

**MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 5 JULY 2010**

Councillors Councillors Bull (Chair), Browne (Vice-Chair), Alexander, Basu, Ejiofor, Newton and Winskill

Also Present: **Co-optees:** Helena Kania (Local Involvement Network (LINK)), Sarah Marsh (Parent Governor Representative) and Marcelle Jemide (Parent Governor Representative), Yvonne Denny (Church Representative)
Councillors: The Leader and Councillor Bevan
Officers: Kevin Crompton (Chief Executive), Stuart Young (Assistant Chief Executive People, Organisation & Development), Mark Dorfman (Assistant Director for Planning, Regeneration and Economy), Phil Harris (Assistant Director of Strategic & Community Housing), Diana Edmonds (Assistant Director Culture, Libraries & Learning), Helena Pugh (Head of Policy), Rebecca Cribb (Policy Officer), (Trevor Cripps (Scrutiny Manager), Martin Bradford (Scrutiny Officer), Rob Mack (Scrutiny Officer), Natalie Cole (Committee Clerk)
 And Mark Lawrence (Network Development Manager, Post Office Ltd) and Sally Hopkins (Senior External Relations Manager, London & South East, Royal Mail Group)

**MINUTE
NO.**

SUBJECT/DECISION

OSCO01.	<p>WEBCASTING</p> <p>It was noted that the meeting was web-cast on the Council’s website.</p>
OSCO02.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies for lateness from Councillor Ejiofor were noted. There were no apologies for absence.</p>
OSCO03.	<p>AMENDMENTS TO CO-OPTEE MEMBERSHIP</p> <p><u>Church of England representative</u></p> <p>The Committee noted the re-appointment of Yvonne Denny as Church of England co-opted member.</p> <p><u>Parent Governor representatives</u></p> <p>The Committee noted that Joseph Ejiofor was no longer a co-opted member of the Committee. Elections for a replacement Parent Governor were in progress.</p> <p>The Chair took the opportunity to thank the previous year’s Overview & Scrutiny Committee members for their work in the 2009/10 municipal year.</p>
OSCO04.	<p>URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There were no urgent items.</p>

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<p>OSCO05.</p>	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>Councillors Bull and Winskill declared personal interests in Item 7 – The Leader’s briefing – as they were Council leaseholders.</p>
<p>OSCO06.</p>	<p>DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS</p> <p>There were no such items.</p>
<p>OSCO07.</p>	<p>ORDER OF AGENDA</p> <p>RESOLVED to vary the order of the agenda to accommodate those persons present at the meeting. The minutes will be in the order in which items appear on the agenda.</p>
<p>OSCO08.</p>	<p>CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS - THE LEADER</p> <p>The Committee received the Leader’s briefing on the Cabinet priorities for 2010/11, advance questions submitted by members and written responses. The Leader introduced the briefing and emphasised the unprecedented challenge of budget cuts of approximately £8 million and capital spending cuts. In response to questions the Leader informed the Committee that the Comprehensive Spending Review in October would provide firm details of the cuts.</p> <p>The following was noted further to supplementary questions:</p> <p>Re. Q6.The Leader confirmed that “site plans” within the Local Development Framework related to the site strategy and not the cessation of services.</p> <p>Re. Q7. The Leader confirmed that the Council’s arms length management organisations such as Homes for Haringey were required to meet efficiency targets.</p> <p>Re. Q10. The Assistant Director for Planning, Regeneration and Economy reported that, as funds were received more electric vehicle charging points would be installed across the borough starting with council-owned car parks. There were currently 30 charging points and the use of these would be monitored. Electric vehicle charging points were also being included as part of planning conditions for new developments.</p> <p>Re. Q14. The Committee expressed concerns that the Council did not have the powers to enforce recycling by shops and licensed premises. The Assistant Director of Planning, Regeneration and Economy explained that the Council currently had no powers to force businesses to buy collection services from providers who recycled rather than send to land fill. However strategically the North London Strategic Waste Authority was probably best placed to encourage waste collection companies to recycle business waste if they did not</p>

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already do so. It was reported that the Council had started sending information on new recycling and waste storage initiatives to local businesses.

A briefing note would be provided to members on what measures could be taken to encourage and coerce licensed and other business premises and their waste collection and disposal company to recycle appropriate business waste.

Re. Q15. The Committee requested a briefing note on how effective the car club scheme was, particularly in deterring residents from purchasing their own cars and whether provision was made for people who only drove automatic vehicles and what percentage of users this was. The Leader advised that there were plans to develop the car club scheme further to ensure that all residents would be within walking distance from a car pick-up point.

