

## NOTICE OF MEETING

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Monday, 27th November, 2023, 7.00 pm - George Meehan House, 294 High Road, Wood Green, London, N22 8JZ (watch the live meeting [here](#), watch the recording [here](#))**

**Members:** Councillors Matt White (Chair), Pippa Connor (Vice-Chair), Michelle Simmons-Safo, Makbule Gunes and Alexandra Worrell

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

**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.

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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

To note any 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 - 12)**

To agree the minutes of the previous meeting on 12 October 2023 as a correct record.

#### **7. MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL MEETINGS (PAGES 13 - 50)**

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

- Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel – 18<sup>th</sup> September
- Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel – 21<sup>st</sup> September
- Climate Community Safety & Culture Scrutiny Panel – 11<sup>th</sup> September
- Housing, Planning & Development Scrutiny Panel – 20<sup>th</sup> September

#### **8. LEISURE SERVICES UPDATE (PAGES 51 - 56)**

To receive an update on the Leisure Services.

**9. THE IMPACT OF THE INTRODUCTION OF VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS ON ELECTIONS (PAGES 57 - 92)**

To receive a report and accompanying presentation on the impact of the introduction of voters ID requirements for elections.

**10. FINSBURY PARK EVENTS (PAGES 93 - 100)**

To receive an update on Finsbury Park Events.

**11. CHANGE TO SCRUTINY MEMBERSHIP 2023/24**

To follow.

**12. SCRUTINY REVIEW: LANDLORD LICENSING IN THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR**

Report to follow

**13. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (PAGES 101 - 112)**

To receive a verbal update on the Work Programme.

**14. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

**15. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- 9 January
- 18 January
- 11 March

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Fiona Alderman

Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

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

Friday, 17 November 2023

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## **MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2023, 7:00PM - 9.20 PM**

### **PRESENT:**

**Councillors:** Matt White (Chair), Pippa Connor (Vice Chair), Alexandra Worrell and Makbule Gunes

### **1. 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.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Venassa Holt, Yvonne Denny and Lourdes Keever.

### **3. URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **5. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS**

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

### **6. MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the previous meeting on 24th July 2023 be agreed as a correct record.

### **7. MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL MEETINGS**

#### **RESOLVED**

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

- Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel – 22nd June 2023
- Children & Young People’s Scrutiny Panel – 26th June 2023
- Climate, Community Safety & Culture Scrutiny Panel – 13 July 2023
- Housing, Planning & Development Scrutiny Panel – 27th June 2023

### **8. CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

The report was introduced by Caire McCarthy, Assistant Director Strategy, Comms & Collaboration as set out in the agenda pack at pages 51 – 94.

Haringey’s Corporate Delivery Plan sets out organisational delivery plans for the first two years of the administration (up until April 2024). The Delivery Plan included the outcomes the Council were working towards as an organisation; the activity planned to deliver these outcomes; how we would work to deliver it; and the key delivery dates. The plan was organised around the following themes:

1. Resident experience, participation, and collaboration
2. Responding to the climate emergency
3. Children and young people
4. Adults, health, and welfare
5. Homes for the future
6. Safer borough
7. Culturally Rich Borough
8. Place and economy

The following arose during the discussion of this agenda item:

- a) This was the first formal performance and progress update against the outcomes in the Corporate Delivery Plan. It reflected the position at the end of Quarter 1 2023 based on the new performance framework managed on Monday.com, a new web-based project and programme management tool.
- b) Key performance indicators were measured using Red Amber Green (RAG) status.
- c) The table (Appendix 3 of the report) showed the updates relevant to the 171 outcomes as specified in the Corporate Delivery Plan. There were restrictions on the amount of information which could be included on the table, this was to ensure that the table was not congested, and the information would be more manageable to read.
- d) The chair suggested that the table should also include information on whether the outcome had been achieved and methods used to measure the outcomes. The Committee was advised that the challenge was around presenting and publishing all the information obtained in a way that would be manageable without the risk of information overload.
- e) In response to a follow up question, the Committee was advised that having access to all the data would be difficult as the organisation was set up in a way where the data was stored in different systems. The team had been exploring different ways in which they could gather all the data in a single place and had

- started working with Monday.com to help achieve this. However, officers advised that if the Committee had a particular area of interest or concern, the team would be able to provide data requested around this.
- f) Regarding the Directors summaries on page 89 of the pack, this was a summary of positive highlights and areas of attention that was described in the corporate delivery plan.
  - g) There were concerns raised about lack of commentary evidencing the progress made for some outcomes and whether the commentary was reflecting its RAG rating. The Committee was advised that the next report would include detailed feedback, specific examples, and more statistics.
  - h) Regarding Theme 4 (Adult, Health & Welfare) it was noted that there was a reduction in levels of violence against women and girls. However, there was no commentary for this outcome on the table. The officer advised that more information regarding this was presented on the narrative section of the report on page 61.
  - i) Regarding Theme 2 (Responding to climate emergency), it was noted that there had been an increase in tree planting on Haringey Estates and the Committee queried about why this was RAG rated as red. The Officers advised that this had been RAG rated as red as there had not been an increase in tree planting on the estates. This had also been on an ad hoc basis, grant led and there was no budget allocated for this. However, the housing team had identified an opportunity in planting around 30,000 trees across the borough and this would be reflected in the Quarter 2 update report.
  - j) Cllr Gunes commented regarding Theme 3 (Children and Young People), that there were concerns around most outcomes being RAG rated amber, as this indicated that there had been no improvement in the service. The chair suggested for Cllr Gunes to send an email regarding this to the Scrutiny Officer and this would be taken forward to the relevant officers for a response. **(Action Cllr Gunes)**

### RESOLVED

That the Committee to note the report.

## 9. FINANCE UPDATE QUARTER 1

The Committee received the budget report which provided the position at Quarter 1 (Period 3) of the 2023/24 financial year including General Fund (GF) Revenue, Capital, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budgets. The report focused on significant budget variances including those arising from the forecast non-achievement of approved MTFS savings.

The report was introduced by Councillor Carlin, Cabinet Member for Finance and Local Investment as set out in the agenda pack at pages 95 – 150.

By way of introduction, the Panel was advised that there was an overspend in Adult Social Care and the forecast was set to be an overspend of around £20 million by the end of the year. However, the Cabinet Member stressed that there was no immediate risk of Haringey needing to issue a Section 114 Notice

This was an ongoing issue due to lack of government funding for Adult Social Care and the Council was now 13 years into austerity. This issue was not specific to Haringey and other local authorities were also facing similar budgetary pressures in demand-led service areas. The Cabinet Member suggested that to her knowledge, there could be up to 25 local authorities that were in discussions with the government about the possibility of needing to issue a Section 114 Notice.

The following arose during the discussion of this item:

- a) Haringey's finances were managed well with 76% of pre-existing savings expected to be met.
- b) The most significant area of forecast overspend was in Adults, Health and Communities which accounted for 91% of the total. £17.5m of this was Adults social care with a further £1m pressure on temporary accommodation.
- c) The Council had statutory spend in Adult Social Care, which was demand led with over 3500 care packages and high-cost packages for very disabled residents.
- d) During the budget forecast, officers had discussed themes of how the Council could work together across different directorates to deliver savings, both short and long term.
- e) In response to concerns raised about support from the National Health Services, the Committee was advised that the Council had received significantly less health and care funding, in comparison to neighbouring boroughs.
- f) The Committee was advised that a budget meeting was held last week with the Adult Social Care service. It was noted that the number of care packages had decreased, and this may be due to recovering from post COVID demand.
- g) The Committee noted that there was also an increase in the number of young adults which also created a budget pressure.
- h) Regarding the Council's reserve position of £15 million, this was lower than average for a Council of this size. The Council could only spend the reserves if there was an unexpected risk and not on day-to-day spending. However, the Council had used the reserve to balance budgets and was now working towards replenishing and increasing its reserve position.
- i) The Committee noted that when the budget for 2023-24 was set, the Chief Finance Officer had to identify whether there would be enough reserve by conducting various risk assessments. The risk assessments looked at the general fund position, contingency budgets as well as ways of mitigating risks in the budget that is set in 2023-24.



- j) In response to a follow up question, the Committee was advised that the Minimum Revenue Provision was an amount of money the council set aside in the General Fund budget to repay the borrowing costs from the capital budget. there were statutory arrangements that governed this.
- k) In terms of publishing the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts, the Committee was advised that last year's accounts were published on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023. However, the Council's accounts would still need to be audited. The issues around auditing were still ongoing at a national level and the government was working on this to get new auditors signed up to clear the backlog.
- l) In response to a question about capital projects, the Committee was advised that a review of the capital programme was underway, to assess projects that could potentially be postponed or even cancelled altogether. It was commented that, in general, capital projects where contracts had been already signed, would likely progress as scheduled.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Committee to note the report.

### **10. PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN HARINGEY**

Participatory budgeting involved local people in making decisions on the spending priorities for a defined public budget. The process can vary in format but, in general, focuses on engaging and empowering citizens in making decisions about local services. The report was introduced by Jean Taylor, Head of Policy, as set out in the agenda pack at pages 151 – 156.

By way of introduction, the Panel was advised that the Council had committed to developing a pilot participatory budgeting approach by December 2023.

A lot of work had been done in engaging with colleagues across London in boroughs which had introduced participatory budgeting in a number of different ways. A number of London local authorities had changed their approach, in light of issues that occurred with their initial approach, and Haringey officers were seeking to learn from their experiences and were conscious of making Haringey's approach meaningful for residents.

The following arose during the discussion of this item:

- a) The report was a pilot proposal on how the Council could start participatory budgeting in the borough.
- b) In terms of educating residents on budget setting and decisions, the Committee commented that it would be beneficial if residents were engaged in the process at an early stage, so they have a real understanding of the financial challenges the Council faces. Most residents will not understand that around 70% of the Council's budget was spent on Adult and Children's Social Care.

- c) The Committee was advised that although the Council had Wood Green Voices reaching out to engage with groups who may not usually engage with the Council was always a challenge. Officers were mindful of the need to reach out to different groups and communities across the borough.
- d) The Committee noted that one of the common features of participatory budgeting is that ideas were mobilised on a local area basis to fund issues which were of immediate local interest or concern, this was usually for a physical improvement as this would impact them on a day-to-day basis.
- e) The Committee noted that if the participatory budgeting were to be delivered in a meaningful way, it would require a genuine sharing of power. However, this would be difficult, in a budget context, as the Council would have statutory responsibilities which would need to be delivered and not all residents would understand the areas where funding was most needed.
- f) In terms of the model of how funding could be allocated in participatory budgeting, there had been discussions with other London local authorities to assess whether a community grant process or in-house delivery was more effective.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Committee to note the report.

### **11. SCRUTINY REVIEW: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORT**

The report was introduced by Councillor Gunes, as set out in the agenda pack at pages 157 - 190.

The review looked at the role of the Council in both promoting and commissioning physical activity and sporting opportunities for children and young people in all parts of the borough and included:

- Progress against the specific priority for children and young people set in the Active Together Strategy 2019-2023.
- How children and young people's views was taken into account in planning and whether current opportunities that was available reflect these.
- Barriers to participation and how these might be addressed.
- How the needs of marginalised groups were provided for.
- The impact of Covid and the cost-of-living crisis.
- The role of the Council in increasing participation amongst children and young people and how it might use its influence most effectively.

## **RESOLVED**

The Committee agreed to consider and make recommendations to Cabinet on how the Council promotes and commissions physical activity and sporting opportunities for children and young people in all parts of the borough for incorporation within the development of the new physical activity and sport strategy for the borough.

**12. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Committee considered its work programme as set out at pages 191 - 200 of the agenda pack.

This report provided an update on the work plan for 2022-24 for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED**

- I. That the current work plan for 2022-24 was noted
- II. That the Committee considered the agenda items and reports required for its meetings in 2023/24. The next meeting was scheduled to be held on 27th November 2023.
- III. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee formally delegated responsibility for scrutinising the Housing Strategy, to the Housing, Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel.

**13. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

**14. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- 27 Nov 2023
- 9 Jan 2024
- 18 Jan 2024 (Budget)
- 11 March 2024

CHAIR: Councillor Matt White

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....

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## Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Action Tracker 2023-24

### Meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023

No.	ITEM	STATUS	ACTION	RESPONSE
48	Corporate Delivery Plan Performance Update	<b>Outstanding</b>	<p>Concerns were raised in relation to Theme 3 (Children and Young People), around the RAG rating given to specific outcomes. The Panel wanted clarification as to why they were RAG rated amber, as this indicated that there had been no improvement in the service.</p> <p>The Chair of the Children’s Panel to follow up with an email setting out her concerns to the Scrutiny Officer to forward to the relevant officers for a response.</p>	

## Meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023

No.	ITEM	STATUS	ACTION	RESPONSE
47	Provisional Financial Outturn	<b>COMPLETED</b>	Arrange a pre-meeting with finance officers to go through Q1 Report and answer questions.	Panel Chairs have received a separate Q1 finance briefing.
46	Provisional Financial Outturn	<b>COMPLETED</b>	Q1 Report to come to October OSC	This is on the agenda for the October meeting
45	Leisure Update	<b>COMPLETED</b>	Officers agreed to provide feedback to Fusion and the team that Members would appreciate more communications about ongoing developments at Tottenham Green Leisure Centre.	An update was circulated to members via email:  Updates have been sent out when there has been a development to report on, rather than weekly updates as provided at the beginning of the closure. A member update is being prepared for in mid-October regarding the works taking place on site at Tottenham Green and the termination of the Fusion contract. Further updates will follow as works progress on the specialist contractors restoring the high voltage electrical system on which the swimming pools rely, and we get a clearer picture of when the pool will be operational again.
44	Leisure Update	<b>COMPLETED</b>	A more detailed update to come back the following meeting	This has been arranged for the November meeting.
43	Leisure Update	<b>COMPLETED</b>	The Committee recommended that officers and the Cabinet Member look into what arrangements can be put in place with neighbouring boroughs, for the provision of leisure facilities, for similar situations that might occur in future.	An update was circulated to members via email:  It is quite rare for an arrangement like this to happen between authorities - most Council leisure centre pools operate with a full pool programme so the opportunity to shift services from one pool to another is very limited even in the same borough. Even if another pool had capacity this arrangement is likely to only be feasible for schools who are on borough boundaries with shorter travelling distances to other facilities. We understand that the travel time and cost to get to swimming facilities is one of the main constraints for schools when planning lessons.

42	Leisure Update	<b>COMPLETED</b>	When considering potential insourcing options in future, OSC requested that full consideration be given to weighting in favour of some form of resident oversight of leisure services, rather than it simply considering whether it was a good deal for the Council financially.	<p>An update was circulated to members via email:</p> <p>As part of the options work the Council will want to speak to residents and user groups and get their views about the important matters to them for any future arrangements. We can update on this when we return to Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee on 27 November.</p>
	Leisure Update	<b>COMPLETED</b>	The Council should be doing more to advertise to residents about the fact they could use the Fusion leisure facilities in Enfield. Officers agreed to take this feedback to the team.	<p>An update was circulated to members via email:</p> <p>Fusion has regularly updated members that they are able to use Enfield's swimming facilities as part of their membership. Enfield has since terminated their contract with Fusion and aim to have a new provider (GLL) in place by December 2023.</p>

## **MEETING 8 – Thurs 8<sup>TH</sup> June 2023**

<b>No.</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
47	Cabinet Member Questions	<b>COMPLETED</b>	The Chief Executive agreed to follow up the issue of a sewage leak with officers.	The Chief Exec has passed this to the AD for Housing Services and Building Safety to follow up on.
46	Performance Framework	<b>COMPLETED</b>	The first performance report to come to the October OSC meeting.	This is scheduled of the October meeting
45	Performance Framework	<b>COMPLETED</b>	Officers agreed to consider whether a report could be produced for March rather than April (as set out in the report)	Agreed – the second report will come to March OSC.
44	Performance Framework	<b>COMPLETED</b>	Scrutiny officer to speak to Performance team about setting up quarterly briefings.	OSC area receiving the Q1 report at the October meeting. The first round of meetings have been arranged. Subsequent rounds will be arranged going forward.
43	Work Programme	<b>ONGOING</b>	The Chair requested an update in relation to a recommendation from the review on the proliferation of gambling, around commissioning a targeted piece of research to look at the specific harms in Haringey.	Officers agreed to review the twelve month follow up on this and come back to Members in writing.
42	Work Programme	<b>COMPLETED</b>	Feedback from the scrutiny café be recirculated to the Committee.	Done.



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADULTS & HEALTH  
SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON MONDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2023,  
6.30-9.20pm**

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Pippa Connor (Chair), Cathy Brennan, Thayahlan Iyngkaran, Sean O'Donovan, Felicia Opoku, Ali Amasyali (Co-Optee) and Helena Kania (Co-Optee)**

**12. 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'.

**13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mary Mason and Cllr Sheila Peacock.

**14. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**15. 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.

Cllr Thayahlan Iyngkaran declared an interest by virtue of his membership of the Royal College of Radiologists.

**16. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/ PRESENTATIONS/ QUESTIONS**

None.

**17. MINUTES**

With regard to the LGA Commissioning Review item at the previous meeting, Cllr Connor noted that the strategic plan was expected to be in place by January 2024 and that this should be recorded in the Panel's work programme to be included in the next update on this issue. **(ACTION)**

It was noted that the action points from the previous meeting were still outstanding and so these would be followed up with the responses circulated by email.

The minutes of the previous Adults & Health Scrutiny Panel meeting were approved as an accurate record.

**RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 be approved as an accurate record.**

## **18. SUICIDE PREVENTION**

Chantelle Fatania, Consultant in Public Health, began this item by presenting slides on suicide prevention work in Haringey, acknowledging that each suicide is tragic and has a significant ripple event on families and friends:

- A graph displaying the suicide rates in England, London and Haringey from 2001 to 2021 was shown, illustrating that there had been a general decline in the Haringey rates over the last 10 years and that, from 2019 to 2021, the Haringey rate had been lower than the England and London rates.
- There were a total of 50 suicides in Haringey between 2019 and 2021. There were three times as many male suicides as female suicides and a higher proportion were single/divorced than married. The highest rates were seen in the 25-44 age group.
- There was a Haringey multi-agency Suicide Prevention Group which was funded by Public Health and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and hosted by MIND in Haringey. It was chaired by Professor David Mosse, a national expert in suicide prevention, and had a good range of partner organisations involved including the mental health trust, GPs, Police, housing services and local voluntary organisations. A new action plan was developed in collaboration with the group each year.
- There was an existing 2020-23 local suicide prevention plan for Haringey and a new local plan for 2023-28 was in development. The Government's latest national suicide prevention strategy had just been published the previous week and this would be used to inform the development of the new Haringey plan.
- Haringey Council had developed an online Mental Health Resource Hub containing a wealth of diverse resources to support people with their mental health and wellbeing, including direct links to the websites of partner agencies, both locally and nationally. This provided access to information about issues such as bereavement, cost of living, gambling and men's mental health.
- Haringey also had a Safe Haven Crisis Hub, providing short-term support for people in crisis including suicidal thoughts, and The Listening Place which

- provided listening support by trained volunteers. Other support services available to Haringey residents included Samaritans, Papyrus, Childline, Good Thinking, Kooth, Open Door, MIND in Haringey, Young Minds and CAMHS.
- A suicide 'postvention' service to provide support after a suicide had been set up in recent year in North Central London, funded by Public Health and the NHS. This provided individual support, peer-to-peer support and group therapy for people bereaved by suicide. The service was due to be delivered by a different provider from October 2023.
  - A 'Great Mental Health Day' was delivered by the Council in January 2023 with 42 events held across the borough and the feedback had been positive. World Suicide Prevention Day was in September 2023 and had provided an opportunity to promote Haringey's resources and training packages to residents including the free 20-minute Zero Suicide Alliance online training course and 'mental health first aid' training courses.
  - In August 2023, the Government announced a £10m fund to support suicide prevention activities in England to be delivered by the voluntary and community sector from 2023-25. This would include interventions to support higher risk groups including children & young people, middle-aged men, people who have previously self-harmed and/or been in contact with mental health services. Voluntary and community organisations in Haringey were currently working with partners to apply for funding.

Chantelle Fatania, Lynette Charles, CEO of MIND Haringey, and Mark Pritchard, Senior Service Lead - Haringey Community Services at Barnet, Enfield & Haringey Mental Health Trust (BEH-MHT), then responded to questions from the Panel:

- Helena Kania referred to the suicides reported in the over-65 age groups and asked what support services were available to them. Lynette Charles acknowledged that this was known to be an at-risk group and that mental health first aid training was delivered by MIND in Haringey in partnership with Public Voice's Reach and Connect service including to residents over 50. Helena Kania commented that Reach and Connect was currently stretched and that targeted support for older age groups was needed. Lynette Charles acknowledged that Reach and Connect was stretched but that it also delivered reading groups, befriending groups and other activities which helped to bring older populations together and signpost them to services. Mark Pritchard added that the Trust's older adults mental health service was expanding its voluntary sector service offer across Haringey which would mean additional care for older adults at risk of suicide.
- Asked by Helena Kania about suicide rates by ethnicity, Chantelle Fatania explained that data in this area was very limited but that it was important to have a whole population approach with accessible prevention and early intervention for all groups without discrimination.
- Cllr Iyngkaran noted that the latest suicide data presented was from 2021 and asked whether any more recent data was available. Chantelle Fatania explained that there was typically an 18-month delay in the finalised data becoming available.

- Asked by Cllr Lyngkaran why the suicide rate in London was lower than the national average, Lynette Charles commented that suicide rates were typically higher in areas of high deprivation outside of London, particularly in post-industrial areas where economic opportunities were limited, and that this contributed to the disparity.
- Cllr Brennan and Cllr Connor noted that domestic abuse was a contributory factor to suicide and asked how the information gathered from risk assessment tools were used. Chantelle Fatania said that this information was used internally to support clients, but that information gathered was not necessarily uniform across all monitoring services. However, she noted that VAWG (Violence Against Women & Girls) services were shortly being recommissioned and this would aim to improve consistency in the information obtained. Cllr Lucia das Neves, Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Well-being added that Councillors would be engaged with as part of this recommissioning process.
- Cllr O'Donovan suggested that the social infrastructure in Haringey may be a factor in the lower suicide rate and queried whether this would impact on the proportion of funding that Haringey would receive from the £10m for suicide prevention work recently announced by the Government. Chantelle Fatania acknowledged that Haringey would not be regarded as a priority based on the suicide rate but said that innovation was also a consideration and so it may be possible to obtain funding on that basis.
- Asked by Cllr O'Donovan about the possible underreporting of suicide, Chantelle Fatania acknowledged that this could be possible in some demographics for cultural/religious reasons.
- Asked by Cllr Connor about support for construction workers which had been identified as a higher risk group, Chantelle Fatania explained that Deborah King from MIND in Haringey attended the construction partnership meetings regularly. Mental health first aid training was offered along with services through the Haringey Wellbeing Network and digital tools.
- Referring to the Haringey Suicide Prevention Group, Cllr Connor queried whether there was any groups/demographics that were not currently being represented. Lynette Charles noted that there were several lived experience groups that were involved including Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide (SOBS). She added that it may be possible to obtain greater involvement from grassroots organisations and community members from local mosques, churches and other faith groups.

Cllr Connor recommended that further details be provided from the public health team on multi-agency working on suicide prevention including how funding was joined up.

**(ACTION)**

Temmy Fasegha, Lead Commissioner for Adult Mental Health at the North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB) and Haringey Council, introduced the

second section of this item by providing details on suicide prevention support services in NCL ICB:

- The triangle on the first slide illustrated services available at different stages to enable people to maintain their mental health and wellbeing and prevent suicide. The stages were:
  - **Maintaining mental wellbeing** – this included universal support such as digital platforms and Connected Communities;
  - **Rising risk and need** – this included early help and prevention such as support through the Haringey Wellbeing Network and mental health first aid training. It also included accessible community treatment such as the Primary Care Mental Health Teams which were jointly funded by GPs and the ICB;
  - **Complex needs** – this included acute & crisis care and integrated community care such as the five crisis cafes in NCL and the Safe Haven Crisis Hub run by MIND in Haringey which provided out of hours services. The crisis cafes were staffed by people with lived experience and the issues presented by those attending could include social issues such as debt or housing issues which may be contributing to their crisis situation. The support offered was on a short-term basis until they were stepped down into other services offered through the Haringey Wellbeing Network. There was also the Crisis Prevention House, offering an alternative to A&E presentation and inpatient admissions, providing a therapeutic, recovery-focused and person-centred environment away from usual place of residence for up to 14 days for people experiencing a mental health crisis. There were plans to increase the number of beds from 7 to 14 and to co-locate the new service at Canning Crescent.
- The crisis cafes had protocols on the eligibility criteria for access to services meaning that someone who was actively suicidal should be treated by crisis teams or inpatient services.

Temmy Fasegha and Mark Pritchard then responded to questions from the Panel:

- Cllr Connor sought clarification on circumstances where someone called the crisis line but did not have an active suicide plan as she was concerned that this person may not be supported or referred to other services as they did not reach the eligibility threshold for crisis services. Temmy Fasegha explained that, when setting up the Safe Haven Crisis Hub, a project group was set up which determined that the crisis line was meant to make a number of referrals to the Safe Haven Crisis Hub. He suggested that the Panel's comments be taken back to the service leads to ensure that these referral links were operating correctly. **(ACTION)** He added that the NHS111 service would be providing access to mental health support from the Autumn and the North London Mental Health Partnership (BEH-MHT and C&I Trust) were currently recruiting to develop the single point of access to that service. There would also

be a range of staff training to support this. Lynette Charles added that there were clear step-up and step-down processes with the Safe Haven Crisis Hub with referrals to other services according to the person's level of need. She noted that local service leads met regularly and so people should never call the crisis line and be told that there is no alternative service available. Mark Pritchard said that he had previously overseen the crisis telephone service and, at the time, there had been a lot of work to develop a strength-based decision tool for calls and there was also a resource directory, so it may be useful for the Panel to get an update on how that was currently working and what options were routinely being used. **(ACTION)**

- Asked by Cllr Iyngkaran about the possible gaps in services, Mark Pritchard said that this issue had been specifically identified as part of the NHS Long Term plan as there were a group of clients who were too unwell for talking therapy services but not unwell enough for secondary mental healthcare.

The issue of gaps in services was then explored further in another slide which was presented by Evi Aresti from Whittington Health NHS Trust and Sandra Hadley, Clinical Lead for the Haringey Primary Care Mental Health team:

- Evi Aresti described NHS Talking Therapies (previously known as IAPT) as a service for patients with mild to moderate common mental health problems such as depression and anxiety. She explained that this might not be the right service for people at a high-risk of suicide, although it was also recognised that suicidal thoughts could often be part of depression so this was not an exclusion criteria. A risk assessment was therefore carried out at the beginning of every new contact with a referral made to the crisis team if it was not considered to be safe to leave somebody on a waiting list for talking therapies. There were also conversations with the Primary Care Mental Health Teams on the appropriate services for individuals.
- Sandra Hadley highlighted people with autism as a high-risk group for suicide, noting that they were under-diagnosed as a group, particularly women. She explained that the Primary Care Mental Health Team was needs-led rather than diagnostic and would often see people who were excluded from NHS Talking Therapies but in need of an intervention or people who were unable to engage with secondary mental health services. The level of complexity could therefore be quite high. The Team would offer an appointment within 28 days and were flexible in what was offered. She explained that there could be circumstances where someone had made a suicide attempt and were therefore excluded from Talking Therapies services for 6 months so the Primary Care Mental Health Team would offer alternative interventions. They would also have weekly interfaces with NHS Talking Therapies to ensure that people weren't being double-referred or bounced back to their GP. The Team would also have contact with secondary care services to facilitate the entry of a patient into

these services where appropriate and ensure that they were not falling through the net.

- Mark Pritchard spoke about the Core Mental Health Teams which provided an expanded multi-disciplinary offer with broad entry criteria, not specific to diagnosis or severity. There was an expectation for services to be more responsive with assessment to be carried out and treatment to commence within four weeks.

Temmy Fasegha, Mark Pritchard, Lynette Charles and Evi Aresti then responded to questions from the Panel:

- Asked by Helena Kania what information was provided to people who contacted the Safe Haven Helpline after it closed at 10pm, Lynette Charles explained that they would be able to send a text message which would be picked up by the Haringey Wellbeing Network. People could also physically visit the Safe Haven between the hours of 5pm-10pm and there was information and contact numbers displayed outside the building. Temmy Fasegha added that people were signposted out-of-hours to the Mental Health Trust's crisis telephone service (which operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week) while people in an emergency would be signposted to A&E. He suggested that the Panel could look further into the issue of crisis lines and the expansion of the NHS111 service on mental health at a future meeting. Cllr Connor recommended that the Panel should request the data on the outcome of crisis line calls in terms of referrals to services and calls that are dropped. **(ACTION)** She also recommended that the Panel should continue to monitor the development of the single point of access to support the NHS111 expansion on mental health. **(ACTION)**
- Cllr O'Donovan asked whether the targets previously referred to (e.g. Talking Therapies/Primary Care Mental Health Team to offer an appointment within 28 days and Core Mental Health Teams to commence treatment within 4 weeks) were being achieved. Evi Aresti said that the Talking Therapies service assessed 90-95% of people within 2-3 weeks and some would be contacted on the same day if they were prioritised due to risk level. They would then go on to different treatment options, some of which were quick while others could involve longer waits of up to four months. She acknowledged that there could be an issue with staffing levels and vacancies which was not necessarily caused by funding issues. Sandra Hadley explained that the Primary Care Mental Health Team offered therapies within 28 days but that referrals were capped in order not to have waiting lists and that this involved working together with others to avoid over-referrals. Lynette Charles said that the Haringey Wellbeing Network would usually contact people within 48 hours and begin services within a week. Temmy Fasegha emphasised that the targets of up to 28 days were set nationally and that services would typically triage and prioritise cases based on their needs. He added that the 4 week target for BEH-

MHT services was a new target under the NHS Long-term Plan and the publication of data on this was expected in a few months time.

- Cllr O'Donovan raised the issue of social infrastructure (e.g. food banks, older people's groups) as a means of supporting people who would not necessarily self-refer to mental health services for cultural or personal reasons. Lynette Charles commented that a project had been funded and delivered for nearly two years which enabled grassroots organisations to support those with mental health issues and signpost people to services as part of their regular activities. This has included work with the Eastern European, Afro-Caribbean and Turkish communities as well as street homelessness work. Sandra Hadley added that this grassroots work included a 'stepped care' offer by building relationships and having conversations with the local groups so that people could be directed to the right services for them.
- Asked by Cllr Connor about specialist mental health support for people with autism/learning disabilities, Sandra Hadley referred to the multi-disciplinary learning disability service and partnership working with the Autism Hub with tailored psychological interventions as part of a package of care adapted to people with autism/learning disabilities. Temmy Fasegha added that there was some new funding coming from the ICB to put together a small multi-disciplinary team involving social workers and health professionals to provide additional support. Mark Pritchard noted that the BEH-MHT was working closely with the ICB and others on this as a lot more diagnosis was being seen in this area. Cllr Connor requested that some additional details on this service be provided to the Panel in writing, including details on how the new funding was being used and how the needs of residents were being met. **(ACTION)**

## 19. LIVING THROUGH LOCKDOWN REPORT - COUNCIL RESPONSE

Sara Sutton, Assistant Director for Partnerships & Communities, introduced this item by highlighting the focus on new initiatives and how the Living Through Lockdown report continued to influence the services delivered, approach to health inequalities and the relationships with partners three years after the first lockdown. She added that there had been a number of recommendations in the report that had now been implemented as 'business as usual'.

Sara Sutton and Vicky Murphy, Service Director for Adult Social Services, and Cllr Lucia das Neves, Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Well-being, then responded to questions from the Panel:

- Cllr Opoku commented that she was aware of some community groups that found it difficult to distribute food to people who needed it through food networks and asked what more the Council could do to improve this. Sara Sutton explained that there was a Food Network Coordinator that the groups and individuals could contact to connect and coordinate with other members of the network. She acknowledged that there were challenges specific to the



- distribution of perishable foods. She added that the Council was working on a new Food Action Plan, the development of which was being supported by members of the Food Network. There would also be opportunities for community engagement as part of the development of the Action Plan.
- Cllr Brennan highlighted challenges faced by carers including financial assistance for those who were struggling. Vicky Murphy said that funding from the Better Care Fund had recently been obtained to help enhance carer support. The aim was to create an environment where carers could meet each other and social care staff and help to reshape how services were delivered. This would begin with community meetings held in three localities in September/October which Councillors were welcome to attend. Sara Sutton added that the Household Support Fund, which was originally funded by Government to support people during the pandemic, was now used to support people during the cost-of-living crisis. The Council used a data-driven approach to target those most in need. There was also the local assistance welfare scheme known as the Haringey Support Fund which supported people in crisis, and the Here to Help campaign which assisted people in claiming benefits that they were entitled to. Cllr das Neves added that there may be some learning from the warm spaces initiative during the pandemic. Cllr Connor commented that the finance support team had provided good support with local casework issues and recommended that other Councillors make use of this resource. Cllr Connor and Cllr Brennan added that the Here to Help initiative provided excellent resources and recommended that the initiative's section on the Haringey Council website be kept regularly updated and that this be highlighted to residents through the Council's communications channels. **(ACTION)**
  - Asked by Cllr Brennan about digital exclusion, Sara Sutton said that resources were provided for a pan-London approach to digital exclusion through the London Office of Technology and Innovation and that there was coordinated activity across the Council to focus on this and promote digital inclusion in local communities.
  - Cllr Brennan asked about the concerns regarding 'do not resuscitate' policies and extra parking for blue badge holders, as highlighted in the Living Through Lockdown report, and it was agreed that written responses on these points would be obtained from health and environment colleagues. **(ACTION)**
  - Asked by Cllr lyngkaran about the outcomes and value for money of the initiatives described in the report, Sara Sutton said that it was too early for evaluation and outcome monitoring, but that further feedback and evaluation was expected towards the end of the financial year. Cllr Connor recommended that this information could be reported to the Panel when it became available. **(ACTION)**
  - Cllr O'Donovan asked whether the recommendations of the report would be fed into the London-wide and national debate on what could be done better in future. Sara Sutton said that the Council was actively participating in the Covid-

19 enquiry through London Councils and the Local Government Association. This was still at an early stage, but the Council would be making submissions including details of learning from the experience of lockdown.

- Helena Kania requested further details of the extension of bereavement support referred to in paragraph 3.1.1 of the report. Sara Sutton explained that the details had not yet been finalised as discussions were ongoing with the Integrated Care Board and that further details could be provided to the Panel in due course. **(ACTION)**
- Helena Kania noted the activity through community networks described in paragraph 3.3 of the report and asked if the Eastern European community was being included in this. Sara Sutton confirmed that there was an active Eastern European network including voluntary and community organisations. Cllr das Neves added that there were Welcome Hubs across the borough, including one in Wood Green, that was run by members of the Eastern European community.
- Asked by Helena Kania for further details on the response to recommendations about parks, it was agreed that a written response would be obtained from environment colleagues. **(ACTION)**
- Asked by Cllr Connor about improving access to face-to-face GP appointments, Sara Sutton observed that the online appointments worked well for many people but that a balance had to be struck to ensure that face-to-face appointments were still available for people who needed it.
- Cllr Connor highlighted the importance of support for care home residents to be able to contact relatives, noting that this had involved initiatives with digital devices during the pandemic, but that this was still relevant for residents whose relatives lived a long distance away. Vicky Murphy explained that contact with relatives should be addressed as part of a resident's care and support plan and that none of the digital equipment had been removed so she would expect the same methods of communication to be available. However, she would check that this was the case and report back to the Panel. **(ACTION)**
- Cllr O'Donovan highlighted the importance of the coordination group addressing racial equity in health and care, as described in paragraph 3.4 of the report and welcomed the work being done in this area.

