MTFs savings and the impact on the Council's agreed financial plans. The report underlines the impact that the wider economic conditions have had on the agreed budget. This was a key factor in the forecast overspend of £15.7m at Quarter One. The report was introduced by Toyin Bamidele, Assistant Director of Finance as

set out in the agenda pack at pages 91-130. The following arose during the discussion of the report: The following arose during the discussion on this item:

- a. The Committee requested clarification about the overall forecasted overspend at Q1 and whether the report was saying that there were £10.1m of savings that could not be mitigated. In response, officers advised that not all of the undeliverable savings would require new savings, some would be slipped to future years but some would require alternative savings to be found. Finance officers were working with the services to maximise opportunities and to minimise risks. Officers were going through savings line by line to see if they were deliverable and to identify alternative savings if required. The Committee was advised that a future challenge would likely be around mooted spending cuts by central government.
- b. In response to a question around the Capital budget and £650k being removed from the libraries budget, officers agreed to come back with a written response on whether this would impact the existing library refurbishments programme. **(Action: Toyin).**
- c. Officers agreed to provide a written briefing around the safety valve programme. **(Action: Toyin).**
- d. The Committee questioned whether, in light of a forecast overspend of £1.2m in Housing Demand Temporary Accommodation, whether additional funding was being sought for this service. In response, officers advised that this would be looked at as part of the MTFs process. Officers set out that some additional funding may be required but that it would also be necessary to examine whether the service could be made more efficient.

RESOLVED

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- I. Noted the financial forecasts provided at Quarter One and the assumptions surrounding them.
- II. Noted that Directors were seeking mitigating actions to bring down the current forecast overspends.
- III. Noted that statutory comments are included in the original report to Cabinet.

23. UPDATE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FAIRNESS COMMISSION

24. WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The Committee received a draft work plan for the OSC and the four scrutiny panels, along with the feedback from the Scrutiny Café event in September.

The Committee also received a tabled draft scoping document for its scrutiny review on violence against women and girls. Officers advised that the Chair and Vice-Chair had met with the Director of Public Health to agree how to take the review forwards and that it would focus on schools based provision and community based provision. The review would also be seeking to hear from relevant VCS organisations in Haringey.

The Chair of the Housing Panel put forward a motion, that the name of the Panel should be changed to the Housing, Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel to reflect the current service structure and Council's changed priorities around Placemaking over regeneration. The motion was seconded by the Chair of the Adults Panel.

RESOLVED

- I. That the draft work plans for OSC and the four scrutiny panels were agreed.
- II. That the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel's name be changed to Housing, Planning and Development, with immediate effect.

25. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

N/A

26. FUTURE MEETINGS

- 28th November 2022
- 12th January 2023 (Your Council – budget proposals)
- 19th January 2023 (budget scrutiny)
- 30th March 2023

CHAIR: Councillor John Bevan

Signed by Chair

Date

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADULTS & HEALTH
SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON THURSDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2022,
6.30-9:10pm**

PRESENT:

**Councillors: Pippa Connor (Chair), Cathy Brennan, Yannis Gourtsoyannis,
Thayahlan Iyngkaran and Sheila Peacock**

Co-optees: Ali Amasyali & Helena Kania.

13. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred Members present to agenda Item 1 as shown on the agenda in respect of filming at this meeting, and Members noted the information contained therein'.

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Anna Abela and Cllr Felicia Opoku.

Cllr Abela had informed the Panel Chair that she was unable to attend due to a clash with a Corporate Committee meeting of which she was also a member.

15. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Pippa Connor declared an interest by virtue of her membership of the Royal College of Nursing.

Cllr Pippa Connor declared an interest by virtue of her sister working as a GP in Tottenham.

17. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/ PRESENTATIONS/ QUESTIONS

None.

18. MINUTES

Cllr Connor referred to the action points from the previous meeting and requested that quarterly finance and performance briefings be set up for the data from Q2 of 2022/23 onwards. **(ACTION)**

In response to a query from Cllr Connor about the responses to the Panel's Scrutiny Reviews on co-production and on sheltered housing, Dominic O'Brien, Scrutiny Officer, said that these were expected to be on the agenda of the Cabinet meeting in November 2022.

Cllr Connor welcomed the written response that the Panel had received in response to concerns about people with high needs being placed in sheltered housing schemes alongside older residents. She requested that further information be provided about what care the residents with high needs were receiving within sheltered housing. **(ACTION)**

With regards to the written update that the Panel had received about Canning Crescent, Cllr Connor asked if there were any complications relating to the work to establish a lease between the Council and Barnet, Enfield & Haringey Mental Health Trust. Gill Taylor, Assistant Director for Communities and Housing Support, confirmed that this work was a normal part of the process and that this was progressing well.

With regards to the written update about legal issues with Hospital Trusts over people with no recourse to public funds, Cllr Connor asked for clarification on the point that the only way to collate the data was to contact each local hospital separately. Gill Taylor confirmed that this was a live process with requests made. It was agreed that a further update would be provided to the Panel when this work had been completed. **(ACTION)**

With regards to the written update about inclusion health groups, Cllr Connor asked whether the recent Inclusion Health Needs Assessment conducted by NCL boroughs would be published. Gill Taylor said that it hadn't yet been published but that she would check with NCL colleagues whether there were any plans to do so and report back to the Panel. **(ACTION)**

Cllr Peacock noted that the minutes referred to the aim to put in place a new LGBT IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) in the Borough. Gill Taylor confirmed that this was going ahead and that this post would be delivered through a specialist community organisation.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2022 be approved as an accurate record.

19. AIDS AND ADAPTATIONS

Cllr Connor introduced this item and welcomed a number of local residents who had joined the meeting to explain some of the issues that they had experienced in getting aids and adaptations installed in their homes.

A couple spoke about the difficulties that they had in getting the right adaptations for their son who has disabilities. They explained that they had made two complaints against the Council to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman which had been determined in their favour. The first was on home adaptations and they stated that the main problems were that they were encouraged not to have all the adaptations that were needed, they felt that they had experienced hostility from staff members and that there had been poor communications and delays to the adaptations which had still not been fully completed. In particular, there had been concern about delays to arranging replacement sides to their son's bed as this represented a serious safety issue. Despite this, there did not appear to be provision within the system to prioritise actions that had urgent safety implications or any recognition of the seriousness of the need for such equipment.

The family had been housed with a specialist housing association by the Council and there had recently been an issue with a flooded toilet. They said that, despite contacting the housing association, the flooding continued for nearly a week until they eventually hired their own plumber at a substantial expense.

Another resident with significant long-term mobility issues following an operation, spoke about her experience of needing a ramp to be installed at her home and adaptations to a toilet. She said that a visit had taken place to take measurements for this but then there was no further contact for a significant period of time. A contractor then made changes to the bathroom but the standard of the work was so poor that she contacted the Council the same day asking them to inspect the work. However, this was not done. The toilet later started leaking with the water pouring downstairs requiring an emergency call-out. The ramp had been significantly delayed meaning that she had not been able to use her back garden for four years. She felt that lack of communication had been a problem in her case that required significant improvement in the service.

A resident who acted as a carer to a family member spoke to the Panel about their difficulties. They had experienced problems in obtaining a wheelchair after applying months previously and had experienced delays and poor communications which had led to the submission of a formal complaint. She added that the district nurses had been very helpful and had explained the assessment process clearly but, after the application had been made and measurements had been taken for the wheelchair, they did not hear anything further for months. She felt that the lack of a clear process and the lack of communications made this a difficult service for residents to use.

Beverley Tarka, Director for Adults, clarified that wheelchair assessment fell under the remit of Whittington Health NHS Trust.

Another resident who had experienced problems with aids and adaptations said that he felt there was often a lack of understanding from the Council about why aids and adaptations were needed. He said that after his hoist had broken, which he needed to stand up and move around, he was told he could stay in bed which was not an acceptable response. Contacting the Council could involve being kept on hold for long periods of time. He suggested that the Council should carry out cold calling. Decisions on aids and adaptations were made by a Panel but he said that no one from the Panel had visited him to understand his needs and he suggested that decisions were made on a financial basis. He also observed that some staff had “interim” in their job title meaning that they could leave at any time. Vicky Murphy welcomed the suggestion on cold calling and said that she would review the telephone waiting times and whether additional resource was required. **(ACTION)** She added that she held an interim position but was absolutely committed to her job and to residents. Beverley Tarka added that there was now an offer in place to allow service user representation to take place at the assessment panel. Cllr das Neves commented that this change had been a direct result of feedback received and added that there was further work to do, including on how the Council communicates with residents.

Vicky Murphy, Assistant Director for Adults, told the Panel that an improvement plan had been put in place. It had been recognised that the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic had led to longer delays in the process. The number of people awaiting Occupational Therapy (OT) assessment had increased to 66 in 2022/23 compared with 44 the year before. Only 70 had been transferred to the Major Adaptations team and waiting awaiting allocation to a surveyor compared to 232 the year before so processes had put in place to move cases through the system more quickly. Works on site and works waiting to start had increased substantially and work surveyed and going onto the tendering system had increased to 431 from 91 the previous year. Increases to OT staffing levels had been made but there was a national shortage in this area.

In relation to the specific concerns raised by residents, Vicky Murphy noted that there appeared to be an issue about the reviewing of work which was a step in the process so she said that she would like to review why that hadn't happened in addition to the issues around communications, and to feedback on this. **(ACTION)**

Vicky Murphy and Beverley Tarka, Director for Adults, then responded to questions from Panel Members

- Asked by Helena Kania how residents could contact staff out of hours, Vicky Murphy explained that the main contact would be through the housing provider's emergency number for repair issues. The out of hours social work

team could be contacted for care issues, the number for which was provided on the Council website.

- Asked by Helena Kania whether residents each had a named staff member allocated to them for their case for continuity, Vicky Murphy confirmed that when a referral was registered on the system there was an allocated worker, though this could change over the different steps of process. One of the residents said that this had not happened in their case.
- Cllr Brennan asked about the staff shortages and whether the surveyors were in-house. Vicky Murphy and Beverley Tarka explained that there were five in-house surveyors in the Major Adaptations Team but that some work was outsourced as well. Beverley Tarka agreed that there were workforce challenges and that they had recruited through apprentice positions to invest in training in this area. Cllr das Neves emphasised a focus on building up the Council's own team but that it also made sense to bring in external resource to help deal with the backlog of work in the meantime.
- Asked by Cllr Brennan whether the delays could be mainly attributed to the pandemic, Beverley Tarka acknowledged that there had been historic issues of delays and challenges along the whole pathway for adaptations, but these issues around supply and workforce had been exacerbated by the pandemic.
- Cllr Iyngkaran asked about the communication issues and about whether there was a culture within the Council on this issue that needed addressing. Beverley Tarka acknowledged that there was work to be done and that the corporate management had a focus on changing the culture of the customer service offer and bringing a strong values base to how the Council interacts with all residents. She added that the challenges in this particular area had been highlighted and that this could lead to frustrations so there was work to be done on this.
- Cllr Gourtsoyannis observed that the Council's perceived lack of transparency on decision-making was a theme that had emerged. One of the residents added that there was no way for residents to know what the performance management markers were. She also expressed concerns about the 11-stage process outlined on the slides and the possibility of residents falling through the gaps and not knowing who to escalate things to when there were delays. Vicky Murphy said that further explanation about the process, including timeframes, could be added to this and shared publicly. **(ACTION)** She added that their electronic system was being changed next year which would help to improve the process.
- Cllr Gourtsoyannis noted that the Covid-19 pandemic was often blamed for delays and other issues although some problems were pre-existing. He expressed concern that the current inflation crisis could end up being attributed to ongoing issues in a similar way. Cllr das Neves agreed that it would be wrong to just blame the pandemic for the problems in this area but reiterated that it was also evident that a lot of actions had not been possible due to the

pandemic. A lot of additional funding had recently been put into adult social care in recognition not just of the inflation issue but also increased levels of demand. She also commented that adult social care was in crisis nationally with inadequate levels of funding.

