

**MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2007**

Councillors Councillors Bull (Chair), Egan (Vice-Chair), Davies, Jones, Mallett, Newton and Winskill

<b>MINUTE NO.</b>	<b>SUBJECT/DECISION</b>
<b>OSCO48.</b>	<p><b>WEBCASTING</b></p> <p>The meeting was webcast on the Council's website.</p>
<b>OSCO49.</b>	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>There were no apologies for absence.</p>
<b>OSCO50.</b>	<p><b>URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>The Chair agreed to admit the report 'Response by Overview and Scrutiny Committee to Consultations on the Haringey Primary Care Strategy and Application for Foundation Status by the Whittington Hospital' as urgent business. The reason given for urgency was that the closing date for the consultations in the report had passed and thus responses needed to be submitted as soon as is possible.</p>
<b>OSCO51.</b>	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>Councillor Davies declared a personal interest in respect of items 8, 9, 14, 15 and 17 on account of him being an employee of the Healthcare Commission.</p> <p>Councillor Jones declared a personal interest in respect of item 12, in that she was a Member of the Children and Young People's Consultative Committee.</p>
<b>OSCO52.</b>	<p><b>DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS</b></p> <p>There were no such items.</p>
<b>OSCO53.</b>	<p><b>CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS: CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION</b></p> <p>Councillor Brian Haley, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation provided to the committee answers to questions submitted in advance by Members and a briefing on the key issues contained within his portfolio.</p> <p>Members enquired with regards to the perceived declining standard of Street Cleaning, particularly in Northumberland Park ward. The Cabinet Member agreed to look into the matter and attend a walkabout in the ward with Councillor John Bevan. He also confirmed</p>

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	<p>that the Council's litter bins were regularly audited and stated his intention to consult on the placement of new bins.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member confirmed the Council's commitment for all street lighting to be renewed, and stated that although this was a very large financial commitment, a number of joint initiatives were ongoing.</p> <p>In response to an enquiry about the Community Clear-Up, the Cabinet Member stated that it had been paid for out on a now exhausted funding stream. Any future scheme would have to be paid for out of the Council's budget.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That the Cabinet Member undertake a walkabout around Northumberland Park ward with Councillor John Bevan, and that he provide feedback to the committee on its results.</li><li>2. That the Assistant Director – Streetscene provide to the committee information on action to combat the rubbish dumping situation at Highfield Close.</li><li>3. That the Assistant Director – Streetscene provide information on the tackling of other rubbish dumping 'hotspots'.</li><li>4. That the briefing and answers to the questions be noted.</li></ol>
<p><b>OSCO54.</b></p>	<p><b>PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF REPAIRS TO HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS</b></p> <p>The committee received a report on progress in achieving the recommendations of the March 2006 Scrutiny Report on repairs to highways and footpaths.</p> <p>Members stated their belief that the quality of much of the road repair work which took place across the borough was poor, and stated their desire to see this improve. Officers stated that although there had been investment over the previous years, long-term investment in highway infrastructure needed to be addressed. In terms of inadequate repairs, a number of cases had been brought to the Council's attention; Member's were assured that action had been taken and these had now been brought up to the required standard. Members were also informed that consultants had produced a draft action plan to which the Council was currently considering a response.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That the committee express their disappointment with the progress made to date, and request that a further update be brought before the committee in six months time.</li><li>2. That the progress to date and further action as laid out in the report be noted.</li></ol>