Beverley Tarka, Director of Adults, Health & Communities, concluded by thanking the Joint Partnership Board for initiating the Living Through Lockdown report and for all the work carried out in co-producing the report and the recommendations.

## 20. CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS

Cllr Lucia das Neves, Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Well-being, responded to questions from the Panel on issues related to her portfolio:

- Cllr Brennan expressed concerns about the need to make budget savings across the Council and asked how this would be approached in adult social

care given the demand pressures on services. Cllr das Neves said that local authorities across the country were deeply frustrated by the Government's refusal to look at systematic change and properly fund services. There were also issues around workforce and the availability of placements. She acknowledged that these were challenging times, that the Department would work hard to support residents and deliver effective services, and that there would be a detailed discussion session held with Members about the Council's approach.

- Cllr Iyngkaran requested an update on mental health services at Canning Crescent. Cllr das Neves said that the services were currently being delivered in the way that they had previously been delivered, as opposed to the original vision of bringing the services all together. She added that the Council had been significantly let down by the contractor and was now picking up the pieces. Over the summer they had gone out to a range of contractors with plans and proposals being developed, but the project was now significantly delayed. Cllr das Neves said that the Council would need to consider whether there was anything that could have been done differently in the procurement process.
- Asked by Cllr O'Donovan about the Council's overall long-term vision for health, Cllr das Neves spoke about the importance of prioritising early intervention and prevention while also delivering core services. She added that it was necessary to bring this to every space with a focus on inclusion, health inequalities and working closely with local community/voluntary groups and the wider community through coproduction. These themes would be included in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which was shortly due to be renewed to provide a platform for this work over the next 10 years. It would also be important to overlay health and wellbeing in everything that the Council did, including housing and education.
- Helena Kania highlighted difficulties that residents often experienced with the NHS, for example in using digital services or gaining access to flu/Covid vaccinations, and asked what more the Council could do to support Haringey residents. Cllr das Neves responded that she advocated for residents on these and other issues in multi-agency forums such as Health and Wellbeing Board which she chaired, based on feedback from the local community. Will Maimaris, Director for Public Health, said that flu vaccinations were available in pharmacies and GP practices across the borough, but that more certainty needed to be provided locally on Covid vaccinations and that this would be progressed shortly through discussions at the Health and Wellbeing Board. The NCL ICB was leading on the roll-out, but the Public Health team would be working closely with the ICB and the GP Federation. Helena Kania commented that residents needed to have easy access to this information. Cllr das Neves acknowledged that communication with residents about access to various services was a regular area of discussion at the Health and Wellbeing Board

- and other forums. She also highlighted the practical issues caused by the Government's recent decision to bring Covid vaccinations forward.
- Cllr Connor highlighted issues with Member enquiries relating to adult social care and asked if the communications with Members and residents could be improved as it was sometimes necessary to make multiple enquiries to ascertain whether an issue had been resolved. Cllr das Neves acknowledged that improvements were needed to the service, including on the technology used to support it, but noted that a lot of enquiries had recently been cleared. Vicky Murphy added that the way that complaints were managed had been redesigned to ensure that they were followed through in a timely manner, but that there was still a lot of work to do on the digital platform to support this work. She added that a separate system had been created to deal with cases where a resident wanted to raise an issue without making a complaint.
  - Asked by Cllr Connor about progress on co-production and how this was being communicated to residents, Cllr das Neves acknowledged that this was a huge learning journey for the Council and that there were sometimes difficult legal and financial problems that had to be worked through as part of co-production engagement. She highlighted the recent Wood Green engagement as a good example of the principles and ideas of co-production being used to engage with a large number of people across a range of age groups on the future of that part of the Borough. Beverley Tarka added that an understanding in the community of what co-production means would not happen overnight but that there were now some excellent examples of where co-production had happened. She said that co-production provided an opportunity to enable a wider diversity of voices to be heard and that the Council was very committed to this way of working.

## **21. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Cllr Connor commented that the last few sessions of the Panel's current Scrutiny Review were due to take place shortly and suggested scheduling an informal meeting of the Panel to discuss the approach to the Panel's next Scrutiny Review on digitalisation and communication with residents.

Cllr O'Donovan reported that, following the concerns raised at the Scrutiny Review sessions about people with dementia and people with no recourse to public funds after discharge from hospital, he had spoken to the Mulberry Junction service about this. The service had a hospital discharge co-ordinator role which had been vacant for the past three months but was expected to be filled by the end of September. He also spoke to the head of systems coordinator for out of hospital care at the ICB who would be happy to speak to the Panel about this.

Cllr Connor highlighted the agenda items for the remaining Panel meetings set out in the 2023/24 work plan and noted that there was a vacant slot remaining in the

February 2024 meeting. She also requested that the regular joint meeting with the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel in February be added to the work programme. **(ACTION)**

**22. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

- 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023 (6.30pm)
- 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023 (6.30pm)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2024 (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 Thursday, 21st September, 2023, 7.00 pm**

### **PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Makbule Gunes (Chair), Anna Abela, Gina Adamou,  
Mark Blake, Lotte Collett and Sue Jameson**

#### **1. 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'.

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for lateness was received from Cllr Collet and Cllr Abela.

#### **3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

The Panel noted that Item 8 on Stop and Search would be taken before Item 7 on the Youth Justice strategy.

#### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **5. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS**

None.

#### **6. MINUTES**

##### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June were agreed as a correct record.

#### **7. STOP & SEARCH**

The Panel received a verbal update in relation to a safeguarding project to look at Stop and Search, including a pilot programme to look at the safeguarding needs of children stopped and searched by police in Haringey. The update was provided by

Bev Hendricks, AD for Safeguarding and Social Care. Ann Graham, Director of Children's Services was present for this item. Cllr Brabazon, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families was also present for this item. The following summarises the update that was provided to Members:

- The Project was initiated because of information relayed to the Director of Children's Services (DCS) about children's experiences in Haringey with Stop and Search. The information related to a child stopped and searched 12 times over a period of time and the fact that child was not referred for support. Since then, officers have spoken to a range of families and other relevant groups.
- From the above case it became clear that there was no requirement to refer the case to child welfare agencies unless the attending police officer thought that there was a safeguarding concern, based on a safeguarding criterion used by the police.
- The DCS then entered into a dialogue with the Borough Commander and it was agreed that a pilot project would be set up. Phase 1 of the project was an examination of 6 cases of children being stopped and searched, that were not referred on to the MASH following use of the police matrix, in order to see if there were safeguarding opportunities that had been missed.
- The 6 cases were examined against information held by other agencies largely Children's Social Care and it was discovered that there were safeguarding concerns that could have been picked up. From the findings of this, there was further agreement to look at a larger sample of cases.
- The project required an information sharing agreement to be agreed with the Police which took a long time.
- Officers agreed that they wouldn't publish the data before the police, partners to the pilot were ready to share and it was hoped that this would form part of the police Children First strategy and that was the reason this information was being shared as a verbal update.
- A joint conference with the Police was being organised in Haringey on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 where the findings of this work would be shared, and the police would set out their response.
- Phase 2 of the project involve an examination of a sample of 90 cases. Of those 90 cases:
  - 3 involved children who were Looked After Children in Haringey. But the authority was not informed of the stop and search as corporate parents.
  - 14 cases involved children from households with domestic abuse
  - 16 cases involved children with significant housing instability
  - Some of the children were known to the Haringey Learning Partnership and other young people had a range of needs including autism and SEND, ( special educational needs and disabilities).
- Some of the key concerns that came out of these cases were around the fact that the details of the cases were not shared with other agencies and the only reason that these issues came to light was because the police recorded the stop and search. Officers wanted to see a trauma-led approach adopted rather than one based purely on crime prevention and detection.
- Officers have spoken to DCSs across London and received their support for the pilot.



- Officers emphasised that the project was a marathon and not a sprint and that it was felt that the project was moving at the correct pace to bring people on board and to effect sustained change.
- The DCS advised the Panel that on 24<sup>th</sup> August she met with the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and that he was supportive of the business case and the impact of trauma on children who were stopped and searched. The DCS and AD for Safeguarding and Social Care would be meeting with MOPAC on this from September.

The following arose from the discussion of this item:

- a. The Panel sought clarification around invites to the conference. In response, officers advised that all scrutiny councillors would be invited, with a particular focus on those from the areas of N17, N15 & N22. Police colleagues and the Directors of Children's Services from across London would also be invited.
- b. The Panel questioned whether the police were obliged to inform a child's parents or even ask about whether they had a social worker. In response, officers advised that they did not have to inform a child's parents and that the only obligation under the law was to inform if there were safeguarding concerns based on the matrix they used. Officers advised that it was expected that a change in the legal framework would be needed if police officers were required to inform parents. There was also a recognition that for some children, perhaps a minority, informing their parents may increase risk and this would need careful consideration.
- c. In response to a question, officers advised that the youngest child stopped as part of the data they had seen was 10 years old. The numbers of children stopped within a particular age group increased with each cohort.
- d. In response to a question, officers advised that the conference would involve Children in Care and that children had been engaged with throughout the wider project.
- e. A co-opted member of the panel raised concerns about a perception that nothing had changed within the police and also raised concerns that even working collaboratively with Police would not bring about any meaningful change. It was suggested that the Council should be looking at how more meaningful engagement could be taken forward with the community. In response, the DCS recognised that the issues people experienced with the police were generational. However, the DCS argued, it was her job as a Safeguarding lead to keep pushing for change.
- f. In relation to a question, the Panel were advised that the timeframe for the child stopped 12 times was between March 2022 and June 2023. Ethnicity figures for the cases considered may be released as part of the conference report, but that a level of disproportionality would not be surprising.
- g. A member of the Panel highlighted the findings of the Baroness Casey review and in particular the case studies within the report, which painted a clear picture that the issues with the Police were institutional and systemic. The Members emphasised that the key to improving the culture of the Police was public scrutiny and accountability. It was suggested that the Children's Safeguarding Board should receive reports on this issue. It was also suggested, that following the conference in December, the Cabinet Member should consider writing to the Shadow Justice Minister, as this was an area for reform considerations. In response, the DCS advised that it was not her job to

- reform the culture of the police or the laws governing the way the police operated. However, she was determined slowly build confidence, in order to try and bring about a positive change for children.
- h. The Cabinet Member emphasised the fact that this piece of work was unique and that in her opinion, it was one of the most creative pieces of work done by Children's Services to try and work a different angle to what was a very difficult issue. The Cabinet Member set out that the fact that a number of children were found to be Looked After or to have Special Educational needs, showed how critical the piece of work was.
  - i. Officers asked Members to use their contacts with counterparts in other boroughs to support them and their DCSs to undertake similar audits with their respective BCUs across London.

## **RESOLVED**

That the update was noted.

## **8. YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Panel received a report which set out the priorities within the statutory Youth Justice Plan for 2023-24. The report was introduced by Jackie, Difolco, Assistant Director: Early Help, Prevention and SEND, as set out in the agenda pack at pages 9-128. The Director of Children's Services and the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools were also present for this item. The following arose during the discussion of this item:

- a. The Panel queried what preparations had been put in place in anticipation of an upcoming Ofsted inspection. In response, officers set out that an external provider had been commissioned to do a diagnostic assessment of the service. This involved looking at the service, talking to staff, speaking to the Board and reviewing a sample of our cases. This provided management with a good level of assurance, particularly around the impact on young people and around governance. The diagnostic highlighted the need for strengthened management oversight. Since then additional resources have been allocated to the Head of Service and the number of Team Managers had increased from two to three, with one team focused on prevention and the other two on court work.
- b. The Panel queried the ethnicity breakdown in the report and questioned why there was no separate category for Turkish/Kurdish people. In response, officers advised that they were restricted by the ethnicity codes that were allocated to nationally to each Youth Justice Board. However, the information given to the Youth Justice Board was broken down in more detail. It just was not reflected in the report as this was set nationally.
- c. A Panel Member highlighted a recent piece of research carried out that went through the records of two million Children in Care, which found out that they were 33% more likely to end up in the criminal justice system. That number increased further for people from certain ethnic backgrounds. The Panel Member suggested that officers should be tracking this metric locally. The Panel Member also highlighted the ever worsening state of young people's

prisons and commented that it was hard to see how you could rehabilitate a person in that environment.

*\*N.B. Clerk's Note – the study referred to above is referenced in the following article:*  
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/sep/21/care-experienced-children-eight-times-more-likely-enter-youth-justice-system-england>

- d. The Panel questioned what the factors were that had led to Haringey having the lowest reoffending rates in London. In response, officers set out that it was about the quality of interventions that were carried out by case managers. Haringey did not reduce staffing levels in this area during Covid and this had allowed the team to carry out better quality interventions. These interventions were evidence based and therapeutic and were informed by a trauma-led approach. This was partially due to good training for staff. The Director advised that that it was a difficult area to work in and that some of the more challenging cases were around people who were not known to authorities who suddenly came into contact with the youth Justice service at a high tariff, which meant that there was no scope to undertake preventative work. There was also a grooming element involved. The Director reiterated that this was a complicated and challenging cohort to work with in order to keep them away from the criminal justice system.
- e. A co-opted member of the panel welcomed the report and questioned whether there was a summary report that could be shared with school governors. In response, officers advised that they would look at how a summary report could be shared with schools. It was noted that the Plan was very detailed as it was a statutory document but that some thought would have to be given as to how to best summarise it.
- f. The Panel questioned whether there was a co-production approach adopted to the Board and Plan at a strategic level. In response, officers set out that there was a young people's participation network that met with managers from the service on a quarterly basis. There was also a separate parent/carers forum. The discussions from these sessions were reported up to the Youth Justice Board.
- g. In response to a question, officers advised that they were developing an ongoing relationship with the Tottenham Foundation and would continue to work with them.
- h. The Panel sought assurances around whether there was engagement with CAMHS services and use of behaviour analysis. In response, officers set out that there was a CAMHS officer seconded to the team on the basis of 1.3 FTE. The CAMHS officers tended to do undertake therapeutic or behaviour work as part of the trauma-led approach. Officers highlighted that there were a number of evidence based practices adopted by the team set out at Section 21 of the report. The team commissioned a range of interventions, such as the Ether Programme that worked with young black men and looked at aspirational outcomes. These are detailed at section 22 of the Plan.

**RESOLVED**

That Members of the Scrutiny Panel note the contents of the report and plan, directing any comments and observations to the Assistant Director: Early Help, Prevention and SEND.

## 9. **SKILLS AND CAREERS: PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO DO NOT GO TO UNIVERSITY**

The Panel received a report which provided information on the education, training and employment pathways available to young people post 16, with a focus on non-academic routes and information about the advice and guidance available to help young people make choices about their future career pathways. The report was introduced by Julie Khan, Employment & Skills Manager as set out in the agenda pack at pages 129 to 135. Ann Graham, Director of Children's Services, Jackie Difolco, AD for Early Help, Prevention and SEND, and Cllr Zena Brabazon, Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Schools were also present for this agenda item. The following arose during the discussion of this:

- a. The Panel sought clarification about the number of internships available for young people. In response, officers confirmed that there were 12 apprenticeships available internally across the Council and that they were also looking for further apprenticeship opportunities across the borough, including in catering roles. There were 23 young people signed up for the next round and the Council was looking at providing 60 places over five years as minimum.
- b. The Panel provided feedback that the supported internships did not always reflect what students did at college and questioned how the Council was supporting creative roles such as in art or photography. In response, officers set out that there was a supported internship co-ordinator who matched young people with their area of study and that work was happening with providers to bring more of these opportunities forward. Officers set out that the supported internships were a bespoke programme working with sixth forms to match up the skills and interests of young people. Officers noted that this was a work in progress but that they tried to make sure the opportunities were as diverse as possible.
- c. The Panel sought clarification about the 2.1% of children who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) and how this compared with other boroughs. In response, officers advised that this was average across London but that this reflected steady progress from a position of Haringey being the worst performing borough on this metric. Officers also noted that performance against this measure had decreased due to an improvement in the number of children who were not known to the Council (down from 7% to 1.4%) which had increased the number of children who were NEET.
- d. Officers agreed to provide a written update on how schools were performing in relation to the Gatsby benchmarks on career guidance. **(Action: Julie Khan).**
- e. The Panel emphasised the role of networks for some young people and also emphasised the career opportunities that were available in the construction sector. In response, officers advised that there was a degree of leverage

through development and S106 agreements in relation to stipulating a percentage of local labour and apprenticeship schemes. Officers also acknowledged the role of the construction sector and the fact that opportunities in this area were available through school based work placement schemes.

**RESOLVED**

Noted

**10. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

**RESOLVED**

That the Panel considered its work plan for 2022-24, attached at Appendix A of the report, and whether any amendments were required.

**11. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

N/A

**12. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

- 13 November
- 4 January
- 20 February

CHAIR: Councillor Makbule Gunes

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....

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## **MINUTES OF MEETING Climate, Community Safety & Culture Scrutiny Panel HELD ON Monday, 11th September, 2023, 6.40 - 9.00 pm**

### **PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Luke Cawley-Harrison, Michelle Simmons-Safo (Chair) and  
Tammy Hymas**

**ALSO ATTENDING: Ian Sygrave (Co-Optee)**

### **223. 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'.

### **224. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Diakides and Cllr Dunstall. Cllr Hymas attended the meeting as a substitute

### **225. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None

### **226. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

### **227. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS**

There were no deputations, petitions or public questions received.

### **228. MINUTES**

In regards to a previous action around blocked footway gullies, officers asked the co-opted member of the Panel to email them with details of which gullies were blocked on Harringay Passage and these would be passed on to the drainage team. **(Action: Ian).**

The Panel enquired whether footway gullies could be marked with spray paint when they had been cleaned, as happened with road gullies. Officers advised that they would feed this back to the team.

Officers advised that they had contacted TfL about installing a joint SUDS scheme on Council land but that TfL had not shown any interest in undertaking such a scheme. The Chair agreed to pick up with officers outside of the meeting about would could be done to push back to TfL and get them to undertake drainage works in and around the road network that they manage. **(Action: Chair).**

## **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

### **229. BARONESS CASEY REVIEW- (UPDATE ON COUNCIL'S RESPONSE)**

The Panel received a report and accompanying presentation which set out the Council's response to the Baroness Casey Review into the standards of behaviour and the internal culture of the Metropolitan Police Service. The report was introduced by Cllr Adam Jogee, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion, as set out in the agenda pack at pages 7 to 23.