- Cllr Peacock said that she received a lot of complaints about the difficulties of getting through to adult social care services over the phone and being kept on hold for a long time and that as a ward Councillor it was also difficult to get a quick response after referring cases or to get someone to check that work had been carried out correctly. Vicky Murphy reiterated that she would review the cases where issues with communications problems had been reported. She also committed to review Stage 11 of the process which required the Occupational Therapist and surveyor to visit to sign off completed works. **(ACTION)** Cllr das Neves suggested that information about incidences of where things had gone wrong could be collated to establish whether there were any common themes. **(ACTION)**

Following the discussion, the Panel made the following recommendations (ACTION):

- **When the initial assessment is made by the Occupational Therapist, the resident/family requiring the aid/adaptation should remain part of the process around the procurement of the aid/adaptation and be actively involved in any changes or updates to the agreed provision.**
- **An advocate should be offered by the Council (rather than only when specifically requested) to help with the initial discussion and remain part of the process to provide support to the resident where required. An advocate should also be made available where required when a resident was attending a meeting of an assessment Panel.**
- **Key communications/decisions should be confirmed in writing by email/letter so that the resident/family has a record of this.**
- **There should be a clear explanation for any delays and the resident/family given the opportunity to discuss any changes.**
- **A named person and contact details should be provided to the resident/family and kept up to date during the process.**
- **Suggestions made by the resident/family should be recorded on the case file and treated in the same way as those from professional staff as the resident/family are experts in their own case and situation.**
- **A record should be kept by the Council of all delays and the timescales agreed with the resident/family. Where the agreed timescales are exceeded, there should be an alert triggered so that the resident/family can be appropriately updated on progress with expectations set and urgent issues to be prioritised.**
- **The Commissioning team should look at widening provider choices for aids and adaptations to provide alternative options when delays or other problems occur.**

20. FINANCE & PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Sean Huang, Business Partner, and Josephine Lyseight, Head of Finance (People), provided the Panel with a finance update with data from Quarter 1 of 2022/23. Adults and Health was forecast to spend £121.7m against a budget of £112.4m representing an adverse variance of £9.3m at Q1. Around £7.9m of this adverse variance was attributed to adult social care with the remainder to housing demand, mainly due to a loss of temporary accommodation units. The breakdown of adverse variance in adult social care was:

- Older People - £2.701m
- Learning Difficulties - £3.195m
- Mental Health - £2.347m

Sean Huang explained that the main driver for this had been a substantial increase in demand including new high complexity clients coming into the system. The residual impact of Covid included worsening health conditions and frailty leading to greater demand and complexity. There was a risk around hospital discharge with an increase in the number of clients along with inflationary pressures.

In addition, there had been some slippage in savings delivery, although £4.8m of the £5.3m required savings were on target to be delivered. The areas that were not being achieved were mainly stretch targets that were projected to slip into future years due to demand pressures. However, there had been a one-off £1m recovery of aged debt which would contribute towards savings.

He continued that there was a very small overspend in adult commissioning and that public health spending was projected to break even.

Mitigations to address the budget shortfalls included:

- A review into the top 30 high-cost learning disability and top 44 high-cost mental health packages.
- An ongoing integrated care review to identify efficiencies, particularly on transition to long-term care.
- Working with health partners to address hospital discharge funding and identify the correct pathways.

On capital spending there were a projected underspend of around £2.1m against an original budget of £13.2m for the current financial year. This was due to some delays to capital projects and so the funding would be reprofiled into future years.

Gill Taylor, Assistant Director for Communities and Housing Support, Sean Huang and Josephine Lyseight then responded to questions from the Panel:

- Asked by Cllr Iyngkaran why there had been no spending at all on Capital Scheme 218 on Social Emotional & Mental Health Provision, Gill Taylor explained that this funding had been identified to improve services on a bespoke basis. However, the thinking had changed on how to use this funding and so new redefined capital bids in this area were in development.
- Asked by Cllr Iyngkaran about the expected opening of the service at Canning Crescent (Capital Scheme 213), Gill Taylor said that there had been construction delays but that the service was expected to open in October 2022.
- Helena Kania asked for further explanation about the comment in the report about ensuring that hospital discharge was appropriate and via the correct pathway. Beverley Tarka explained that this related to where people were discharged to, whether this be reablement at home or more supported bed-based rehabilitation or a nursing/residential home. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the NHS and the Council had put together a number of step-down facilities to enable the throughput of patient from hospitals and they continued to work together, including on helping people to choose the type of support most appropriate for their needs. Beverley Tarka acknowledged that patients were not always able to access their first choice during the pandemic due to the extreme pressure on hospitals. Vicky Murphy added that they were working hard to ensure that every resident had choice in where they wanted to go but that they were also seeing a significant increase in referrals and there was a high financial cost to some pathways. Cllr das Neves commented that this discussion highlighted the challenges faced by the Council in this area including higher demand for services, workforce issues and people sometimes deconditioning in hospital more than used to be the case. These were also challenges that faced other local authorities across London.
- Cllr Gourtsoyannis requested clarification about the reasons for the Temporary Accommodation overspend set out on page 43 of the agenda pack. Gill Taylor explained that there were huge supply challenges across London with many Boroughs needing to use bed and breakfast accommodation and the overall per unit cost to local authorities rising significantly. The Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG) of around £8m per year covered a range of initiatives including meeting the gap between rents and the Local Housing Allowance (LHA). However, as that gap widened due to the increased unit costs, the HPG could not cover all of this leading to an overall shortfall. The Government were currently in the process of reviewing the HPG and Haringey, as one of the largest beneficiaries of the HPG, could potentially lose up to 40% of this grant funding.
- Asked by Cllr Connor whether the adverse variance in Q1 would be recovered, Josephine Lyseight said that the outturn figures factored in the mitigations that were already in place, previously agreed savings targets and the pressures faced by the Department so this represented a current forecast of the end of year figures. Sean Huang added that a lot of additional demand was coming through and that this was being seen by many Boroughs across London which were also consequently in overspend positions. Beverley Tarka added that the onus was on officers to identify alternative mitigations in circumstances where

- the current mitigations were not working. Some of the areas where there were thought to be opportunities for this were set out on page 45 of the agenda pack.
- Asked by Cllr Connor about new savings proposals that may be required as a result of the current financial circumstances, Beverley Tarka said that these were already being worked on and that it was thought that some could be put in place in the current year and others in future years. However, it was too early to specify whether additional savings could be achieved in the current year.
 - Asked by Cllr Connor whether more money would need to be added to the budget this year to offset the projected overspend, Beverley Tarka said that the budget was set at the beginning of the year and so additional in-year funding was not expected. However, the growth in demand for services and the complexity of need in the local population could impact on funding requirements for future years. Josephine Lyseight confirmed that expectations would be for the Department to drive down costs in-year as required but added that the pressures faced by Adult Services were a corporate issue for the Council.
 - Cllr Iyngkaran asked whether equivalent Q1 figures for the previous year were available for comparison. Josephine Lyseight said that while these were not at hand at the meeting, these could be provided if required. **(ACTION)**
 - Cllr Brennan expressed concerns that mitigations could result in reductions in services provided for residents but asked whether the intention was for greater use of home care in order both to save money as well as being what some people would prefer. Beverley Tarka responded that, in order for people in such circumstances to remain at home and improve, they would require various interventions in the community but there were currently workforce shortages in various areas such as physios and therapists. It was therefore essential to ensure that people placed at home can be appropriately supported.

21. LIVING THROUGH LOCKDOWN REPORT - COUNCIL/NHS RESPONSE

Gill Taylor introduced the update responding to the recommendations of the Joint Partnership Board's (JPB) Living Through Lockdown report, highlighting some examples including the strengthening of the Council's co-production activity and the recruitment of a Participation Lead, the establishment of a Digital Inclusion Network and the development of a Food Strategy. Helena Kania, also a Co-Chair of the JPB, welcomed the update and said that the JPB members appreciated the opportunity for the recommendations to be monitored by the Scrutiny Panel on an annual basis.

Gill Taylor then responded to questions from the Panel:

- Referring to the section of the update on Housing and Sheltered Accommodation, Cllr Peacock commented that defibrillators should be more widely available in sheltered housing schemes. Gill Taylor agreed to take this query back for a response. **(ACTION)**
- Asked by Cllr Connor about the ongoing restrictions on visitors to care homes, Gill Taylor said that measures still in place were due to some vulnerable

residents shielding on a case-by-case basis rather than blanket bans on visitors. Vicky Murphy added that the number of visitors were restricted in some care homes and that, with winter approaching, measures could be subject to change but the aim was for at least one named person to be able to visit each resident in circumstances where restrictions are necessary.

- Asked by Cllr Connor whether there were figures available on the take up for bereavement counselling specific to those with learning difficulties (Mental Health and Wellbeing section, point number 2), Gill Taylor said that she would provide this data to the Panel. **(ACTION)**
- Cllr Connor queried how the inter-service referrals for mental health patients for extra support (Mental Health and Wellbeing section, point number 6) would be monitored. Gill Taylor responded that the number of referrals wasn't being measured specifically but that the focus was on the new multi-disciplinary locality approach which enabled staff to better connect with local community services.
- Cllr Connor queried whether any personal assistant capacity had been increased by commissioning through Disability Action Haringey (DAH) (Personal Budgets and Assistants section, point number 3). Officers agreed to provide a written response to the Panel on this. **(ACTION)**
- Cllr Connor requested that further information should be provided to the Panel on the success or failure of e-consultations (NHS and Care Services section, point number 9). **(ACTION)**
- Cllr Connor requested that further information should be provided to the Panel on the commitment to share information with the JPB on the strategy and vision for opticians and dentists (NHS and Care Services section, point number 12). **(ACTION)**
- Cllr Lyngkaran asked whether there was any data on the number of toilets kept open in parks and how parks were being kept safer (Park and Recreation section, point numbers 4 & 5). Gill Taylor said that the engagement work with residents and user groups typically provided qualitative data on park safety. Helena Kania expressed concerns about park gates not being locked which led to anti-social behaviour at night. Data on park toilets could be provided to the Panel in writing. **(ACTION)**

Cllr Connor recommended that the next update report on the Living Through Lockdown report included a focus on the new initiatives that the Council were establishing as these were not necessarily obvious from the current report format. **(ACTION)**

The Panel discussed the timescales for the next update report and Cllr Connor suggested that September 2023 would be suitable to enable an annual update, but it was agreed that this could be adjusted if required depending on developments. **(ACTION)**

22. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

Providing an update on the Work Programme, Dominic O'Brien, Scrutiny Officer, said that the Scrutiny Café consultation event was due to take place the following day (16th Sep 2022) and that the feedback from this along with suggestions previously received from Panel Members would be used to populate the Panel's work programme for 2022-24. The next Panel meeting on 17th November 2022 would receive updates on the Haringey Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) annual report and an overview on CQC inspections. A joint meeting with the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel on transitions between children's and adult services was planned for Feb 2023 (date TBC). An update on integrated joint partnership working and co-production had been scheduled for the Panel's March 2023 meeting.

