

## NOTICE OF MEETING

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Thursday, 17th March, 2022, 7.00 pm - Woodside Room - George Meehan House, 294 High Road, N22 8JZ (watch the live meeting: [Here](#), watch the recording [here](#))**

**Members:** Councillors Khaled Moyeed (Chair), Pippa Connor (Vice-Chair), Dana Carlin, Makbule Gunes and Matt White

**Co-optees/Non Voting Members:** Yvonne Denny (Co-opted Member - Church Representative (CofE)), Lourdes Keever (Co-opted Member - Church Representative (Catholic)), KanuPriya Jhunhunwala (Parent Governor representative) and Anita Jakhu (Parent Governor representative)

**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 receive Apologies

### 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 - 16)**

To agree the minutes of the meetings on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022, as a correct record

#### **7. MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL MEETINGS (PAGES 17 - 54)**

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

- Children and Young People's – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021
- Adults and Health – 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020
- Environment and Community Safety – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021
- Housing and Regeneration – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021

#### **8. UNIVERSAL CREDIT**

Verbal update.

#### **9. UPDATE ON THE FAIRNESS COMMISSION (PAGES 55 - 74)**

- 10. SCRUTINY REVIEW INTO CHILD POVERTY (PAGES 75 - 102)**
- 11. SCRUTINY REVIEW ON THE FUTURE OF SEVEN SISTERS MARKET (WARDS CORNER)**  
  
To follow
- 12. SCRUTINY REVIEW - ADULT SOCIAL CARE COMMISSIONING & CO-PRODUCTION**  
  
To follow
- 13. SCRUTINY REVIEW - HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN SHELTERED HOUSING**  
  
To follow
- 14. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (PAGES 103 - 130)**
- 15. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**
- 16. A.O.B.**
- 17. FUTURE MEETINGS**  
  
None

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Wednesday, 09 March 2022

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## **MINUTES OF MEETING Overview and Scrutiny Committee HELD ON Thursday, 20th January, 2022, 7.00 - 10.20 pm**

### **PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Khaled Moyeed (Chair), Pippa Connor (Vice-Chair),  
Dana Carlin, Makbule Gunes and Matt White**

### **ALSO ATTENDING:**

#### **42. 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.

#### **43. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for Absence were received from Anita Jakhu, Kanupriya Jhunhunwala, Lourdes Keever and Yvonne Denny.

#### **44. URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

#### **45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

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

None.

#### **47. MINUTES**

The Committee noted that, contrary to the previous minutes, Cllr White was present at the meeting of the 29<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 were agreed as a correct record, subject to the above amendment.

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

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the following Scrutiny Panels were received and approved and any recommendations contained within were also approved:

Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel 15 November 2021

Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2021

**49. SCRUTINY OF THE 2022/23 DRAFT BUDGET / 5 YEAR MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (2022/23-2026/27)**

The Panel considered and commented on the Council's 2022/23 Draft Budget / 5-year Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 – 2026/27. The papers were introduced by John Warlow –Director of Finance as set out in the agenda pack at pages 51-146 of the agenda pack. Along with a cover report the budget papers included the following appendices:

- Appendix A – Recommendations put forward on the budget by the four Scrutiny Panels (and the Scrutiny Committee in respect of Your Council).
- Appendix B – 2022/23 Draft Budget & 2021/26 Medium Term Financial Strategy Report (presented to Cabinet 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020)
- Appendix 1– Summary of General Fund Revenue 2021/22 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2026-2027
- Appendix 2 – 2022/23 New Revenue Budget Proposals
- Appendix 3 – Agreed Revenue Savings 2022-26
- Appendix 4 – Proposed 2022/23-2026/27 Capital Programme
- Appendix 5 - 2022/23 New Capital Budget Proposals
- Appendix 6 – Budget Consultation Plan

The Director of Finance gave a short introduction to the Committee. The key points were:

- The Director of Finance set out that this was a different budget to normal as the process was taking place in a very different climate, given the pandemic and the impact it had on how services were being delivered.
- There was an election coming up in May and the manifesto commitments for the political parties would drive a refresh of the Borough Plan.
- Local government funding had been in a position of stasis for some time. In light of provisional local government funding announcements, the Committee was advised that there was an expectation that funding would become more needs driven and reflect the levelling up agenda.
- The Committee was advised that the budget had been underwritten with a £10m reserve held to mitigate budget savings requirements.
- There were no new savings proposals in the budget, for the first in many years. Some degree of a step up in savings may be required for the following year.

- There was a significant amount of growth funding included in the budget (circa £12m).
- An updated budget report was due to be agreed by Cabinet in February and then Full Council on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

The following arose during the discussion of the Council's 2022/23 Draft Budget / 5-year Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 – 2026/27:

- a. The Committee sought assurances around the extent to which officers were confident in the ability to deliver a balanced budget. In response, officers advised that the growth proposals were made possible by increased government funding. The budget before the Committee was a multi-year financial model as the funding requirements were ongoing. The Council had made an assumption that the level of grant funding was ongoing, albeit there was some degree of uncertainty around this. The government's Spending Review 21 set out some additional funding for local authorities. In summary, the Director of Finance advised that he was pretty sure of the budget envelope for next year but that there was some degree of uncertainty for years two and three onwards.
- b. The Committee enquired whether there was any other use of reserves being considered at this point. Officers advised that the main use of reserves was the partial use of the £10m budget reserve, no corporate reserves were being used beyond this. The updated budget report going to Cabinet in February would contain more details on the use of reserves. The Cabinet Member for Finance echoed these comments, advising that he did not envisage additional reserves being used.
- c. The Committee raised concerns about the fact that both interest rates and inflation rates were rising and that there seemed to be little surety as to the extent of these rises. In light of almost £2 billion on borrowing, the Committee sought assurances that the authority would be able to manage this debt. In response, officers advised that this was something that was being looked at and the need for an appropriate and robust financial strategy to manage this risk was acknowledged.
- d. Officers acknowledged that the inflation rate was a key source concern in the medium term and that provision around inflation had been stepped up in the budget, in recognition of disconcerting inflationary forecasts (some estimates were as high as 6-8%). The updated budget report to Cabinet would reflect increasing inflation forecasts and the work being done around this. In contrast, it was suggested that interest rates were less of a pressing concern in the medium term, given that most of this related to schemes and debts that the authority had already taken out, at a fixed interest rate. Increases in interest rates would only impact new borrowing. The Director of Finance advised that modest interest rate increases were anticipated over the course of the MTFS, but that these increases were not at the same level as inflation. It was suggested that in general, the Bank of England was reticent to increase interest rates due to the impact on homeowners and businesses.
- e. The Cabinet Member for Finance advised that the Council's Treasury Management Strategy looked at this issue and that the Council has an external

- Treasury Management advisor, Arlingclose, who had provided the Council with a high level of support and had also provided accurate predictions to date. Cllr Diakides advised that external risk factors, such as inflation and interest rate rises had been factored into the budget assumptions as much as they could be.
- f. In response to a question around factoring in the impact of Covid, officers set out that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which was amended to bring in a higher discretionary rate for families with children a couple of years ago, was forecast at the same level across the duration of the budget. The Budget also contained a revision downwards of the extent to which the Council expected to collect business rates and Council Tax.
  - g. The Committee sought assurances around the risk of slippages in the budget. In response, officers advised that the delivery of savings had been impacted this year and that officers had been focused on meeting new levels of need. An update on slippages would be included in the report to Cabinet in February.
  - h. In response to a question, officers advised that if Covid related grants were removed from the equation, then the general level of reserves felt consistent over the two year period. In relation to the ability to increase the Council's reserves, officers advised that sometimes there were opportunities that arose to do so. However, the Director of Finance set out that even without reinforcing those reserves he was confident that the budget was robust enough.
  - i. The Cabinet Member for Finance advised the Committee that the Council had sought to try and balance demand led budgets and to try and find better ways of investing to save, in order to achieve a realistic and achievable budget.
  - j. The Committee agreed to put forward a couple of recommendations on the wider MTFS and strategic financial position. The first was assurances from Cabinet around the potential for slippage in savings and additional pressures on the growth budget. The second was assurances around the costs to the revenue budget (£29.3m in 2027) from increasing capital borrowing costs and how this risk would be mitigated. Would additional savings be required to offset these costs?
  - k. The Committee sought clarification around the Your Council capital allocation for the Civic Centre Annex. The Committee sought further assurances around the breakdown of the financial assumptions used, particularly in relation to the borrowing versus self-financing elements. In response, officers advised that option 2 was predicated on investing in an annex to the refurbishment of the Civic Centre, to provide additional office accommodation for Council staff. This option also required a level of spend to renovate Alex House to make it fit for commercial letting. The self-financing element of the proposal related to income derived from letting out Alex House and rationalising council office accommodation on Station Road. Officers advised that the revenue figures for this option were commensurate with the level of investment into Alex House and they were realistic. option 1, however related to a level of spend on Alex House for staff offices, to get it to a like for like comparison with the Civic. However, by not building the annex, the Council would lose the revenue stream from letting out Alex House.
  - l. In relation to the £35m figure and where this came from, officers advised that this was based on a professional assessment that was undertaken. The



- Committee was assured that all the debt costs were covered by the scheme and that it was self-financing.
- m. The Cabinet Member assured the Committee that a detailed cost analysis had been undertaken in the Cabinet report and that option 2 would allow the Council to release other buildings or use them in different ways. No final decision had been made. Cabinet were satisfied that the financial assumptions were robust.
  - n. In relation to the savings tracker and how the RAG status was profiled, officers advised that the profile of savings would differ from saving to saving for a particular year. The tracker included savings delivered to date as well as forecasting for the remainder of the year, in order to give the whole picture. An updated review of the savings tracker would be included in the upcoming Cabinet report.
  - o. The Committee also put forward the following recommendations in relation to the budget papers and the formatting thereof.
    - The need for reports to be written in such a way that cooptees and the public could easily understand them. The key areas of information should be pulled out of the MTFS report to Cabinet and included in the main body of the report to the relevant scrutiny panels.
    - The use of less technical language and explaining what terminology meant i.e. budget gaps.
    - A one to two page summary to be produced as part of the papers, which provided a summary of what was set out in the revenue and capital budgets. This should be at the start of the report.
    - The use of better indexing or use of sub-indexes on the PDF version of the papers, to make it easier to scroll through different sections.
    - That future budget briefings were orientated towards the MTFS and the papers being scrutinised, rather than a quarter 2 budget briefing.

The Committee went through the budget scrutiny recommendations at Appendix A of the report, put forward by the four scrutiny panels and the recommendations in relation to Your Council put forward by OSC at the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January. The following was put forward in relation to comments to Cabinet:

- a. The Committee commented that the Road Casualty Reduction new capital growth proposal, was not accurately titled and that a key part of the funding was around supporting modal shift to move people towards walking and cycling.
- b. The Committee requested a further response from Cabinet in relation to a breakdown of the Adults revenue budget and impact of previously agreed savings that were not met.
- c. The Committee agreed to strengthen the recommendation from the Adults Panel around aids and adaptations to add in that additional funding should be sought to provide additional occupational therapists staff to undertake visits to install the aids and adaptations. There was also an opportunity for greater partnership working with the health sector on this.

- d. The Committee requested a further response from Cabinet around the Osbourne Grove Nursing home capital budget allocation.
- e. The Committee agreed that it would like a response from Cabinet on the three recommendations from the Children's Panel.
- f. In relation to the Web and Self Service project new Capital bid within the Your Council budget, the Committee sought more details on what the improvements were going to be and what was meant by a new platform.
- g. In relation to the Civic Centre works, the Committee requested further information from Cabinet on the robustness of financial assumptions in relation to option 1 and option 2 and what the financial risks were of his decision. Further information was also requested around a breakdown of the borrowing versus self-financing elements of this scheme.
- h. A follow-up response was requested from Cabinet in relation to the Audits and Risk Management saving.
- i. The Committee also requested a follow up response from Cabinet in relation to the reduction in legal services support. Concerns were reiterated about the fact that a reduction in support staff would impact have a knock-on effect and result in other legal staff having to undertake administrative tasks.
- j. In relation to the Digital Together saving, the Committee requested further clarity on the breakdown of the £328k saving if only £90k was cashable. How would the remainder of the saving be recorded or quantified – where was this budget maintained and how would the rest of the £238k be accounted for? Further clarity was also sought on where the overall £750k saving would come from.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- a). Approved the final budget recommendations to be put to Cabinet on 8th February 2022, as outlined in Appendix A of the report.
- b). Noted the 2022/23 Draft Budget & 2022/27 Medium Term Financial Strategy Report, as presented to Cabinet 7th December 2021 (Appendix B of the report) and the proposals therein, as considered by the Scrutiny Panels and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in December 2021/January 2022.

