

**MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2010**

Councillors Councillors Bull (Chair), Adamou (Vice-Chair), Adje, Aitken, Mallett, Newton and Winskill

Apologies S. Marsh

Also Present: **Co-optees:** Y. Denny, H. Kania,
Councillors: Amin and Canver
Officers: Wayne Longshaw (A.D. Policy, Performance, Partnership & Communication (PPP&C)), Robin Payne (Head of Enforcement), Gerald Almeroth (Chief Financial Officer), Rowann Limond (Executive Director of Resources), Thara Raj (Implementation Consultant - NICE), Lisa Redfern (Assistant Director – Adult, Services), Rosie Green, (Housing Strategy and Partnerships Manager), Phil Harris (Assistant Director of Strategic & Community Housing), Joan Hancox (Head of Sustainable Transport), Sue Wilby (Interim Head of Customer Services), Patrick Lee (Neighbourhood Management Central Team), Rob Mack (Scrutiny Officer), Natalie Cole (Clerk)

**MINUTE
NO.**

SUBJECT/DECISION

OSCO38.	WEBCASTING The meeting was recorded for live or future broadcast on the Council's website.
OSCO39.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies for absence were received from Sarah Marsh, Parent Governor Co-optee.
OSCO40.	URGENT BUSINESS There were no items of urgent business.
OSCO41.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Councillors Bull and Winskill declared personal, non-prejudicial interests in item 14 – Budget Scrutiny – Housing Revenue Account, as they were Council property leaseholders.
OSCO42.	DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS There were no such items.
OSCO43.	ORDER OF AGENDA RESOLVED that the order of agenda be varied to accommodate people attending the meeting. The minutes will appear in the order in

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	<p>which they are shown on the agenda.</p>	
<p>OSCO44.</p>	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>RESOLVED that the minutes of the Budget Scrutiny meetings held on 23rd November 2009, 7th December 2009 and 16th December 2009 be confirmed as correct records of the meetings.</p> <p>The Committee asked that the actions arising from the previous budget meetings be followed up.</p>	
<p>OSCO45.</p>	<p>CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS: CABINET MEMBER FOR ENFORCEMENT AND SAFER COMMUNITIES</p> <p>The Committee received the portfolio briefing for the Enforcement and Safer Communities and Planning Policy, presented by Councillor Canver (Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities), Wayne Longshaw (Assistant Chief Executive -Policy, Performance, Partnership & Communication (PPP&C)) and Robin Payne (Head of Enforcement).</p> <p>In response to questions the Committee noted that there were links between agencies such as the Anti-Social Behaviour Action Team (ASBAT) and the Children and Young People Service, the Youth Offending Service (YOS) and the Prevention Team, who referred clients to the ASBAT Parenting Service and the Head of Safer Communities for Haringey sat on Local Authority partnership and other multi-agency boards.</p> <p>The Committee requested copies of the evaluation of the Preventing Violent Extremism programme.</p> <p>The Committee requested a briefing note on the role of Community Volunteers (CVs), and which CVs covered which wards, be sent to all Members of the Council and that briefings also be provided to the Council's Neighbourhood Area Assembly meetings.</p> <p>Councillor Canver recognised the Committee's concerns about the Council's enforcement costs and explained that the Head of Enforcement had been recently liaising with courts to resolve reimbursement issues and Councillor Canver would be writing to the relevant person responsible for courts in London to highlight the poor return of costs awarded at court.</p> <p>The Committee welcomed the Council's plans for a campaign against dog-fouling in public places and requested a timeframe for the campaign.</p> <p>Councillor Canver highlighted the joint working between the different agencies and assured the Committee that there was a representative from each agency (i.e. Children's Services, Youth Offending Team, Community Safety, Police) on the relevant Haringey Partnership</p>	