Cllr Connor requested that an update on the safeguarding process for women and children staying in people's homes (such as those recently arriving from Ukraine) be added to the HSAB annual report item at the November 2022 meeting. **(ACTION)**

Cllr Peacock highlighted the provision of dementia services in the Borough as an item that could be added as a future agenda item. Cllr Connor noted that it would be useful to receive a full list of existing dementia services in the Borough as part of this item.

23. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 17th November 2022 (6:30pm)
- 8th December 2022 (6:30pm)
- 13th March 2023 (6:30pm)

CHAIR: Councillor Pippa Connor

Signed by Chair

Date

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MINUTES OF MEETING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON TUESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2022

PRESENT:

Councillors: Makbule Gunes (Chair), Anna Abela, Lester Buxton, Lotte Collett, Marsha Isilar-Gosling, Sue Jameson and Mary Mason

Co-opted Member: Lourdes Keever (Church representative)

14. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred Members present to item 1 on the agenda in respect of filming at this meeting. Members noted the information contained therein.

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Amanda Bernard, Yvonne Denny and Anita Jakhu.

16. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

18. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None.

19. MINUTES

It was noted that all of the actions arising from the minutes of the last meeting had now been undertaken.

In respect of the appointment of a non-voting co-opted Member (item 8), Amanda Bernard had been appointed to represent the Haringey SEND Parent Carer Forum on the Panel. The Chair welcomed her to the Panel.

In respect to the reference to transitions (item 9 – Cabinet Member Questions), it was noted that Haringey Healthwatch were undertaking specific work on this issue. This was particularly focussed on the transition from an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan to adult social care services. It was agreed that Healthwatch be invited to come along to the joint meeting that the Panel was planning to arrange on this issue with the Adults and Health Panel.

AGREED:

1. That Healthwatch be invited to attend the joint meeting with the Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel on transition that is planned to take place early next year to report on their work on the issue; and
2. That the minutes of the meeting of 4 July 2022 be approved.

20. FINANCIAL MONITORING - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Josephine Lyseight (Head of Finance (People)) and Andrew Osei, the finance lead for Children and Young People, reported on the current financial position for Children's Services at the end of Quarter 1. There was currently a projected overspend of £4.7 million which mainly arose from Children's Social Care and from Prevention and Early Intervention.

Referral rates in Children's Social Care continued to be high and were 24% up. In addition, the percentage of families in acute stress had increased from 18% to 30%. Work was taking place to manage these pressures. In respect of Early Help and Prevention, there had been an increase in the number of EHC Plans and this had increased demand for SEND transport. There was also an overspend in Children's Centres of £0.2 million, which was mainly due to the increase in the cost of living.

In respect of safeguarding and social care, the number of looked after children (LAC) was still high but had recently reduced. The number of secure placements had gone down but unit costs had increased. This was being addressed through better procurement. In Early Help and Prevention, measures were being taken to manage down the costs of SEND transport. This was being done through a range of actions, including improved procurement, travel training and route mapping.

Mr Osei reported that all the savings projected for Quarter 1 had been achieved. The outturn position for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) had shown a £3.5 million overspend, which had left an accumulated DSG overspend of £20.5 million. £4.6 million of last years DSG overspend had come from the high needs block. There was currently a projected overspend for the current year of £3.8 million, all of which came from the High Needs Block. This would bring the cumulative deficit up to £24.3 million. The reason for the pressures on the High Needs Block was the increasing number of children with EHC Plans, which included 25% of looked after children (LAC). The DSG was ring fenced so could not become mixed in with the Council's budget. 95% of capital projects were currently on track, with £1.8 million slippage anticipated.

In answer to a question regarding which electoral wards were seeing the largest increases in safeguarding referrals and EHC Plans, Ann Graham (Director of Children's Services) reported that this information would be included in future performance reports to the Panel. In answer to a question regarding the levels of funding for schools within individual EHC plans, she reported that it was difficult to make comparisons as they were unique for each child. Jackie Difolco, Assistant Director for Early Help and Prevention, reported that there was a banding framework that had been shared with the previous Panel. It was agreed that this would be re-circulated. The service were

working in partnership with an organisation called ISOS who had been commissioned to review the current bandings model with stakeholders and involving schools and parents. The current banding model provided a fixed rate, although the range of delivery varied according to the needs of the child and their EHC plan.

In response to a question regarding the deficit within the High Needs Block, Ms Graham reported that the projected deficit had reduced from last year. Extensive work was taking place to address the issue, including the government's Safety Valve programme. She would report back in due course on the progress of this. It was a national issue that had arisen from the 2014 Children and Families Act.

The Panel commented that many schools had budgetary deficits. The focus was currently on managing demand of EHC Plans but it was important that preventative work took place to ensure earlier support was in place to prevent needs escalating. It was noted that a report on the Council's participation in the Safety Valve programme would be being considered by the Council's Cabinet on 13 September. It was agreed that the report would be circulated to Panel Members and that a report on the issues would also be brought to a future meeting of the Panel.

AGREED:

1. That the banding framework for funding for schools in support of EHC Plans be circulated to the Panel;
2. That a report be made to a future meeting of the Panel on the Council's participation in the government's Safety Valve programme and that the report to the Cabinet meeting of 13 September on this matter be circulated to Panel Members; and
3. That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the panel on preventative work and early intervention in respect of children with SEND.

21. DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SAFEGUARDING

Beverley Hendricks, Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Social Care, reported on the implications of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The Act recognised that children can be victims of domestic abuse and that the whole family can also be affected. It specified that a child who sees, hears or experiences domestic abuse and is related to the person being abused or the perpetrator, is also to be regarded as a victim of domestic abuse. Abusive behaviour towards a child or young person under 18 was still dealt with under child protection procedures. There was a clear role for health services and the Police in the prevention of Domestic Abuse.

The Act provided a statutory definition of domestic abuse and emphasised that it was not just physical violence but could also be emotional, controlling or coercive behaviour. It also placed a duty on local authorities to provide accommodation support for victims and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation. In addition, it provided a list of what suitable accommodation might look like which will be shared with the Panel.

The Act had clarified the circumstances in which a court could make a barring order to prevent proceedings that could further traumatise victims. It extended the controlling or

coercive behaviour offence to cover post-separation abuse and created a new offence of non-fatal strangulation or suffocation of another person. In addition, it clarified the general proposition that a person may not consent to the infliction of serious harm and prohibited health professionals from charging a victim of domestic abuse for reports and/or evidence.

The implications for safeguarding of domestic abuse on children and young people were well established. Growing up in a household of fear and intimidation could impact on children's health, wellbeing, and development. Young people could also experience domestic abuse within relationships, although they may not identify themselves as victims. Those who engaged in abusive behaviour might seek to deny the abuse by stating that they were not in a relationship. The Act specified that social media and information technology could now be identified as a means of harm. Young people's lives were often heavily reliant on the use of digital technology and perpetrators of abuse could exploit this.

There were four strands to the response to the Act by the Council and its partners:

- Developing a Co-ordinated Community Response;
- Prevention and Early Intervention;
- VAWG Commissioned Services; and
- Raising awareness.

The overall approach was captured within the VAWG Strategy. The key focus of the partnership had been to develop a co-ordinated community response. It had delivered:

- A programme of awareness;
- 32 Safe Spaces; and
- 150 VAWG Community Champions had been trained.

The VAWG Business Group was set up to strengthen the response across key agencies and an action plan developed. The Police had set up a specialist domestic abuse unit called 'ADAPT' with 7 dedicated staff members as a direct result of gaps highlighted within the action plan. This was an intervention developed specifically for Haringey and Enfield and was already having an impact. A joint report with Police colleagues on this could be made in due course. There had also been significant training and capacity building support for strengthening the VAWG partnership across key agencies and services.

In terms of prevention and early intervention, the initial focus had been on working with young people to challenge the high prevalence of victim blaming around sexual violence. Three videos had been produced and could be accessed via a link within the presentation. Solace Women's Aid had been commissioned to deliver training to key staff from all secondary schools by March 2023 on embedding a whole school approach. A public health approach to supporting schools in preventing peer-on-peer abuse had been co-developed in partnership with the Healthy Schools Programme, Sexual Health and Anchor Project Teams. Many schools had now amended their PSHE curriculum to address sexual violence myths, victim blaming and 'rape culture'. The Protect Our Women (POW) Project had continued to be commissioned although it had not been possible yet to roll it out to all schools.

In respect of VAWG commissioned services, there was ongoing funding for a domestic abuse support service for women from minority communities. This was provided through IMECE, who had already established an effective service and links in the borough. An independent domestic violence advocate had been commissioned to support LGBTQ people experiencing or at risk of abuse and would start in July. The process of re-commissioning the Council's core domestic advocacy service was beginning and there was additional investment into the service. The new service would have a focus on supporting older women, women who were disabled or were experiencing multiple disadvantage.

Recent research had estimated that 1.9 million adults had experienced domestic violence in the last year. This has specific implications for women in the Council's workforce and structures needed to be in place to respond to the impact of this. The VAWG Strategy prioritised the provision of safe spaces for women in the workforce to talk as well as services to support them.

In answer to a question regarding child to parent abuse, it was stated that the new Act covered this under the new definition of personal connection. It had previously not always been considered as domestic abuse. Haringey and other local authorities were currently addressing the issue with partners. It was now included in social worker training. Local authorities were now also required to prevent, detect and intervene where such abuse took place. She would be happy to come back to the Panel with VAWG partners to discuss further this issue.

Information was shared across the VAWG structure, which covered all childrens and adults agencies. Whilst they were all represented and included, it was hard to determine how effective information was. She agreed to share details of the VAWG structure with the Panel. In respect of information sharing through the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC), she stated that the two Chairs were open to looking at the learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews and how information might be safely shared across agencies. Ms Graham stated that victims of homicides were not always known to services. There had previously been publicity campaigns on zero tolerance that the Police had led on. Consideration could be given to raising the possibility of reinvigorating such campaigns with Police colleagues. Panel Members emphasised the critical role of health visitors. However, the service had been subjected to cuts in recent years that had limited their capacity to carry out important work. It was also felt that grandmothers should be included in the broader definition of families.

In answer to a question, Ms Hendricks reported that the new Act embodied the right to ask and the right to know about a partner. It also gave the Police more discretion to approach and inform. In respect of health visitors, there were three dedicated health visitors who were linked to the MASH and were actively involved in sharing appropriate information. Independent reviews had also stated that information sharing was sound. In respect of grandmothers, she felt that their role was critical. A whole family approach was undertaken and outlined in the "Think Family" protocol, which she agreed to circulate to the Panel. In respect of support to the workforce, she would report further on the detail of this in due course. Support did not yet extend to private contractors.

The Chair suggested that a Council wide campaign to highlight domestic abuse could be considered as a way of highlighting the issue locally.

AGREED:

1. That the following be circulated to the Panel;
 - The list within the Act of what suitable accommodation support for victims of domestic abuse and their children might look like;
 - Details of the VAWG structure; and
 - The “Think Family” protocol.
2. That the Director of Children’s Services give consideration to raising the reinvigoration of zero tolerance campaigns with Police colleagues.

22. HARINGEY YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2022/23

Jackie Difolco, Assistant Director for Early Help and Prevention, reported there was a duty for each local authority area to produce an annual youth justice plan. This was to include details of how youth justice services were funded and delivered.

The report highlighted achievements during 2021/22. There had been reduction in serious youth violence offences of 25% and of 12% in knife crime. There had been a specific focus on mental health and well-being in order to address the increase in such issues. As part of this, there was now a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) practitioner in the service who could also support staff in their work. There continued to be a strong focus on disproportionality, which enabled practitioners to obtain a better understanding of their cohort. In addition, there was also a range of identity based work taking place.