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<p><b>OSCO55.</b></p>	<p><b>CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS: CABINET MEMBER FOR ENFORCEMENT AND SAFER COMMUNITIES</b></p> <p>Councillor Nilgun Canver, Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities, provided to the committee answers to questions submitted in advance by Members and a briefing on the key issues contained within her portfolio. Members thanked her for her comprehensive briefing and the good work being carried out in her portfolio.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member stated that she was proud of the general reduction in crime figures during her tenure, with targets frequently being met and cutting-edge work on anti-social behaviour being carried out by the Council's ASBAT team. She informed the committees on initiatives to reduce the fear of crime, engaging with the public to publicise the reduction in crime, to increase a feeling of safety.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member also stated that the Youth Offending Service was working with victims as well as young offenders, although it was a priority for all agencies to work more closely with victims of crime. Fear of crime was attempting to be decreased through visits by Safer Neighbourhoods Teams to Youth Centres and Schools, and work with young people carried out by the Peace Alliance.</p> <p>Members enquired about the legal drug, Khat, the usage of which was prevalent within the Somali community. Members of the committee were informed that the government had been lobbied with regards to its proscription.</p> <p>In response the question 70% of Planning Enforcement cases were unsuccessful, Officers explained that large numbers of 'phase 1' cases, those being over 4 years old, were closed at the start of the project with a number of 'phase 2' (those less than 4 years old) also being closed. The percentage rate was however much better for 'phase three' cases, those that being dealt with as they arose rather than as part of a backlog.</p> <p>In response to concern over safety on buses, Members were informed that a Safer Transport Team had been launched two months ago, and that input on experience of bus usage on the borough would be welcomed by the Cabinet Member.</p> <p>Members were informed that bicycles for wardens were not currently being utilised as much as they could, but this was expected to improve when the warden headquarters moved to a new location.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That Officers investigate the possibility of surveying ward Councillors on their experience of bus usage in the borough.</li><li>2. That the answers and briefing be noted.</li></ol>
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<b>OSCO56.</b>	<p><b>HORNSEY HOSPITAL UPDATE</b></p> <p>Councillor Davies declared a personal interest in respect of this item on account of him being an employee of the Healthcare Commission.</p> <p>Helen Brown of the Primary Care Trust provided to the committee an update on current developments in relation to the Hornsey Hospital project.</p> <p>The committee learned that preliminary work on the site was already taking place, with an estimated completion date of March 2009. A newsletter was currently being worked on, with the intention to liaise with the Council on its distribution.</p> <p>Members raised concerns on the breaking up of the GP networks, particularly in relation to the transport for those attending the polyclinics. The PCT stated that they recognised that transport was a concern, and that work would be done on this topic, with input from the Council welcomed.</p> <p>In terms of further forums available for dialogue between the PCT and relevant groups as the project progressed, the PCT stated that they were in the process of making links with the appropriate bodies. The HSP and the Well-Being Partnership Board were also suggested as forums for engagement.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That the Hornsey Hospital Communications Strategy be brought before a future meeting of the committee upon its completion.</li><li>2. That the update be noted.</li></ol>
<b>OSCO57.</b>	<p><b>CLOSURE OF CONTINUING CARE BEDS AT ST ANN'S HOPITAL - CONSULTATION BY BARNET, ENFIELD AND HARINGEY MENTAL HEALTH TRUST</b></p> <p>Councillor Davies declared a personal interest in respect of this item on account of him being an employee of the Healthcare Commission.</p> <p>Alan Beaton from the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust addressed the committee on the proposal to close the Pine Ward at St. Ann's Hospital.</p> <p>It was noted that the facility currently had fifteen empty beds, with the facility currently being used for delayed discharge beds. It was stated that the closure of the Pine Ward would allow for the required refurbishment of the Green Trees unit.</p> <p>David Hendell of the Patient Public Involvement Forum addressed the committee stating their support of the proposals, allowing as they did</p>

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	<p>for future refurbishment of facilities at the hospital. The Mental Health Trust stated that the usage of the savings gained by the closure had still to be determined, although they were keen to address gaps in demands in services for Older People and Communities. Any re-investment of savings from the changes in community services in the borough would be raised in discussions between Haringey Council, the PCT and the Mental Health Trust. The Council was assured that the proposals bore no cost to the London Borough of Haringey.</p> <p>The committee agreed that the changes did not constitute a substantial variation to services, and thanked and the Patient Public Involvement Forum for their representations.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the committee be informed on the proposed usage for savings arising from the closure.</li> <li>2. That the committee note that the changes as set out in the report to not constitute a Substantial Variation to services.</li> </ol>
<p><b>OSCO58.</b></p>	<p><b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROGRESS REPORT TO THE REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF ESTATE PARKING</b></p> <p>This report updated the committee on the response to the report of the Scrutiny Review of Estate Parking.</p> <p>Officers updated Members on current developments, including the Visitor Parking scheme which was shortly to be phased in, as well as the upcoming re-tendering of the estate parking contract. Officers stated that they were happy with the current contract and that current complaints levels were low.</p> <p>Councillor Bevan congratulated Homes for Haringey on their responses to his recent enquiries, and requested that parking permits be made available for purchase at Customer Service Centres. Officers responded that the lack of facility for holding cash currently prevented this, but that that plans were being drawn-up to place kiosks in Service Centres in the near future, enabling permits to be purchased in these locations.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the committee note the progress to date as set out in the report.</li> </ol>
<p><b>OSCO59.</b></p>	<p><b>RAISING THE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT OF CHILDREN IN CARE IN HARINGEY</b></p> <p>Councillor Jones declared a personal interest in respect this item, in that she was a Member of the Children and Young People's Consultative Committee.</p> <p>The committee received this report into the feasibility of a full scrutiny</p>

