

MINUTES OF THE MEETING Strategic Planning Committee HELD ON Monday, 7th July, 2025, 7:00 – 8:45

PRESENT:

Councillors: Lotte Collett, Sean O'Donovan, Barbara Blake (Chair), Reg Rice, Nicola Bartlett, John Bevan (Vice-Chair), Cathy Brennan, Scott Emery, Emine Ibrahim, Alexandra Worrell and Amin

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred to the notice of filming at meetings and this information was noted.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

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/ questions.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee held on 24th February as a correct record.

Members requested updates on the HMO application progress and the removal of telephone boxes.

7. PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL 2024/25 Q4 UPDATE

Rob Krzyszowski introduced the report as set out in the agenda pack.

The following was noted in response to questions from the committee:

- Most proposals regarding reform of Planning Committees that the Government suggested were already in place in Haringey; so, in a sense these wouldn't make too much difference in the borough. The big decisions for major applications would still come to planning committee for a thorough debate.
- In terms of the tiers, the paper that the government were consulting on was for local planning authorities to feedback on. Anyone, including councillors, could go onto the website, read the paper and make comments.
- There was emerging work occurring on local fee setting and the government would be publishing guidance on how the borough should do this to make sure it would only be about cost recovery; it was not about making extra 'profit' or surplus for a council.
- A Member noted that the Theatres Trust as a statutory consultee was important in London
- One of the consultations is about setting a small, medium and large designation for planning applications, which was different to how it was at the moment.
- On the fees and whether they could cover things such as planning aid or design competitions. Officers did not think design competitions would be appropriate, but, potentially yes to something like Planning Aid, which assisted with community engagement. It could be argued that community engagement was a fundamental part of the planning application process.
- The previous consultation in December spoke about having unelected professionals on committee having a vote, however, this was no longer being proposed.
- A Member noted they would like to see more accountability for individual councillors across the country who repeatedly voted for politically motivated reasons.
- In regard to strategic master planning and tenure diversity, this was largely about getting smaller and medium house builders into the market and delivering housing because at the moment it was dominated by the larger house builders. Strategic master planning would mean there would be a big site broken up into different developers. The challenge around lots of small and medium developers on a single site would be with the levels of affordability, when there is a smaller builder they may be less likely to deliver the optimum number of affordable homes, whereas, a possible upside of the bigger house builders may be an increased likelihood to get more affordability.
- In terms of time frames of the reforms, some of it was linked to the planning and infrastructure bill passing through parliament. If all goes smoothly, that will go through parliament and get royal assent towards the end of this year/ early next year and then there would need to be secondary legislation as well.
- In terms of getting the level of documentation right for a planning application, officers asked for high standards from developers. Over the years, planning had seeped into other areas. One example of this was building fire safety, which used to be kept separate in building regulations. Now there was a bit of an overlap across the two, and whether that was the right balance or not was up for debate.
- Regarding the Planning Committee reforms, the next stage would be to discuss this with Councillor Williams as Cabinet Member and feedback to her what officer views were on the reform proposals and what members views were as

well. Then she could decide if she would like us to do a formal consultation response on behalf of the Council.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement –

Catherine Smyth, introduced the report as set out in the agenda pack.

- The service was congratulated for the recent Secure by Design award given to the Council by the Metropolitan Police.
- Most of the increases related to HMO referrals were from colleagues in private sector housing / licensing. Colleagues were picking up the fact that some HMOs, when they were looking for a licence, did not have planning permission. This would then be passed onto planning officers, and this was where the big increase had come from. Officers were asked to provide information on the number of retrospective planning applications for HMOs received over the last 3 years.
- Officers had successfully removed 5 telephone boxes, but this project was still ongoing. Officers were asked to send more detailed information following the meeting.

Spatial Planning –

Bryce Tudball, Head of Spatial Planning, introduced the report as set out in the agenda pack.