There was a continuing and increased focus on health, well-being and substance abuse, including systemic training for all front facing staff. The service was also working with other colleagues in Children’s Services as part of an exclusions working group to ensure that there was a joined-up approach. A pledge was being created that all Haringey schools will be encouraged to sign up to. The Service’s office had remained open for five days a week to during the pandemic but services had also been made available in community settings. 71% of young people that the service worked with were supported to remain in full time education. Community reparation projects had been expanded and this included a recent partnership with the food bank at the Selby Centre. The service had been proactive in involving fathers of young offenders and would continue to be a priority in the 2022/23 plan. Overall performance was high, with plans, interventions and home visits undertaken in a timely manner and to a high standard.

In terms of the cohort, half of those were young black men. The overall number of offences had reduced by 37%. Drugs offences had overtaken violence for the first time. 44 young people had entered the youth justice system for the first time. The percentage of young people who reoffended was higher than in comparable local authorities but had come down. Audit activity concluded that, in over two thirds of the cases audited, work with young people was graded as either good or outstanding. There had been a drop in young people staying on in full time education post 16 and this would therefore be a key focus of the new plan.

There had been a strong focus on systemic training and evidence based interventions. Three members of staff had also taken part in Your Choice cognitive behavioural therapy training with the aim on reducing serious youth violence via therapeutic skills and sessions. The service had undertaken two participation initiatives; Think Space was aimed at young people and their families whilst Team Space involved staff. Feedback from young people was obtained regularly, responded to and incorporated into service planning.

Key priorities for 2022/23 were:

- Reducing poor outcomes, particularly for the most vulnerable young people;
- Reducing serious youth violence and knife crime;
- Continuing focus on stop and search;
- Resettlement;
- Statutory Key Performance Indicators:
 - Reduction of first time entrants
 - Reduction of reoffending
 - Prevention of custody.

In terms of progress to date, positive feedback had been received from the Court on the service's pre-sentencing template and the child first, offender second principle. Work was also taking place to develop a prevention service and engaging with young people who were at risk but had not been formally referred to the service yet. A successful application had been made to the MOPAC for a joint project with Islington that would focus on disproportionality and include mentoring. A new resettlement policy had been drafted to ensure that young people were supported well when they returned to the community after being in custody.

In answer to a question, Ms Difolco stated that workshops had been held with young people and the Police regarding stop and search. These allowed young people to raise awareness, explain to Police officers how it had made them feel when they were stopped and searched and to ask questions. It also enable Police officers to respond in a safe environment. In respect of the gaps in speech and language therapy that were being addressed, these were aimed at older young people who did not currently have access.

She reported that approximately 8% of the youth justice cohort were young women. There were female staff within the service and efforts were made to match staff appropriately to young people. There was also a girls group. The format of the strategic plan was standardised and set out by the National Youth Justice Board. She was nevertheless happy to consider producing a summary version alongside the statutory plan next year. She was also prepared to take a summary of the report to any group or organisation that might be interested. There was not currently a schools representative on the Youth Justice Board and this was something that they were currently seeking to address.

In answer to another question regarding data on ethnicity and, in particular, the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (IGRT) community, Ms Difolco reported that the recording of ethnicity categories were pre-determined. However, the service ensured that more detail ethnicity data was collected in case notes so that this could be reflected

in interventions. The Panel was of the view that such data was vital. In particular, it provided the opportunity to undertake preventative work with specific communities.

Councillor Zena Brabazon, the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families, stated that she felt that the report was very young person centred and this was reflective of the current culture of the service. The plan also demonstrated the child first, offender second approach that was now followed. She felt that it was important that schools were represented on the Board. She also felt that summarised version of the plan could be provided for schools. There was a need to involve governors and consideration would be given to how this could best be done.

AGREED:

That consideration be given to the production of a more accessible and/or summarised version of the Strategic Plan in future years.

23. RISING GREEN YOUTH HUB - OPENING

Ms Difolco reported on the opening of the Rising Green Youth Hub in Wood Green. A wide range of partners had been involved in the project, from its inception to completion. It had required £1.3 in capital, which had come from a range of sources. Young people had been actively involved in the design of the Centre and the builders had been open and encouraging of this. Wood Green Youth Voices had been established to facilitate this. 60 people had attended the launch and the centre was now regularly attracting between 50 and 70 young people to sessions. It was intended to extend the usage of the centre to young children and older people. There would also be a focus on income generation.

Ms Graham commented that the intention had been to develop a similar model to the Bruce Grove Youth Centre but in Wood Green. The new centre was proving to be popular and was well attended. It was noted that, following a successful summer holiday programme, there had been increased attendance from children young people with a learning disability, which was welcome.

The Panel welcomed the opening of the new centre and agreed to visit it.

AGREED:

That a visit be arranged by the Panel to the Rising Green Youth Hub.

24. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Panel noted that a work plan was being developed for all of overview and scrutiny, including the Children and Young People's Panel. This would cover the next eighteen months. A comprehensive consultation process was currently taking place on which local issues should be prioritised within it. An on-line survey had taken place and there was also shortly to be a Scrutiny Café event to which a wide range of people had been invited including Members, officers, partners, community and voluntary organisations and young people. Each scrutiny body would be given the opportunity to select specific issues to undertake in-depth reviews on and items for regular panel meetings. In

addition, there were routine and regular items that would need to be included, such as Cabinet Member Questions, updates on the implementation of recommendations from recent reviews, the budget and performance data.

In respect of the next meeting of the Panel on 7 November, the following provisional items had been identified:

- Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families;
- Review on Haringey Family of Schools – Update on Implementation of Recommendations; and
- Exam and Test Results.

The Panel suggested that the issue of sexual abuse and violence in schools be added to the list of potential items in the work plan. Amongst other things, this could explore how good practice could be shared. Ms Graham reported that work was already taking place on this matter and an update on the “Everyone’s Invited” initiative could be provided a future meeting.

AGREED:

That the issue of sexual abuse and violence in schools be added to the list of potential items for inclusion in the work plan.

25. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 7 November 2022;
- 3 January 2023; and
- 20 March 2023.

CHAIR: Councillor Makbule Gunes

Signed by Chair

Date

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MINUTES OF MEETING Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel HELD ON Monday, 5th September, 2022, 18.30

PRESENT:

Councillors: Scott Emery, Culverwell, Hymas, Simmons-Safo (Chair), Wallace, Ibrahim Ali and Sheila Peacock

ALSO ATTENDING: Ian Sygrave (Co-Optee)

154. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred Members present to agenda Item 1 as shown on the agenda in respect of filming at this meeting, and Members noted the information contained therein'.

155. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Worrell and Cllr Dunstall. Cllrs Ali and Peacock attended the meeting as substitutes.

156. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None

157. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

158. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

There were no deputations, petitions, presentations or questions received.

159. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30th June were agreed as a correct record.

160. LOW TRAFFIC NEIGHBOURHOODS UPDATE

The Chair acknowledged that there were a lot of people in attendance at the meeting and that a lot of the public that were present had very strong views on LTNs. The Chair advised that, as no written questions had been submitted to the Committee in

advance, she would not be taking questions from the public. The Chair requested that those present refrain from shouting out or disrupting the meeting as it was important that councillors were able to do their job by asking questions and scrutinising the LTN schemes.

Clerks note – The Chair agreed to take the presentations for items 7 & 8 together and then questions would be taken at the end.

The Committee considered a presentation which provided an update on Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. The presentation specifically focused on the implementation of the three LTNs that were approved by Cabinet in December 2021, namely Bounds Green, Bruce Grove/West Green and St Ann's. The presentation was introduced by Bryce Tudball, Interim Head of Planning Policy, Transport & Infrastructure and Naima Ishan, Transport Planner as set out in the agenda pack at pages 9 to 30 of the agenda pack. Mike Hakata, the Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Environment, and Transport and Deputy Leader of the Council was also present for this item. The following arose during the discussion of this item:

- a. The Committee raised concerns about exemptions to the LTNs, particularly for those who had carer responsibilities and sought assurances about how delays in administering those would be resolved. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that targeted consultation with specific cohorts and groups was undertaken. The Cabinet Member advised that one of the main drivers for the scheme was the results of the disability and carers survey, along with a range of other sources of internal and external analysis. This analysis looked at how exemptions worked across different schemes around the country. Following this analysis, Haringey introduced one of the most comprehensive list of exemptions to LTN schemes anywhere in the country.
- b. The Cabinet Member acknowledged that there may be some issues in relation to processing exemptions and how the Council communicates applying for an exemption, and that he was happy to look into these. It was added that the schemes were still bedding-in and that changes would be made following feedback received from residents. The Cabinet Member emphasised the fact that, as an authority, Haringey had taken the lead in relation to LTNs and that he was not aware of another authority that had as comprehensive a list of exemptions as Haringey. Officers advised that a significant amount of engagement work had been done, particularly around the exemptions policy, and that the Council had made a commitment not to introduce LTNs until an exemptions policy was in place.
- c. The Chair noted that she had personally found the process of applying for an exemption as a Blue Badge Holder to be difficult to navigate and sought assurances about how the Council could make this process as easy as possible. The Panel also added that the Council needed to give consideration to how to improve the process of applying for an exemption for carers, some of whom would likely care-share, and to learn lessons for future roll-outs of the scheme. In response, the Panel was advised that there would be a communication send out shortly to all Blue Badge Holders around applying for an exemption, and which would pick up on the concerns outlined by members. The Cabinet Member emphasised that this was very much a learning process.
- d. In relation to concerns raised by the Panel about road safety and the possible impact of LTNs on traffic on neighbouring roads and 'rat-running', the Cabinet

Member advised that a lot of time was spent analysing detailed designs for each scheme in a very high level of detail. The Cabinet Member advised that Road Safety was a top priority when it came to LTNs and that one of the key aims was to reduce overall traffic levels and improve road safety. The Panel was advised that some of the learning that had come from other schemes across London was that speeding rates had dropped where LTNs had been introduced. The Cabinet Member acknowledged that there could be a short term adjustment period but that ultimately the Council was looking to improve road safety and decrease collisions.

- e. In response to concerns about engagement with emergency services, the Cabinet Member advised that officers had met with colleagues in emergency services extensively and, using their data, went through journey times to every location in the borough. In light of these discussions, the Council had agreed to implement camera enforcement rather than a physical filter at any location where there would be an adverse effect on journey times for emergency services.

Clerk's note at 19:10 – After several warnings by the Chair that disruption by members of the public in attendance would lead to the meeting being adjourned, the meeting was adjourned.

19:41 – The meeting recommenced.

- f. The Panel sought assurances that key outputs of the scheme were being monitored and whether assurances could be given that the LTNs would be pulled if their objectives were not being met. In response, the Cabinet Member reiterated that the schemes were still bedding-in and that there would be several opportunities to tweak them if they were not working as intended. The Cabinet Member set out that, ultimately, if the schemes did not work and the key metrics were failing then they would be pulled.
- g. The Panel questioned how the current locations of the LTN's were determined and why, for example White Hart Lane or Northumberland Park were not used as initial locations. In response, the Panel was advised that these schemes were initially selected as part of a narrow bidding window for funding and that this contributed to why certain locations were chosen for the initial rollout. The key driving force behind the location of the schemes was data, particularly in relation to metrics such as health indices, collision data, car ownership levels and traffic metrics. In relation to deprivation indices, these would be prioritised as part of future schemes and as part of the development of the Walking and Cycling Action Plan.
- h. The Committee raised concerns that some of the signage for the schemes could be misleading and that, for example, zone signage that had X2 on it looked as though it referred to access was permitted for two vehicles. Members also questioned the clarity of communications that went out to residents and suggested that future communications should also be sent out to all councillors. In response the Cabinet Member advised that a lot of work had gone into providing comprehensive signage but that he would take the feedback on board and consider how to improve signage. Officers advised that information booklets on the LTNs were shared with all councillors, prior to being sent out to residents and businesses.