Re. Q16. The Leader advised the Committee that severe financial constraints on Transport for London budgets may mean a reduction in buses in Haringey.

Re. Q20. The Leader emphasised the importance of the government giving local authorities more power to regulate the licensing of premises. Work was being conducted in Haringey to reduce the number of fast food premises near schools.

Re. Q26. Committee members emphasised that pressure needed to be put on the PCT to ensure that all residents had access to polyclinics in future. It was noted that the provision of health services for the future could change further to a forthcoming government white paper on health policy.

Re. Q30 The Committee requested a briefing note from the Chief Executive giving more information on the integrated leadership model for the strengthening of joint working and integration of Haringey Council and NHS Haringey including details on equalities.

Re. Q41. The Committee highlighted the discrepancy in the PCT's and the Council's estimations of the population of Haringey (285k and 225k respectively). The Chief Executive agreed to provide formula and figures detailing the loss of resources to the Council (per ten thousand residents) as a result of the difference.

Re: Q42. The Committee noted that under new legislation to be issued in 2011/12 the Council will be financially penalised for wasting energy.

The Committee noted that green flag status had been obtained for all 16 parks managed by LB Haringey.

In response to the Committee questioning what the Council's policy on annual bonuses for teaching and non-teaching staff was, the Leader stated that teaching staff payments were dealt with by individual

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	<p>schools within their budgets. It was noted that the Council did not pay bonuses for non-teaching staff.</p> <p>In response to the Committee asking if the adverse judgement in the Wards Corner appeal had wider implications as to how decisions were made, and strategies developed across the Council, the Leader stated that the judgement had not been solely about council processes but had been clear that a specific community had been affected by the Wards Corner development, therefore the Race Relations Act had been engaged.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. That the report on the priorities for 2010/11 as determined by the Cabinet be noted.ii. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's active participation in research and policy through its formal reviews and consideration of the Forward Plan be confirmed.
<p>OSCO09.</p>	<p>COMMUNITY STRATEGY UPDATE</p> <p>The Committee received the Sustainable Community Strategy Summary Progress Report setting out the progress made against the outcomes in Haringey's Sustainable Community Strategy, introduced by Helena Pugh (Head of Policy) and Rebecca Cribb (Policy Officer).</p> <p>The Committee noted the advance questions and written responses and that the Council's target of reducing carbon emissions by 40% was 2020 (Q2).</p> <p>The Committee asked for details on the progress of making "the voluntary sector an integral part of local problem solving through the Area Based Working initiative" in the People and Customer Focussed section of the strategy (page 28 of agenda pack).</p> <p>The Committee asked when Haringey was expected to meet the national average target for GCSE results (page 22 of agenda pack).</p> <p>The Committee requested a briefing note detailing what the Clean Sweep programme was. The Assistant Director for Planning, Regeneration and Economy reported that the Council was currently in procurement negotiations to include Clean Sweeps as part of the cleaning contract. Committee members expressed that the Council should not be paying for additional Clean Sweeps, which might not be required if cleaning contracts were correctly followed.</p> <p>In response to its concerns the Committee was assured that the new Heartlands School would open in September 2010 for year 7 pupils. The autism unit at the school would not open until 2011.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Summary Progress Report be noted.</p>

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OSCO10.	<p>LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORK (LINK) ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10</p> <p>The Committee received the Annual Report of the Local Involvement Network (LINK) for 2009/10.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the contract for the host organisation for the LINK – the Shaw Trust - was managed by the Council’s Voluntary Sector Team and that grant funding from the Department of Health was not ring-fenced. A portion of the funding for the LINK was retained to fund contract management. The Committee requested a breakdown of this.</p> <p>In response to questions from members, Ms Kania explained that LINK had rejected the single place offered on the Board for the North Central London reconfiguration of health services as this was felt not to be adequate representation for LINK services from Haringey, Enfield and Barnet; at least one member from each local area was required.</p> <p>The above comments would be sent to the Director and the Cabinet Member for Adult & Community Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Local Involvement Network (LINK) Annual Report and the good work of LINK be noted.</p>
OSCO11.	<p>POST OFFICE CLOSURES</p> <p>The Committee received the follow-up report on the Scrutiny Review of Post Office Closures, introduced by Martin Bradford, Scrutiny Officer. The Chair thanked all those involved in the review and highlighted an email he had received from David Lammy MP highlighting that he was lobbying for a pillar box to be provided at Broadwater Farm further to the closure of the local Post Office.</p> <p>The Post Office Ltd was represented by Mark Lawrence, Network Development Manager and Sally Hopkins, Senior External Relations Manager, London & South East, Royal Mail Group.</p> <p>Ms Hopkins explained that if a pillar box was on private property the owner of the property could apply to have the box removed and other locations would be considered to ensure ease of access for Royal Mail staff and taking any underground utility services and street furniture into account. Planning permission was required for the installation of pillar boxes.</p> <p>The Committee asked for the rationale behind Post Office closures and whether future closures were planned. It was reported that access (or how far people were willing to travel to a Post Office) had been a main criteria (national and local consultation had been conducted) as well as financial viability; 90% of Post Offices were run by independent businesses which had to pay the £40k cost of setting-up the Post Office. There were no further closures planned for</p>