## **50. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2022/23**

The Committee received a copy of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022/23 for comments, as set out in the agenda pack at page 147-172. The report was introduced by Tim Mpofo, Head of Pensions and Treasury.

\*Clerk's note at 21:51 – The Committee agreed to suspend Committee Standing Orders, in order to allow the meeting to continue past 22:00. The Committee agreed to a short adjournment in order to allow a comfort break\*.

\*22:00 – The meeting resumed\*

The following arose during the discussion of this agenda item:

- a. The Committee did not have any formal comments to put to Corporate Committee on the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.
- b. The Committee sought clarification around the borrowing and investment strategy and queried how much the authority was allowed to borrow and where this was set out in the report.
- c. The Panel also sought an update on the extent of LOBO loans that were still being used by the Council.
- d. The Committee sought clarification around the £0.1m listed as being lent to local residents and questioned what this £100k was for.
- e. The Committee also sought clarification over the authority's debt repayment strategy - whether it paid back capital as well as interest and whether it would seek to repay debt above the minimum payment terms in order to pay off the debt sooner.
- f. The Committee sought clarification as to what the total revenue impact on was from borrowing on both the General Fund and the HRA.
- g. Officers agreed to respond to these points in writing. **(Action: Tim Mpofu).**

## **RESOLVED**

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinised and provided comments on the proposed updated Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2022/23, prior to its presentation to Corporate Committee and Council for approval.

## **51. QUARTER 2 BUDGET UPDATE**

The Committee received a report which provide an update on budget monitoring as at Quarter 2 of the municipal year. The report was introduced by Thomas Skeen, AD for Finance as set out in the agenda pack at pages 173-222. The following arose during the discussion of the report:

- a. The Committee requested an update on the overspends contained in the budget monitoring report and enquired whether this was going to continue to increase in quarters two and three. In response, officers acknowledged that the pressures on demand led budgets were an area of concern and that more resources had been allocated to this area in the budget for next year. Officers acknowledged that despite the extra resources they could not give a firm assurance that the pressure on demand led budgets would reduce by year end.
- b. The Committee also sought assurances around the expectation on being able to achieve the savings for next year that were set out in the MTFS. Officers advised that delays in delivery of savings had taken place across different service areas, particularly as a result of the impact of the pandemic. The updated budget report to Cabinet in February would provide an updated assessment on the delivery of savings for next year.

- c. The Committee referred to Paragraph 6.2.2 of the report and sought clarification around the step up in demand for social care services since Q1 and the assertion that those pressures were not due to be met by the government. In response, officers advised that they could not give any specific assurances around the extent of that pressure at year end and whether it would exceed £20m. The report sought to highlight to Members that this pressure existed and should be considered as a risk.

**RESOLVED**

Noted.

**52. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

N/A

**53. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Committee noted the work programme and agreed any recommendations contained therein.

**54. FUTURE MEETINGS**

10<sup>th</sup> March 2022

CHAIR: Councillor Khaled Moyeed

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2022, 10.30 - 11.45am**

### **PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Khaled Moyeed (Chair), Pippa Connor (Vice-Chair), Dana Carlin and Matt White**

**Co-optees: Anita Jakhu**

### **55. 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'.

### **56. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Makbule Gunes, Lourdes Keever and KanuPriya Jhunhunwala.

### **57. 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.

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

None.

### **59. WHITTINGTON HEALTH - PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF WOOD GREEN HUB**

Cllr Khaled Moyeed introduced this item, noting that it concerned the proposed creation of a new health hub in Wood Green and that the aim of the meeting was for the Committee to consider the proposed consultation process including input from Scrutiny.

Jonathan Gardner, Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs at Whittington Health, introduced a presentation about the proposed health hub which covered the following points:

- The new health and wellbeing hub in central Wood Green would include primary care and other NHS services, as well as some Council services and voluntary sector services.
- The hub would be aligned with the localities work through the Haringey Borough Partnership. This was based on organising services around three localities (west, central and east) in the borough and co-ordinating and co-locating council services, primary care and the voluntary sector with a community feel.
- The main location option being explored was inside The Mall at Wood Green Shopping City though no decision had yet been taken and any other viable options would be considered. The aim was to find a new modern facility that was fit for purpose and would enable partnership working as part of an Integrated Care System along with improved accessibility and a group space that could be used by the community to improve their health. There would be an opportunity for close working with the new Community Diagnostic Hub that would be opening in The Mall in summer 2022.
- Two adult health hubs already existed in the borough. These were at the Hornsey Central in the west of the borough and Lordship Lane in the east so Wood Green would become the third hub located in the centre of the borough. There was also a new children's health hub at Tynemouth Road Health Centre. Primary care services were delivered at a wide range of locations across the borough and this would continue. The hubs were for services that were best delivered at fewer locations in conjunction with other services (such as clinics for podiatry, diabetes or leg ulcers).
- Adult services would be moved out of:
  - Bounds Green Health Centre;
  - Stuart Crescent Health Centre;
  - St Ann's Hospital.

This relocation would improve accessibility with good transport links to the central Wood Green area.
- Services would be co-located with Hornsey Wood Green GP Practice.
- As part of a pre-engagement exercise, 120 residents were asked if they would attend a healthcare appointment in central Wood Green and 94% (113 out of 120) said that they would. There was also strong support for integrated health and wellbeing hubs across the borough.

Faye Oliver, Communications and Engagement Lead at Whittington Health, then provided some details to the Committee about the proposed consultation timeline:

- It was proposed that the 12-week consultation period would begin on Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> February, ending on Wed 18<sup>th</sup> May.

- While the consultation would therefore run during the pre-election period, the intention was to carry out the larger engagement events before then, with smaller focus groups taking place during the election period.
- Data analysis would take place from Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> May to Sun 5<sup>th</sup> June.
- The Healthwatch Haringey Independent Evaluator would carry out analysis from Mon 6<sup>th</sup> June to Sun 19<sup>th</sup> June.
- Findings would then be shared with the OSC on the week commencing Mon 20<sup>th</sup> June.
- Engagement methods included writing to patients/service users from the past three years, workshops, surveys and drop-in sessions with staff, email contact to Wood Green stakeholders and contact with partner provider organisations and commissioners.

Cllr Moyeed noted the proposal in the officer report that a formal response to the consultation would be developed by the Adults & Health Scrutiny Panel and it was clarified that this draft response would then be referred back to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for approval.

Jonathan Gardner and Faye Oliver then responded to questions from Committee Members:

- Cllr White expressed concerns about possible difficulties with accessibility for some groups to the proposed new site for the hub. Jonathan Gardner said that the overall access to the Wood Green site would be much better because the catchment area for the services was for the whole of Wood Green and not just the areas to the north where services were currently located. However, issues of accessibility and transport links would be explored further during the consultation period.
- Asked by Cllr White about the current ownership of The Mall, Jonathan Gardner said that the current landlords were Capital & Regional. He confirmed that the sites of the services being moved to The Mall were currently owned by the Whittington Trust and BEH-MHT. He explained that the idea was to use the proceeds from selling the land at the old sites to be able to fund the refurbishment at the site at The Mall. Cllr White asked if the map of the sites shown on the slides could be circulated to the Committee. **(ACTION)** Cllr Connor expressed concerns about the shift to a private leasehold, including the potential cost and the risks and lack of control associated with leaseholder status. She asked for further details about the terms of the lease. Jonathan Gardner acknowledged that the length of the lease would be crucial but was unable to provide further details as negotiations were currently ongoing. He added that the financial modelling indicated that this proposal would be approximately cost neutral or slightly positive for the NHS. He undertook to provide more details to the Committee in writing in the coming weeks as this process progressed. **(ACTION)**

- Asked by Cllr Carlin what would happen to primary care services at Bounds Green, Jonathan Gardner said that there weren't any primary care services at the Bounds Green site but that the services that were provided there would move to the hub. He confirmed that no services would be reduced or downgraded as part of this move.
- Cllr Carlin asked what steps would be taken to consult with people for whom English was not their first language, people with mental health difficulties and people with literacy problems. Cllr Moyeed requested that a clear logical basis be used for selection of languages used for any translation, including the prevalence of languages spoken in the area. Faye Oliver said that translations would be made in accordance with the information held in the patient and service user lists. The Trust would also be proactively approaching established community network groups and this engagement could take place online or face-to-face. 'Easy read' translations would be made available to improve accessibility. Carers' networks would also typically be able to help reach vulnerable groups where necessary.
- Cllr Carlin asked whether mental health services being provided as long-term care through primary care services would be moved to the hub. She expressed concerns that people with serious mental health problems would not be able to access services at The Mall as it was too busy and hectic. Jonathan Gardner responded that this was an important point but noted that BEH-MHT would be co-designing their services. He said that the current thinking was that services would be split between St Ann's and The Mall so would be available at both sites. External access for patients to the hub at The Mall was also an important requirement that would be prioritised.
- Cllr Carlin expressed concerns about the long-term future of the hub given that the demolition of The Mall/Shopping City had been mooted in the past. She suggested that other sites in the area owned by the Council/NHS could be more suitable. Jonathan Gardner said that there would be a lease that secured the space and so this was not anticipated to be a problem in the medium-term.
- Anita Jakhu commented that not all service users would be able to respond directly to the consultation, even if suitable translations were made, so it was therefore important to approach community groups. Cultural interpretation and issues of confidentiality would also be important factors. Jonathan Gardner confirmed that proactive approaches to community groups would be a part of the consultation process.
- Asked by Anita Jakhu what learning there had been in the consultations for the two existing hubs, Jonathan Gardner said that there the Hornsey and Lordship Lane hubs had been established some years ago and there may not have been any formal consultation at the time. However, there had been a consultation over the recently established children's services hub at Tynemouth Road and a lot was learned with changes to services made as a consequence of the views heard during that process.