- i. In relation to a question about the inspiration for LTNs, the Panel was advised that these were being rolled out across London and that funding was being provided by the GLA. Haringey had taken on board feedback from schemes elsewhere in London and would continue to learn lessons from other boroughs going forwards.

RESOLVED

That the update in relation to Low Traffic Neighbourhoods was noted.

161. WALKING AND CYCLING ACTION PLAN

The Committee considered a presentation which provided an update on Walking and Cycling Action Plan (WCAP). The presentation was introduced by Bryce Tudball, Interim Head of Planning Policy, Transport & Infrastructure and Maurice Richards, Transport Planning Team Manager as set out in the agenda pack at pages 31 to 42 of the agenda pack. Mike Hakata, the Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Environment, and Transport and Deputy Leader of the Council was also present for this item. The following arose during the discussion of this item:

- a. The Committee noted its support for cycle hire schemes and sought clarification over the Council's recent announcement on Twitter that these were to be suspended in Haringey. In response, officers advised that the Council was committed to supporting a borough wide E-bike scheme but that at present there were a number of issue with bikes being left on the pavement and causing a nuisance. As a result, officers were engaging with providers to establish a Memorandum of Understanding to operate in the borough and it was hoped that a properly regulated scheme would be back and running in due course.
- b. The Committee sought clarification about bike hangers and what was meant by prioritising the rollout of bike hangers. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that provision of secure bike storage was key part of efforts to increase cycling in the borough, particularly as people who lived on estates or in flats may not have anywhere secure to store bicycles. Prior to last year, the Council was dependent upon TfL funding for installing bike hangers, however the Council had brought in a dedicated £200k a year budget for provision of these. The Cabinet Member advised that the administration was looking at how to increase the funding further.
- c. In relation to a follow-up question, the Cabinet Member advised that £200k roughly equated to 38 bike hangers, each of which was large enough for six bikes.
- d. The Chair sought clarification about the funding window for the £5.1m capital funding identified in the report for WCAP, officers advised that this covered three years from 2021-22, 2022-23 & 2023-24.
- e. In response to a question, officers advised that the final funding settlement from TfL would help determine the WCAP delivery plan and the timescales for this.
- f. The Committee sought assurances about what criteria was used to determine the location of bike hangers and when locations that had not received hangers might expect to do so. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that there were a number of metrics used to determine allocation but that it was essentially demand led and also took into account how long residents in a

- certain area had been waiting for storage facilities. The Cabinet Member acknowledged that there was a lot of demand and that they were looking at ways to increase provision.
- g. The Committee sought assurances about what equalities monitoring had been done and what support would be in place to support those on low incomes to access cycling. In response, the Cabinet Member acknowledged that exclusion was a key consideration and that the administration was actively looking at how to improve cycling rates for particular groups and those that currently felt excluded from cycling. The administration was looking to make cycling safer and in doing so increase participation, particularly from minority groups and those that were disproportionately impacted by health inequalities. As part of this the Council would be looking at how to make bikes more accessible for those that may not be able to afford them.
 - h. The Committee raised concerns about pedestrian safety from cyclists when sharing pavements. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that there were a number of dedicated shared cycling and pedestrian lanes in the borough but acknowledged that separate lanes were usually preferable, location permitting.
 - i. In relation to a question about school streets and what could be done to overcome reluctance from some head teachers, the Committee was advised that the Active Travel team worked closely with schools. It was suggested that perhaps teachers didn't think there was much support for school streets and the answer might be to encourage parents to voice their support to head teachers.
 - j. In relation to encouraging walking, the Cabinet Member acknowledged that this was a fundamental element of the WCAP and that this entailed improving the street scene, planting more trees and encouraging people to get out and walk.
 - k. In response to a question about improving pavements, officers advised that works were prioritised according to their condition, number of complaints and also councillor requests for intervention. The Committee was advised that the Highways and Street Lighting plan that was agreed by Cabinet in March set out in detail which pavements had been identified for improvement. Officers advised that additional funding had been set aside for pavements over the next three years in recognition that 56% of the boroughs footways needed improvements.

RESOLVED

That the update in relation to the Walking and Cycling Action Plan be noted.

162. Q&A SESSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE ACTION, ENVIRONMENT, AND TRANSPORT AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Committee held a question and answer session with the Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Environment, and Transport and Deputy Leader of the Council. The Cabinet Member had already responded to a number of questions as part of the two previous agenda items. The following additional questions and answers were noted:

- a. The Committee sought assurances around floodwater management and in particular queried what was being done about Priory Road in Muswell Hill and the fact that this had been previously identified as the number one location for intervention. Concerns were raised that major works at this location had been

put on hold in favour of the Queens Wood scheme. In response, the Cabinet Member agreed to come back to the Committee with a written response on this. The Cabinet Member advised that, in general, the aim was to accelerate the number of floodwater interventions across the borough. **(Action: Cllr Hakata).**

- b. The Committee sought assurances from the Cabinet Members that he would seek to engage with the government and encourage them to provide a cap or other forms of support to those with District Energy Networks or communal heating systems. The Cabinet Member acknowledged this and commented that Haringey was in the process of creating its own Council-owned District Energy Network.

163. UPDATE ON THE PARKING MANAGEMENT IT SYSTEM

The Panel received a verbal briefing in relation to the Parking Management IT System. This update was a follow-up to a previous update given to the Panel on 3rd March 2022 and the update was given by Mark Stevens, AD Direct Services. The following key points were noted:

- a. The IT system was quite complex, with 27 modules and it was also linked in with 16 other Council systems in order to provide the services required.
- b. Since the system went live, one year ago, the following number of permits had been issued:
 - 55k permit accounts had been created
 - 36k virtual parking permits had been issued
 - 10k other parking permits issued
 - 375k visitor permits, with additional paper visitor permits were issued
 - 1.2m pay-by-phone permits had been issued through Ring Go
- c. Officers acknowledged that there had also been problems reported with the system and that they had been working with colleagues in Customer Services to look at the issues and make improvements.
- d. Real improvements had been made in terms of the amount of time people were spending waiting on the phone to order parking permits. External mystery shopping had been undertaken and parking permits had come out on top in terms of the scores for services offered by customer services.
- e. Issuing of virtual permits had resulted in a decrease of Blue Badge theft by 65% in a year.
- f. Officers advised that they were undertaking a revision to the permit module in November, through Taranto, to tie it in with government design standards and significant improvements to the system were anticipated.

The following arose during the discussion of this item:

- a. The Chair passed on concerns from a resident about virtual permits and the fact that the person in question couldn't always get access to the virtual permits section of the IT system. The Chair noted that the resident was unaware that you could still receive paper copies of parking permits and concerns were put forward about the ability of some older residents to access online permits. The Chair sought clarification as to whether the Council's intention was to phase out physical permits altogether. In response, officers advised that they were seeking to channel shift residents to virtual permits as much as possible, but that they would retain paper permits for those that could not use the online

- permit system, for whatever reason. Officers commented that they were looking to make it easier to access virtual permits through upcoming revision in November.
- b. The Panel noted concerns about Blue Badge theft and queried why the photograph was located on the reverse of the permit, as if it was on the front other people couldn't use the stolen badge. In response, officers advised that the actual badges were designed and issued by the Department for Transport and that the local authority had no say in their design. Officers set out that the reason for introducing virtual permits was that the user no longer had to display their Blue Badge. In response to a follow-up, officers acknowledged that the virtual permits could only be used 'on-street' and that the physical badge was needed when parking in a supermarket.
 - c. The Panel raised concerns about the auto-validation process and questioned why when checking addresses, the system did not link up to other systems Council such as Council Tax. In response, officers advised that the auto-validation process should link up with data held on the electoral register and that this did happen in most cases. Nevertheless, officers recognised that there had been some glitches with this process and that it was hoped that these would be ironed out by the module update.
 - d. The Panel also relayed some other glitches with the system, including the fact that it was not compatible with some web browsers; past purchases were not visible; why couldn't people purchase more than 9 permits in one go; and why could the permits not be issued for two hour slots to accord with parking restrictions in certain locations. In response, officers acknowledged these issues and advise that they were working to rectify them through the update.

RESOLVED

The update was noted.

164. TREE PLANTING UPDATE

The Panel received a report which provided an update on the tree planting programme completed in 2021/22 and also set out the 2022/23 tree planting programme, as well proposals to develop an Urban Forest Plan for Haringey. The report was introduced by Simon Farrow, Head of Parks and Leisure as set out in the agenda pack at pages 43-46 of the agenda pack. The following arose during the discussion of this report:

- a. During the last planting season, the council planted 571 new trees. Of those trees 475 were new street trees or in an adjacent verge. Of the 571 trees planted 134 were trees sponsored by residents through the Trees for Streets sponsorship platform.
- b. The 2022-2026 Labour Manifesto committed the Council to planting 10,000 new trees by 2030 and to continue planting trees until all wards can achieve 30% canopy cover.
- c. A mini-forest of 1200 trees would be planted this tree planting season Woodside ward. A further mini-forest of 200 trees would be planted in Finsbury Park to compensate for the removal of the 200 whips removed earlier this year that were planted in the wrong place.

- d. In response to a request from the Panel, officers confirmed that the new tree planting plan for this year would be based on the new ward boundary changes and officers agreed to circulate this updated plan, including the number for South Tottenham, to the Panel when it was available. **(Action: Simon Farrow).**
- e. In response to a question, officers advised that a number of trees had been removed from Finsbury Park as they had been planted by the Friends Group in the wrong location, that did not accord with the nature conservation plan for the park. The Council would be planting 200 trees in the park at a more suitable location.
- f. In response to a question, officers agreed to circulate information about the number of trees will be planted in the reconstituted Bruce Grove wards. **(Action: Simon Farrow).**
- g. The Panel commented that a lot of tree planting tended to take place in parks and that there was a need to ensure street trees were planted and that there was adequate canopy cover on the streets. The Panel sought assurances about how residents could feed into the location of street trees. In response, officers advised that they were also looking at improving street canopy cover and that they would be using technology to assess where the available space for trees was, and doing so in recognition of the climate emergency and their role in providing on-street shade. Once this mapping exercise had been done, the Council would be seeking the views of residents on where they would like to see trees planted. The Cabinet Member advised that he was committed to resident engagement on tree planting and that this was set out in tree and woodland plan part of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.
- h. In response to a questions about community orchards and the planting of fruit trees, officers confirmed that they would be looking to plant MORE fruit trees in suitable areas as part of the developing strategy around food growing.
- i. In relation to types of trees being planted and concerns about historical instances of planting trees that were unsuitable to an urban environment, officers set out that the Council no longer planted larger forest style trees, such as London Plane trees, and instead sought to plant trees with a much smaller habit. The Council also planted trees using a root barrier in order to encourage downward root growth and minimise tree roots interfering with pavements.
- j. In response to concerns about pavements going right up the base of trees, officers advised the root network of trees was usually far larger than its canopy and that trees got very little of their water from around the trunk of the tree.