The Cabinet Member welcomed the fact that the Panel had requested an update on this subject, given the concerns shared by a lot of people about racism, homophobia, misogyny and the generally shocking mind sets of some members of the police, as outlined in the Casey report. The Cabinet Member set out that he had emailed members separately outlining the discussions he had with the police. The Cabinet Member commented it was incumbent upon Members to keep our communities safe and to hold the police to account.

The Cabinet Member advised that he and the Leader saw their role as acting as a critical friend and were not there to make excuses on behalf of the police. To that end, there had been frank discussions with senior police colleagues. The Met Commissioner had visited Haringey twice in recent months and the Cabinet Member and Leader met regularly with the Borough Commander. The Cabinet Member set out that during these discussions there was no space for Police colleagues to not understand how seriously the Council was taking the issues raised in the Casey report. The Cabinet Member reiterated that the administration was not seeking to do the Police's job for them, but that they would be seeking to hold them to account.

The following arose during the discussion of this report:

- a. The Panel commented that one concern that had been raised in the past was that a lot of police officers in London had been drawn from all over the country and perhaps did not understand the different communities and cultures that they served. Members would like to see police officers be representative of communities like those in Haringey. Members sought clarity about how future community engagement events with police would focus on the bigger picture, rather than quite localised problems. The Cabinet Member responded that, in his experience, the vast majority of police officers were hard working, law-abiding, public servants who did understand the communities they served and were willing to learn about them when they did not. It was commented that the



Safer Neighbourhood Teams did care about communities and wanted to serve them.

- b. The Cabinet Member set out that the background to this was 14 years of austerity and sustained attacks on the funding model for public services, including policing which had led to the scaling back of Safer Neighbourhood policing. Within this context, morale within the police was not great. The Cabinet Member acknowledged the need for police to represent the communities that they served and that he had seen the Police have stalls in Wood Green where they held pop-up recruitment drives.
- c. In response to a question about a previous meeting between councillors and the Police in July, the Cabinet Member advised that all colleagues were invited but that it was arranged at short-notice, based on the Met Commissioner's availability and the fact that he wanted Haringey to be the first borough that he visited due to the unique history and challenges of policing in Haringey.
- d. In light of the conclusions of the Casey Review, the Panel characterised the institutional structure of the Met as being racist and sought clarification from the Cabinet Member whether he agreed with this assessment. In response, the Cabinet Member set out that everyone could see evidence that there had been examples of racism, sexism and other discriminatory behaviour, but that he did not think it was helpful for him to give a yes or no answer to this question. The Cabinet Member set out that he was not here to make excuses for an agency that was failing to uphold the standards expected of it as a public body. The Cabinet Member set out that he had been assured personally by the Commissioner of the Metropolitan police that the examples of this appalling behaviour would not be allowed to continue. As councillors, it was important that Members call out instances where they have seen examples of discriminatory behaviour.
- e. The Panel set out that the Police had been found to be institutionally racist following the Stephen Lawrence enquiry and that very little seemed to have changed since then. There was a new Community Safety & Hate Crime strategy out to consultation and Members queried whether as part of this, the police should be given increased powers with a greater police presence, or whether their role in community justice should be reduced. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that he wanted to see a Haringey where people were free from fear of criminals and fear from the police violence. The issue was not about whether the police had more or less power but it was about police doing their jobs properly. The Cabinet Member advised that whilst in his role he would make sure that the police were held to account and that they did their jobs properly.
- f. The Chair set out that in her experience the institutional discriminatory behaviour was embedded within in the structure of the organisation and that the concerns raised in the Macpherson Report had still not been addressed. It was commented that until the issue was fully recognised, it would never be tackled. It was suggested that the key issue during the riots in Tottenham both in 1985 and in 2011 was to do with relations with the police. The Chair advocated that it was important that the findings of the Casey Review were embraced and that there it was a catalyst for change.
- g. The Chair sought clarification about the Met's commitment to put more officers and PCSOs into local neighbourhoods and questioned how many additional

officers this would mean. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that they were still working through this and he had not been given an exact figure, but that he would speak to the Police and see if there was an exact figure on this. **(Action: Cllr Jogee)**. The Cabinet Member set out that community policing needed to mean community policing and that the police should be embedded within our communities.

- h. In response to a question about what strategy the police had to address a lack of diversity and ensure that their values aligned with the values of our communities, the Cabinet Member commented that this was a question that should be put to the Police at the next meeting. The Cabinet Member commented that the question about police values seemed like the right question and that if policing was done by consent then it had to reflect the values of our communities. Officers noted that one of the key recommendations from the Baroness Casey Review was around recruitment and making the force more representative.
- i. The Panel commented that there used to be regular meetings between all members and the police in the Civic Centre and questioned whether these meetings could be reinstated. The Cabinet Member responded that if there was the appetite then he would look at reinstating these but reflected that the last meeting with Members and the borough commander that he arranged was only attended by five councillors. The Cabinet Member agreed to give some thought about how best to take forward the request for regular all member meetings with the police. **(Action: Cllr Jogee)**.
- j. The Panel commented that there seemed to be a marked difference in community policing across different parts of the borough and queried what could be done to make this more uniformed and to learn lessons from where this worked well. In response, the Cabinet Member acknowledged the need to learn from where this was done well but emphasised that a key element of this was around community by-in. The Cabinet Member advised that one of the senior officers within the Haringey & Enfield BCU was looking at how this could be improved. The Cabinet Member set out that the Commissioner had identified a renewed focus on community policing.
- k. The Panel sought clarification whether the police and Council's priorities were aligned in terms of local policing in Haringey. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that priorities aligned in terms hotspots, trends, domestic violence, alcohol and drug related crime. The Cabinet Member recognised that priorities could change but the overarching values were aligned.
- l. The Chair of Haringey Neighbourhood Watch reiterated the fact that, following the Casey Report and the development of a New Met for London, the police seemed to be putting a new emphasis on community policing and that he had been told that undertaking a community policing role would be a key consideration for promotion within the Met going forward. In terms of numbers, it was suggested that the Met were looking to recruit an additional 500 PCSOs in the coming months. It was suggested that the numbers and timescales were set out within A New Met for London.

**RESOLVED.**

Noted

## 230. STREET LIGHTING CONTRACT PERFORMANCE

The Panel received a report which provided feedback on the Council's current street lighting contractor's programmes and performance, and also discusses other issues relating to the street lighting central management system (CMS) and UK Power Networks (UKPN). The report was introduced by Mark Stevens, AD for Direct Services as set out in the agenda pack at pages 23 -28. The following arose as part of the discussion of this report:

- a. The Panel sought clarification about whether the Council was on target to for the implementation of a new central management system by November 2023. In response, officers advised that a new lead officer had been appointed by Marlborough Highways and that they would be pushing Urbis Schreder to ensure that this was achieved. In general, officers advised that they were satisfied with the performance of Marlborough Highways but acknowledged that the performance of Urbis Schreder was less satisfactory.
- b. The Chair advocated the importance of street lighting in terms of keeping people safe, and in particular in terms of preventing violence against women and girls. The Panel sought clarification about the process for fixing lamp columns that were broken. In response, officers advised that Marlborough Highways would go out and attempt to fix the problem, if the LED was damaged for instance. In some cases, the issue may be caused by a conflict between the CMS and the lighting equipment and they would try to resolve this where possible, however it may be a more fundamental problem. In cases where there was an electricity supply problem, the issue had to be referred to UKPN and they had 28 days to resolve the issue.
- c. The Panel raised concerns about the time taken to fix broken lamp columns, particularly in Harringay ward. In response, officers apologised and acknowledged that there was a breakdown in the process between inspections and columns being incorrectly recorded as being fixed, which led to complaints. Officers advised that there was progress being made on this issue and advised that the team were working hard to resolve it.
- d. In response to a follow up question, the Assistant Director advised that he first became aware that this was a bigger problem than just individual components not working, following the last scrutiny panel meeting. Officers advised that they were concerned that there was a bigger problem after hearing from Members of the panel and going back to the team and looking at the issue in more detail. Officers advised that they shared members' frustrations about lamp columns seemingly being reported as fixed when they were not.
- e. In response to a further question, officers set out that the Highways Group Engineer had been tasked with overseeing this issue and that it was expected that the issue would be resolved. The Team had been asked to keep a record of the works that had been done and the issues that came up, and to ensure that issues were being fixed.
- f. The Panel suggested that the number of open cases should be a red flag, both in terms of street lighting faults, but also more widely across frontline services. Concerns were raised that in this instance it seems to have been councillors raising the issue that has alerted officers to their being a more fundamental

problem. In response, the Assistant Director acknowledged these concerns and advised that the KPI data around street lighting faults was now being examined as a much higher level than it had previously and that he expected that the problem would be resolved fairly shortly.

## **RESOLVED**

Noted

### **231. UPDATE ON ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING**

The Panel received a report which provided an update on Electric Vehicle (EV) charging across the borough and the Council's wider Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) Action Plan. The report was introduced by Joe Baker, Head of Carbon Management as set out in the additional report pages 1-4. Mark Stevens, AD for Direct Services was present for this Item. Cllr Mike Hakata, Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Environment and Transport, and Deputy Leader of the Council was also present online. The following arose in discussion of the report:

- a. The Panel sought clarification around instances of people without a driveway trailing charging cables over the footway to charge their vehicles and whether this was allowed. In response, officers advised that this was an offence under the Highways Act. It is possible to have a channel cut into the footway so that the cable was no longer a trip hazard but the person would have to pay the cost for the works and would need public liability insurance. Furthermore, that person would not have an automatic right to park in front of their own property. The Panel noted that whilst some local authorities would permit a channel to be installed many were reluctant to do so, as it was costly and impractical. Instead, Haringey was seeking to increase the number of on-street EV charging points.
- b. The Panel noted that channels had been cut in front of the Civic Centre to support a SUDS scheme. It was also commented that when a person applied for a crossover they were essentially preventing anyone parking in front of their property. In response to a request for clarification, officers advised that, pertaining to trailing cables over the footway being an offence, the relevant part of the Highways Act 1980 was Section 178, sub-section 1.
- c. The Panel suggested that the stated goal of 400 on-street chargers was not enough to support large scale usage of EVs. It was commented that if everyone had an EV, two or three charging points would be needed on every street. The Panel also questioned why the on-street chargers were at the end of streets and queried whether this was related to CPZ boundaries and the need for a new CPZ consultation to be undertaken. In response, officers advised that whilst the number of vehicles was increasing, so was their range and so they required less charging time. This would reduce the number of charging points needed over time. In regard to chargers being located at the end of roads, officers advised that this was more do with the charger having more accessibility at the end of roads and the fact that people were more likely to object if one was installed in front of their home. It was also noted that the solution to widespread access to EV charging would likely be market driven and EV charging facilities available at petrol stations, for example.

- d. The Panel referred to small cylindrical charging points recently installed by Barnet, called Trojan energy hubs. In response, officers advised that they would look into these chargers in more detail outside of the meeting but that a cursory look on the internet raised concerns that these would be too low down and would have wheelchair accessibility concerns as well as potentially being a trip hazard. There was DfT guidance about installing street furniture that was less than 600mm from the ground.
- e. In response to a question, it was commented that Part S of the new building regulations stated that all new car parks had to have EV charging points.
- f. The Panel suggested that 400 charging points across the borough did not seem enough, when you considered the amount of terraced housing and flats in the borough that did not have driveways. In response, the Cabinet Member acknowledged 400 alone may not be enough, but that the volume of charging stations would rise further with market driven solutions. It was suggested that private sector solutions would likely receive increasing incentivisation from the government as we headed to the 2030 cut off point for new petrol and diesel cars being sold in the UK.
- g. The Panel stressed the importance of having multiple providers for EV charging across the borough.

**RESOLVED**

Noted

**232. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The following items were put forward for the following meeting:

- The Priorities for the Community Safety partnership for the year
- The Police's response to Baroness Casey Review and A new Met for London.

**RESOLVED**

That the Panel considered its work plan for 2022-24, attached at Appendix A of the report, and whether any amendments were required.

**233. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

N/A

**234. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

- 6<sup>th</sup> November
- 19<sup>th</sup> December
- 27<sup>th</sup> February

CHAIR: Councillor Michelle Simmons-Safo

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....

**MINUTES OF MEETING Housing, Planning and Development  
Scrutiny Panel HELD ON Wednesday, 20th September, 2023,  
18:30**

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Dawn Barnes, Mark Blake, Harrison-Mullane, Tammy Hymas,  
John Bevan and Alexandra Worrell (Chair)**

**122. 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'.

**123. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Moyeed.

Apologies for lateness were received from Cllr Harrison-Mullane and Cllr Barnes.

**124. URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

**125. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**126. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS**

None

**127. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

**128. HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

The Panel received a report and a verbal presentation that provided an update on the progress of the Housing Improvement Plan, which was approved at Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The report and the Housing Improvement Plan, attached at Appendix A of the report, was included in the agenda pack at pages 11-88. The presentation was

introduced by Jahedur Rahman, Operational Director of Housing Services & Building Safety as set out in the tabled papers pack. David Joyce, Director of Placemaking and Housing was present for this item. Cllr Williams, the Cabinet Member for Housing Services, Private Renters and Planning was also present for this item. The following arose in discussion of this agenda item:

- a. The Panel queried why there weren't performance milestones in place regarding repairs from the outset of the improvement plan. In response, officers advised that in order to drive the levels of improvement required that there would need to be a period of time for the changes to be embedded in the service. Officers set out that they were in the process of introducing a new category of repairs for a five to seven day turnaround, but that they needed to ensure that the staff and technology were in place to do this. Officers emphasised that they wanted to make sure that they were able to deliver what was promised.
- b. The Panel members raised concerns about delays to repair work and multiple visits being carried out by different operatives before repair work was undertaken. In this context, the Panel queried how productivity would be measured by repair staff. In response, officers advised that the number of jobs carried out per day would vary according to the type of work that person undertook. It was suggested that five to six jobs a day was a reasonable, for non-wet work. Officers confirmed they monitored where jobs took longer than they should and were trying to recruit operatives that were multi-skilled and could undertake a variety of trades.
- c. In response to a question about the process for repair jobs being logged, officers advised that they were logged through the call centre and emphasised the importance of being able to accurately diagnose the problem/repair to ensure that repairs were not unnecessarily delayed.
- d. The Panel sought clarification about whether the council was monitoring claims of legal disrepair. In response, officers acknowledged that there was a concern around rising legal costs in relation to disrepair and that the service was discussing with legal colleagues about how to reduce this. It was suggested that, ultimately, a better repairs service would bring the number of cases down.
- e. As a follow-up, it was suggested that this should be monitored as a performance indicator as it was indicative of where things were going wrong and cases of severe resident dissatisfaction. Officers responded by reiterating the need to put the right structures in place to reduce legal disrepair claims. Officers advised that legal disrepair claims were a symptom of a wider problem and that they were putting in place the building blocks to improve the repairs service step by step, but that the service had to initially prioritise serious safety disrepair issues and then damp and mould repairs. The Panel requested that some consideration be given to developing a performance metric around the cost of legal fees being paid out on legal disrepair claims. **(Action: Jahedur Rahman).**
- f. The Panel emphasised the importance of having a framework agreement in place and noted concern with delays in implementing this. In response, the Panel was advised that this was something that was being worked on and the Cabinet Member offered to bring an update on this to a future meeting. **(Action: Clerk).**
- g. The Panel requested more information about recruiting to apprenticeship roles and the impact of the national pay award. In response, officers advised that



apprenticeships were not specifically mentioned in the HIP but that there was a wider recognition of there being an aging work force and the need to bring in apprentices. Officers acknowledged that repairs operatives were on the Red Book scheme and that this was determined through a national pay award.

- h. The Panel raised an issue about the working culture of staff and suggested that too many staff were still working from home. In response, officers acknowledged the need for housing to be a place-based service and that management had brought staff back into the office where this was required or where it was felt that output had dipped. It was suggested that the number of housing staff working in Haringey had increased significantly and that management were continuing to engage with unions on this.
- i. The Panel sought clarification around Resident Voice and how residents were chosen to sit on this. In response, officers advised that around 80 applications had been received and that these had been whittled down to a short list of 50. It was envisaged that this groups would monitor and scrutinise progress against the 180 actions set out within the HIP, along with scrutinising performance data and complaints data.
- j. In response to the report setting out plans to automate notice to quit letters, the members sought clarification about checks and safeguards for vulnerable tenants. In response, officers set out that the first letters informing the tenant of rent arrears would be automatically generated. If a payment plan was put in place this would resolve the issue. If no response was received then door knocking and an in-person visit to the property would be undertaken. Officers acknowledged that there were safeguards in place to ascertain if that person was eligible for unclaimed benefits and that Legal would undertake a checklist of actions undertaken before a notice to quit was issued.
- k. In response to the point made about neighbouring boroughs paying more to repairs staff, officers set out that the market was very challenging as all landlords were all competing for qualified staff following the heightened national profile of damp and mould issues, in light of the recent case in Rotherham.
- l. In response to a question, officers advised that the deep cleaning team was employed on an initial one year programme and that this would be reassessed after a year.
- m. In response to a question around comparative boroughs and those who specifically monitored housing management cases for leaseholders. Officers set out that there were 14 London Boroughs who used the NEC Northgate system and also used the leaseholder module. Officers also highlighted Thurrock as a comparative borough.
- n. The Panel sought assurances around the impact of upcoming strike action by Unite housing operatives, officers advised that the first strike day would see the service scaled back to providing only emergency works, but that it was envisaged that the other three proposed strike days would have a full service available to residents.
- o. The Panel asked whether there was a plan in place to increase maintenance, given that the Council was going to be building 3000 council homes. In response, officers advised that it was envisaged that the Council's Housing Delivery Programme would increase the overall management and staffing capacity going forwards. In response to a follow-up question, officers suggested that a housing manager would look after 600-800 properties and

that staffing levels would be increased accordingly. The Director emphasised the successful recruitment of all of the top management posts within the service and the fact that a full top-level management team had probably not been in place for a long time. The Cabinet Member also emphasised the fact that snagging issues were reported and picked up.