The following was noted in response to questions from the committee:

- The Local Plan is scheduled to go to Cabinet on the 16th of September and there would be a call-in period afterwards, so officers would have to wait for that to elapse before starting consultation. Officers were already working on the consultation materials, so there would not be a long gap between the cabinet decision and then starting a consultation. Officers wanted to get that completed and finished before Christmas and there would also be a consultation on the spend of neighbourhood CIL monies accrued.
- The service was congratulated for the recent national award for the digital Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Officers were asked to share detailed information regarding the awards.
- There was not a dedicated local plan budget however officers had secured money from various places. This enabled officers to bring in another experienced planner for a period of 18 months and officers were also looking to bring in an additional assistant planner.

Building Control –

Denis Ioannou introduced the report as set out in the agenda pack.

The following was noted in response to questions from the committee:

- On the vacancy rate, there was above 70% vacancy in the building control structure which has an impact on what the team can deliver, including the out

of hours cover. Officers had completed a very extensive recruitment campaign over the last couple of months to fill as many posts as possible ranging from the registered building inspector level up to the lead team manager and head of service level.

- The issue was that building control was a specialist field and to become a registered building inspector, you would have to take a certain set of interviews/exams.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

8. HARINGEY AUTHORITY MONITORING REPORT 2020-2024

Bryce Tudball introduced the report,

- Each time the council's housing target gets reset through the London Plan, the shortfall effectively disappeared. When GLA sets new housing targets, officers ensured that there was a sense check; was it realistic and could the GLA help to deliver it.
- When the local plan would be adopted the areas which officers currently sought evidence on archaeology would be expanded. Officers were asked to provide more information on the Oxford Archaeology Report and map of the areas.
- Officers were asked to provide information on whether the chapel at Tottenham Cemetery was on the heritage buildings at risk register.
- The retail vacancy rate reported for Tottenham Hale was 0% but there were some vacant units in Tottenham Hale and there possibly was a need for a concerted effort to ensure that they got filled with tenants. Officers were asked to provide more information regarding this data.

RESOLVED

That this report be noted

9. HARINGEY INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING STATEMENT 2023/24

Bryce Tudball introduced the report, the following was noted in response to questions from the committee:

- There were two types of CIL for the purposes of spends, the first was strategic CIL. This was the element of CIL which helped support the delivery and the capital programme; so the spend of that money would be determined by the Council's cabinet. There was, however, the neighbourhood CIL and later this year officers would be consulting on the spend of £1.7 million across 9 areas in the borough. As part of that consultation engagement process, officers would be speaking with ward members on priorities for the spend of this money.

There would be a collaborative process to establish where that money gets spent.

- Officers were actively working with the Council's highways department and with the transport and travel service to get that money spent, some of it was general and could be spent on cycling improvements within the east of the borough and some of it had to be spent on specific projects. Some of that money was also money brought in to fund traffic management orders related to car free parking schemes.
- There was no spend deadline for community infrastructure levy and officers had a regular quarterly reporting process and worked hard with colleagues to ensure that gets spent as quickly as possible.
- Some of the money for the Decentralised Energy Network (DEN) came through section 106 but if the DEN was not delivered then it needed to be paid in some way through carbon offsetting or other means. The DEN Programme had been reduced in the capital programme significantly so, the next time the Council redoes its capital programme for the annual budget cycle, that money would need to be reallocated on something else through the capital programme.
- There were two full time officers who dealt with the administration for CIL and section 106. They had a great track record of bringing in money to the Council and bringing in that money on time when it is owed. So, there was very little work officers had to do with developers where the money was overdue. About three years ago the team brought in the 2nd officer, a key part of her work programme was ensuring that the Council received all of the required CIL. Officers did not always know when a development had commenced, so they completed an exercise to look at schemes that had commenced without notification, and in those cases, instructed CIL payment. Officers had also requested that they pay a series of surcharges and penalties. Due to this the team were doing quite well on the income maximisation front.

RESOLVED

That this report be noted and agreed.

10. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no new items of urgent business.

11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that the dates of the next meeting was 10th September.

CHAIR: Councillor Barbara Blake

Signed by Chair

Date