RESOLVED

Noted

RESOLVED

Noted

165. POCKET PARKS

The Panel received a report which provided an update on plans to enhance and create new pocket parks across the borough. New funding of £50,000 per annum was included in the council's budget from April 2022 to establish a community led programme to identify suitable small green spaces that can be enhanced through environmental improvements. The report was introduced by Simon Farrow, Head of Parks and Leisure as set out in the agenda pack at pages 47-50 of the agenda pack. The following arose during the discussion of this report:

- a. New funding of £50,000 per annum was included in the Council's budget from April 2022 to establish a community led programme to identify suitable small green spaces that can be enhanced through environmental improvements.. Over the course of a 12-month period it is anticipated that 10-12 community groups will be supported to realise the improvements in their local small greenspace.
- b. A pilot project has been identified in West Green Ward to make improvements to the small green space at the end of Caversham Road and the verges in the road. The location currently attracts instances of littering and anti-social behaviour. The proposal includes enhance the planting at this ,location to increase bio-diversity.
- c. The Panel raised concerns about previous pocket park locations attracting street drinking and litter. In response, officers acknowledged the need to learn lessons from previous schemes and to try to isolate problems and limit unintended consequences.
- d. The Panel noted concerns with the fact that in order to receive funding for a pocket park, a group had to be properly constituted, with a constitution and a bank account and it was suggested that this would likely lead to better organised groups getting better outcomes. In response, officers advised that this may have been the case in the past but that the criteria for funding had been significantly relaxed and that the scheme was aimed at small groups of residents who wanted to become involved in developing small green spaces in their local area. Officers also acknowledged the need to do more to target the east of the borough.
- e. The Chair suggested that she would like to see more done to provide young people with more access to allotments and green spaces for growing food. The Cabinet Member advised that the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy would focus on inclusion as a core principle.

RESOLVED

Noted.

166. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Committee noted a verbal update in relation to the work programme and the upcoming Scrutiny Café event that was being held on 16th September.

167. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

N/A

168. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

14 November 2022
15 December 2022
16 March 2023

CHAIR: Councillor Michelle Simmons-Safo

Signed by Chair

Date

MINUTES OF MEETING Housing, Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel HELD ON Thursday, 29th September, 2022, 18:30

PRESENT:

Councillors: Dawn Barnes, Mark Blake, Tammy Hymas, Khaled Moyeed, Matt White (Chair) and Charles Adje

ALSO ATTENDING:

61. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred Members present to agenda Item 1 as shown on the agenda in respect of filming at this meeting, and Members noted the information contained therein'.

62. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Harrison-Mullane.

Apologies for lateness were received from Cllr Moyeed.

63. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Urgent Business.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

65. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None.

66. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting on 28 June were agreed as a correct record.

67. UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING DELIVERY PROGRAMME

The Panel received a report which provided an update on the Council's Housing Delivery Programme. The report was introduced by Robbie Erbmman, AD for Housing,

as set out in the agenda pack at pages 11-26. Cllr Ruth Gordon, the Cabinet Member for Council House-building, Placemaking and Development was also present for this agenda item. The following arose during the discussion of this item:

- a. The Panel noted that to date, 1503 homes had received planning permission, with 1444 homes started on site. In response to a clarification, the Panel was advised that these two figures did not necessarily directly correlate. Some of the homes that had started on site, had not received planning permission yet and vice-versa. It was not the case that 2947 homes had either received planning permission or started on site.
- b. The Cabinet Member set out that Haringey was doing well in comparison to other boroughs, lots of councils were building homes but not at the scale that Haringey was and not with the focus on homes at social rent that Haringey was. The Cabinet Member suggested that she was also proud of the quality of the housing that was being built, with the use of Passive Haus design techniques were possible and accompanying public realm improvements to compliment new developments. This would improve areas for existing residents as well as those in the new developments.
- c. The Cabinet Member highlighted the impact of the current financial situation on borrowing costs and that this would inevitably increase the financial risk associated to the programme. The Cabinet Member advised that she would update the Panel with further information once the situation and possible impact was made clearer.
- d. The Panel sought clarification about whether the Ashley Road development was included in both of the figures referenced above in paragraph a. In response, officers advised that the site had recently received planning permission as so would be included in both. Officers agreed to come back with further information about the relationship between the figures of homes started on site and those with planning permission and the degree of overlap in these figures. **(Action: Robbie Erbmann)**.
- e. In relation to a clarification, officers confirmed that 35% of new homes would be 3 beds and 10% would be four bed or more and that these figures were independent of each other, so that 45% would be 3 bed or more.
- f. In response to a question, the officers advised that the BCIS index was a measure of indices used to determine inflation within the building industry.
- g. The Panel raised concerns about financial risk associated with the homes for private sale and the fact that mortgage rates were going up.
- h. The Panel sought assurances about what was being done about re-provisioning businesses in Wood Green, where the site was being developed for new homes. In response the Cabinet Member advised that the Council was exploring how best to support these businesses stay within their local areas and that Cumberland Road was being developed as a site that could be used by small businesses. Officers acknowledged the need to balance housing needs with demand for businesses in the area. Officers agreed to provide a written response on what was being done to support businesses on the site of the chocolate factory. **(Action: Robbie Erbmann)**.
- i. The Panel commented that the target for building homes with 3 beds or more was 50% and sought clarification on whether there was consideration of a target for four and five bedroom homes. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that it was the case for most Council's that the biggest demand was for three or four bedroom homes. The key point was around viability on bigger

homes and the fact that the Council was not able to charge higher rents, commensurate with the higher building costs incurred for three or four bedroom homes. Therefore, these generated a loss. The HRA needed to have a balanced budget, so there was a limit to the number of loss generating homes that could be subsidised by rental income and other means such as private sales. In general, it was advised that 1 bedroom homes made a profit, two bed homes broke even and the anything at 3 bedrooms or above generated a loss. The number of three or four bedroom homes that were feasible needed to be considered at a programme level.

- j. The Panel were advised that part of the solution was to release existing stock with three or four bedrooms that may no longer be needed and that the Council was making downsizing possible for residents through the Neighbourhood Moves scheme. Cllr Carlin advised the Panel, that the Council was also looking at converting street properties as well as adding additional bedrooms to empty (void) properties.
- k. In light of two developers in the borough having gone into administration, the Panel sought reassurances about the economic risk of further developers going into administration and the impact this would have on the Housing Delivery Plan. In response, officers advised that the only development agreements in the borough were held with Lendlease and Argent, both of which were historical. Other developments were done through contracts and an open tender process, part of which involved conducting thorough due diligence on those organisations. Officers advised that the two firms that had gone into administration were sub-contractors and that no major contractors had gone into administration yet. Officers would continue to monitor this situation closely.
- l. Officers acknowledged that it was a very challenging market but that the Housing team were monitoring this closely and were doing all they could to mitigate the financial risk involved, such as using fixed price contracts where possible. Officers advised that the costs of steel had risen by 80% and that this had had a significant effect on construction costs.
- m. The Panel sought clarification about street properties, in response, the panel was advised that they would be leasehold, and the Council would retain the freehold.
- n. In relation to developing properties for sale as part of cross-subsidy, the Panel sought clarification about what calculations were being done that this was better than building council homes that were not at social rent. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that she was pushing for as many houses at social rent as possible and that the number of properties for sale would be kept down to a minimum. It was suggested that this had been the policy of the Council for a number of years. The Cabinet Member elaborated that the current policy was for cross-subsidy through sales rather than other options, but that she was not opposed to looking at this again. The Cabinet Member highlighted concerns about the possible impact of future funding cuts from central government. Officers advised that private sales still offered the best cross-subsidy return at the present time.
- o. In response to an alleged comment from the Cabinet Member for Finance around seeking new business models for schemes, The Panel was advised that Cllr Williams was referring specifically to capital projects in the General Fund rather than HRA. In terms of the HRA, rental incomes had to cover the

entirety of the cost of repairs to housing stock and could not be subsidised by the General Fund.

- p. In response to a question, the Cabinet Member advised that there was no political appetite for joint ventures with private companies in future and that she did not envisage that this would happen.
- q. In relation to concerns about a private company being used to sell homes for private sale, the Cabinet Member confirmed that the sale pipeline tended to come in blocks and that it was financially better for the Council to use an agency rather than employ its own staff at present. It was clarified that the budgetary provision for this service was a budget envelope and that the Council only paid out based on a commissioned rate for every property sold. In relation to a follow-up question, the Cabinet Member did not rule out insourcing this service in future but had no timescales for when this might be.
- r. In relation to the Community Benefits Society, officers advised that Temporary Accommodation properties were being purchased through this organisation and that they would revert back to the Council's HRA after seven years. Officers advised that the HCBS was on track to purchase 60 homes this year, which would be around 300 homes in total, which was considered a good return given that it was from a standing start.

RESOLVED

That the report on the Housing Delivery Programme was noted.

68. USE OF THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR TO MEET HOUSING NEED

The Panel received a report which informed members about the changes to housing legislation which support the Council's use of the private rented sector as a housing option for households who were facing homelessness or living in temporary accommodation. The paper set out the legislative context and provided details on the Council's approach to sourcing private sector lets to meet housing need. The report was introduced by Denise Gandy, Assistant Director of Housing Demand as set out in the agenda pack at pages 27 to 35. Cllr Carlin, the Cabinet Member for Housing Services, Private Renters and Planning was also present. The following arose during the discussion of this item:

- a. The Chair raised concerns that what was called temporary accommodation was often much longer term than a placement in the private rented sector and that if that person/s were then made homeless then the fact that they were placed in the private sector may prevent them from getting help from the Council in the future. General concern was also raised about putting vulnerable people into a poorly regulated marketplace. The Panel queried whether length of tenancy was considered when making an offer to place someone in the private sector, particularly given that the average stay in temporary accommodation was nine years and no private sector tenancy lasted that long. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that in an ideal world, the Council would not place anyone in the private rented sector, but the problem was a shortage of housing stock and there was 2600 families living in temporary accommodation. Because Haringey

- had less housing stock than some other boroughs, it just did not have the social housing stock to offer to those in Temporary Accommodation. The Right to Buy scheme exacerbated this problem further.
- b. The Cabinet Member also cautioned that the Council's housing grant was not secure and the government could theoretically take this away. The Council could not afford to keep everyone in temporary accommodation indefinitely. Without using the private rented sector, the Council would have to make very difficult decisions at the front end of the process, which would likely be to turn away every TA application from people without children, regardless of their circumstances. The Panel noted that the average cost to the Council when a family accessed or remained in temporary accommodation was £4425 per year, whereas the incentive payment through sourcing schemes was £3853.
 - c. The Panel questioned what incentives there were to prevent landlords evicting those placed by the Council and whether there was a minimum term for such a tenancy. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that the minimum in legislation was two years. The Cabinet Member set out that the person or family in question would have a needs assessment carried out which would last for two years, if the tenancy broke down within two years the Council had a responsibility to pick up and use the existing needs assessment. After two years, a new needs assessment would be carried out, and this could conceivably be adversely affected by their being housed in the private rented sector.
 - d. The Panel raised concerns about the cost of private sector rented accommodation, market conditions effecting the supply of properties in the private sector, and the fact that a private sector tenancy was unaffordable to most people in temporary accommodation. In response, the Cabinet Member, reiterated that there were 2600 families in temporary accommodation, and advised that around 500 of those had been on the list before the Localism Act, which meant that they were entitled to social housing. Those who applied for temporary accommodation after the Localism Act came into force, would likely be placed in the private rented sector. The Cabinet Member advised that an assessment was carried out on a family by family basis, which included an assessment around affordability. The Cabinet Member acknowledged that families who were affected by the benefit cap would not be able to afford the private rented sector.
 - e. The Panel queried whether any discussions had taken place with the relevant Shadow Cabinet Minister to set out the issues in this area and to develop a national policy position for a future Labour government. The Cabinet Member advised that she had spoken to other lead members across London and the position that Haringey was in was not unique, however it was also the case that Haringey had always been a borough with more difficult circumstances vis-a-vis housing and homelessness, due to a relative shortage of social housing stock. The Cabinet Member also set out that, going forwards, getting rid of no fault evictions and the introduction of some form of rent controls would improve the situation significantly.
 - f. In relation to a question about Local Housing Allowance (LHA), the Panel was advised that this was a way of working out Housing Benefit for those in private sector accommodation the rate was based on the cost of private rents in that

local area and that it was not necessarily the case that residents in inner London boroughs received more. The Cabinet Member acknowledged concerns that HLA effectively subsidised private landlords, but also emphasised the fact that Haringey need private sector landlords to help it meet its duties to house people. The Cabinet Member noted that the Council needed good private sector landlords for the local housing market to work. Especially as 40% of Haringey residents rented in the private sector.