- p. Concerns were raised by Members around a failure to implement a holistic approach to repairs on estates and that focusing on Decent Homes improvements would result in long overdue repairs and maintenance being side-lined. In response, officers acknowledged that adopting a holistic approach would ultimately save the council money. Officers set out that they had to do targeted work this year on Decent Homes as this had been mandated by the Housing Regulator. The holistic approach would be focused on non-Decent Homes stock estates.
- q. Officers confirmed that the target was to bring 1000 homes up to Decent Homes Standards year on year.
- r. In response to a question, officers advised that the report did not reflect the actions arising from the Ombudsman report as they were working to different timescales for the HIP and the Ombudsman report.

## **RESOLVED**

That the report and presentation were noted.

### **129. UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING DELIVERY PROGRAMME**

The Panel received a report which provided an overview of the Council's progress towards delivering 3000 Council homes for Council rent by 2031. Work had begun on 2027 homes as of August 2023, of these 199 homes had been finished and new tenants had moved in. The report was introduced by Cllr Ruth Gordon, Cabinet Member for Council House Building, Placemaking and Local Economy, as set out in the agenda pack at pages 89-114. The Director of Placemaking & Housing, the Assistant Director of Housing and the Head of Housing Development were also present for this agenda item. The following arose as part of the discussion of the report:

- a. The Panel raised concerns about how the first new properties were let and sought assurances about what lessons had been learned. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that the first batch of flats were let at the same time and that lessons had been learned so that in future this would be staggered and would not happen over the Christmas period. Housing officers would also be onsite for the period when people moved in.
- b. The Panel sought assurances about stoppages being caused by contractors going bust. In response, officers advised that this was a national issue and was being discussed with colleagues on a regional level. Officers from Placemaking and Housing were working with procurement colleagues to assess the financial health of contractors before entering into any contracts as well as expanding the assessment of contractual risks.
- c. The Panel commented that they were impressed by the design of the new housing blocks and questioned how the additional up-keep of green spaces would be managed by Parks. The Cabinet Member welcomed these comments and commented that she was very positive about the design of the blocks on

Ashley Road. Officers set out that they were working closely with Parks to ensure that there was a common approach to maintaining these spaces and that the seasonal variation in parks staffing was considered. Similarly, wider considerations about the design of open spaces and whether this contributed to ASB was also being considered for each scheme.

- d. The Panel questioned how the cost of building new homes stacked up against buying existing properties. In response, officers advised that this was done through the Haringey Community Benefit Society and that there they currently let around 300 properties. In general, the Panel was advised that, new builds tended to be cheaper to build due to grants from the GLA for new housing schemes. The purpose of the scheme was to build homes on council land. Where it was more cost effective to purchase existing properties, this would be done but it tended to be leaseholder properties on a limited number of estates. The Cabinet Member clarified that within the commitment for 3000 new homes, some of these would be acquisitions as well as new build properties. On the Hale Wharf development, 77 properties had been acquired by the Council.
- e. The Panel sought assurances around financial viability and whether it was anticipated that Council rents would increase to help with the viability of schemes. In response, officers set out that it was quite complicated, but in general the type of rent charged was determined by the type of grant used to build that scheme. Some GLA grants were based on London Affordable Rent and some used council rents. The AD for Housing assured Members that every year they went through the HRA Business Plan to make sure that the underlying assumptions were robust. It was acknowledged that the economic circumstances were difficult, but that the Housing Delivery Programme was still considered achievable. Officers provided assurances that there were no plans to mothball any of the schemes. Officers suggested that they were beginning to see some positive movement on construction costs and that they were looking at seeing if they could get more grant funding for some smaller schemes.
- f. The Panel sought assurances about the fact that there were varying definitions of what constituted a start on site and whether this was only a start on paper. In response, officers provided assurances that works were not undertaken just to trigger a start on site and that for some of the larger sites this could be a process that took a couple of years. A start on site reflected that work was genuinely being undertaken on site, none of the starts were tokenistic. There were occasions where a scheme had to start by a certain date to receive grant funding.
- g. In response to a question, the Cabinet Member set out that there were occasions where utility supplies had to be re-routed due to the design of a particular scheme and that discussions would be undertaken with contractors to determine who would pay for the additional cost.
- h. In terms of defects, the Cabinet Member suggested that there had been a limited number of snagging issues with entry monitoring systems and air source heat pumps, for example but that it was sometimes difficult to determine whether problems were defects or caused by inappropriate use. The setting up of an after care team had made a big difference in terms of addressing snagging issues.

**RESOLVED**

That the update was noted.

**130. SEVEN SISTERS MARKET SCRUTINY REVIEW - RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

The Panel received a report which provided an update on the recommendations to a Scrutiny Review carried out by the Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Panel on the future of Seven Sisters Market (SSM) in 2022. The report also provided an update on the current position with SSM, including works to create a temporary market with both indoor and outdoor space. The report was introduced by Toussainte Reba, Head of Area Regeneration, as set out in the agenda pack at pages 115-262. Cllr Ruth Gordon, Cabinet Member for Council House Building, Placemaking and Local Economy and the Director of Placemaking & Housing were also present for this agenda item. The following arose as part of the discussion of the report:

- a. The Panel sought assurances about how the different groups of traders were being brought together. In response, officers set out that TfL had undertaken one to one meetings with every trader who had a stall in the previous market to understand their requirements. TfL had appointed an independent chair to the Partnership Board and that the chair would provide a level of mediation. A temporary market operator had been appointed by TfL and they would be looking to engage with tenants on rents. The Council's general position on rents at the market is that the rents should reflect the fact that SSM was a community asset.
- b. The Panel sought clarification about whether any contact had been received from another bidder that wasn't involved with the CBS and Community Plan. Officers advised that this process was being managed by TTLP (TfL) but that no other bidders has been received for the long lease of the market site so far but that there was some work needed to be done to flush out whether there were any other bidders.
- c. In response to a follow-up about possible interest from the Creative Land Trust, officers advised that they had not received any communication about this but reiterated that they were expecting TfL to seek expressions of interest for the long-term lease of the site and that this would bring the process along. The Cabinet Member emphasised that she and officers were pushing TfL, and that this was as much as they could do at this stage.
- d. In relation to a questions around hardship payments, officers advised that all 36 eligible traders had received payments, which equated to around £30k each over a three year period.
- e. In response to a question, officers advised that 38 different traders was the figure that TfL were working towards in terms of designing the new market site.
- f. In response to a question, officers confirmed that two independent Spanish translators were provided at meetings with the traders.

**RESOLVED**

The Panel noted the update on progress with the implementation of the HRSP recommendations relating to the Seven Sisters Markets site, which were agreed by Cabinet in July 2022.

**131. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

**RESOLVED**

That the Panel noted the work plan.

**132. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

N/A

**133. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

- 14 November 2023
- 18 December 2023
- 26 February 2024

CHAIR: Councillor Alexandra Worrell

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....

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**Report for:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Title:** Leisure Management

**Report authorised by:** Barry Francis, Director of Environment & Resident Experience

**Lead officer:** Mark Stevens, Assistant Director Direct Services  
[mark.stevens@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:mark.stevens@haringey.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**1. Describe the issue under consideration.**

1.1 This paper provides a summary of the current position regarding the provision of leisure management within Haringey and the steps being taken to enhance that provision.

**2. Background information**

2.1 In February 2011, the Council approved a new strategic direction for sports and leisure provision, with the aim of:

- Reducing the cost of providing the service.
- A much greater focus upon outcomes.
- Concentration on what we provide rather than who provides it.
- Focusing more on the user than the buildings and facilities.
- Increasing the involvement of the voluntary and community sector
- Transferring some or all of the asset, demand and financial risk onto other parties.

2.2 A detailed options appraisal concluded that the Council could achieve better value for money by contracting with an existing trust or private sector operator, on the basis that:

- It will provide a greater saving to the Council.
- Offers better financial stability.
- There is a healthy market and interest in London.
- It transfers greater financial risk to other parties.
- There is no additional support staffing cost.
- There would be a more commercial approach to sales, marketing and branding.

2.3 On 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012, the Cabinet considered the externalisation of the Sports and Leisure Management Service undertaken at Tottenham Green Leisure Centre, Park Road Leisure Centre, Broadwater Farm Community Centre and White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre. A 20-year contract was awarded to Fusion Lifestyle Ltd ('Fusion') to manage these centres. However, in the case of the White Hart Lane facility, the award was initially just for three years with specific conditions, linked to proposed separate longer-term leasing and redevelopment of the site. This contract award also entailed the transfer of 93 Council members of staff.

- 2.4 Following contract award, there was a £14.7m investment in three of the centres – Broadwater Farm excluded - to modernise the facilities and create additional revenue added, through increased footfall.
- 2.5 With enhanced facilities and the focus that it brought to the leisure management service, Fusion significantly grew the usage of the leisure centres, both in terms of general population and key groups - beyond Fusion's bid predictions. In fact, participation almost doubled from 600k in 2014 to 1.1m in 2019.
- 2.6 However, 2017, 2018 and 2019 were tough years financially for Fusion as a whole and the service standard suffered, particularly in terms of repairs and maintenance. This increased the number of unplanned closures, complaints and led to a general lowering of the customers' overall experience. The Covid-19 pandemic then had a significant impact on all leisure centre operations across the country, due initially to restrictions on movement, then the imposition of social distancing and then a general reluctance of the public to attend such facilities following a sequence of lockdowns and lifting of restrictions. Due to reduced footfall, Fusion scaled back the size of the workforce at the leisure centres.
- 2.7 On 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020, the decision was taken to buy back the lease for the White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre – by then referred to as New River Sport and Fitness. The leasehold interest was acquired on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020 with a short-term lease back to Fusion to allow it to continue operating the business whilst the Council decided the best option for the site going forward.
- 2.8 The range of options considered were:
- Sale of the site.
  - Leasing the site on similar terms.
  - Reintegration with the existing leisure management contract with Fusion.
  - Seek a new service provider through a procurement process.
  - Insource.
  - Deliver the leisure management service through a local authority trading company.
- 2.9 On 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021, almost a year after the first lockdown, a report was presented to Cabinet that recommended that the leisure service provided at New River Sport and Fitness be insourced. The report clarified that that this would entail the transfer of staff from Fusion, in conjunction with numerous other considerations. One of those was the need to continually invest in the site to both maintain and, where appropriate, improve the facilities at the site to generate increased footfall and achieve a balanced revenue budget.
- 2.10 Insourcing took place on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021 during one of the toughest periods of trading for sport and leisure. The insourcing process was supported by supported by Digital Services, Corporate Landlord, Operational Facilities Management, Finance, Communications, Legal, Health & Safety, and Human Resources. The insourcing process was challenging due to the period of time



that had elapsed since the Council had run such services. However, the Active Communities Team focused on onsite commercial opportunities (such as joining the Power League) and the areas of social value identified in the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Cabinet report which were:

- Employment and skills opportunities – work experience, placements, apprenticeships, coaching and leadership qualifications.
- Haringey Learning Partnership and other alternative education providers – opportunities for sport and physical activity, plus curriculum opportunities within the site's operation.
- Links with the new Autism Hub to provide sport and physical activity opportunities as well as opportunities to integrate with mainstream activities.
- Hub for summer holiday activity programme
- Afterschool activities in the key 3pm – 6pm time slot.
- Complement and enhance the offer from Wood Green Youth Hub
- Development of older persons' activity including activities for those with dementia.
- Real scope to ensure the new facility is inclusive to all and a positive place for people with additional needs to attend.
- Opportunities for people to transition from supported activity to independence.
- Opportunity to work with people on the CCG frailty pathway.

### **3 Fusion-run facilities**

- 3.1 Following the cessation of Covid-19 enforced closures, the three centres that continued to be operated by Fusion have performed very differently. Park Road has outperformed its pre-Covid position, Tottenham Green had been operating at somewhere near 60% of its pre-Covid position whilst Broadwater Farm continues to have low levels of usage.
- 3.2 However, Tottenham Green Leisure Centre closed on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, following a flooding incident in the plant room which affected the high voltage power network for the site. The 'dry side' of Tottenham Green – including Marcus Garvey Library, the Customer Service Centre, the nursery/creche, the sports hall, the gym and other aspects of the centre - reopened in April 2023 after repairs were undertaken to the low voltage electrical system.
- 3.3 Over that 3-to-4-month period, the Council received many complaints and deputations at Cabinet and Council meetings. In part, this was exacerbated by a temporary closure of the Park Road facility due to water quality control issues at the end of January 2023. Particular concerns were expressed by the Park Road Lido User Group and Haringey Aquatics. Historically, the borough has had insufficient swimming pool provision with circa 40% exported demand. The loss of the pools at Tottenham Green has therefore accentuated this shortfall during 2023.
- 3.4 Part of the problem at Tottenham Green is attributable to the electrical system being sited on the floor of the plant room – in contrast to the plant room at Park

Road where electrical distribution systems are on plinths. The Council and Fusion have pursued a re-design of the electrical system at Tottenham Green so that it is also on plinths to avoid a repetition of the loss of power in December 2022. This is highly specialist work that has then gone through a procurement process. The replacement of the high voltage electrical system was scheduled to run between Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, necessitating a three-day closure of the entire facility.

- 3.5 Compared with the relative success at New River Sport and Fitness, the loss of facilities at Tottenham Green and Park Road and the complaints received about the services provided at the three Fusion-run leisure centres, the aspirations of the 2012 were seemingly not being realised. Following consideration of the issue at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> July, the Cabinet determined that the leisure management contract with Fusion should come to a premature end. The Cabinet also wished officers to review how Haringey Council's leisure services should be run in the future and report back on the options available.
- 3.6 The Active Communities Team has engaged the independent specialist consultants, FMG Consulting, to explore these options. However, to fully understand the financial implications for each model, FMG required more detailed information from Fusion. As Council officers sought to acquire this without success, the decision was taken to formally serve 12 months' notice to Fusion on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 to voluntarily terminate the contract. Upon this notice being served, some of the information was forthcoming within days.

#### **4 The alternative options being considered.**

- 4.1 'Doing nothing' is no longer a viable option, following the 12 months' notice being served. However, 5 other options are considered as available - having also discounted the option of operating the service through a local authority trading company, having only recently insourced Home for Haringey.
- 4.2 This report will not go into the detail of the pros and cons of each option, though. On 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023, a report will be presented to Cabinet with that assessment and a recommendation as to which option to potentially follow. However, in brief, the 5 options being considered are as follows:
- Option 1: Awarding a new leisure management contract.
  - Option 2: Closing the leisure centres and mothballing the sites.
  - Option 3: Leasing the leisure centres to a new provider on a long lease.
  - Option 4: Closing the leisure centres and selling or redeveloping the sites.
  - Option 5: Insourcing Leisure Management
- 4.3 The Director of Environment and Resident Experience established a Leisure Management Working Group, chaired by the Assistant Director Direct Services. The purpose of the Group is to co-ordinate the views, input and activity of services across the Council in considering current and future leisure service provision. The Group has, in conjunction with the work being delivered by FMG, been at the forefront of developing and considering the ramifications of the five options.

4.4 Officers are mindful of the date of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the date of the release into the public domain of the report that will be considered by Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Both of these dates are the same – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

4.5 To avoid complication and overlap, this report has been prepared as what will hopefully be interpreted as useful background and context for the Cabinet report. The Committee needs to bear in mind in the consideration of both reports that officers will not be able to pre-judge the decisions that the Cabinet will make on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

**5 Use of Appendices**

None

**6 Background papers**

None, except for the previous Cabinet reports referenced in this report.

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**Report for:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Monday 27 November 2023

**Title:** To provide Overview and Scrutiny Committee with details of the impact that the introduction of Voter ID has had on elections following its introduction in May 2023.

**Report authorised by :** Jess Crowe, Director for Culture, Strategy and Engagement

**Lead Officer:** Gareth Harrington, Head of Electoral Services,  
[gareth.harrington@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:gareth.harrington@haringey.gov.uk), 020 8489 2949

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

To provide Overview and Scrutiny Committee with details of the impact that the introduction of Voter ID has had on elections, following its introduction in May 2023. This is set out in Appendix 1 to this report. Appendix 1 also sets out the work undertaken to mitigate the impact of Voter ID, and provides details of the additional work planned to further raise awareness of Voter registration and Voter ID.

Appendix 1 also sets out details of the additional legislative changes which have been implemented and those which are scheduled to be implemented in accordance with the Elections Act 2022 and other government legislation.

**2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

N/A

**3. Recommendations**

That Overview & Scrutiny Committee notes the work undertaken to date in the borough, to raise awareness about voter ID.

That Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorses the work planned to further raise awareness of voter registration and voter ID.

**4. Reasons for decision**

N/A

**5. Alternative options considered**

No alternative options have been considered. The Elections Act 2022 requires all UK voters to show an approved form of photo identification at Polling Stations. All councils are required to comply with the provisions in the Act.

## **6. Background information**

The requirement for voters to produce an accepted form of photo ID before being issued with a ballot paper in polling stations was introduced by the Elections Act 2022. This is one of a number of measures the government has introduced as part of its Electoral Integrity Programme.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee asked that a report on the impact of voter ID be brought to the committee following the Hermitage and Gardens ward by-election in late June 2023. Two further by-elections were held in October 2023 (one each in South Tottenham and White Hart Lane wards).

These by-elections have allowed the Electoral Registration Officer / Returning Officer to further refine plans in advance of major elections in 2024.

2024 will see the borough-wide implementation of voter ID, along with other changes to elections and electoral registration. This includes the absent vote application process, overseas voting rights, changes to the franchise and candidacy rights of EU nationals and major parliamentary boundary changes.

## **8. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

Resident experience, participation and collaboration

## **9. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer, Equalities)**

### **Finance**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The work to raise awareness of voter ID is funded by the Electoral Integrity New Burdens Grant that DLUHC have provided to Local Authorities to meet the cost of implementing the Elections Act 2022.