- Asked by Anita Jakhu what engagement rate they expected to achieve as part of the consultation, Faye Oliver said that the highest response rate achieved as part of the Tynemouth Road consultation was 28% (podiatry) but the rate had been as low as 7% in other areas (nutrition & diet). The rate achieved this time would be likely to be within that range. There would however, be more opportunity for stakeholder and community feedback as the Tynemouth Road consultation had taken place almost entirely online due to the Covid restrictions in place at the time.
- Anita Jakhu asked if details of the questions that people would be asked could be provided to the Committee, Faye Oliver said that there were two surveys that could be provided, one of which was specific for patients and service users and one was for other stakeholders. **(ACTION)**
- Cllr Connor asked about access to podiatry services and the role of outreach clinics given that people with foot problems often experienced difficulties with transport. Jonathan Gardner acknowledged that this was an important point to be explored as part of the consultation to understand the accessibility needs of patients.
- Cllr Connor noted that the report summarising the themes from engagement activity referred to wider support to mental health including *“access to green space and other social determinants e.g. housing, employment”* and asked how this would be addressed as part of this proposal. Charlotte Pomery, Assistant Director for Commissioning at Haringey Council, said that the Council was having early conversations with BEH-MHT about the community offer and noted that Canning Crescent would be opening with an integrated mental health offer in May/June. This would be an opportunity to bring together a range of services through the crisis café. Thought needed to be given to how this would link to housing locally and with the mental health offer at Wood Green to make pathways as straightforward as possible for residents.
- Cllr Connor highlighted the importance of co-production and stakeholder involvement and asked whether a wider stakeholder engagement process, bringing community groups together under terms of reference similar to the Osborne Grove co-production, could be of benefit. Charlotte Pomery said that conversations were ongoing about how to make the co-production work as there was quite a wide range of services involved. She acknowledged that having an engagement group working throughout the delivery of the project as well as development could be very helpful as had happened with the Chad Gordon Autism Campus.
- Cllr Connor asked about the GP practice being brought into the hub, including how autonomous it would be and how accessible it would be to existing patients. Owen Sloman, Assistant Director at NHS Haringey, said that it was proposed that the Hornsey Wood Green GP Practice on Turnpike Lane be moved into The Mall. This practice had two GP partners who had taken over in June 2020 and its patient list size had grown by 49% since then, so was

outgrowing the building that it was in. The two GP partners were both local and one was also the lead GP at the West Green practice which was the only practice in North Central London to have an Outstanding overall rating with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Owen Sloman said that he had confidence in the GP partners in managing the change and building a practice with a strong and diverse leadership team. When the practice moved to The Mall it would operate under a GP contract but the partners were conscious of the need to work differently as part of an integrated hub. He acknowledged that patients who live further away would have longer journeys but noted that there were good bus connections and that there was also a new GP practice on Green Lanes as an alternative. In terms of consultation, HealthWatch had been commissioned and the first meeting of the patient and participation group had taken place recently. HealthWatch would shortly be carrying out a patient survey and focus groups aimed at vulnerable groups. Cllr Connor suggested that a further conversation with Hornsey Ward Councillors could be useful to understand any concerns about the proposed move. It was agreed that any concerns could be fed into this process. **(ACTION)**

- Cllr Moyeed requested that local Residents' Associations be included in the Stakeholder Survey referred to on page 25 of the supplementary agenda pack. **(ACTION)**

#### **RESOLVED –**

**That the process for considering proposed changes to local NHS services, as outlined in the Health Scrutiny guidelines, be noted;**

**That the Committee concurs with the view of NHS commissioners that the proposals are substantial in nature and require formal consultation;**

**That the Committee comment on the proposals by NHS commissioners for consultation with the public and patients on the proposed changes; and**

**That development of a formal response to the proposed changes to services by Whittington Health on behalf of Overview and Scrutiny be referred to the Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel for consideration after the forthcoming local government elections.**

CHAIR: Councillor Khaled Moyeed

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....



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## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON TUESDAY 4TH JANUARY 2022**

### **PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Makbule Gunes (Chair), Josh Dixon, Emine Ibrahim and Tammy Palmer**

**Co-opted Members: Lourdes Kever (Church representative), Anita Jakhu and KanuPriya Jhunjunwala (Parent Governor representatives)**

### **36. FILMING AT MEETINGS**

The Chair referred Members present to agenda item 1 in respect of filming at this meeting. Members noted the information contained therein.

### **37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chiriyankandath and James and Ms Denny.

### **38. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

### **39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

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

None.

### **41. MINUTES**

#### **AGREED:**

That the minutes of the meeting of 18 November 2021 be noted.

### **42. HARINGEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP - ANNUAL REPORT**

David Archibald, the Independent Chair, reported on the progress made by Haringey Safeguarding Children's Partnership since its inception. The new arrangements had been implemented from September 2019. There were now three agencies that were equally accountable for safeguarding children. These were the Council, the Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). This was a significant change and a lot of preparatory work had been necessary, including publication of what the new

arrangements were. There was a requirement for them to include independent scrutiny.

The partnership was required to produce an annual report. This was being prepared and would be available in due course. It would cover the eighteen month period between the implementation of the new arrangements and March 2021. The partnership had been developing well but the Covid pandemic had had a severe impact. The partnership had responded strongly to it and increased the frequency of its meetings to ensure that safeguarding was maintained and temporary arrangements put in place by agencies were shared with partners.

The partnership aimed to promote excellent joint working between partners and inspire public confidence. There was joint and equal accountability between statutory partners. The Council provided approximately 80% of the budget. In addition to the amounts in the budget, contributions in kind were also received from agencies. There had been 10,700 contacts in the previous year. The highest number of these had come from the Police. There had been 2,877 referrals, compared to 3,612 in the year before. Performance data was monitored to identify patterns and regular audits undertaken to promote challenge and learning. National guidelines were followed in respect of serious incidents. There were currently two Serious Case Reviews in progress. Reviews such as these were now to be replaced by Practice Reviews. When the Covid-19 pandemic had started, business continuity plans had been developed to ensure that children remained safeguarded. Major efforts were made to ensure that children were still seen. 33 multi-agency training events had been held during the year and the feedback from these had been positive.

There were three specific themes within the priorities for the forthcoming year. These were:

- Children living with mental health issues;
- Prevention and early intervention; and
- Older children in need of help and protection and contextual safeguarding, including exploitation.

The partnership would also be looking at the following with other strategic partnership boards:

- Transitional Safeguarding with the Safeguarding Adults Board;
- Neglect with the Early Help and Health & Wellbeing Boards; and
- Stop and Search with the Community Safety Partnership.

In answer to a question regarding whether the new arrangements were sufficiently robust yet to safeguard children effectively, Mr Archibald stated that the three strategic partners were now working more closely together than in the past. There was always room for improvement though. It was widely accepted that the best systems protected children by reducing levels of harm done but it was not possible to reduce this to zero. The partnership was learning from audits and feedback. The Covid-19 pandemic had proven to be a particularly challenging time as many children were not being seen in school due to lockdowns and some families were resistant to children being seen elsewhere.

In answer to another question, he stated that it had been suggested that schools should also be strategic partners. However, others had stated that it would be impossible to engage with them all. Sir Alan Wood had undertaken a review on this issue a year ago and had found that whilst schools had a crucial role to play, it was not possible for them all to be partners. Further consideration was nevertheless taking place on how best to involve schools.

Ann Graham, the Director of Children's Services, commented that this had been an issue that partners had grappled with for a long time. There were nevertheless strong structures within the Council for engaging with schools. These had been weekly at one stage but were now fortnightly. In addition, there were Headteacher representatives on the Safeguarding Board. It was accepted that more could be done to engage with school governing bodies and this was something that the Partnership would continue to look at. It was noted that school governing body chairs were now beginning to work more closely together.

In answer to a question regarding training for people working in the voluntary sector, Beverley Hendricks (Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Social Care) reported that the partnership provided a range of courses that were open to all. A number of these were targeted at the voluntary sector and the Council did not charge for these. She was happy to share further details of these, as required .

The Panel thanked Mr Archibald for attending and his contribution.

**43. SCRUTINY OF THE 2022/23 DRAFT BUDGET/5 YEAR MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (2022/23-2026/27)**

Josephine Lyseight, Head of Finance (People), reported that that the budget proposals for 2022/23 included growth spending of £11.8 million across the Council. There were also existing savings plans of £12 million, including £4.72 that concerned children and young people. Short term use of reserves had made the growth proposals possible. They assumed a Council Tax increase of 1.99% plus a 1% Adult Social Care precept. The funding for children and young people included social care grant funding.

The Quarter Two financial position showed a Council wide overspend of £23 million, £12.87 million of which was Covid related. The respective figures for Children and Young People (C&YP) were an overspend of £7 million, £3 million of which was from Covid. The Dedicated Schools Grant showed an overspend of £6.3 million. This key driver for this was the increased number of children with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. The proposals provided growth funding for C&YP of £4.172 million in 2022/23 and £5.376 million during the MTFS period. There were also savings of £1.679 million in 2022/23 and £2.039 million for the period as a whole. The capital budget included £92.9 for C&YP services during the MTFS period, which was funded by government grant and borrowing. There was one new scheme included within this, which was for a new in-borough residential care home, which would provide high quality provision at a lower cost. The projected year end deficit of the DSG was £23.9 million. The total within the DSG for the forthcoming year was £288.34 million.

Panel Members commented that the language that was used in the report to describe the reasons for the overspend in the High Needs Block of the DSG could be open to the misinterpretation that children with EHC plans were being blamed. An overspend was inevitable as SEN was inadequately funded by central government. It was demand led and the Council had a responsibility to deliver services.

Councillor Zena Brabazon, the Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children and Families, stated that the cause of the overspend was that there was insufficient funding from the government and there was no intention to blame families. The responsibility for providing support had been extended until the age of 25 for some young people but no additional funding had been provided. Families had a legal right to support and it was a demand led service. It was welcome that families had rights and the Council wished to avoid cases being referred to a tribunal. The government had pledged to review special needs funding but this had yet to happen. The issue was not unique to Haringey as every other local authority was in a similar position. Ann Graham, the Director of Children's Services, stated that she would speak with finance colleagues to see if alternative language could be used in future regarding this. She reported that there was also an overspend in the budget for looked after children but there was no blame attached to them either. Although the service was given a specific budget, this did not mean that it could neglect to provide a service for such children once it was exceeded. Legal requirements would be fulfilled. The Council continued with actions to support the budget.

Panel Members noted that there was a commitment by the Council to consult. However, the documentation was not easy to understand and needed to be made more accessible to members of the community. Other local authorities had addressed this issue and an option that could be explored was the provision of easy to read version.

The Panel also requested more information on the budget engagement process. It was agreed that a briefing would be provided on the outcome of this, including which stakeholders were involved and their responses to the budget proposals.

**AGREED:**

1. That consideration be given to the language used in describing the reasons for the overspend in the High Needs Block in future documentation in order to avoid the possibility of it being misinterpreted as apportioning blame on SEND families;
2. That work be undertaken to improve the accessibility of the MTFS documentation to promote more effective engagement with the local community; and
3. That a briefing be provided to the Panel on the outcome of the engagement undertaken as part of the MTFS process, including which stakeholders were involved and their responses to the proposals.

**44. CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE: ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

Beverly Hendricks, Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Social Care, stated that the report covered improvements that had taken place as well as areas where further



development was required. There had been considerable work undertaken to stabilise the workforce as this had been a cause for concern, with an excessively high percentage of agency staff within the service in 2018/19. This had now been brought down to 23%. A number of initiatives had been undertaken to achieve this, including the relaunch of the recruitment and retention strategy. Specific work had also been undertaken to support the emotional resilience of staff. There was strong collaboration between the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Early Help and this had been commented on by Ofsted. All partners worked well together and not merely the three statutory ones. The National Panel had commented that the decision making of the MASH was timely, appropriate and strong following its recent visit. It had also been identified as a significant strength by Ofsted during its visit in 2019. There had also been continued good performance on assessments, with consistent timelines. Audits on quality had taken place and the learning from these had been incorporated into training. The stability of placements had been largely maintained. Children were in stable foster care placements and assessments for adoption were undertaken in a timely manner. In addition, the range of placements that were offered was being widened.

There had been an adverse court judgement in respect of the disabled children's team (DCT) in 2020. In response to this, three independent experts had been commissioned to undertake a thorough review. Their report to Haringey Safeguarding Children's Partnership had stated that there were no systemic practice issues. Data also showed that there continued to be a proportionate response to concerns. Caseloads were complex but manageable. The service had developed strong links with special schools. In addition, the DCT sought the views of parents and this included a survey of them.

The Panel commended the service for the progress made in improving the stability of the workforce and training. This was especially commendable in view of the difficulties that there were in recruiting staff at the current time.

#### **45. HMIP THEMATIC INSPECTION ON "THE EXPERIENCES OF BLACK AND MIXED HERITAGE BOYS IN THE YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM"**

Jackie Difolco, Assistant Director: Early Help, Prevention and SEND, reported on the outcome of the HMIP Thematic Inspection of "The experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the youth justice system". Haringey was one of nine local authorities inspected at and one of three youth justice services in London.

The report highlighted key factors young people experienced, including:

- Multiple adverse childhood experiences;
- High levels of need, such as special educational needs (SEN) and mental health difficulties;
- High rates of school exclusion, poor attainment and evidence of SEN not being fully addressed;
- Almost a third had been victims of child criminal exploitation;
- Experience of racial discrimination;
- A third of the boys had been subject to Child in Need or Child Protection plans;
- In over a quarter of cases, young people had a disability; and
- Lived in areas of economic deprivation.