- g. In response to a question, the Cabinet Member advised that LBH had traditionally had a strong relationship with housing associations and it was clarified that the Council had 100% nomination rights for new build housing association stock and 75% nomination rights for reallocated stock.

RESOLVED

That the report was noted.

69. WARDS CORNER UPDATE

The Panel received a report which provided an update on Wards Corner, in response to a request from the Panel for assurances on the Council's approach to ensuring the right scheme and assurances about the viability position. The report was introduced by Cllr Ruth Gordon, Cabinet Member for Council Housebuilding, Placemaking and Development as set out in the agenda pack at pages 35 to 38. Peter O'Brien, the AD Regeneration and Economic Development was also present for this item. The following arose during the discussion of this item:

- a. The Panel noted that the Wards Corner acquisitions was agreed by Cabinet in July 2022, which involved the acquisition of 43 third party properties and land interests within the Wards Corner site. This included 36 owned by Grainger and six held by private third party owners, as well as one parcel of land owned by TfL.
- b. The Cabinet Member set out that TfL had advised that health and safety works were progressing and that she was looking forward to TfL announcing the Chair of the new joint partnership board. As far as the Council was concerned, the next steps were carrying through with the acquisitions that had been announced and then developing the site on the back of this. The Cabinet Member advised that the key task was to get the temporary market up and running and to get traders back on site. The Council was seeking to work closely with the local community in order to achieve this.
- c. The Panel sought clarification about how the Council would be able to deliver on the aspirations of the Community Plan if the Community Plan bid to operate the market was not successful. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that the Council had made it clear that it supported the aspirations of the Community Plan and that it was hopeful that they would submit a strong bid. The Cabinet Member set out that the ideal solution was that that all parties came together and submitted a joint bid. The Cabinet Member welcomed the commitment from TfL that the site would be leased on the basis of it being a community asset, rather than a commercial lease.
- d. In response to a question about a council representative on the partnership board, the Cabinet Member advised that she had asked for this but that no final

decisions had been made. It was cautioned that the Council would have to recuse itself from the award of the lease. In response to whether it would be an officer or a Member on the partnership board, the Cabinet Member advised that she had not had this discussion with TfL yet and that she would need to see the terms of reference for the board.

- e. The Panel welcomed the report setting out that the Health and Safety works were the responsibility of TfL, as it was their site and promulgated the need for continued emphasis of this to the wider community. The Cabinet Member set out that the Council would be seeking to engage with local business owners in Seven Sisters and would work to ensure that they were involved in the process going forwards.
- f. The Panel sought clarification around whether the Council portion of the site would be Council owned or whether it was envisaged that there would be a partnership with developers, for example. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that she had no plans to work with developers and that she expected the site to be developed as had been done with other similar sites in the borough. The Panel noted that each site had its own viability to meet. The Council was currently at the stage of purchasing leases and the Cabinet Member had not got to the stage of working out the granular detail yet. It was envisaged that the site would be a mixed site of residential and commercial units, possibly with some workspaces included as well.

RESOLVED

Noted

70. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Panel noted that the feedback from the Scrutiny Café Event would be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13th October, along with an outline work plan and that the work plan would be circulated to them for approval before the next meeting of the Panel.

71. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None

72. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

1st November 2022
12th December 2022
27th February 2023

CHAIR: Councillor Matt White

Signed by Chair

Date

Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 28 November 2022

Title: Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panel Work Programme

Report

authorised by: Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

Lead Officer: Dominic O'Brien, Principal Scrutiny Officer
Tel: 020 8489 5896, E-mail: dominic.obrien@haringey.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: N/A

**Report for Key/
Non-Key Decision:** N/A

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 This report provides an update on the work plans for 2022-24 for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the four Scrutiny Panels.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To note the current work programmes for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the four Scrutiny Panels and agree any amendments, as appropriate.

2.2 That the Committee give consideration to the agenda items and reports required for its next meeting on 12th January 2023.

3. Reasons for decision

3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) is responsible for developing an overall work plan, including work for its standing Scrutiny Panels. In putting this together, the Committee will need to have regard to their capacity to deliver the programme and officers' capacity to support them in that task.

4. Background

4.1 The Committee has previously considered the draft work plans for the Committee and the Panels. Further additions/amendments have been made and the latest iterations of the work plans are attached in the appendices.

4.2 The current Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme has allocated the bulk of the time at the next two Committee meetings to the scrutiny of the 2023/24 Council Budget and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The first of these meetings, scheduled to be held on 12th January 2023, will scrutinise the 'Your Council' section of the Budget and make recommendations as appropriate. The next meeting, scheduled to be held on 19th January 2023, will consider and

amend/approve the full list of recommendations previously made by the Committee and the four Scrutiny Panels which will be considering the sections of the budget relevant to their remits in December 2022/January 2023.

- 4.3 The current Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme also specifies that the meeting scheduled to be held on 12th January 2023 will also include:
- A question and answer session with the Cabinet Member for Communities & Civic Life;
 - Consideration of the Complaints Annual Report.
- 4.4 The Committee should give consideration to the items for these two meetings and any amendments that it wishes to make to this schedule and could also suggest items for the other meetings scheduled in 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Review on Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

- 4.5 It has been agreed that two evidence sessions with the Director for Public Health and other relevant officers will be held in December 2022, one of which will focus on the Council's approach to schools-based engagement on VAWG while the other will focus on the Council's approach to community engagement on VAWG.

5. Effective Scrutiny Work Programmes

- 5.1 An effective scrutiny work programme should reflect a balance of activities:
- Holding the Executive to account;
 - Policy review and development – reviews to assess the effectiveness of existing policies or to inform the development of new strategies;
 - Performance management – identifying under-performing services, investigating and making recommendations for improvement;
 - External scrutiny – scrutinising and holding to account partners and other local agencies providing key services to the public;
 - Public and community engagement – engaging and involving local communities in scrutiny activities and scrutinising those issues which are of concern to the local community.
- 5.2 Key features of an effective work programme:
- A member led process, short listing and prioritising topics – with support from officers – that;
 - reflects local needs and priorities – issues of community concern as well as Borough Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy priorities
 - prioritises topics for scrutiny that have most impact or benefit
 - involves local stakeholders
 - is flexible enough to respond to new or urgent issues
- 5.3 Depending on the selected topic and planned outcomes, scrutiny work will be carried out in a variety of ways, using various formats. This will include a variety of one-off reports. In accordance with the scrutiny protocol, the OSC and Scrutiny Panels will draw from the following to inform their work:

- Performance Reports;
- One off reports on matters of national or local interest or concern;
- Issues arising out of internal and external assessment (e.g. Ofsted, Care Quality Commission);
- Reports on strategies and policies under development or other issues on which the Cabinet or officers would like scrutiny views or support;
- Progress reports on implementing previous scrutiny recommendations accepted by the Cabinet or appropriate Executive body.

5.4 In addition, in-depth scrutiny work, including task and finish projects, are an important aspect of Overview and Scrutiny and provide opportunities to thoroughly investigate topics and to make improvements. Through the gathering and consideration of evidence from a wider range of sources, this type of work enables more robust and effective challenge as well as an increased likelihood of delivering positive outcomes. In depth reviews should also help engage the public and provide greater transparency and accountability.

5.5 It is nevertheless important that there is a balance between depth and breadth of work undertaken so that resources can be used to their greatest effect.

6. Contribution to strategic outcomes

6.1 The contribution of scrutiny to the corporate priorities will be considered routinely as part of the OSC's work.

7. Statutory Officers comments

Finance and Procurement

7.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report. Should any of the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny generate recommendations with financial implications these will be highlighted at that time.

Legal

7.2 There are no immediate legal implications arising from the report.

7.3 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the approval of the future scrutiny work programme falls within the remit of the OSC.

7.4 Under Section 21 (6) of the Local Government Act 2000, an OSC has the power to appoint one or more sub-committees to discharge any of its functions. In accordance with the Constitution, the appointment of Scrutiny Panels (to assist the scrutiny function) falls within the remit of the OSC.

7.5 Scrutiny Panels are non-decision making bodies and the work programme and any subsequent reports and recommendations that each scrutiny panel

produces must be approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Such reports can then be referred to Cabinet or Council under agreed protocols.

Equality

- 7.6 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:
- Tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
 - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- 7.7 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them within its work plan and those of its panels, as well as individual pieces of work. This should include considering and clearly stating;
- How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share the nine protected characteristics;
 - Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate;
 - Whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Haringey;
 - Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people, are being realised.
- 7.8 The Committee should ensure that equalities comments are based on evidence. Wherever possible this should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

8. Use of Appendices

Appendix A – OSC Work Plan Work Programme

Appendix B – Adults and Health Work Programme

Appendix C – Children and Young People’s Work Programme

Appendix D – Environment & Community Safety Work Programme

Appendix E – Housing, Planning and Development Work Programme

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Work Plan 2022-24

<p>1. Scrutiny review projects; These are dealt with through a combination of specific evidence gathering meetings that will be arranged as and when required and other activities, such as visits. Should there not be sufficient capacity to cover all these issues through in-depth pieces of work, they could instead be addressed through a “one-off” item at a scheduled meeting of the Panel. These issues will be subject to further development and scoping. It is proposed that the Committee consider issues that are “cross cutting” in nature for review by itself i.e. ones that cover the terms of reference of more than one of the panels.</p>		
Project	Comments	Priority
Prevention of Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)	<p>Terms of reference: To review the current arrangements for specific areas of VAWG prevention in Haringey under the remit of the Council’s VAWG Strategy 2016-26 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Council’s approach to schools-based engagement on VAWG, including the progress of recent pilot projects, the likely future resource requirements, national policy/guidance and approaches to school-based engagement elsewhere in London and the UK that Haringey could potentially learn from. • the Council’s approach to community engagement on VAWG, including the progress of recent work in this area, the likely future resource requirements, national policy/guidance and approaches to community engagement elsewhere in London and the UK that Haringey could potentially learn from. 	<p>1</p> <p>Evidence sessions taking place in December 2022.</p>

2. “One-off” Items; These will be dealt with at scheduled meetings of the Committee. The following are suggestions for when particular items may be scheduled.		
Date	Potential Items	Lead Officer/Witnesses
20 June 2022	Performance update; To monitor performance against priority targets	Performance Manager
	Terms of Reference	Principal Scrutiny Officer
	Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan	Principal Scrutiny Officer
25 July 2022	Cabinet Member Questions - Leader of the Council	Leader and Chief Executive
	Haringey Health Hub	Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs – Whittington Health
13 October 2022	Cabinet Member Questions – Housing Services, Private Renters and Planning	Cabinet Member and officers