### **Procurement**

Strategic Procurement confirm there are no Procurement related matters arising from this report.

### **Legal**

The Elections Act 2022 introduced a number of measures which the government considers necessary to strengthen the integrity of the electoral process. Part 1 of the Act introduces a requirement for voters to show an approved form of photographic identification at Polling Stations.

## Equality

The council has a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and people who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not

## The Changes

As a result of the 2022 Elections Act Electoral Registration Officers, are required to ensure that voters are aware of the new requirements and can successfully cast their vote (along with the requirement to deliver a service to assess applications and issue Voter Authority Certificates to electors who apply for one).

To support the implementation locally, a full Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken to determine which sections of Haringey's residents would be most impacted by this legislative change.

As part of this assessment an analysis of the electorate within Haringey was undertaken by the Council's Strategy, Communication and Collaboration team.

Using research and analysis undertaken by external stakeholders including the UK Government, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Runnymede Trust along with data from the UK Census, it was possible to estimate the numbers of residents in Haringey who are potentially "at risk" of not possessing an accepted form of photo ID.

The analysis showed that those with disabilities, older people, people with lower qualifications, unemployed people, people who have not voted before, people on lower incomes, people who are unemployed, those renting from a local authority or housing association and those from Black and ethnic minority communities are less likely to possess an accepted form of photo ID.

This data was presented to the Elections Communications and Engagement Team (ECET). This sub-group of officers feeds into the Elections Programme Board (EPB) which is chaired by the Electoral Registration Officer / Returning Officer to provide strategic direction for the delivery of elections and electoral registration. Further details are set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

ECET has ensured that the findings from the analysis presented to them is integrated into all activities it undertakes. The engagement plan, which is

currently being finalised, has a key objective of seeking to mitigate the impact of these changes on those communities which are disproportionately affected, particularly where any specific communities in Haringey are less likely to be targeted via other regional or national activities.

## 10. Appendices

Appendix One - The impact of the introduction of voter ID requirements on elections [insert link]

## 11. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- Photographic ID Research – Headline Findings - [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/609a5105d3bf7f2886e29f44/Photographic\\_ID\\_research-headline\\_findings\\_report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/609a5105d3bf7f2886e29f44/Photographic_ID_research-headline_findings_report.pdf)
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation - <https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/government-must-not-disenfranchise-low-income-voters-polls>
- Runnymede Trust - <https://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/voter-id-a-disproportionate-solution-to-an-invisible-problem>

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# The impact of the introduction of voter ID requirements on elections

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### 27 November 2023

- Voter ID requirements introduced under the Elections Act 2022 as part of the government's Electoral Integrity Programme
- All voters must show an accepted form of photo ID before they can be issued with a ballot paper
- Gov.UK provides a list of accepted forms of ID - <https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need>
- ID can be expired – but must be an original and photo must look like the voter

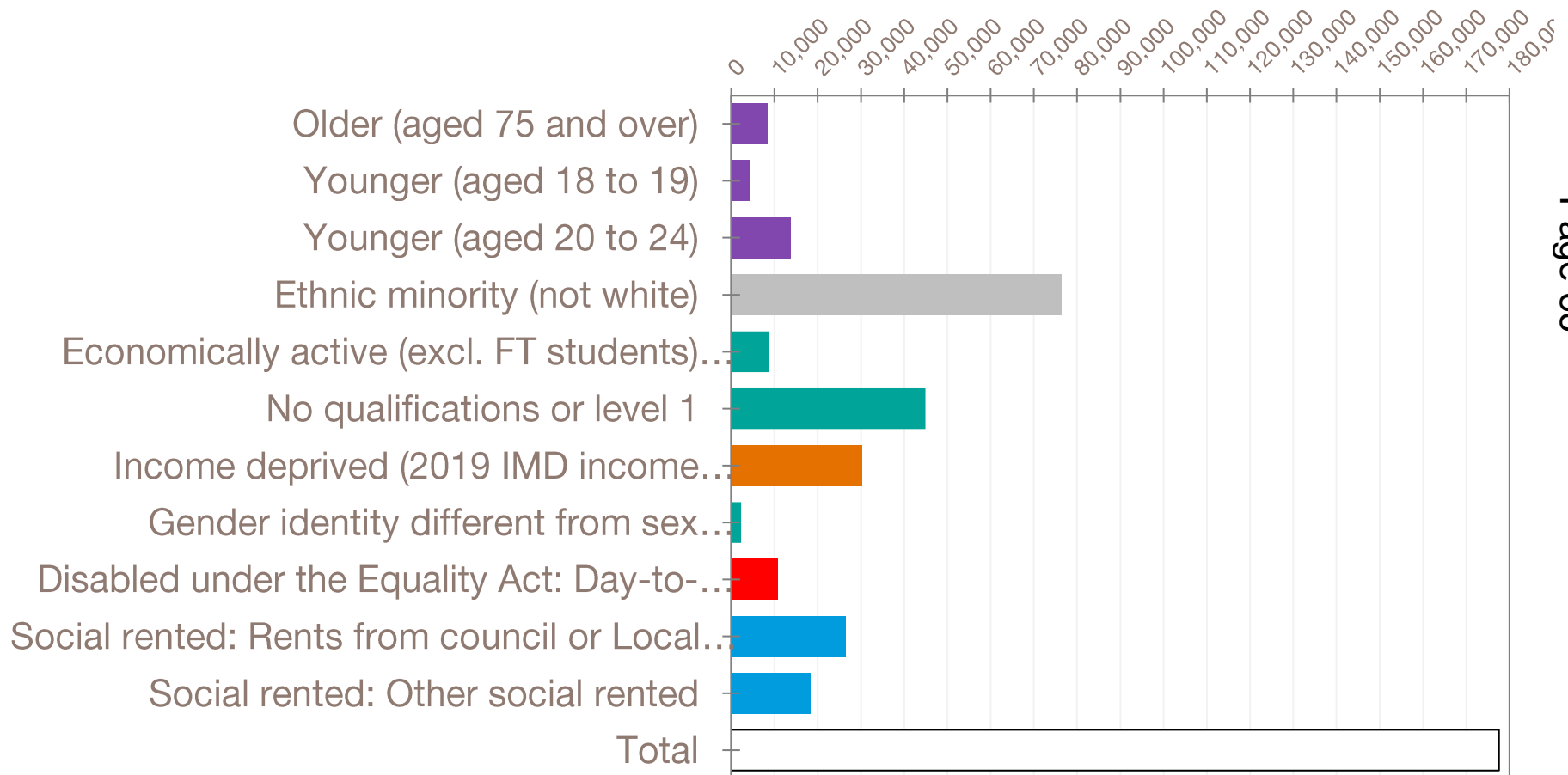
- Anyone can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate (VAC)
- Online: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>
- By Post
- In person:
  - Wood Green Library Customer Services Centre
  - Marcus Garvey Customer Services Centre

# Analysis of Photo ID Possession

- Undertaken population analysis to better understand our communities and access to accepted forms of voter ID
- A study commissioned by the Cabinet Office found that while 98% of UK adults possessed at least one of the required types of ID, the figure went down to 96% for those whose photo was still definitely recognisable. The figure, the report showed, would be even lower for certain segments of the population, e.g. those with severely limiting disabilities, older people, people with lower qualifications, unemployed, people who have not voted before, etc.

- Joseph Rowntree Foundation own research showed that “low-income potential voters are much more likely not to have photo ID compared to richer potential voters (1% compared to 6%)”
- Runnymede Trust reported the introduction of voter ID could stop over 2M people from voting, a figure equivalent to 4% of the electorate. 11% of those unemployed, 13% of those renting from the local authority, and 12% of those renting from a housing association lacking any form of ID. Black and ethnic minority communities are amongst those most likely to be overrepresented in these groups.

# Estimated size of 'at risk' segments within the Electoral Register



Electoral Register segments	Total	Scenarios of % of electors with no valid ID				
		2%	4%	6%	8%	10%
Electors with no associated risk factors (white, not disabled, mid-high quals, >24 & <65)	59,307	1,186	2,372	3,558	4,745	5,931
Rest of electors	118,259	2,365	4,730	7,096	9,461	11,826
<b>Total</b>	<b>177,566</b>					

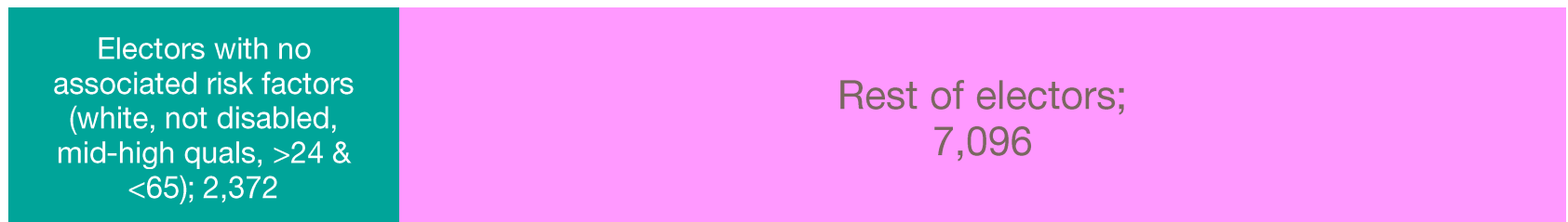
## Estimated size of 'at risk' segments within the Haringey Electoral Register

Total Electoral Register: ca. 178,000



## Estimated number of electors likely not to have valid voter ID in Haringey

Total: ca. 9,500





# What have we done so far

- Voter Authority Certificates have gone live
  - Can apply online, in person at Wood Green and Marcus Garvey Customer Services Centres or via a paper form
- Members briefing issued in April
  - More briefings to come as more parts of the Elections Act are implemented
- No scheduled polls in London in 2023 – key elections staff went to support & observe elsewhere in England
- Examples of good practice recorded and refined for Haringey
- Annual Canvass is currently underway and includes comms about Voter ID

# What have we done so far

- Implemented voter ID and trialled our accessibility work at by-elections in June and October 2023 – a good chance to test our preparedness
  - This was supported by a Communications plan that focussed on the changes especially Voter ID and accessibility
  - High-level version of our Communications plan was sent to each candidate's election agent so that political parties and their members can help spread the message whilst out campaigning
  - Our comms plan was presented to London Councils Communications leads at a recent meeting and was well received
  - Our assets are being shared as examples of good practice

# The Communications plan

- New poll card wording – A4 letter (enveloped)
- All polling station voters were sent:
  - A Voter ID leaflet in with their poll card
  - An additional letter with details about Voter ID
  - Where an email address was held – two emails flagging the election and Voter ID

**Voter ID is here...**

The UK government has made it a legal requirement for all voters to show an approved form of photo ID when voting in a polling station at local elections.

Approved forms of photo ID include:

✓ a UK or Northern Ireland photocard driving licence (full or provisional)	✓ a Freedom Pass
✓ a driving licence issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Isle of Man or any of the Channel Islands	✓ an older person's bus pass
✓ a UK passport or a passport issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or a Commonwealth country	✓ a disabled person's bus pass
✓ a PASS card (National Proof of Age Standards Scheme)	✓ a Blue Badge
✓ an Oyster 60+ card	✓ a National Identity Card issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein
	✓ a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)
	✓ a Defence Identity Card (MOD form 90)
	✓ an Anonymous Elector's Document (AED)

**Your vote is important. Don't lose it.**

If you don't have an approved form of photo ID, don't worry – you can still cast your vote – but you will need to apply for a Free Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) to take with you to the polling station instead.

For more information about Voter ID, including the full list of approved documents and how to get your free VAC, visit:

[www.haringey.gov.uk/voter-id](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/voter-id)

**Translations**

This leaflet outlines the new Voter ID requirement. It explains how you will need to show photo ID to vote in a polling station, what the acceptable forms of photo ID are, and how to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate if you don't have suitable photo ID. If you would like this leaflet translated, please email [translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk)

**Turkish**  
 Bu broşur yeni Seçmen Kimlik ID zorunluluğunun genel hatlarını vermektedir. Bir oy verme yerinde oyların nasıl alınacağını, kimlik ID göstermeye nasıl ihtiyacınız olduğunu, fotoğraf kimlik ID'nin hangi hallerinde kabul edilebilir olduğunu, eğer uygun bir fotoğraf kimlik ID'niz yoksa bir Voter Authority Certificate (Seçmen Yetki Belgesi Sertifikası) için nasıl başvurmanız gerektiğini açıklar. Bu broşürün jilet tercümesi için uygun bir istenirse, lütfen e-posta adresine [translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk) yazınız.

**Polish**  
 Niniejsza ulotka zawiera informacje na temat nowego wymogu dotyczącego identyfikacji wyborców. Wyjaśnia, że w celu oddania głosu w lokalnych wyborach należy okazać dokument tożsamości ze zdjęciem oraz jakie dokumenty tożsamości są akceptowane, a także jak złożyć wniosek o wydanie upoważnienia dla wyborcy (Voter Authority Certificate), jeżeli wyborca nie posiada się odpowiedniego dokumentu tożsamości z zdjęciem. Aby uzyskać tłumaczenie ulotki, należy wysłać wiadomość na adres [translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk).

**Spanish**  
 Este folleto describe el nuevo requisito de Documento de Identidad (DI) del Votante. En él mismo se explica como será necesario que usted muestre su Documento de Identidad (DI) con fotografía en un colegio electoral, cuáles son las formas aceptables del Documento de Identidad (DI) con fotografía, y cómo presentar una solicitud para obtener un Certificado de Autorización del Votante, para el caso de que usted no cuente con un Documento de Identidad (DI) con fotografía adecuado. Si usted desea obtener este folleto traducido, por favor, envíe un correo electrónico a [translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk).

**Portuguese**  
 Este folheto descreve o novo requisito de identificação do eleitor. Ele explica como será necessário mostrar uma identificação com foto para votar em uma seção eleitoral, quais são os tipos aceitáveis de identificação com foto, e como solicitar um Certificado de Autorização Eleitoral se você não tiver uma identificação com foto adequada. Caso desira uma tradução deste folheto, favor enviar um e-mail para [translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk).

**Greek**  
 Αυτό το φυλλάδιο περιγράφει τη νέα υποχρέωση των εκλογέων να παρουσιάσουν φωτογραφία ή να δείξουν έγκυρο ταυτόσημο έγγραφο ποσότητας για να ψηφίσουν σε ένα εκλογικό κέντρο. Πρακτικά, το φυλλάδιο περιγράφει ποια είδη φωτογραφίας και τι είδη εγγράφων είναι αποδεκτά για τα εκλογικά κέντρα. Εάν θέλετε να λάβετε αυτό το φυλλάδιο μεταφρασμένο, στείλετε email στο [translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk).

**Somali**  
 Buug-jardaan waxaa uu qeeybaha shuruudaha aqoosiga Codadkaheeda ku qaybiyay. Waxay sharaydaa sidaad ugu dhahay tahay naad fudud aqoosiga qaybaha aad ugu qaybiyay codadka qaybaha, waxa nooca aqoosiga aan ah la aqbalay iyo ay yihiin, iyo sida loo codsado Shaqaadada Hey'adda Coo-ku-xayaha hada iyo sidaad aqoosiga aan aqoosiga aan ah la aqbalay. Hadii aad joojdaan lahayd iyo buug-jardaan lahayd, fadhiin imay u dir [translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:translationandinterpreting@haringey.gov.uk).

# Digital advertising

We ran three different creatives across Meta and Display advertising.

**You need photo ID to vote at a polling station.**

If you don't have an approved form of photo ID, don't worry - you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate.

[www.haringey.gov.uk/elections](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/elections) YOUR VOTE MATTERS DON'T LOSE IT

**Hermitage and Gardens by-election**  
Thursday 29 June 2023

YOUR VOTE MATTERS  
DON'T LOSE IT

**"We're voting in the by-election, are you?"**

**#HaringeyVotes**

**Are you ready to vote? Check that...**

You've registered to vote

You have approved photo ID, and take it with you when you go to the polling station

[www.haringey.gov.uk/elections](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/elections) YOUR VOTE MATTERS DON'T LOSE IT

# Offline

## Posters

Put up posters in and near council housing in the Hermitage and Gardens ward

**HERMITAGE AND GARDENS BY-ELECTION**  
Thursday 29 June 2023

"We're voting in the by-election, are you?"

YOUR VOTE MATTERS  
DON'T LOSE IT

Haringey  
LONDON

## Posters

Put up posters in and near council housing in the Hermitage and Gardens ward

**You need photo ID to vote at a polling station.**

**Approved forms of photo ID include:**

- a UK or Northern Ireland photocard driving licence (full or provisional)
- a driving licence issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Isle of Man or any of the Channel Islands
- a UK passport or a passport issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or a Commonwealth country
- a PASS card (National Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- an Oyster 60+ card
- a Freedom Pass
- an older person's bus pass
- a disabled person's bus pass
- a Blue Badge
- a National Identity Card issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein
- a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)
- a Defence Identity Card (PROD form 90)
- an Anonymous Elector's Document (AED)

If you don't have an approved form of photo ID, don't worry - you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate.

For more information about photo ID, including the full list of approved documents and how to get your free Voter Authority Certificate, scan the QR code.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS  
DON'T LOSE IT

Haringey  
LONDON

## Clearchannel

Ran an ad about Voter ID on our clearchannel sites across the borough

**You need photo ID to vote at a polling station.**

If you don't have an approved form of photo ID, don't worry - you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate.

For more information about photo ID, including the full list of approved documents and how to get your free Voter Authority Certificate, scan the QR code.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS  
DON'T LOSE IT

Haringey  
LONDON

# Social Media

- We promoted the by-election across Twitter and Facebook
- We focused on encouraging people to register to vote and reminding people of key dates (e.g., deadlines for proxy and postal vote)
- We also raised awareness of Voter ID, how to get a free VAC, and the opportunities to vote independently in our polling stations



# Online

## Email marketing

We featured the by-election twice in our weekly e-newsletter HPX.