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	<p>Haringey as the Post Office network was considered adequate for Haringey's need.</p> <p>Committee members expressed concerns that the closures presented access difficulties for some residents and resulted in longer queues at remaining Post Offices. The Committee asked that every counter at Wood Green and Crouch End Post Offices be opened during opening hours and noted that Wood Green's self-service counter would open soon, without cuts to staffing levels.</p> <p>The Chair asked Post Office representatives to look into the provision of a postal pillar box at the bottom of Compton Crescent off the Great Cambridge Road.</p> <p>It was noted that £30 million of government funding was intended to support the small businesses to run the Post Offices. In response to the Committee's question on whether a successful business could open a Post Office it was noted that there would have to be a need for the Post Office and the impact on surrounding Post Office branches would be a consideration.</p> <p>Councillor Bevan, Cabinet Member for Housing, emphasised that such long queues and poor standards in Post Offices were unacceptable.</p> <p>The Committee asked if an Equalities Impact Assessment had been conducted before the closure of Post Offices nationally. The Senior External Relations Manager – Post Office Ltd informed members that a socio-economic impact assessment had been conducted as part of consultation and she would look into what information from this assessment could be shared with the Committee.</p> <p>An informal Post Office Working Group would be established to look at local Post Office performance issues including queuing times.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">i. That the comments raised by Members of the Committee and responses provided by the Post Office be noted.ii. That the Chair and Councillors Alexander, Ejiolor and Newton form a Working Group to look at local Post Office performance issues including queuing times.
OSCO12.	<p>BREAST SCREENING REVIEW REPORT</p> <p>The Committee received the report on the scrutiny review of breast screening services, introduced by Councillor Winskill (Chair of the Review Panel) and Martin Bradford (Scrutiny Officer).</p> <p>The Committee noted that the uptake of breast screening services in Haringey was low and more problematic in the east of the borough. Some of the recommendations had already been progressed including</p>

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	<p>the screening invite letter being available in other languages. The Committee would receive an update next year.</p> <p>Thanks were given to all involved in the review.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Review report on Breast Screening Services be agreed.</p>
<p>OSCO13.</p>	<p>JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p> <p>The Committee received the report requesting the appointment of two Overview & Scrutiny Committee members, plus a deputy, to join the Joint Committee to consider the North Central London (NCL) Services and Organisation Review.</p> <p>It was noted that the NCL Review had been put on hold, due to issues concerning sector-wide commissioning, to be resumed in the near future.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Councillors Gideon Bull and David Winskill would represent Haringey as members on the Joint Committee to consider the North Central London (NCL) Services and Organisation Review and that Councillor Joseph Ejiofor would be the deputy member.</p>
<p>OSCO14.</p>	<p>OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME</p> <p>The Committee received the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2010/11 and noted that it was a working document; subject to change.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's lead scrutiny role for the Haringey Strategic Partnership Theme Boards be maintained (as detailed at Appendix B), and that the nominations as detailed at Appendix C be adopted. ii. That the reports detailed in Appendix A be received by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. iii. That one topic for in-depth review from each theme board area be commissioned by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (chosen from the shortlist of topics shown at Appendix C) as well as Budget scrutiny.
<p>OSCO15.</p>	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2010 be confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.</p>

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OSCO16.	NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS There were no new items.
OSCO17.	FUTURE MEETINGS The Committee noted the future meeting dates.
OSCO18.	SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTIONS REQUESTED The Chair would pursue the outstanding actions.

The meeting ended at 20:50

COUNCILLOR GIDEON BULL

Chair

SIGNED AT MEETING.....DAY

OF.....

CHAIR.....