	2021/22 Provisional Outturn report	Director of Finance
	Finance update – Q1	Director of Finance
	Fairness Commission – Update on recommendations	
	Fire Safety Scrutiny Review - Update on recommendations	
28 November 2022	Cabinet Member Questions; Tackling Inequality and Resident Services	Cabinet Member and officers
	Intrusive fire risk assessments – Update	Judith Page
12 January 2023	Cabinet Member Questions; Communities & Civic Life	Cabinet Member and officers
	Budget Scrutiny – Your Council	Cabinet Member and officers
	Complaints Annual Report	Head of Customer Experience & Operations
19 January 2023		Deputy Chair (in the Chair)

(Budget)	Budget Scrutiny; Panel feedback and recommendations. To consider panel's draft recommendations and agree input into Cabinet's final budget proposal discussions (Deputy Chair in the Chair)	
	Cabinet Member Questions; Finance	Cabinet Member and officers
	Treasury Management Statement	Assistant Director of Finance
30 March 2023	Cabinet Member Questions; Economic Development, Jobs & Community Cohesion	Cabinet Member and officers
2023/24		
June 2023	Cabinet Member Questions - Leader of the Council	Cabinet Member and officers
July 2023		

October 2023	Cabinet Member Questions; Communities & Civic Life	Cabinet Member and officers
November 2023	Cabinet Member Questions; Tackling Inequality and Resident Services	Cabinet Member and officers
January 2024	Budget Scrutiny – Your Council	Cabinet Member and officers
January 2024 (Budget)	Budget Scrutiny; Panel feedback and recommendations. To consider panel’s draft recommendations and agree input into Cabinet’s final budget proposal discussions (Deputy Chair in the Chair)	Deputy Chair (in the Chair)
	Cabinet Member Questions; Finance	

	Treasury Management Statement	
March 2024	Cabinet Member Questions; Economic Development, Jobs & Community Cohesion	Cabinet Member and officers

Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel

Work Plan 2022 - 24

<p>1. Scrutiny review projects; These are dealt with through a combination of specific evidence gathering meetings, that will be arranged as and when required, and other activities, such as visits. Should there not be sufficient capacity to cover all these issues through in-depth pieces of work, they could instead be addressed through a “one-off” item at a scheduled meeting of the Panel. These issues will be subject to further detailed development and scoping. It is proposed that the Committee consider issues that are “cross cutting” in nature for review by itself i.e., ones that cover the terms of reference of more than one of the panels.</p>		
Project	Comments	Priority
Leisure and recreational activities for children and young people	To look at the leisure and recreational opportunities that are available for children and young people in all parts of the borough. This will include how their views are taken into account in planning provision, the impact of activities on mental health and well-being and how the needs of marginalised groups are addressed.	1.
Housing and children	To look at how housing impacts on children and young people and, in particular those who may be vulnerable or where there might be safeguarding concerns.	2.
Listening to children and young people	To consider how the Council obtains and responds to the views of children and young people in the planning and provision of services.	3.

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4. **“One-off” Items;** These will be dealt with at scheduled meetings of the Panel. The following are suggestions for when particular items may be scheduled.

Date	Potential Items
2022-23	
04 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of Reference • Appointment of Non-Voting Co-opted Member • Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families • Haringey Travel Assistance Policy (Consultation Update) • Support to Refugee Children
06 September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Monitoring • Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding • Haringey Youth Justice Strategic Plan • Rising Green Youth Hub – Opening

<p>07 November 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families • Support for Children and Families in Cost of Living Crisis • Opening of Haslemere Road Children’s Home. • Summer Programme for Children and Young People
<p>3 January 2023 (Budget Meeting)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget scrutiny • Haringey Safety Valve Programme • Exam and Test Results • Review on Haringey Family of Schools – Update on Implementation of Recommendations
<p>9 February 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitions from Children to Adult Services (Joint Meeting with Adults and Health Panel)
<p>20 March 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families • Haringey Children’s Safeguarding Partnership – Annual Report • Children’s Social Care; Annual Report • Stop and Search

2023/24

Meeting 1

- Terms of Reference
- Appointment of Non-Voting Co-opted Member
- Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families
- Review on Child Poverty – Update on Implementation of Recommendations
- Mental Health and Well-Being
- SEND – Prevention and Early Intervention

Meeting 2

- Haringey Youth Justice Strategic Plan
- Skills and Careers

Meeting 3

- Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families

**Meeting 4
(Budget)**

- Budget Scrutiny
- Exam and Test Results

Meeting 5

- Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families
- Haringey Children’s Safeguarding Partnership – Annual Report
- Children’s Social Care; Annual Report

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Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel

Work Plan 2022 - 24

<p>1. Scrutiny review projects; These are dealt with through a combination of specific evidence gathering meetings that will be arranged as and when required and other activities, such as visits. Should there not be sufficient capacity to cover all these issues through in-depth pieces of work, they could instead be addressed through a “one-off” item at a scheduled meeting of the Panel. These issues will be subject to further development and scoping. It is proposed that the Committee consider issues that are “cross cutting” in nature for review by itself i.e., ones that cover the terms of reference of more than one of the panels.</p>		
Project	Comments	Priority
Litter/fly tipping	The Panel would like to do a [piece of detailed scrutiny work around litter and fly-tipping and how this could be improved. It’s noted that the Veolia contract is due for renewal and there is an opportunity to link in the with priority setting process for a new waste contract.	

<p>2. “One-off” Items; These will be dealt with at scheduled meetings of the Panel. The following are suggestions for when particular items may be scheduled.</p>	
Date	Potential Items
2022-23	

<p>30 June 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership and Terms of Reference • Appointment of Non-Voting Co-opted Member • Waste and Recycling Update • Community Safety Update • Work Programme
<p>05 September 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Members Questions, Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Environment & Transport, and Deputy Leader of the Council • Low Traffic Neighbourhoods • Walking and Cycling Action Plan • Update on Parking Management It System • Street Trees • Pocket Parks • Work Programme

<p>14 November 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Jobs & Community Cohesion (to cover areas within the Panel’s terms of reference that are within that portfolio). * <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How is the Council encouraging use of brownfield sites in the borough to protect green spaces. ○ Interaction between crime and youth service provision ● Police Priorities in Haringey & Community Safety Partnership Update; To invite comments from the Panel on current performance issues and priorities for the borough’s Community Safety Partnership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update on Police activities to combat Domestic violence and under reporting of this crime type ○ Hate Crime <p>* Item withdrawn – to be rescheduled.</p>
<p>15 December 2022 (Budget Meeting)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Communities and Civic Life ● Budget Scrutiny ● Update on Leisure Services inc take up discretionary rate. ● Parks Performance. ● Summer Major Events programme in Finsbury Park
<p>16 March 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequality & Resident Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Highways Update and progress around introduction of 20mph speed limits. ● Update on Litter and Fly tipping

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Recycling Performance • Update on PMIS
2023/24	
Meeting 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of Reference • Appointment of Non-Voting Co-opted Member • Cabinet Member Questions
Meeting 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member Questions
Meeting 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member Questions • Police Priorities in Haringey & Community Safety Partnership Update; To invite comments from the Panel on current performance issues and priorities for the borough's Community Safety Partnership.
Meeting 4 (Budget)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Scrutiny

Meeting 5

- Cabinet Member Questions

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Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel

Work Plan 2022 - 24

<p>1. Scrutiny review projects; These are dealt with through a combination of specific evidence gathering meetings that will be arranged as and when required and other activities, such as visits. Should there not be sufficient capacity to cover all these issues through in-depth pieces of work, they could instead be addressed through a “one-off” item at a scheduled meeting of the Panel. These issues will be subject to further development and scoping. It is proposed that the Committee consider issues that are “cross cutting” in nature for review by itself i.e., ones that cover the terms of reference of more than one of the panels.</p>		
Project	Comments	Priority
Review on Landlord Licensing and Renting in the Private Sector	<p>To review the impact of the implementation of the Council’s landlord licensing scheme on the private rented sector. The review will be looking at both the additional licensing scheme, introduced in 2019, as well as impending introduction of the selective licensing scheme, following DHULC approval.</p> <p>The Panel are also keen to understand what other support the Council could provide to those living in the Private Rented Sector and what are other local authorities doing around this.</p>	

<p>2. “One-off” Items; These will be dealt with at scheduled meetings of the Panel. The following are suggestions for when particular items may be scheduled.</p>		

Date	Potential Items
2022-23	
28 June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of Reference • Private Sector Landlord Licensing Scheme • Empty Homes Policy • New Local Plan Update • Community Infrastructure Levy Update
29 September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the Council's Housing Delivery Programme • Use of the Private Rented Sector to meet Housing Need • Wards Corner Update
01 November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the insourcing of Homes for Haringey • Temporary Accommodation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Standards and quality of TA accommodation and how the Council works with and seeks compliance from external TA providers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Council's acquisitions programme - How we acquire TA properties and bring them up to standard. ● Aids and Adaptions & Housing for people with disabilities and other specific needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How do we ensure that people with specific needs receive suitable accommodation?
12 December 2022 (Budget Meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Budget scrutiny ● Housing Repairs performance and update in improvement plans
27 February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Housing Associations
2023/24	
Meeting 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Terms of Reference
Meeting 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●
Meeting 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●
Meeting 4 (Budget)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Budget Scrutiny

Meeting 5	

Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel

Work Plan 2022 - 23

<p>1. Scrutiny review projects; These are dealt with through a combination of specific evidence gathering meetings that will be arranged as and when required and other activities, such as visits. Should there not be sufficient capacity to cover all of these issues through in-depth pieces of work, they could instead be addressed through a “one-off” item at a scheduled meeting of the Panel. These issues will be subject to further development and scoping. It is proposed that the Committee consider issues that are “cross cutting” in nature for review by itself i.e. ones that cover the terms of reference of more than one of the panels.</p>		
Project	Comments	Status
Access to Adult Social Care Services	<p>Topics to include: delays to Care Act assessments, issues around care packages, discharge from hospital, links between social care and mental health services. Potentially could include issues around care for higher needs service users living in supported housing schemes.</p> <p>Project plan in development. Officers have indicated that they will have availability for evidence sessions starting in January 2023.</p>	Ongoing

<p>2. “One-off” Items; These will be dealt with at scheduled meetings of the Panel. The following are suggestions for when particular items may be scheduled.</p>	
Date	Agenda Items
2022-23	

21 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member Questions – Adults & Health • Place & Partnerships
15 September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Through Lockdown report (Joint Partnerships Boards) – Update on Council/NHS response to recommendations • Aids and Adaptions – Delays and Supplier/Contractor issues • Finance/Performance update
17 November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haringey Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) Annual Report • CQC Overview • Dementia services
8 December 2022 (Budget Meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget scrutiny
9 February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint meeting with Children & Young People’s Scrutiny Panel on transitions between children’s and adult services.
13 March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member Questions – Adults & Health • Update – Integrated joint partnership working and co-production

Possible items to monitor or to be allocated as agenda items at Panel meetings:

- Preparedness for a possible future pandemic.
- Irish Centre site – redevelopment of the former Irish Centre including the relocation of the Grace Organisation to the new site.
- Community mental health model / suicide prevention.

Items to schedule for 2023/24:

- Sep 2023 – Update on response to Living Through Lockdown report (Joint Partnership Board). Next update report to include a focus on the new initiatives that the Council had established as a result of the report recommendations.

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