There were 18 recommendations, including four that were specifically for local authorities. There was positive feedback on the findings within Haringey's Youth Justice Service. This included:

- Implementation of cultural change;
- Focussed on and utilising a "child first" approach;
- Evidence of robust work to address disproportionality;
- Embedded specific interventions to improve the experience and outcomes for the black and mixed heritage boys; and
- High levels of motivation and confidence amongst staff.

Haringey had also been identified as an example of good practice in a case study that was reflected within the thematic inspection report. Haringey Youth Justice was also featured within a national Effective Practice Guide published by the Youth Justice Board.

There were four areas that were flagged up as requiring improvement though and work was taking place to address these. An in-depth partnership plan had been developed and examples of actions and work completed to date included:

- Partners using their own data to help inform work and better understand how individual improvements could be made to address disproportionality;
- A new quality assurance tool had been developed which included a focus on how ethnicity and diversity was considered and informed planning and interventions;
- A "temperature check" had been conducted with staff to explore how they were engaging with fathers to support improving outcomes;
- Where young people had been stopped and searched by the Police, this was now recorded as a "significant life event" to ensure that young people were able to talk about their experience, the impact it had on them and used to inform planning and interventions; and
- Commitment to ensure that more mental health, speech and language support was provided.

The Panel commended the service for the good work that had been highlighted in the report. Members commented that youth justice plans were not always shared with parents. Stop and Search had also been a big issue in the past but the situation may have deteriorated so needed to be addressed. It was also felt important that data was not only kept but also acted upon. The importance of diversionary projects was also highlighted.

Ms Difolco reported that plans were routinely shared with parents in Haringey. There were a number of strands of work aimed at addressing stop and search through the Youth Justice Service. These included young people being used to train Police officers. The service was also looking at how data is used to inform strategic planning. In respect of diversionary projects, these were not restricted to just those already within the criminal youth justice system but were being extended to those young people who had received with out-of-court disposals and a sanction and to siblings of young people known to the Youth Justice Service.

Ms Hendricks reported that work was being undertaken with the Police regarding the Stop and Search and this involved looking at it from a safeguarding perspective. The service wished to use data to influence change within the system. It was agreed that she would report back in due course when the work had been further developed.

In respect of the collection of ethnic monitoring data, Ms Difolco reported that this was collected and was based on the common ethnicity categories and how young people identified their ethnicity. It was therefore possible to break data down into different demographics. In answer to a question, she stated that the Youth Justice Service's workforce was representative of the young people that it supported as were the decision making panels that considered individual cases. The issue of whether the workforce of the partnership as a whole was representative was something that was not known but could be explored. Over half of the young people that came into contact with the service were young black men and a smaller proportion were mixed race. Inspectors had highlighted the bespoke interventions in Haringey that were targeted at young black men as positive

The Panel requested that a report be made to the Panel in due course regarding the outcome of the safeguarding work that was being undertaken by the C&YP Service and the Police on Stop and Search. In addition, they requested further information regarding the interventions undertaken by the Youth Offending Service with young people and their effectiveness. This would be incorporated into the Youth Justice Annual Plan for 2022-2023 which reports on the progress of interventions.

**AGREED:**

1. That a report be made to the Panel in due course regarding the outcome of the safeguarding work that was being undertaken by the C&YP Service and the Police on Stop and Search.
2. That the Youth Justice Annual Plan for 2022-2023, which reports on interventions with young people and effectiveness, be shared with the Panel when available.

**46. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

**AGREED:**

That the work plan and the proposed items for the next meeting be noted.

CHAIR: Councillor Makbule Gunes

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADULTS & HEALTH  
SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021,  
6.30 - 9.05pm**

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Pippa Connor (Chair), Mark Blake, Gideon Bull, Mahir Demir  
and Sheila Peacock**

**Co-Optees/Non-voting members: Ali Amasyali and Helena Kania.**

**35. 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'.

**36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mahir Demir.

Apologies for lateness were received from Cllr Mark Blake who joined the meeting at 6:45pm.

**37. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**38. 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 Gideon Bull declared that he was currently employed by NHS England.

**39. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/ PRESENTATIONS/ QUESTIONS**

None.

**40. MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record.

**RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 be approved as an accurate record.**

**41. SCRUTINY OF THE 2022/23 DRAFT BUDGET / 5 YEAR MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (2022/23 - 2026/27)**

Josephine Lyseight, Head of Finance (People), introduced the reports focusing initially on Appendix B which covered the 2022/23 Budget and the 2022-2027 Medium Term Financial Strategy. She explained that the draft budget for next year included a budget growth proposal of £11.85m across the whole organisation, of which £2.41m was growth in the Adults part of the budget. To balance the budget there would be a short-term use of reserves totalling £5.8m. This assumed additional income from a Council Tax increase of 1.99% and a further Adults Social Care Precept of 1%.

Josephine Lyseight reported that no new savings were being proposed for Adults & Health, however there were previously agreed savings in the 2022/23 to 2025/26 period with an overall savings target of £4.7m. The total revenue budget for Adults for 2022/23 was just over £82m.

Cllr Bull said that he understood additional funding for local authorities to have been recently announced for adult social care by the NHS to help discharge patients from hospital to free up space for Covid patients. Asked by Cllr Bull how this would be factored into next year's Adults budget, Josephine Lyseight said that she didn't have any specific details about additional funding but that any new money would fund additional expenditure and so would not change the funding allocation in the rest of the budget.

Josephine Lyseight then addressed the capital budget noting that there were no new capital proposals for Adults. The capital allocation for previously agreed projects from 2022/23 to 2026/27 was just under £73m.

Asked by Cllr Connor whether the £12m figure quoted in paragraph 1.4 of Appendix B represented the total savings that the Council needed to make in 2022/23, Josephine Lyseight confirmed that this was correct and that £4.7m of this related to the Adults budget, as set out in Table 7.2 on page 40 of the agenda pack. Asked by Cllr Connor how this related to the figures set out in the Savings Tracker on pages 71 & 72 of the agenda pack, Beverley Tarka, Director of Adults & Health, clarified that the figures in Table 7.2 comprised of previously agreed savings for the 2022/23 to 2025/26 period and that no new savings for this period were being proposed this year. The previously agreed savings were therefore already 'baked into' the budget. The Savings Tracker illustrated progress against agreed savings in the 2021/22 financial year. Josephine

Lyseight clarified that the savings target for 2021/22 was just under £3.2m, followed by £3.98m in 2022/23 and £0.535m in 2023/24 with no savings required in the following two years, resulting in total savings of just over £7.6m.

Asked by Cllr Peacock what services would be cut as a result of this, Beverley Tarka said that their budget management strategy had three strands. The first strand was managing the market which related to how much was paid for care to providers by stabilising prices in line with comparable boroughs. The second strand was demand management with early interventions, such as through reablement, to prevent prices from rising to excessive levels due to periods of increased demand. The third strand was operations management, including through a strength-based approach to improve outcomes and reduce costs by looking at how individuals can support themselves, support available to them in their locality and whether there was a role for assistive technology. Because of this budget management strategy, closures of specific services that had been seen in previous years had not been necessary in the past two years.

Cllr Bull referred to a recent news article highlighting recent difficulties for local authorities in recruiting care staff and asked what challenges were faced on this in Haringey. Beverley Tarka said that Haringey Council pays the London Living Wage for home care and this helps with staff retention. They had also been petitioning the government along with fellow ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services) members for social care reform funding to improve the working conditions of commissioned staff. At present, the government was only providing one-off, time-limited, grant funding to support local authorities through crisis situations such as Covid. She added that the Council had some specific workforce shortages, particularly with therapists, and this situation was monitored on a daily basis. In some parts of the country some providers were having to turn down work due to staff shortages, but this was not the current situation in Haringey.

Asked by Cllr Bull what impact analysis was carried out in relation to savings proposals, Beverley Tarka said that while closures of services in previous years had a wider adverse impact, the current budget management strategy was a positive approach with partnership working which aimed to improve outcomes and reduce the cost of care without having adverse impacts.

Cllr das Neves, Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Well-being, added that it was important to understand that there was not a national vision to place social care on an equal footing to health care. However, locally there had been close partnership working and planning on the integrated care system, including the strengthening of the voice of residents. She added that early intervention and prevention was important, not just as a way of saving money, but also to prevent illness and improve quality of life.

Asked by Cllr Blake about the risk factors associated with the budget, Beverley Tarka responded that the main risk factors were:

- government funding for social care was a key risk factor as settlements received to date had not been adequate.
- there were some unknowns and uncertainties associated with the forthcoming implementation of Integrated Care Systems.
- increased complexity and demand as a consequence of Covid.
- capacity and resource issues in the workforce remained a high priority.
- forthcoming changes in the inspection regime meant that the service needed to prepare, including through a self-assessment on the quality assurance system which had already begun.
- legislative changes on liberty protections safeguards were expected next year.

Cllr Blake asked about the support needs of vulnerable sheltered housing residents, following a recent Panel visit to a sheltered housing scheme in Muswell Hill. Charlotte Pomery, AD for Commissioning, said that on the spectrum of needs, sheltered housing residents are more typically at the preventative end with early intervention required as needs become more acute. Sheltered housing offered opportunities for shared care and communal activities and while residents are not generally seen as being at the acute end of needs, the model allows for additional care and support where required to enable people to remain living in the same home.

Helena Kania asked about the service growth budget adjustments of £8.609m for 2022/23 set out on page 38 of the agenda pack and suggested that greater need was likely to be identified in future. Beverley Tarka said that, as set out in the report, this figure had been revised to almost £12m. This figure was for the whole Council, with £2.4m of this growth coming from Adults & Health. These figures would be re-examined on an annual basis as new data comes through, including on expected long-term pressures. Asked by Cllr Connor about the origin of this growth funding, Josephine Lyseight said that the outturn for 2021/22 had been more favourable than expected so some funds had been put into reserves which was now being used to support the growth funding for 2022/23.

Cllr Connor noted that, while growth funding was set out in Table 7.1 on page 39 of the agenda pack, the overall Adults & Health budget set out in Table 7.3 on page 41 was shown to have declined by over £1m from 2021/22 to 2022/23. Josephine Lyseight responded that this was because the budget encompasses various different elements including the existing budget, previously agreed savings and growth funding. Cllr Connor requested that further information be provided to the Panel to illustrate the different elements of the 2022/23 budget so that the changes to the base budget from 2021/22 are made clear. **(ACTION)**



Cllr Connor asked for further details about the financial deficit which she understood to have worsened between from Q1 of 2021/22 to Q2 of 2021/22. Sean Huang, Business Partner, responded that the Q1 deficit had been around £2.9m and that the Q2 deficit was £6.6m. He added that when reporting for Q1 it had still been unclear what the legacy impact of Covid would be but a clearer picture of the overspend had emerged by Q2 resulting in the increased projection of the deficit. Asked about the likely situation by Q4, Sean Huang said that this was uncertain but that, in addition to the usual winter pressures on the system, the rise in Covid rates may also result in additional pressure from increased discharge from hospital to free up beds. Short-term government funding may help to alleviate this but overall additional spend was difficult to predict at this point. Beverley Tarka added that the short-term government funding had to be spent by the end of the financial year which created challenges with costs associated with long-term needs that lasted beyond March 2022.

### Revenue Growth

The Panel then looked at the descriptions of revenue growth items on page 67 of the agenda pack. Cllr Connor asked for more details on the 'Adult Social Care – Care Purchasing budgets' item which showed growth of £1.481m in 2022/23, then nothing for the following two years, then growth of £2.789m in 2025/26 and £2.821m in 2026/27. Sean Huang said that the blank years represented years where the growth had already been built into the budget from the previous MTFS. The growth had also been built into the budget for 2022/23 but the £1.481m displayed on the chart was in addition to that. There would still be time to address any additional demand requirements for future years in future iterations of the MTFS based on any new data that emerged.

Asked by Cllr Connor how the additional £582k for tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) would be used, Will Maimaris, Director of Public Health, said that there was a complicated picture for VAWG funding with various different grant sources. The additional funds proposed was intended to enhance support for survivors of domestic abuse through Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) services and also provision for investment in perpetrator programmes and to support work in the education sector. The current number of VAWG staffing positions, which were funded through various sources, was not expected to change.