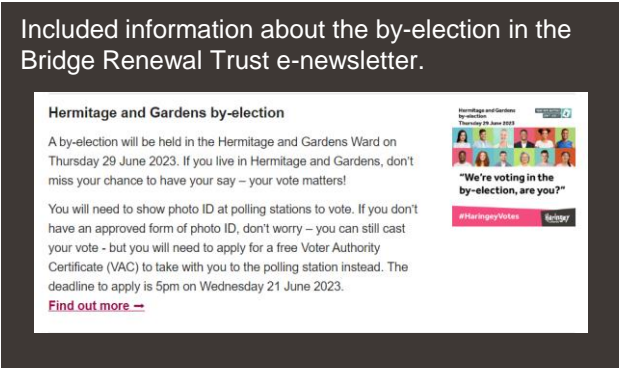


## Internal

We did a snapcomms announcement to inform staff of the by-election.

We featured both the announcement and the results of the by-election on the intranet.

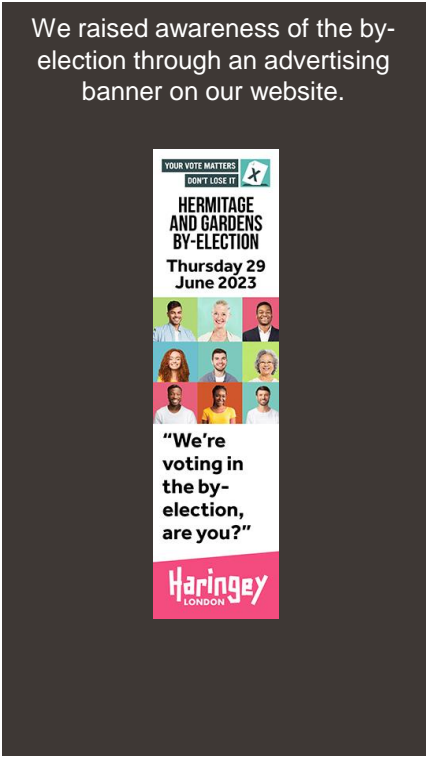
## Other e-newsletters



## Website

Promoted the by-election and the results on the website homepage carousel.

## Digital





# The impact of voter ID

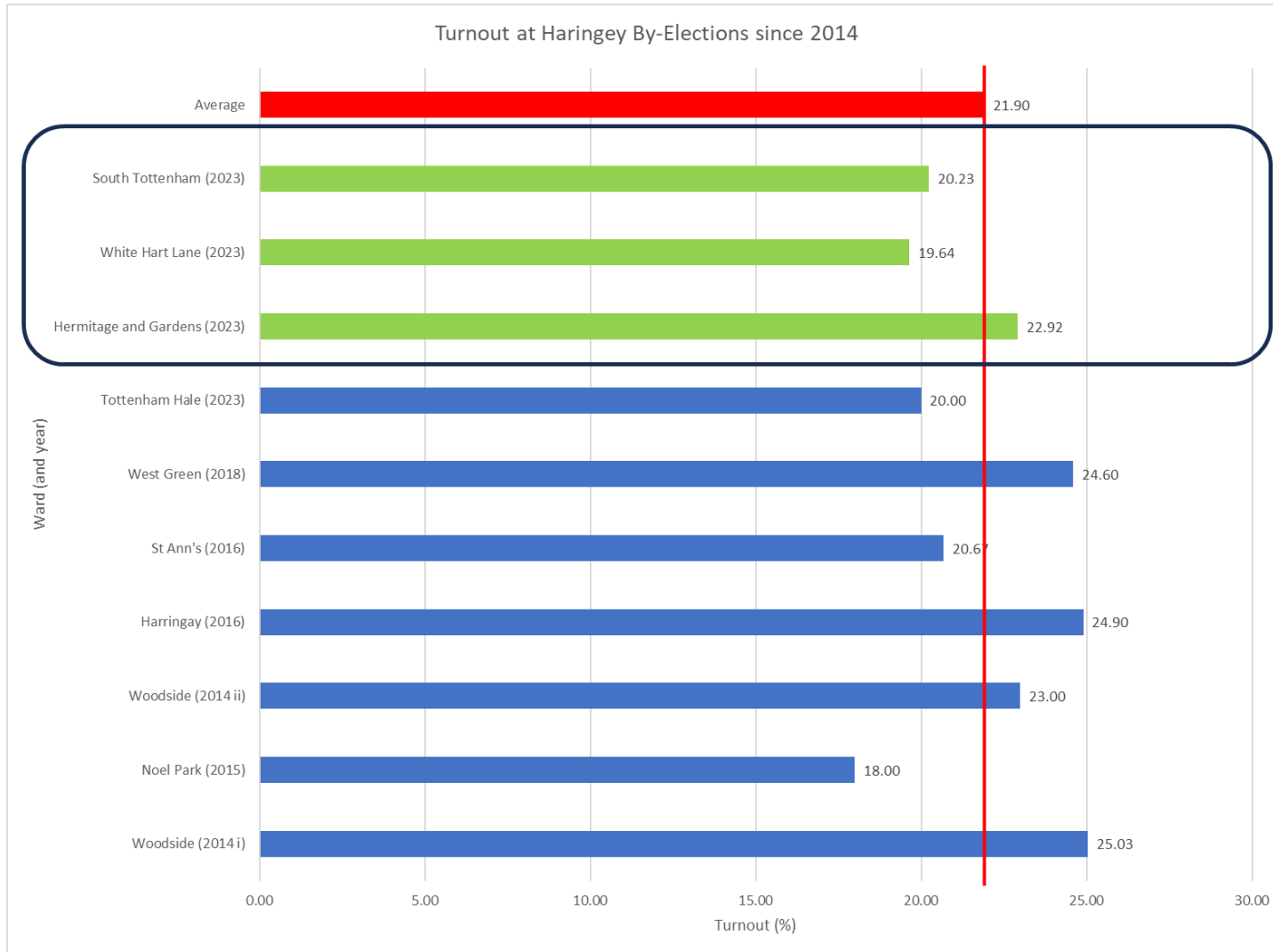
Difficult to say:

- Local government by-elections - usually only the more engaged participate
- Low turnout makes analysing any data difficult
  - One by-election slightly above average turnout
  - Two by-elections slightly below average turnout
  - Tottenham Hale by-election (March – before voter ID in force) had lower than average turnout

# Turnout at recent by-elections

Ward	Turnout (%)
Woodside (2014 i)	25.03
Noel Park (2015)	18.00
Woodside (2014 ii)	23.00
Harringay (2016)	24.90
St Ann's (2016)	20.67
West Green (2018)	24.60
Tottenham Hale (2023)	20.00
<b>Hermitage and Gardens (2023)</b>	<b>22.92</b>
<b>White Hart Lane (2023)</b>	<b>19.64</b>
<b>South Tottenham (2023)</b>	<b>20.23</b>
Average	21.90

# Turnout at recent by-elections



# The impact of voter ID

- Statutory forms used to collect data in polling stations are complex, time-consuming to complete and could be improved
- Small number of voters turned away

# The impact of voter ID

- Initial analysis:
  - 186 Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) applications received since January 2023
  - Less than 0.1% of the polling station electorate, which is less than 1% of those who turned up to vote, were turned away due to not having any ID / not having an accepted form of ID
  - Less than 0.01% of the electorate, which is less than 0.06% of those who turned up to vote, were refused a ballot paper for having valid ID but it not matching the name on the register / likeness to the voter

# What are we doing next?

- Engagement Strategy
  - Leadership Network – all senior leaders to be made aware of strategy & pledge support
  - Work with our partners, faith groups, existing networks, community groups
  - Haringey voter registration & voter ID campaign
  - Household Notification Letters – every residential property
  - In-person VAC applications at all libraries
- Members & Political Party Briefings / Drop-In Sessions

# What can you do?

- Support in sharing the messaging
- Give us ideas on
  - networks, contacts, forums
  - Content and formats
- Share our engagement pack
- Direct people to our website for more information [www.haringey.gov.uk/elections](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/elections)

# Further changes to Elections & Electoral Registration



# Changes already implemented

Topic	Summary of changes	Timing
<b>Postal Voting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postal voters will have to reapply for a postal vote every three years. Currently postal voters can apply for a permanent postal vote, and they must refresh their signature every five years.</li> </ul>	Legislation now in place – but implementation delayed until January 2026
<b>Online Absent Voting Applications (OAVA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An online application process for absent votes was launched nationwide on 31 October 2023. Voters can still apply by post.</li> <li>All applications go via the Electoral Registration Officer’s Portal (EROP) and each applicant’s identity is matched against DWP records. For applicants who cannot be verified by the DWP check, there will be an exceptions process, and, failing this, an attestation process to confirm.</li> <li>Users applying through the online portal will be asked to upload a photograph of their signature.</li> <li>As yet, no working solution to allow EROs to process paper applications other than manually inputting data and scanning and cropping each signature individually</li> <li>DLUHC working on scanning solution and aims to have this in place for January 2024</li> </ul>	<p>Went live 31 October 2023</p> <p>Enhancements due in January 2024</p>
<b>Proxy voting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of people someone may act as proxy for will be limited to four people, of which no more than two can be domestic electors.</li> </ul>	Commence at the end of October 2023

# Other changes already implemented

Topic	Summary of changes	Timing
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provision for accessibility to elections are extended, including requiring Returning Officers to take all reasonable steps to provide support for disabled voters in polling stations.</li></ul>	Came into effect from May 2023 - Builds on a number of existing legal requirements
Mayoral Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Change from supplementary vote to first past the post system (FPTP)</li></ul>	May 2023 (first time in London will be in May 2024)

# Changes that are coming next year

Topic	Summary of changes	Timing
<b>Overseas voters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All British citizens living overseas will be able to vote in UK Parliamentary elections, regardless of when they left the UK (there is currently a 15-year limit on being an ‘overseas voter’).</li> <li>Registration will be based on where users were previously registered, or, if they have never been previously registered, where they were last resident, verified through documentation, local authority records, or attestation.</li> <li>Extends the registration period from one year, to up to three years, linked to a fixed point on 1st November.</li> </ul>	Anticipated to take effect from January 2024 – there will be a transition period
<b>EU Voting and candidacy rights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The removal of the automatic entitlement for EU citizens to register to vote and stand for election. The following will still be able to vote:</li> <li>Qualifying EU citizens from Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, and Spain (due to reciprocal arrangements with the UK)</li> <li>EU citizens with retained rights, who were living in the UK before 1 January 2021 (before the UK left the EU)</li> <li>Those from Ireland, Cyprus and Malta</li> </ul>	Transition period will commence after May 2024 polls –fully implemented by May 2025 polls
<b>Postal Vote Handling and secrecy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handling of postal votes will be restricted, including limiting the number of postal votes an individual can hand in at a polling station or council offices.</li> <li>The secrecy of the ballot rules will be extended to completing postal packs</li> </ul>	Take effect from May 2024 polls
<b>Candidate addresses changes (at UK Parliamentary elections) and commonly used names</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Election rules amended to allow candidates to use a commonly used name, even where names are in a different order from the names stated, to include only some of the names or to include additional names.</li> <li>This change will also allow candidates who suppress their home address to provide the relevant area (district, county, London borough, county borough or local government area) where their address is located instead of constituency.</li> </ul>	From May 2024 Polls

# Future Elections

- GLA Elections in May 2024 –
  - These have different rules and are run in a very different way than other elections
  - Hand counted for the first time – will take a number of days
- Need to plan for these to be standalone but also for the potential for it to be combined with a general election
- General election – by no later than January 2025
  - Repeal of the Fixed Term Parliaments Act
  - 25 working days' notice
  - Boundary changes with changes to how the Returning Officer manages some wards for **parliamentary elections only**
- Four unscheduled by-elections so far
  - Additional unplanned work but have given us the opportunity to trial new practices

# New Parliamentary Boundaries

# Some Haringey wards are part of other Returning Officers' constituencies (at a General Election only)

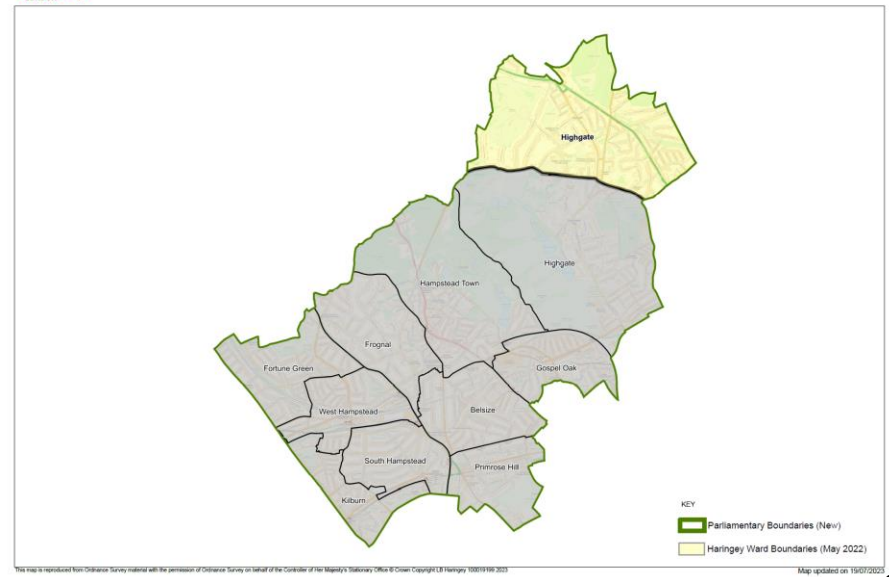
## Hampstead and Highgate

Haringey wards	Part of
Highgate	Camden

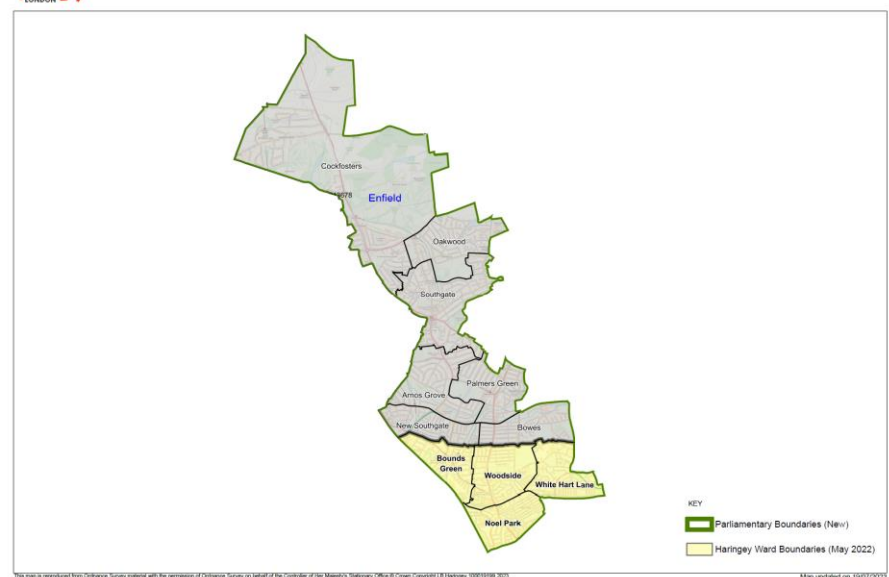
## Southgate and Wood Green

Haringey wards	Part of
Bounds Green	Enfield
Noel Park	
White Hart Lane	
Woodside	

Haringey London Map of New Parliamentary Boundaries - Hampstead and Highgate Constituency

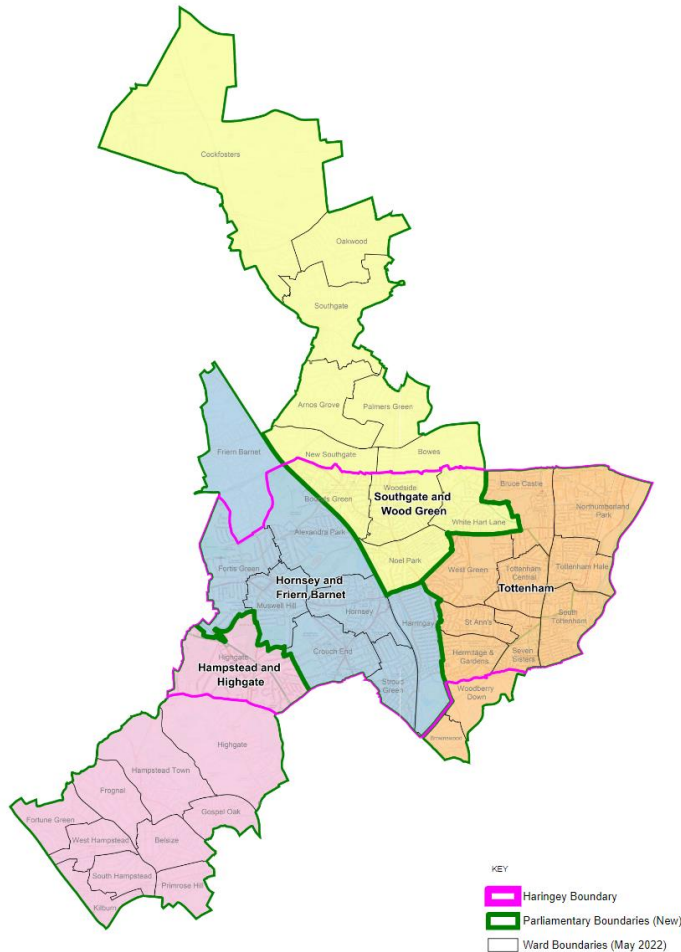


Haringey London Map of New Parliamentary Boundaries - Southgate and Wood Green Constituency



# Parliamentary Boundaries

Map of New Parliamentary Boundaries - All Constituencies



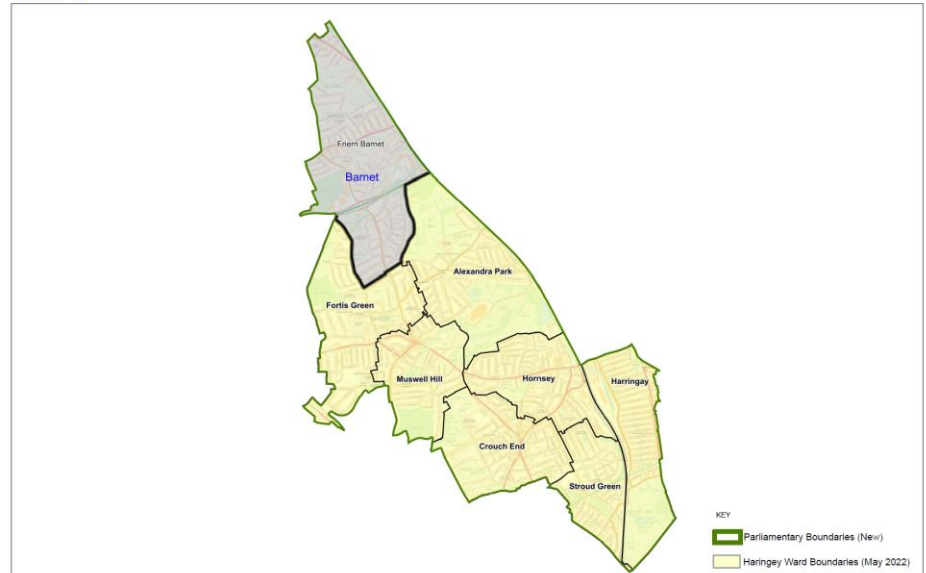
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- The Boundary Commission for England published the final set of boundaries that will be put to the Privy Council for approval
- This approval process is expected to take place in November
- Following the dissolution of the current parliament, the current Tottenham and Hornsey & Wood Green will cease to exist. They will be replaced with :
  - Hampstead and Highgate
  - Hornsey and Friern Barnet
  - Southgate and Wood Green
  - Tottenham (Amended Boundary)
- At a GE, the Haringey RO will be responsible for some wards from Hackney and Barnet, and other RO's will be responsible for some wards in Haringey. This is administratively complicated.