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	<p>boards and sub-committees.</p> <p>Councillor Canver informed the Committee that she would speak with Ward Councillors for feedback on the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be noted.</p>	
<p>OSCO46.</p>	<p>NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE (NICE)</p> <p>The Committee received a presentation from Thara Raj, Implementation Consultant for the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) an organisation funded by the Department of Health. The Committee noted that the guidance made specific recommendations for the community and voluntary sector regarding engaging with the public.</p> <p>The Committee asked that support from NICE be provided during consultations about the future of the Whittington Hospital. Ms Raj explained that whilst NICE could not comment on local issues the organisation could assist in over-coming barriers to the implementation of new strategies and encourage the Committee to ask questions and provide evidence.</p> <p>The Committee noted that all guidance issued by NICE was updated during 3 to 5 year cycles (in addition to constant monitoring) and cost benefit analyses were undertaken for each recommendation within the guidance.</p> <p>The Committee invited the NICE Implementation Consultant to return to the Overview & Scrutiny for assistance with future scrutiny.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.</p>	
<p>OSCO47.</p>	<p>ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE</p> <p>The Committee received the report updating on the progress of the recommendations made in the Overview and Scrutiny Review of Access to Services for Older People, April 2008, introduced by Lisa Redfern, Assistant Director – Adult Services.</p> <p>The Committee asked how the service monitored the Direct Payments system to ensure that users did not spend funds inappropriately and noted that each direct payment bank account was audited by the care manager and a direct payment could be reprieved if required. With regard to Personalisation, the Committee noted that all staff were being trained to ensure the programme ran well and was monitored properly.</p> <p>The Committee asked for confirmation that that the Cabinet had written to the Department of Health to encourage more funding to allow the Council to support the low and moderate bandings of Fair Access to Care Services in line with the well-being agenda.</p>	

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	<p>The Committee emphasised the importance of sustainable transport services for older people (recommendation 15) and that current systems were inflexible and often did not turn up when ordered. The Assistant Director – Adult Services advised members that organisations such as Dial-A-Ride, Taxi-Cars and Computer Cabs were accountable to Transport for London and the Mayor of London.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be noted and the update to the initial recommendations set during the Overview & Scrutiny review of Access to Services for Older People at Appendix 1 of the report be agreed.</p>	
<p>OSCO48.</p>	<p>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK - DELIVERY PLAN</p> <p><i>Clerk's note: Councillor Bull left the meeting room and Councillor Adamou (Vice-Chair) took over as Chair of the meeting at 20:25 hrs.</i></p> <p>The Committee received the report on Haringey's Community Engagement Framework and Delivery Plan presented by Helena Pugh, Head of Policy, and Kirsty Fox, Strategy and Policy Officer.</p> <p>The Committee noted that 700 voluntary and community sector groups had been consulted as well as notifications in Haringey People (inviting individuals to comment). 157 written responses had been received during the two phases of consultation.</p> <p>The Committee asked that small local businesses were included in future community engagement exercises.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be noted.</p> <p><i>Clerk's note: Councillor Bull resumed chairmanship at 20:35 hrs.</i></p>	
<p>OSCO49.</p>	<p>HOUSING STRATEGIES - UNDER OCCUPANCY AND MOVE-ON</p> <p>The Committee received the progress report on the development of Haringey's Move-on Strategy and Overcrowding and Under-occupation Strategy, introduced by Rosie Green, Housing Strategy and Partnerships Manager and Phil Harris, Assistant Director of Strategic & Community Housing.</p> <p>In response to its questions the Committee noted that relevant literature and details of consultations on the Move-On Strategy and responses were available on the Council's website (www.haringey.gov.uk), a consultation event would be held as well as advertising on a wider basis through the Council's Communications Department. Officers expressed disappointment that service providers had not commented on the strategies.</p> <p>The Committee enquired about the support provided to service users when they moved-on and were advised that key workers employed by</p>	