### MTFS Savings Tracker – 2021/22-2025/26

The Panel then looked at the MTFS Savings Tracker for 2021/22 to 2025/26 on page 71 of the agenda pack. Cllr Connor noted that this tracked previously agreed savings and included a target of £3.16m of savings for 2021/22. Cllr Bull expressed concerns about savings being made in mental health under item B2.8, given the impact of Covid on mental health throughout the population. Beverley Tarka responded that the savings were not cuts to services but improvements to mental health pathways and

outcomes. Additional funding had also recently obtained through the Great Mental Health Fund in recognition of the impact of Covid on residents. Cllr das Neves added that mental health was a high priority for the Council and a Great Mental Health Day would be held in January which would include sessions on how to support good mental health in local communities.

Cllr Connor asked about items on the savings tracker where the savings had not yet been achieved and what confidence officers had that these would be achieved by the end of the financial year. Beverley Tarka said that, using the example of the mental health item, £146k of the £490k target had been achieved so far but there had been a late start on developing these outputs due to Covid. However, once they had started, the savings were being achieved quickly so there was still a high level of confidence that they would be achieved by the end of the year. Improvements in outcomes for individuals through the enablement pathways would reduce the need for high-cost care later on. On item AS102 (Client Contributions) it had not been possible to carry out financial assessments at the pace required due to Covid restrictions but, since being up and running, there was some confidence that the savings could still be achieved. Overall, the savings proposals were sound but the challenges of Covid had impacted on the trajectory.

Cllr Connor asked whether it was becoming harder to make savings over time after several years of savings had already been made, Beverley Tarka said that over 80% of targeted savings had been made the previous year despite the challenges caused by Covid. She therefore felt that the strategy being pursued was the right one. Jeni Plummer, AD for Adults, added that there was a system for monitoring progress through the savings tracker and regular meetings with Heads of Service to review the situation and any resources available.

Asked by Cllr Peacock for further details of the three day centres referred to under item PA6 (Transfer of High Cost Day Opps), Charlotte Pomery said that this related to previously approved proposals around what is now known as the Chad Gordon Autism Campus in Waltheof Gardens at centres previously known as the Haven and the Roundway. It also related to the Woodside centre on White Hart Lane.

Asked by Cllr Bull for further details on item AS101 (Fast Track Financial Assessments), Charlotte Pomery said that this was a bundle of items designed to help the Council to be more efficient in terms of client contributions, such as by fast tracking financial assessments, and did not involve charging people who would not previously have been charged. Asked why these efficiencies hadn't been carried out earlier, she said that previously there had been a different model and that it had been with the benefit of things like the benefits system being digitised that it had been possible to generate a more efficient model of working. Cllr Connor asked for clarification on part of the description of the item in the report that read *"reviewing clients potentially eligible for charging that had not previously been assessed"*, given

the previous comment that this would not involve charging additional people. Charlotte Pomery said that these were people who had come into need during the pandemic and had not made contributions for various reasons, including a backlog of assessments due to diversions of staff during Covid or a DHSC exemption from charging during that period.

### Draft Capital Programme for 2022/23-2026/27

The Panel then looked at the draft Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2026/27.

Asked for clarification on the Mosaic System (item 221), Jeni Plummer explained that this was Haringey's client information system which holds the information on clients including case files and care packages.

Cllr Connor noted that, according to Table 8.1 on page 45 of agenda pack, the capital expenditure plans totalled £818m across the period. She then referred to Table 8.8 on page and asked about the affordability of the figure of over £29m for financing costs in 2026/27. John O'Keefe, Head of Finance for Capital, Place & Regeneration, explained that the figure related to repayment of capital plus interest and the repayments were factored in as part of the base budget. He added that they were part of the investment choices made by the Cabinet which included large investments in school buildings, public realm and infrastructure. He said that capital costs relating to the Housing Revenue Account (which were separate from the figures referred to above) were ringfenced and that schemes could only go ahead with government grants and with the ability to repay interest charges factored in. Cllr Blake commented that a lot of the capital projects had been underway for some time and noted that many of them would be saving the Council money in the long-term.

The Panel then looked at the specific capital schemes. Cllr Bull asked about Scheme 201 (Aids, Adaptations & Assistive Technologies – Home Owners), including about what happens to properties where adaptations had been installed after the residents had passed away. Beverley Tarka said that aids and adaptations were often specific to the individual but that the points raised were valid. She said that working more collegiately on this issue had already been identified as a priority area, particularly with HfH being brought back in-house. She also said that it was important to adapt new builds at the point of design where possible and not retrospectively. Cllr Connor noted that, in the Panel's recent Q2 financial briefing, the aids and adaptations budget for 2021/22 was £3.5m but she understood that the budget for 2022/23 would be £2.1m and asked for an explanation on the decrease. John O'Keefe explained that the figure for 2021/22 included a carry forward from the previous year as the Covid pandemic had delayed a lot of aids and adaptations work from being carried out. The figure for 2022/23 represented an estimate of how much disabled facilities grant would be provided through the Better Care Fund.

Referring to Scheme 214 (Osborne Grove Nursing Home), Cllr Connor noted that over £34m was due to be spent in 2023/24, which was significantly more than any other year in the MTFS and asked if this was realistic. John O'Keefe said that the budgets for some of the larger projects such as this had been set some years ago and were reviewed on a regular basis so the cash flow could potentially be reviewed. He emphasised that this was a normal part of the process but acknowledged that it was unlikely that this amount of money would be spent in 2023/24.

In relation to Scheme 218 (Social Emotional & Mental Health Provision), Cllr Connor asked what proportion of the spend on this would be sourced from Haringey Council borrowing. John O'Keefe said that the borrowing represented around £300k out of the total £1.8m cost. It had been assumed that about another £500k would be borrowed but that this would be repaid through savings achieved as a consequence of the investment. The remaining £1m would be provided from external sources such as health partners. He added that each spending decision within Scheme 218 was subject to a business case.

Cllr Connor thanked officers for their attendance and the information provided. Officers then left the meetings at this point while the Panel Members remained to consider their recommendations.

## **Recommendations**

### **Format of budget scrutiny reports**

Cllr Connor proposed a recommendation on the format of the budget scrutiny meetings. She noted that the briefings in advance of the budget scrutiny meetings had included a lot of detail on Q2 of 2021/22 and on the performance indicators. She suggested that in future years, briefings on these matters should be received separately and that the pre-budget briefings should concentrate on the following year's draft budget and the updated MTFS. **(ACTION)**

Cllr Connor also noted that the reports in the agenda packs for each Panel's budget scrutiny meeting included information about all the other Panel's budget areas. She suggested that the main budget report provided to each Panel should be tailored to include the information relevant to the policy area of that Panel as this would make the information easier to review. While the Cabinet report on the budget (which covered all policy areas) could still be included as an appendix, the key information for each Panel should be included in a separate report in the agenda pack. **(ACTION)**

Cllr Blake said that he would like to see key points highlighted in future reports, particularly on the risk factors associated with the budget. Cllr Connor agreed with this point, commenting that risk factors on revenue were important to understand,

particularly in light of recent increased borrowing to support capital spending.

**(ACTION)**

#### General Fund

Cllr Connor expressed concerns about the significant future increase in interest repayment costs to the General Fund (shown to reach over £29m by 2026/27 according to Table 8.8 on page 52 of the agenda pack) caused by the projected rise in capital investment. The Panel requested that Cabinet provide an assessment of the risk associated with the increase in the proportion of financing costs to the net revenue stream over the MTFS period. **(ACTION)**

#### MTFS Savings Tracker – 2021/22 to 2025/26

Cllr Connor said that there were some concerns about whether the targeted savings for 2021/22 would be achieved by the end of the year and suggested that further analysis should be provided on this to demonstrate how this could be achieved.

**(ACTION)**

On the savings tracker, Cllr Bull expressed concerns about item AS101 (Fast Track Financial Assessments) as he felt that the savings expected in 2021/22 were too high and that they should be spread over a longer period rather than being “front-ended”. He suggested that a smaller saving in 2021/22 would allow for analysis of what the impact had been before implementing the rest of the savings as he felt that there had not been enough analysis presented on the impact and risk of what had been proposed. Cllr Connor suggested that an analysis of the impact of the savings on residents should be carried out to ensure that this is not causing financial difficulties for individuals and their families. **(ACTION)**

#### Draft Capital Programme – 2022/23 to 2026/27

Cllr Connor expressed concerns about Aids & Adaptations (Scheme 201) as she dealt with this issue regularly in local casework and many residents experienced significant problems. This service was funded externally from the Better Care Fund but appeared to be under-resourced. It was also noted that the amount of money available appeared to be the same each year in the MTFS with no increases to keep pace with inflation. The Panel recommended that the Cabinet give consideration about whether the funding in this area is sufficient to meet the needs of local residents and, if not, what steps could be taken to increase the resources available for this including from external sources such as the Better Care Fund. **(ACTION)**

#### Requests for further information

Cllr Connor reiterated an action point from earlier in the meeting for more information to be provided on the breakdown of the base budget for 2022/23, including previously agreed savings and growth funding, given that the overall total had reduced by over £1m from the previous year. **(ACTION)**

On the draft capital programme, Cllr Bull commented that the total costs for Osborne Grove Nursing Home (Scheme 214) of £44m seemed high. Cllr Blake suggested that it would be useful to receive a recap on the contributions from the health sector and an understanding of how and why the overall costs have increased. **(ACTION)**

**RESOLVED – That the above recommendations be submitted to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.**

**RESOLVED – That the above requests for further information be followed up with finance officers and that the be information provided to the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

#### **42. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The updated Work Programme was noted. A planned visit on December 13<sup>th</sup> to Lowry House to support the scrutiny review on sheltered housing had been cancelled following public health advice on Covid. It was hoped that this could be rescheduled but, due to the current Covid situation, this was unlikely to be possible until February at the earliest.

#### **43. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

CHAIR: Councillor Pippa Connor

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....

## **MINUTES OF MEETING Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel HELD ON Tuesday, 14th December, 2021, 6.30 pm**

### **PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Scott Emery, Gideon Bull, Dana Carlin and  
Eldridge Culverwell**

**ALSO ATTENDING: Ian Sygrave**

### **116. 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'.

### **117. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ogiehor and Cllr Amin.

### **118. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None

### **119. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

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

None.

### **121. MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the previous meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November were agreed as a correct record.