# Some wards from other Boroughs are part of Haringey's Returning Officers' responsibilities (at a General Election only)



Map of New Parliamentary Boundaries - Hornsey and Friern Barnet Constituency



## Hornsey and Friern Barnet

Haringey wards	from Barnet
Alexandra Park	Friern Barnet
Crouch End	
Fortis Green	
Haringay	
Hornsey	
Muswell Hill	
Stroud Green	

## Tottenham

Haringey wards	from Hackney
Bruce Castle	Brownswood
Hermitage & Gardens	Woodberry Down
Northumberland Park	
Seven Sisters	
South Tottenham	
St Ann's	
Tottenham Central	
Tottenham Hale	
West Green	
White Hart Lane	



Map of New Parliamentary Boundaries - Tottenham Constituency



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Map updated on: 19/07/2023



**Report for:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Title:** Finsbury Park Events

**Report authorised by:** Barry Francis, Director of Environment & Resident Experience

**Lead officer:** Simon Farrow, Head of Parks and Leisure  
[simon.farrow@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:simon.farrow@haringey.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** Harringay

### **1. Describe the issue under consideration.**

- 1.1 This paper provides a summary of the current position regarding:-
- The income generated from major events in Finsbury Park,
  - What that income has been spent on
  - The impact of that funding on other parks.

### **2. Background information**

- 2.1 In January 2014, the Council approved a new Outdoor Events Policy this revised policy built on an earlier policy for Finsbury Park adopted by the Council in 2002. This earlier policy for Finsbury Park was adopted as a way of funding the increased cost of maintaining the park once it had undergone its planned Heritage Lottery Grant funded restoration.
- 2.2 The Outdoor Events Policy permits the Council to hold five three-day weekends of major events each year. A major event is any event over 10,000 people in attendance. There are no caps on the number of events smaller than 10,000 people in attendance per year. The Council does not permit any major events to be held during the six weeks of the school summer holiday period. There has only been one year where the park hosted five major events and that was 2018. Most other years major events have only taken place on two or three weekends.
- 2.3 The Council holds Finsbury Park under the 1906 Open Spaces Act, this requires the Council to utilise any money raised in the park to defray any costs in maintaining, managing, and improving the park. The money can not be spent outside of the park.

### **3. Income generated**

- 3.1 Since 2012 the Council has generated £8.7m from events, filming, property and associated fees and charges. A break down of the annual income over those 12 years is attached in Appendix A. Of that £8.7m events in the park have contributed £7.4m.
- 3.2 The income has varied year on year both as the popularity of events has increased, but also following the impact of the Covid-19 restrictions during 2020 and 2021. In the three years prior to 2020, the average income from events in the park was £1.1m per annum. In 2022 the first fall year after the pandemic the park also generated £1.1m from events. During 2023 this average will be exceeded with income from events generating approximately £1.27m.

- 3.3 Up until this year all contracts for the hire of Finsbury Park for events have been agreed on an annual basis. This has led to a great deal of uncertainty about the budget available on a year-by-year basis. Earlier this year a five-year contract was approved for two weekends of major events per year. This will provide a base level of income of circa £1m per annum. During 2024 the Council will look to introduce more multi year contracts to give it further income certainty.

#### **4. Spending of the income**

- 4.1 The overall cost of maintaining Finsbury Park in 2022-23 was circa £1.61m. In addition, a further £0.47m was spent improving the park. This total expenditure of £2.08m was funded by £1.31m of income from all sources in the park. The balance of £0.77m being funded by Council revenue or capital expenditure.
- 4.2 There are four key areas of spending of the income generated in the park. The first is to fund the base level of management that all parks in the borough receive. The second area of spend is on an additional level of staffing resources dedicated to Finsbury Park. The third area of spend is the cost of the events team who generate the income and manage the delivery of the events. The fourth area is the money available to reinvest in the park to improve or add new facilities in the park.
- 4.3 Base Level Parks Management – Finsbury Parks management forms part of the wider management of parks in the borough and receives input from a range of shared service delivery e.g. playground maintenance, machinery, grass cutting, The Conservation Volunteers, and other similar services. This cost includes the wider management structure beyond Finsbury Park. This is recharged to the park on the basis of a 14.5% percentage share. 14.5% represents the percentage the Finsbury Park represents within all parks and greenspaces in the borough.
- 4.4 Additional level of staffing – in response to various concerns about the level of maintenance in the park and the need for a greater visible presence the staffing structure in the park has been supplemented to include a dedicated manager, a park ranger, additional gardeners, and cleansing operatives. In total this added a further 11 posts to existing base level of 3 full time staff. Due to uncertainty of future years income to fund these staff the posts have only been temporary. However, following the signing of the five-year agreement with Festival Republic the Council is now able to make these post permanent. Which will allow the staff to benefit from the councils' terms and conditions.
- 4.5 Events Team – The events that are held in the park need to be administered and managed otherwise there would be no events or income. Events are also held in other parks and therefore part of the events team cost is met from other events, but the lions share 93-95% is funded by events in Finsbury Park.
- 4.6 Reinvestment – Circa £1m - £1.1m of all income generated by the park is used to offset these costs. Leaving around £0.2m -£0.3m per annum to reinvest in projects. In addition, when sufficient events income isn't available (e.g. during Covid pandemic) or when the parks needs dictate e.g. new street lighting the Council does supplement the improvements in the park from its own resources.

4.7 Since 2019-20 the Council has invested £1.42m in the park of which £0.82m was from events and £0.6m was from Council capital expenditure. This can be broken down into:-

- £271k - On landscape improvements in the run up to the 150<sup>TH</sup> anniversary
- £805k - On improved play provision in the park, including the Richard Hope Play Space
- £291k - On new street lighting in the park
- £12k - On phase 1 improvements in the Nursery
- £15k - On a toilet refurb (2019)
- £26k - On the initial work on the skateboard project.

In addition, there has been other improvements in the park funded from other sources, such as the CCTV system and the Changing Places Toilet.

4.8 During the 2023/34 financial year the focus for investment has been on the Skate Park project with the friends with smaller pieces of work on finishing up the Richard Hope Play space, the new polytunnels at the nursery, the installation of five air quality monitoring stations in the park and on the Boundary Review project.

4.9 In 2019 the Council undertook a consultation on several issues relating to Finsbury Park. Part of that consultation asked respondents about their priorities for improvements in the park. The table from the consultation report is shown below.

Priority for investment	Selected by	% all respondents
Cleanliness	547	57%
Diversity of wildlife	282	29%
Maintenance of flowers and shrubs	265	28%
Lighting	264	27%
The number and quality of the toilets	245	25%
Litter bins	216	22%
Play areas	191	20%
Youth facilities	140	15%
Lake improvements	126	13%
Improving entrance points	125	13%
Sports facilities	104	11%
Outdoor fitness	99	10%
Community events	93	10%
Improving access for the disabled people	76	8%
Art activities or installations	71	7%
Dog control	59	6%
Seating	57	6%
Other	129	13%

4.10 A similar exercise was conducted when the Outdoor Events Policy was developed in 2013. Given next year we will be five years on again from 2019, it is reasonable for these priorities to be updated through some wider community engagement with residents and stakeholders. Officers understand that the

Friends of the park are currently undertaking some work around their group's priorities and an exercise by the Council can build on this.

## 5. Environmental impact fee

5.1 In addition to the income collected by the Council a separate amount is charged to each event organiser as an Environmental Impact Fee. This income is kept separate and the stakeholders in the park bid for some of the money at the end of each year to support their work in the park. The table below shows the total Environmental Impact Fee collected over the last five years and which organisations have benefited from the additional funding.

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
Pedal Power	£10,950	£10,000	£9,600	Affected due to Covid	£3,500	£8,808.19	£42,858
Park Run	£600				£1,000		£1,600
Furthrfield	£10,000	£10,000	£9,600			£6,021.22	£35,621
Edible Landscapes	£9,950	£10,200	£9,600		£3,500	£7,328.69	£40,579
LCSP		£10,000	£9,600				£19,600
Boats	£2,500	£5,000					£7,500
FPSP	£1,000	£5,000	£9,600		£6,000	£5,883.61	£27,484
London Heathside						£6,365.29	£6,365
	35,000	£50,200	£48,000	£0	£14,000	£34,407	

5.2 During 2022/23 the beneficiaries use the funding in the following ways:

- Pedal Power: Costs towards delivery
- Furtherfield: The Interspecies Festival of Finsbury Park
- Edible Landscapes: General running costs and contribution towards a solar panel heat source
- Finsbury Park Sports Partnership: Projects to increase volunteering and biodiversity
- London Heathside: Repairs and improvements to track timing system

5.3 During 2023/24 a total of £38,638 has been collected. The stakeholder groups within the park will get an opportunity to bid for a portion of the money later this year.

## 6. The impact of event funding on other parks

6.1 The impact of using event income to fund the Base Level Parks Management Service in Finsbury Park has meant that savings from other parks have not had to be made and therefore although not directly funded from events income the standard of maintenance in other parks has been able to be maintained and protected.

## 7. Use of Appendices

Appendix A - Summary of expenditure and income.

**8. Background papers**

2019 Finsbury Park Consultation

[https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/finsbury\\_park\\_consultation\\_review\\_report.pdf](https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/finsbury_park_consultation_review_report.pdf)

Outdoor Events Policy 2014

[https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/haringey\\_outdoor\\_events\\_policy.pdf](https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/haringey_outdoor_events_policy.pdf)

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## Eleven Year Summary

Total Revenue Expenditure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total over 11 years	Yearly Average
Employees	£ 332,400	£ 297,907	£ 294,067	£ 378,438	£ 382,977	£ 480,951	£ 604,536	£ 840,108	£ 871,626	£ 798,343.35	£ 900,060.04	£ 6,181,412	£ 561,946.54
Premises Related Expenditure	£ 43,060	£ 85,130	£ 53,356	£ 75,789	£ 63,756	£ 82,189	£ 98,854	£ 178,023	£ 70,157	£ 100,601.97	£ 243,942.82	£ 1,094,859	£ 99,532.61
Transport Related Expenditure	£ 34,002	£ 33,797	£ 31,940	£ 27,044	£ 21,527	£ 19,949	£ 40,275	£ 42,743	£ 30,163	£ 36,635.86	£ 33,439.71	£ 351,516	£ 31,956.01
Supplies & Services	£ 106,717	£ 66,976	£ 55,015	£ 65,218	£ 64,023	£ 111,761	£ 109,065	£ 232,561	£ 125,230	£ 101,180.12	£ 185,688.76	£ 1,223,436	£ 111,221.48
Third Party Payments	£ 59,211	£ 69,742	£ 61,717	£ 115,668	£ 56,804	£ 26,849	£ 114,823	£ 289,332	£ 123,892	£ 124,408.58	£ 155,066.92	£ 1,197,513	£ 108,864.85
Support Services	£ 53,185	£ 80,685	£ 98,274	£ 58,074	£ 79,520	£ 84,678	£ 259,577	£ 211,857	£ 227,368	£ 211,320.50	£ 91,226.50	£ 1,455,765	£ 132,342.29
<b>Total</b>	£ 628,576	£ 634,237	£ 594,369	£ 720,231	£ 668,606	£ 806,377	£ 1,227,131	£ 1,794,624	£ 1,448,437	£ 1,372,490	£ 1,609,425	£ 11,504,502	£ 1,045,863.78
<b>Investments</b>	£ -	£ -	£ 128,424	£ 458,052	£ 200,066	£ 79,000	£ 190,129	£ 644,165	£ 176,303	£ 132,615	£ 467,420	£ 2,476,174	£ 225,106.73
<b>Total Expenditure + Investment</b>	£ 628,576	£ 634,237	£ 722,793	£ 1,178,283	£ 868,672	£ 885,377	£ 1,417,260	£ 2,438,789	£ 1,624,740	£ 1,505,105	£ 2,076,845	£ 13,980,676	£ 1,270,970.51
<b>Income</b>	£ 179,924	£ 244,487	£ 919,162	£ 940,125	£ 726,898	£ 942,570	£ 1,493,564	£ 1,263,111	£ 195,529	£ 491,699	£ 1,311,365	£ 8,708,434	£ 791,675.78
<b>Cost to the Council</b>	£ 448,651	£ 389,750	-£ 196,369	£ 238,158	£ 141,774	-£ 57,193	-£ 76,304	£ 1,175,678	£ 1,429,211	£ 1,013,406	£ 765,480	£ 5,272,242	£ 479,294.73
									<b>COVID YEARS</b>				

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**Report for:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 27 November 2023

**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](mailto: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 plan for 2022-24 for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

**2. Recommendations**

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

2.2 That the Committee give consideration to the agenda items and reports required for its meetings in 2023/24. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**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. The latest iteration of the Committee's work plan is attached.

4.2 The current Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme specifies that the meeting scheduled to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 will include:

- Budget Scrutiny – Culture, Strategy & Engagement
- Annual Complaints Report

- 4.3 The Committee should give consideration to the items for the next meeting and any amendments that it wishes to make to the Work Programme for the meetings scheduled in 2023/24.

## 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 2022-24

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### Work Plan 2022-24

<p><b>1. Scrutiny review projects;</b> 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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <p>Evidence sessions commenced in December 2022.</p>

2. <b>“One-off” Items;</b> These will be dealt with at scheduled meetings of the Committee. The following are suggestions for when particular items may be scheduled.		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Potential Items</b>	<b>Lead Officer/Witnesses</b>
<b>20 June 2022</b>	Performance update; To monitor performance against priority targets	Performance Manager
	Terms of Reference	Principal Scrutiny Officer
	Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan	Principal Scrutiny Officer
<b>25 July 2022</b>	Cabinet Member Questions - Leader of the Council	Leader and Chief Executive
	Haringey Health Hub	Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs – Whittington Health
<b>13 October 2022</b>	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	
<b>28 November 2022</b>	Cabinet Member Questions; Tackling Inequality and Resident Services	Cabinet Member and officers
	Intrusive fire risk assessments – Update	Assistant Director – Property Services
	Pilot building safety case – Update	Assistant Director – Property Services
<b>12 January 2023</b>	Cabinet Member Questions; Communities & Civic Life	Cabinet Member and officers
	Budget Scrutiny – Your Council	Cabinet Member and officers

<b>19 January 2023 (Budget)</b>	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	Cabinet Member and officers
	Treasury Management Statement	Assistant Director - Finance
<b>30 March 2023</b>	Cabinet Member Questions; Economic Development, Jobs & Community Cohesion	Cabinet Member and officers
	Pilot building safety case – Update on resident engagement	Assistant Director – Property Services
	Complaints Annual Report	Head of Customer Experience & Operations
<b>2023/24</b>		
<b>8 June 2023</b>	Cabinet Member Questions - Leader of the Council	Leader and Chief Executive
	Performance Framework update	Performance Manager



	Membership & Terms of Reference.	Scrutiny Officer
	OSC Work Programme	Scrutiny Officer
<b>24 July 2023</b>	Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Finance	CLlr Carlin
	Provisional Outturn Report 2022-23	AD Finance
<b>12 October 2023</b>	Participatory Budgeting in Haringey	Cabinet Member and officers
	Finance Update Q1	Frances Palopoli
	Performance Update Q1	Performance Manager
	Scrutiny Review: Physical Activity & Sport	Chair of CYP Scrutiny Panel
<b>27 November 2023</b>	Leisure services update	Cabinet Member and officers (Director of Environment & Resident Experience)
	Voter ID – Elections	Cabinet Member and officers (Head of Electoral Services)

	Finsbury Park events	Cabinet Member and officers (Director of Environment & Resident Experience)
<b>9 January 2024</b>	Budget Scrutiny – Culture, Strategy & Engagement	Cabinet Member and officers
	Complaints Annual Report	Cabinet Member and officers
<b>18 January 2024 (Budget)</b>	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	Cabinet Member and officers
	Treasury Management Statement	AD Finance
<b>1 February 2024 (TBC)</b>	Budget Scrutiny – provisional date for any outstanding budget issues to be considered.	Cabinet Member and officers
<b>11 March 2024</b>	Cabinet Member Questions; Cabinet Member for Council House Building, Placemaking and Local Economy	Cabinet Member and officers

To be allocated:

- Update - Effectiveness of Council communications with residents about housing repairs.
- Co-production and the Haringey Deal
- Participatory budgeting

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