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	<p>review on Raising the Education Achievements of Looked After Children.</p> <p>Officers reported on a number of developments with regards to raising attainment, including a successful pilot mentoring scheme, expressing a desire that Council Members become mentors in the next year of the scheme. They also responded to Member queries regarding the usage of private companies, stating that since the deregulation of services to Children in Care meant that these were provided by a mixture of in-house, voluntary sector and private providers.</p> <p>In light of the current workload of Scrutiny Members, it was agreed that the possibility of a review on this topic be included during the selection process for the next programme of Reviews.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That a review on this topic be considered during the selection of the next programme of Scrutiny Reviews.</li><li>2. That the recommendations as set out in the report be agreed.</li></ol>
<p><b>OSCO60.</b></p>	<p><b>CONSULTATION STRATEGY</b></p> <p>The committee received an update on the Council's consultation strategy, detailing developments since strategy's adoption in 2002. The committee was also shown a demonstration of the consultation system currently available on the Council's website.</p> <p>Members thanked Officers for their demonstration, and were assured that although the website was an important tool of communication, it was not the only means by which residents of the borough were engaged.</p> <p>In response to an enquiry about bringing all consultation in-house with a dedicated consultation team, Officers cited budget implications together with the desire of individual departments to keep control of their consultations as a reason for not progressing in this direction. Individual departments were able to use their expertise in their given areas to carry out full consultations, with support as necessary from the Consultation Team.</p> <p>Members pressed the need for the managing of expectation with regards to consultation, stressing that it was a mechanism for the Council to listen to the view of residents. Members noted that the Consultation team were reviewing the way in which CPZ consultations were carried out with an eye to future projects, and welcomed Member input on this topic. Members also agreed to visit the consultation website and feedback their experiences to Officers.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p>

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Members visit the current consultation website and feedback to Officers on their experience.</li> <li>2. That Members comments at the meeting be forwarded onto Officers.</li> <li>3. That the draft revised consultation strategy be distributed to Members for their comments.</li> <li>4. That the report be noted.</li> </ol>
<p><b>OSCO61.</b></p>	<p><b>HEALTHCARE FOR LONDON: A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION - CONSULTATION BY NHS LONDON/ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>Councillor Davies declared a personal interest in respect of this item on account of him being an employee of the Healthcare Commission.</p> <p>The committee received a report on the consultation process for the Healthcare for London: A Framework for Action report by NHS London and agreed in principle Haringey's participation in a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to examine the report in detail.</p> <p>Members learned that approximately half of London boroughs had signed up to the Joint Committee thus far, with more expected soon. The size of the committee allowed only one Member per Council; for Haringey this would be Councillor Bull, with a Liberal Democrat Member of the committee as his nominated deputy.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That recommendation 3 be amended so a Liberal Democrat Member of the committee be Councillor Bull's nominated deputy on the Joint Committee.</li> <li>2. That, subject to the above, the recommendations in the report be agreed.</li> </ol>
<p><b>OSCO62.</b></p>	<p><b>BARNET, ENFIELD AND HARINGEY MENTAL HEALTH TRUST/THE NORTH MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON APPLICATIONS FOR FOUNDATION STATUS - RESPONSE BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>Councillor Davies declared a personal interest in respect of this item on account of him being an employee of the Healthcare Commission.</p> <p>The committee agreed the process for considering a response to the public consultations being undertaken by the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust and the North Middlesex Hospital on their applications for foundation status.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p>

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That the Scrutiny Review Panel be set up as stated in the report.</li><li>2. That the scope and terms of reference for the review be approved.</li></ol>
<b>OSCO63.</b>	<p><b>NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p><b>RESPONSE BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TO CONSULTATIONS ON THE HARINGEY PRIMARY CARE STRATEGY AND APPLICATION FOR FOUNDATION STATUS BY THE WHITTINGTON HOSPITAL</b></p> <p>The Chair agreed to admit this report as urgent business because the deadline for the consultations in question had passed and responses therefore needed to be submitted as soon as possible.</p> <p>Councillor Davies declared a personal interest in respect of this item on account of him being an employee of the Healthcare Commission.</p> <p>The committee received this report on progress with responses to NHS consultations on the Haringey Primary Care Strategy and the application for foundation status by the Whittington Hospital which were currently being undertaken by panels of Members set up by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>In view of the need to submit responses to the consultation before the next meeting of the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee on 3 December, the committee agreed to delegate authority to the Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Performance, Partnerships and Communication) to approve the final responses of each of the panels of members set up to consider the issues, in consultation with the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That the recommendations in the report be agreed.</li></ol>
<b>OSCO64.</b>	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007 be confirmed and signed.</li></ol>

COUNCILLOR GIDEON BULL

Chair



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