### **122. TREES UPDATE**

The Panel received a presentation which provided an update around Queen's Wood, Parkland Walk, street trees, funding for new trees and staffing resources within the Trees team. The presentation was introduced by Simon Farrow, Highways, Parking,

Parks & Open Spaces Manager as set out in the agenda pack at pages 9-18. Alex Fraser, Principal Tree & Nature Conservation Manager, was also present for this agenda item. Cllr Hakata, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and the Climate Emergency and Deputy Leader of the Council, was also present for this agenda item. The following arose during the discussion of the presentation:

- a. The Panel sought clarification around the number of trees removed in a year. The Panel noted that the presentation stated that 191 trees had been removed in the previous year, whilst the budget papers for agenda Item 9, suggested that it was 300. In response officers advised that 191 was an average, but that that the service had been removing more trees, particularly due to a backlog associated with Covid. Officers clarified that 191 related to removal of street trees whilst the 300 figure included trees in parks and open spaces.
- b. A Panel Member welcomed the fact that the Trees team was up to full strength but raised concerns around a failure to respond to a specific enquiry for five months. Officers offered their apologies for the failure to respond and advised that the service had been operating at 40% capacity for some time.
- c. The Panel noted that in relation to Parkland Walk, one of the key lessons learnt was around contractors cutting down trees that were beyond the scope of the works and assurances were sought that rigorous monitoring of contractors was taking place. In response, officers advised that the team had undergone a fundamental restructure and that contract monitoring was much more robust. Officers advised that they did not think that previous mistakes in this regard would be replicated.
- d. In relation to a question around capital funding, officers advised that the existing capital provision from LBH was £70k for tree planting, but that there was further provision for up to £30k in the budget for match funding.
- e. In relation to concerns about Queens Wood, officers advised that the decision to remove the trees was done to mitigate the Council's financial risk from an insurance claim and that it was felt that it was within the Council's interests to mitigate this exposure otherwise they would have potentially been liable for hundreds of thousands of pounds. In relation to a follow up, officers advised that in a similar situation in the future, they would still be minded to remove four out of the five trees, due to the potential cost exposure and the legal advice that they had received.
- f. In relation to a question around trees being felled as part of the bridge replacement works at Stanhope Gardens, officers advised that the new bridge had to be higher than the old one, and that the construction works would kill the affected trees, so a decision had been taken to remove those trees before works commenced. It was noted that Planning Permission for those works had been granted the week before.
- g. In relation to concerns about the types of trees planted, officers advised that they typically sought to plant trees that were easy to maintain, suitable to their environment and not prone to particular diseases. This included consideration of proactively trying to improve maintenance costs or the likely impact of a particular type of tree, on a particular location. Officers advised that they effectively had a list of trees to use and that these were much suitable than some of the trees that were planted three or four generations ago.
- h. Officers agreed to provide the Panel with a written response on the felling of trees on Stationers Road as well as the felling of trees in Finsbury Park and the



extent to which the impact on wildlife was considered. **(Action: Simon Farrow/Alex Fraser).**

- i. In relation to a particular case involving some large trees near the Roundway, officers advised that regular maintenance was carried out on those trees and that they did look at replacing certain trees with more suitable ones in particular locations.
- j. The Chair advised that she would like to see a cost analysis about how much money was spent on mitigating insurance claims against how much was spent on tree maintenance. **(Action: Simon Farrow/Alex Fraser).**
- k. The Chair also raised concerns about the discrepancy in tree coverage between, the west and the east of the borough and was concerned that the replacement works and tree sponsorship seemed to be disproportionately focused on the west of the borough and would exacerbate the existing disparity. The Chair requested a breakdown of the number of trees on a ward by-ward basis. **(Action: Simon Farrow/Alex Fraser).**

## **RESOLVED**

That the update in relation to trees was noted.

### **123. CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Panel undertook a Q&A session with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and the Climate Emergency and Deputy Leader of the Council on his portfolio. The following arose during the discussion of this agenda item:

- a. The Panel sought assurances around what was being done to engage with young people around wildlife, trees and open spaces. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that the redesign of the Parks staffing structure included an engagement officer and a key part of that role was around outreach work. This outreach work would include engagement with schools and young people. The Cabinet Member set out that a high priority for the Parks service was to engage with groups that were not already well engaged with. Officers added that there was also a full time volunteering officer that had been added to the service and that as part of the parks and Green Spaces Strategy, engagement would be a key output for the service. One element of the strategy was having an annual celebration of community involvement event and that this would include a specific focus on celebrating involvement in the east of the borough.
- b. The Panel commented that in comparison to other boroughs, it was felt that Haringey's Electric Vehicle charging points were too slow and too expensive to use. The Panel enquired what could be done to improve this. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that the current charging arrangements were predominantly located in parking spaces, these arrangements allowed the

Council to significantly increase capacity and the Council was in the process of adding another 80 new chargers in the coming weeks. The Cabinet Member acknowledged that the existing chargers were not the fastest on the market. The Council was also looking at introducing a pilot scheme for faster lamp post chargers and it was anticipated that, the two combined, would give the borough a good mix of EV charging infrastructure.

- c. In light of the Leader's recent comments suggesting that the NLWA should pause the procurement exercise for a new waste incinerator at the site in Edmonton, the Panel sought clarification from the Cabinet Member whether that would impact his vote on the issue at the upcoming NLWA meeting. The Cabinet Member recognised that the Leader had a responsibility to speak up on behalf of concerned residents, but he advised that, as a Board Member of the NLWA, he was required by statute to vote in the interests of the NLWA and that he could not be moved to vote in any particular way.
- d. The Panel suggested that a campaign should be launched around restoring civic pride with the aim of tackling fly-tipping. The Panel also suggested that more should be done to educate residents about what materials could and could not be recycled. The Panel further set out that they would like to see the return of the reuse and recycle centre at Ashley Road. The Panel suggested that these were areas that the Cabinet Member could work jointly with Cllr Chandwani. The Cabinet Member advised that he shared the concerns around civic pride and advised the panel members that the NLWA did a lot of work around reduce, reuse and recycling programmes. One example was that the NLWA recently launched a mattress recycling programme and that 1300 mattresses had been recycled to date.
- e. The Panel questioned what could be done in relation to possible insourcing of the leisure contract to level up the disparity in leisure facilities in the east versus the west of the borough. In response, the Cabinet Member commented that the Council was in the process of examining all of its existing external contracts, to see if a better deal could be achieved through insourcing. The Council had recently brought the New River sports centre back in-house, and this centre was under good management and was working well.
- f. The Panel sought clarification on the timetable and consultation proposals for the potential implementation of an LTN scheme around the Ladders, Endymion Road and Wightman Road. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that officers had been collecting a significant amount of traffic data and air quality monitoring data in the area. From this data, preliminary designs would be drawn up and these would be consulted upon with residents and local businesses over the course of January and February. The intention was that this would then be turned in to a piece of genuine co-produced design work that would be ready for early summer. In addition to this, a separate piece of work was being undertaken on Green Lanes to assess the feasibility of accelerating walking, cycling and public transport schemes in this area.
- g. Cllr Chandwani updated the Panel on some of the recent changes to waste legislation and agreed to come back to the next Panel meeting to undertake a Q&A. **(Clerk to note).**

## RESOLVED

Noted.

### 124. SCRUTINY OF THE 2022/23 DRAFT BUDGET / 5 YEAR MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (2022/23-2026/27)

The Panel considered and commented on the Council's 2022/23 Draft Budget / 5-year Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 – 2026/27 proposals relating to the Place priority of the Borough Plan. The papers were introduced by John O'Keefe – Head of Finance (Capital, Place & Regen), as set out in the agenda pack at pages 19-94 of the agenda pack. Along with a cover report the budget papers included the following appendices:

- Appendix A – Key lines of enquiry for budget setting
- Appendix B – 2022/23 Draft Budget & 2021/26 Medium Term Financial Strategy Report (presented to Cabinet 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020)
- Appendix C – 2022/23 New Revenue Budget Proposals
- Appendix D - 2022/23 New Capital Budget Proposals
- Appendix E – Proposed 2022/23-2026/27 Capital Programme
- Appendix F – Previously agreed MTFS savings.

The Panel were advised that there were no new savings proposals put forward in the budget for 2022/23 and that the budget included around £11.8m of growth proposals. There was, therefore, an opportunity for the Council to have some time and space to assess its existing savings programme. There was also a refresh of the Borough Plan underway.

The following arose as part of the discussion of the Draft Budget & 2021/26 Medium Term Financial Strategy:

- a. The Panel sought assurances around the impact of pre-agreed savings that had not been met, particularly given the impact of Covid, on the overall budget picture. In response, officers advised that the papers included a savings tracker, which was RAG rated. The Panel were advised that the extent to which these savings had not been achieved had already been factored into the 2022/23 budget. The savings would be rolled over to the base budget for future years.
- a. The Chair sought clarification around whether there were any new growth proposals for community safety contained within the budget. Officers responded that there were no specific growth proposals in this area. The Chair commented that there were a number of staffing pressures in this area and sought clarification from the Cabinet Member whether discussion to this effect had been undertaken. In response, the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, advised that he was new in post and that no discussions had taken place to date. However, the Cabinet Member advised that he would be looking to pick this up as part of his upcoming one-to-one discussions with officers.
- b. The Panel sought reassurances about a strategy for dealing with waste dumped by private landowners, such as at Somerset Gardens. In response, officers advised that this was something that had been raised in previous

- budgets, particularly in relation to Housing Associations. Officers advised that they were looking at how to tackle this issue but commented that previous experience had shown that it could be challenging to hold landowners to account.
- c. The Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and the Climate Emergency advised the Panel that he was seeking to improve green spaces in the Borough, and he welcomed the additional investment in the parks team, which he suggested was a three or four fold increase in staffing resources. The Cabinet Member also welcomed the commitment to a net gain in tree numbers year-on-year. The Cabinet Member advised that a key priority for the budget was to increase revenue growth in climate and the environment and ensure additional resources in this area. The Cabinet Member also highlighted the significant additional investment in parks asset management that was reflected in the budget, partially in recognition of the increased profile of parks during the pandemic.
  - d. The Panel sought assurances around the additional investment in blocked gullies and whether the investment of £326k was sufficient. In response, the Cabinet Member for Customer Service, Welfare and the Public Realm advised that this was a £326k additional investment into the revenue base budget and that it would, therefore, be available every year, rather than a one-off sum. In addition to the revenue investment there was also a £355k investment in the capital budget for dealing with blocked gullies. The Cabinet Member advised that this funding would be used to ensure that every gully in Haringey was cleaned on an annual basis. It was anticipated that this would make a significant improvement to flooding and blocked drains the borough.
  - e. In relation to a question around additional investment in the budget around waste contract changes and whether this had taken into account upcoming legislative changes around waste, such as paper separation, the Cabinet Member advised that these legislative changes were not due to come in to force until 2024/25 and so would need to be factored into the next iteration of the waste contract and subsequent rounds of budget setting. Officers advised that the additional investment related to additional waste disposal costs arising from a shortfall in recycling, some of which was due to changes in what could and could not be recycled. Veolia were no longer required to cover these costs so the Council would need to do so.
  - f. The Panel queried whether there was scope for further invest to save proposals into increasing the recycling rate and thereby reduce waste collection costs. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that Haringey was already well ahead of many of the neighbouring boroughs in the NLWA in terms of waste separation. The budget also contained a revenue bid for a recycling officer, which was matched funded by Veolia, and would assist with the education, information and advice agenda around recycling. Officers advised that Haringey was already undertaking a number of the legislative changes that were being brought, such as a separate kitchen waste service and the separation of six items at kerbside. The Cabinet Member emphasised that the additional costs were due to a contractual issue, rather than a performance

- issue. The Panel was advised that the Council was also piloting a scheme to recycle small electrical items such as toasters.
- g. The Panel sought assurances about deploying any staff that were no longer required as a result of the capital bid around mechanisation of street cleansing. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that the additional investment in mechanical street sweepers had been made in previous rounds of the MTFS. It was clarified that the bid in question was for £96k for additional jet washing equipment. The Panel were also assured that alongside the mechanical street sweeping machines, there was still a requirement for manual sweeping to take place in the nooks and crannies of a particular street.
  - h. In response to a question around overlaps in portfolios, the Cabinet Member for Customer Service, Welfare and the Public Realm assured the Panel that she spoke regularly with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and the Climate Emergency and that they worked together closely on a range of issues.
  - i. The Panel welcomed the additional investment into cleaning blocked gullies and commented that part of the issue related to historic underinvestment in this area. The Panel sought assurances that troublesome locations would be cleaned more than once a year and that there would also be provision to clean hard to access locations such as Haringey Passage. In response, the Cabinet Member reiterated that the additional investment would allow every drain and gully to be cleaned once a year and she assured the Panel that troublesome locations would receive additional cleaning. The Cabinet Member clarified that this did not mean that instances flooding would never happen again, not least because of London's outdated sewage system, but that Haringey was doing what it could to prevent blockages in the parts of the drainage network that it was responsible for maintaining.
  - j. In response to a question, the Cabinet Member advised that part of the cleansing issues in and around Turnpike Lane related to the fact there were timed collections in place and the additional investment in pavement washing equipment would make a difference to this but, it would also be necessary to address the underlying bin containment issue.
  - k. The Cabinet Member highlighted the additional investment into maintaining carriageways contained in the budget. In response to a question, it was noted that the £20m investment into this area was a significant amount and it was felt that this was an achievable level of investment.