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	<p>the housing support providers supported service users in moving.</p> <p>The Committee noted that consultation on the Under-occupancy Strategy would begin after May 2010 and funding for the post of “Overcrowding and Under-occupancy officer” through Haringey’s Pathfinder scheme.</p> <p>The Committee asked for a ward-by-ward breakdown of where under-occupancy of properties occurred.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the progress being made in the development of these two strategies be noted.</p>	
<p>OSCO50.</p>	<p>PAVING OVER FRONT GARDENS - CROSSOVERS</p> <p>The Committee received the service report on paving over front gardens/ crossovers presented by Joan Hancox, Head of Sustainable Transport. The Committee noted the reduction in the number of applications to pave over front gardens and create crossovers over public footways in order to provide access to front garden parking.</p> <p>The Committee expressed concerns that the Council’s Enforcement Team erected bollards where unauthorised crossovers had been created, which were dangerous to pedestrians. The Head of Sustainable Transport explained that households were provided with three notices warning that bollards would be erected to prevent use of the crossover. If the crossovers were later authorised the bollards would be removed. If the crossover is refused the applicant would be re-charged for the installation of the bollards.</p> <p>In response to Committee Members’ questions the Head of Sustainable Transport advised that a crossover would be considered based on the amount of area available (minimum of 4.8 metres) and cars must not hang over the highway.</p> <p>Members supported the suggestion that restrictions can be put in place to prevent the approval of any crossovers in areas being considered for Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs).</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. That the report be noted. ii. That a referral be made to Cabinet suggesting that restrictions be put in place to prevent the approval of any crossovers in areas being considered for Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs). 	
<p>OSCO51.</p>	<p>CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS: CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY COHESION AND INVOLVEMENT</p> <p>The Committee received the portfolio briefing from Councillor Amin, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Involvement. Councillor Amin was joined by Sue Wilby, Interim Head of Customer</p>	

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	<p>Services, and Patrick Lee, Neighbourhood Manager).</p> <p>The Committee requested details of sites where <i>My Haringey</i> posters were displayed, feedback about the posters the Council had received and how the campaign would be evaluated and costings for continuing the campaign, which would be circulated.</p> <p>The Committee expressed concerns about self service telephony and whether it would be suitable for everyone and requested more detail about the rationale behind the proposals and details of the Equalities Impact Assessment.</p> <p>The Committee asked for clarification on whether there had been a restructure within the Customer Services teams and what the reporting lines currently were.</p> <p>The Committee asked whether there had been discussions about the future of Neighbourhood Management and was informed that new ways of working would be brought into the service including a review of neighbourhood assemblies.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the briefing be noted.</p>	
<p>OSCO52.</p>	<p>BUDGET SCRUTINY - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - RENTS</p> <p>The Committee received the report updating on the draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Financial Planning Position for 2010/11 presented by Gerald Almeroth, Chief Finance Officer, and Rowan Limond, Executive Director of Resources.</p> <p>The Committee noted that 86% of all Homes for Haringey properties would see a £1 or £2 increase or decrease in rent charges. Others will see a substantial decrease in rent charges due to new formulas. The Council would need to fund the £1.2 million shortfall in the budget as a result and this would be reimbursed in future years by Communities & Local Government (CLG) funding.</p> <p>In response to a question about whether leaseholders will also see reductions in charges the Executive Director of Resources explained that the charging system for leaseholders was</p> <p>Committee members expressed that they felt the Government's rules were contradictory; recommending an average rent increase and then placing "caps and limits" on individual rents. The Committee were informed that letters from the Council had been sent to the Housing Minister raising these and other concerns.</p> <p>Approximately 16,000 letters consulting on rent proposals were sent to tenants in Haringey. The Executive Director of Finance agreed to circulate the responses to the consultation to Committee Members.</p>	

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	<p>Executive Director of Finance agreed to circulate the responses to the rent proposals consultation with tenants.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be noted.</p>
OSCO53.	<p>NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There were no new items of urgent business.</p>
OSCO54.	<p>FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <p>8th March 2010 15th March 2010</p>

The meeting ended at 21:05 hrs.

COUNCILLOR GIDEON BULL

Chair

SIGNED AT MEETING.....DAY

OF.....

CHAIR.....