Following the discussion on the 2022/23 Draft Budget/MTFS 2022/23-2026/27, the Panel put forward the following recommendations to Cabinet, subject to ratification by the parent Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

- 1) The Panel were broadly supportive of the budget proposals and welcomed the level of investment into the borough. The Panel were particularly pleased to see the long overdue investment into the maintenance of the boroughs drains and road gullies, and a commitment that every drainage asset in the borough would be cleaned at least once a year.
- 2) The Panel welcomed the commitment to invest in the borough's tree stock and noted the aim of achieving a net neutral position. The panel advocated for additional investment in this area, above the £75k per year, rising to £100k per

year with match funding, that had been allocated in the budget. The Panel felt that Cabinet should make firm commitment to a net increase in the number of trees in the borough, particularly in light of the historic decline in tree numbers over recent years due to an underinvestment in this area.

- 3) The Panel sought a commitment from Cabinet that the existing inequities in tree coverage across the borough would be addressed. The Panel noted that the overwhelming number of sponsored trees to date were in the west and centre of the borough. Cabinet should commit to ensuring that the east of the borough was prioritised when planting new trees. Cabinet should also make a specific commitment that low levels of tree coverage in wards such as Tottenham Hale and Bruce Grove would be addressed.
- 4) The Panel requested that Cabinet provided assurances that areas of lighting in parks where sections of the park were lit, whilst others are in shadow, were looked at as part of the investment in improved lighting. As it was felt that this could create a false sense of security for people travelling through parks at night. The Panel would also like assurances that preservation of wildlife habitat will be considered when determining lighting requirements in our parks and open spaces.
- 5) The Panel noted that a large proportion of the active travel schemes proposed were unfunded at present and would like assurances that funding for these schemes would be pursued. As part of the Road Safety Strategy, the Panel would like to see additional investment into active travel, with a particular focus on improving cycling infrastructure.
- 6) That Panel requested clarification on the funding for the Highways Asset Maintenance programme proposal. The bid was funded by council borrowing for the first year 2022-23. Thereafter it was assumed that there will be grant funding available to undertake this work. The Panel sought clarification/ further information about how robust this assumption of further funding was.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Panels considered and provided recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), on the 2022/23 Draft Budget/MTFS 2022/23-2026/27 and proposals relating to the Scrutiny Panel's remit.

## **125. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

### **RESOLVED**

That the work programme was noted and any changes therein were put to the parent Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

## **126. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

N/A

## **127. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

3<sup>rd</sup> March 22

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....

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## **MINUTES OF MEETING Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel HELD ON Thursday, 9th December, 2021, 6.40 pm**

### **PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Matt White (Chair), Dawn Barnes, Bob Hare, Charles Adje, Emine Ibrahim and Noah Tucker**

### **25. 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'.

### **26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hearn.

### **27. URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

### **28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

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

The Panel received two deputations.

The first deputation related to a community allotment space that was on the roof of a car garage. The land was managed by Homes for Haringey and refurbishment works had recently taken place which prevented the group from being able to access their allotment site. The deputation was submitted on behalf of the Helston Growers and the deputation party was made up of Matthew Walsham, Andrew Graves Shirley Russell and Lorna Topping. Matthew Walsham introduced the deputation, which is summarised below:

- The deputation party advised they were speaking to the panel to raise concerns around the recent decision of Homes for Haringey to carry out repairs to a garage, off Russell Road, without any adequate consultation. As a result of this the group were being excluded from their long-standing (20 years+) community allotment.
- The allotment was in the middle of the estate in a previously neglected space, above what was derelict car park, and was transformed through many years of

collective hard work. Members of the group include people who use the allotment for their stroke rehabilitation, those who had no other access to outdoor space, and many with young children.

- Homes for Haringey recently began renting the space below the garden out to a Volvo car showroom and subsequently decided that repairs were needed as the roof was leaking.
- The deputation party raised concerns that, having being told they would be consulted on the plans, they received very little information about the plans at any stage. The group also raised concerns that they had been advised that works would begin on 6th December but that works began on 1st December, and much of the allotment had already been bulldozed. I and other members Communications were only received only received about this on 4<sup>th</sup> December and were advised that all their equipment must be removed by 7am on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December.
- The group were especially concerned that there was no guarantee that they would be allowed back in once the work was finished, nor any commitments as to how they would repair the damage caused.
- The space was a highly valued community asset that had been supported by the Council in the past. It occupied a space where there have been significant issues with anti-social behaviour.
- It was also contended that demolishing a community allotment where members grew local food to allow for garage space to park cars was entirely the wrong kind of action needed in the middle of a climate crisis.
- The Panel were asked to seek a firm commitment from HfH, on behalf of the group, of when they would be allowed back onto the site and how they would support them to fix the damage caused by the works.

The following arose as part of the discussion following the deputation:

- a. The Panel enquired about the management of the site and whether it was managed as a council allotment through the Parks service or whether there were any formal arrangements in place with HfH about the management of this site. In response, the deputation party advised that the allotment was a smaller space within a larger HfH managed site. However, the group was not formally constituted but the site had been in use as a community allotment site since the 1980s.
- b. The panel sought clarification about whether the group had received any communication at all from HfH. In response, the group advised that they had received a response from HfH the day before which advised that they would be allowed back to the site, subject to safety concerns. The group advised the panel that their trust in HfH had been damaged and that they did not have faith in HfH doing what they said they would.
- c. In response to a question, the group confirmed that the repairs were being carried out by HfH at the request of the car show room. A panel member queried why the interests of the commercial car show room came before a local community group.
- d. The panel members commented that they would like to see Homes for Haringey provide firm guidance to the group on when they could return to the site and how long works would take.

- e. The Chair advised the deputation party that he would provide a response to the deputation in writing as set out in the Council's constitution at Paragraph 30.7 of Part Four, Section B of the constitution.

The second deputation related to concerns raised about the proposed St Ann's development. The deputation party was made up of Cathy Graham and Jo Burrows. The deputation party represented a group of residents of Warwick Gardens, and they addressed the panel to outline their concerns over the development of the St Ann's site and an unsatisfactory level of engagement with Catalyst. The key concerns were summarised as:

- The scale and development of buildings. It was suggested the proposed development was out of keeping with the character of the local neighbourhood and that it would adversely affect the residential amenity of neighbouring properties including overlooking, shadows and loss of privacy.
- Proximity to neighbouring units on the site. It was suggested that there would be a loss of existing views from neighbouring properties.
- Environmental studies were requested from Catalyst but had not been provided.
- Planning process. There were concerns about multiple applications throughout the development and that this would lead to scale creep about the height and number of developments
- The Group also raised concerns about the S106 Community Infrastructure Levy, around how and where this would be spent. It was suggested that some of this should be channelled into creating additional primary care capacity in the area to respond to the additional number of residents from this development.
- The group commented that overall, the engagement experience with Catalyst had been very poor, with information requested by local community not being provided.
- Key questions and concerns were not addressed answered. Of particular concern was that the heights of buildings increasing without any engagement of information on this provided to residents.

The following arose in discussion of this deputation:

- a. The Panel sought clarification as to what the deputation party would like the Council to do in response to their concerns, given that the site was managed by the GLA and their partner Catalyst. The deputation party responded that they wanted the Council to hold Catalyst to account and that the group did not feel listened to. The deputation party commented that they did not feel that they had received any engagement around the proposals to develop nine story buildings on the site. The group would also like some clarification on the S106 CIL monies and how this would be spent in the area.
- b. In relation to the impact on Warwick Gardens and the extent of that impact in terms of loss of amenity, the group advised that it would affect both ends of Warwick Gardens and the surrounding wider area, as nine story buildings would fill the skyline and there would be a loss of light, shadowing and loss of privacy for surrounding properties. It was noted that at this time of year the loss of light would be particularly evident.
- c. The Chair advised the deputation party that he would provide a response to the deputation in writing as set out in the Council's constitution at Paragraph 30.7 of Part Four, Section B of the constitution.

### 30. MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November were agreed as a correct record.

### 31. SCRUTINY OF THE 2022/23 DRAFT BUDGET / 5 YEAR MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (2022/23-2026/27)

The Panel considered and commented on the Council's 2022/23 Draft Budget / 5-year Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 – 2026/27 proposals relating to the Economy priority of the Borough Plan. The papers were introduced by Kaycee Ikegwu – Head of Finance & Principal Accountant as set out in the agenda pack at pages 11-84 of the agenda pack. Along with a cover report the budget papers included the following appendices:

- Appendix A – Key lines of enquiry for budget setting
- Appendix B – 2022/23 Draft Budget & 2021/26 Medium Term Financial Strategy Report (presented to Cabinet 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020)
- Appendix C – 2022/23 New Revenue Budget Proposals
- Appendix D - 2022/23 New Capital Budget Proposals
- Appendix E – Proposed 2022/23-2026/27 Capital Programme
- Appendix F – Previously agreed MTFS savings.

The following arose as part of the discussion of the Draft Budget & 2021/26 Medium Term Financial Strategy:

- a. The Panel sought clarification around the relationship between Appendix D and Appendix E and whether the items in Appendix D were in Appendix E. In response, officers advised that Appendix D contained new proposals to add to the Capital Programme for 2022/23, whilst Appendix E contained the entire 5 year capital programme.
- b. The Chair sought clarification around the capital bid for the Civic Centre annex and how this scheme would be self-financing as set out in the papers, particularly given the impact of borrowing costs on the revenue budget from the scheme, which were estimated by the Chair to be around £1.5m per year. Officers advised that the revenue costs were broadly as the Chair outlined them. There was a report going to Cabinet in January on the Civic Centre that would validate the financial assumptions used in the MTFS. Officers advised that through the investment in the Civic Centre annex they were seeking to transform the existing office accommodation estate, which required significant financial investment. The proposal would be self-financing through a combination of removing existing buildings from the revenue budget and new buildings generating an income. The new build Civic Centre would also contribute to the Council's carbon reduction targets, whereas refurbishing existing stock would not.
- c. The Panel sought further clarification around the make-up of the Station Road estate and how long it would take to recoup the costs attributed to the Civic Centre. In response officers advised that the option to refurbish existing stock contained within the accommodation strategy, related to all of the buildings

- along Station Road, including Alex House, 40 Cumberland Road and 40 Station Road but excluded River Park House. Officers also set out that when the Council borrowed money it did not do so for individual schemes, but rather for the whole of its external borrowing needs. Similarly, the debt repayment costs to the revenue budget were calculated as a combined cost that was calculated using the Minimum Revenue Position.
- d. In response to a question, officers advised that there were two lines within the capital budget relating to the Civic Centre. The first was the refurbishment of existing building which was required due to its listed status. The cost of this was £24m. The second line related to the building of a new Civic Centre annex, which was £30m. As part of its accommodation studies, the Council had looked at repurposing the Station Road estate and the building of an annex. The upshot of the analysis was that the Civic Centre annex was the preferred option and offered the Council a number of benefits it could not get from repurposing the existing estate.
  - e. The Panel queried the respective amount of building space between the two options, suggesting that even with an annex there would presumably be a lot less office space compared to repurposing other buildings. The Panel sought assurances around the studies undertaken and the extent to which future office accommodation requirements had been considered. In response, officers reiterated that the report to Cabinet in January would set out in detail how the initial financial assumptions had been validated and would provide Members with the information they were looking for.
  - f. The Panel sought clarification around whether the Civic Centre would be the only building which accommodated staff. In response, the Panel was advised that the business case would be set out in the January Cabinet report and that this would include how many staff would be accommodated, under the new ways of working.
  - g. The Panel sought assurances around the overspend on Alex House and how that could be justified in relation to any subsequent proposal to dispense with the Station Road estate. In response, officers agreed to come back with a written response. **(Action: Jonathan Kirby).**
  - h. The Panel sought clarification around the Wards Corner regeneration scheme and where in the capital budget contained the Council's anticipated contribution to this. In response, officers advised that no decision had been taken on whether the Council would need to contribute to the refurbishment, but that if a decision was taken there was enough provision within the Council's Strategic Acquisition capital budget to cover the refurbishment of the market and any CPO of the surrounding land.
  - i. In response to a follow up, officers advised that TfL were on public record as stating that they would invest in the market site and then seek to hand it over to a preferred bidder. The capital costs would therefore be met by TfL and the GLA. Officers further clarified that any capital bid on the site would exclude the market site but there was an outstanding CPO of the Suffield Road site which had not been implemented. If the Council took a subsequent decision to purchase this site they would need to also purchase some of the land that was owned by Grainger. The Cabinet Member for Finance reiterated that no decision had been taken to do this and that the Council would have to wait and see what TfL's final plans were before making a decision. The Cabinet Member advised that any decision would be taken to a future Cabinet meeting.

- j. The Panel sought assurances that the Council was entirely ruling out investing in the refurbishment of the market site in one form or another. In response, reiterated that TfL had publically committed to investing in the site so there was no requirement for the Council to put money into it.
- k. The Panel commented that as far as they were aware TfL had committed enough to make the site safe but whoever took on the lease would need to invest long term funding for the refurbishment. In response, officers commented that it was very difficult to understand exactly what TfL had committed to in terms of funding for the site, as the process had not been finalised yet. As a result, it was not possible to comment on how far TfL would go in relation to funding. Officers advised that, as far as they understood, the process would be managed through a partnership board and that they would be taking the ultimate decision about the future of the site.
- l. The Chair requested a political commitment from the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for House Building, Place Making and Development about whether the Council would be investing money into the market site in future and the need for budgetary provision to facilitate this. In response, the Cabinet Member for Finance advised that there was a proposal from the Development Trust to put forward a community plan for the site, which the Council was generally supportive of. However, this was just a proposal at present. There were a number of processes that would have to be gone through, and the partnership board would be making the ultimate decision. Officers advised that any future decision on Wards Corner Market would come up in a future round of budget setting.
- m. The Panel requested a written response from the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for House Building, Place Making and Development about whether the Council would be investing money into the market site and in what circumstances this would happen. **Action: (Cllr Gordon & Cllr Diakides).**
- n. The Panel requested a breakdown of the £41.8m allocated to HRA expenditure in the budget and sought clarification about the extent of potential savings from brining HfH back in-house. In response, officers advised that the breakdown was around £19m for the management fee, include staff costs and other expenditure; £20m on repairs, and the remainder went to the Housing Demand service. In relation to potential savings, the Panel was advised that savings were difficult to quantify at this stage as it was not clear how any future in-house service would be structured. It was commented that the next quarterly finance update to Cabinet should contain more detail on this issue.
- o. The Panel questioned a steep drop-off in projected capital expenditure in the HRA towards the end of the 5 year MTFS period. In response, officers advised that this was partly because of a frontloading of investment in the earlier years of the HRA. It was also a consequence of investment in existing stock would reduce maintenance costs in subsequent years.  
*\*Clerks note: 20:20 – the meeting was adjourned for around seven minutes at this point due, to the internet connection dropping out in the meeting room.\**
- p. In response to a request for further clarification, officers advised that that the financial profiling of new home building schemes was based around the schemes that were agreed and where costings had been done. These schemes were due to be completed by 2025. Any schemes that would potentially take place after this had notional figures attached to them, as no

- assessment had been undertaken to profile the costs involved. Officers advised that Members would likely see costs beyond Year 5 fluctuate over time, as different schemes came online.
- q. In response to a request for clarification around whether there was a winding down of investment, officers advised that there was no pulling back on the Council's stated commitments to build new homes and that over a ten year period the Council would be building around 3000 new homes.
  - r. In relation to a question around HRA income received from grants, including the Building Homes for the Future fund, officers advised that the HRA breakdown included a line for external grant funding and that this included grant money already agreed as well as a projection of the amount of future grant based, on the known number of new homes at social rent that would be built. In response to a follow-up, officers confirmed that the figures did reflect an assumption that the level of grant funding available over the next five years would be the same in future as it was currently.
  - s. In relation to the agreed saving HO1 – Temporary Accommodation Reduction Plan, the Panel queried why savings were only profiled in 2021/22 and whether, given the investment in new houses, there was potential for further savings from permanently housing TA residents in future years. In response, finance officers set out that where the saving was shown in Year 1 and the other years were marked with a dash, this meant that the savings would continue in future years. Officers also advised that the impact of new homes was being factored into the saving in question, however, the impact of building new homes was being offset by a range of legislative changes, including Temporary Accommodation support for domestic violence victims and changes to the benefit regime. These changes would affect how these costs were reclaimed in future. Therefore, it was not possible to commit to increased savings in this area at present. Officers agreed to set these reasons out in more detail in writing. **(Action: David Joyce).**
  - t. The Panel sought further clarification about the respective costs in Year 4 onwards for spending on new homes as opposed to new home acquisitions, with a significant drop in funding for building new homes coinciding with a significant increase in acquisitions in Year 4. In response, officers set out that this reflected the cost profiling that had been undertaken at this stage for schemes that were already in the process of being delivered. Officers advised that over the five year period of the MTFS the spend on building new homes was approximately double the spend on acquisitions. Cllr Gordon advised the Panel that there was no change to the manifesto commitments made around house building and that the figures did not reflect a change in policy. The year-on-year figures in the budget report merely reflected when schemes that had already been identified were due to come in.
  - u. In relation to concerns about the ability for the Council to meet its HRA borrowing costs, given the significant level of borrowing that was due to take place. Officers advised that the report included the Capital Finance Requirements and borrowing limits for the Council which were set out in the Treasury Management Strategy. This set out the borrowing costs and it highlighted that all borrowing was within agreed limits. Officers also advised that the Council undertook its borrowing all together, rather than for individual schemes. Each borrowing would be undertaken over a fifty year period and the Council would profile the borrowing to achieve the most favourable terms. The

Panel requested a written response on this and incorporated it into their recommendations set out below.

At this point in the meeting, the members had finished their questions to officers and the Cabinet Members, and then moved on to a discussion to agree the recommendations that they would like to put to Cabinet, based on the above discussions. The recommendations put forward by the Panel were:

- a. That Cabinet provide further detail on how the Civic Centre project fits into the Council's wider accommodation strategy, including the future use of the Station Road estate.
- b. That Cabinet provide clarity around what provision there was for any potential future contribution to the Wards Corner scheme regarding investment in the long term future of this site, following the withdrawal of Grainger. The Panel noted that this site would require significant investment and that TfL have, to date, only committed to invest enough funding to make the site safe. Further investment would be required to make the market site viable.
- c. The Panel recommended that if the funding earmarked for the CPO were to remain in the capital budget, and if the Council was minded to carry out the CPO without Grainger, then this allocation should be used for maximum provision of council homes at council rents. The Panel requested assurances from Cabinet that outcome for the site would be fully considered going forwards.
- d. Further information/written clarification is requested around why borrowing constitutes such a significant proportion of the HRA, particularly in Years 1, 2 & 5. The Panel would like assurances that the borrowing costs are sustainable and that the Council was not at risk of being unduly impacted by any future rise in the cost of borrowing.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Panel considered and provided recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), on the 2022/23 Draft Budget/MTFS 2022/23-2026/27 and proposals relating to the Scrutiny Panel's remit.

### **32. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

## **RESOLVED**

The Panel noted the work programme and any updates contained therein.

### **33. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

N/A

### **34. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

26<sup>th</sup> February 2022

CHAIR: Councillor Matt White



Signed by Chair .....

Date .....

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**Report for:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee -17<sup>th</sup> March

**Title:** Fairness Commission implementation update

**Report**

**authorized by:** Clair McCarthy, AD Strategy, Communications & Delivery

**Lead Officer:** Jean Taylor, Head of Policy

**Ward(s) affected:** All Wards

**Report for Key/**

**Non Key Decision:** Non Key Decision

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1. The Council and its partners are dedicated to making Haringey a fairer and more equal borough.
- 1.2. The Haringey Fairness Commission was established in July 2018, with the aim of better understanding the causes of unfairness and inequality in the borough through conversations with residents and other local stakeholders and developing practical recommendations for how the council and partners can tackle inequality and work to better support residents, communities and businesses in Haringey.
- 1.3. The Commission published its [final report and recommendations](#) on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, shortly before the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. This report set out a series of recommendations for the council, Mayor, national government and partners; including the police, voluntary community sector (VCS) and schools, designed to affect change and increase equality and fairness across the borough.
- 1.4. At the time, it was anticipated that the Council would publish a full Cabinet report in summer 2020 detailing in full how Commission recommendations would be implemented. This report had to be temporarily delayed due to the resource pressures of responding to the pandemic.
- 1.5. Work to implement recommendations has continued during the pandemic – and in some cases has been accelerated in response to it. A [progress report](#) on implementation went to Cabinet, 9th March 2021 and further progress report went to Cabinet in July 2021.
- 1.6. In the July 2021 report we emphasised that responsibility for implementation of Fairness Commission recommendations is being embedded into objectives for services across the council.
- 1.7. Appendix 1 sets out updates to progress since July 2021. For recommendations to the Council and its partners, the appendix provides a detailed overview of (a) what has been implemented to date and (b) what will be implemented in the future. Cabinet members agreed the approach to implementing recommendations based on this detail. For the recommendations directed at others, namely national government, schools and the Mayor of London, the appendix provides commentary about progress in the areas addressed by recommendations, including actions taken by the Council and partners which relate to these.

Appendix 1

Fairness Commission recommendations: implementation update

February 2022

The Fairness Commission made recommendations to national and regional government, as well as Haringey Council. The updates in the table below relate to recommendations for Haringey Council.

Cross-cutting recommendations are highlighted in green.

Recommendation number	Full recommendation	First steps	Next steps
Rec #2.	The council should introduce an ethical approach to debt, including introducing ethical debt collections in the borough.	<b>Ethical Debt Policy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Introduced <a href="#">Ethical Debt Reduction Policy</a> and <a href="#">Tackling Debt Strategy</a>.</li><li>– The council's ethical debt collection policy has already resulted in a 60% reduction in the use of bailiffs for residents receiving benefits over the past two years.</li><li>– We no longer use bailiffs for Council Tax arrears for people on very low incomes, who are vulnerable, or facing mental health concerns.</li><li>– <a href="#">See source</a></li><li>– Council ensures there are services which prevent/alleviates debt I.e., gambling, substance misuse</li></ul> <b>Implementing the Debt Policy and Strategy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Created a Local Welfare Assistance Fund known locally as the Haringey Support Fund, to support residents in need of emergency essentials.</li><li>– A Here to Help web page with links to all the support available to residents.</li></ul>	<b>Implementing the Debt Policy and Strategy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Continue to refine, develop and promote the debt support available in line with national and local trends</li><li>- Develop and implement more campaigns to target support to residents</li><li>- Through guidance and training enable more frontline staff to support residents in debt</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A Financial Support Team in Customer Services who can assist residents in improving their financial situation by understanding the root causes of financial hardship with a focus on maximising their household income and support them to reduce their debts</li> <li>– Dedicated benefit maximisation officers who support residents with claiming the benefits they are entitled to.</li> <li>– An online benefits calculator which residents can use to see what support they may be eligible for before applying.</li> <li>– Worked in partnership with London Capital Credit Union to provide staff and residents with easy ways to save and low interest rate loans</li> <li>– Established a Debt and Financial Inclusion Partnership to provide a forum to share information between the council and partners and support a strategic approach to tackling debt and financial hardship</li> </ul>	
Rec #3.	<p>The council and other public sector organisations in Haringey should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise the profound and far-reaching impacts of low income, introduce socio-economic status as a protected characteristic which is considered in decision-making, service design and in Equality Impact Assessments</li> <li>Recognise the need for a strong evidence base in policy and decision-making, ensure more and better data collection across different protected characteristics so that a more comprehensive picture of people's life experiences can be built</li> </ol>	<p><b>Socioeconomic status in EqlAs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The council is making socioeconomic status a protected characteristic in EqlAs (Equality Impact Assessments).</li> <li>– It means that every key policy has to be judged on whether it will benefit poorer residents or not. Haringey is one of just a few councils to do this.</li> <li>– <a href="#">See source</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Socioeconomic status in EqlAs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The council's Statutory Functions Board agreed that the council will now treat socioeconomic status as a 'local protected characteristic.'</li> <li>- To support this the council has introduced a new EQIA form and will be undertaking work to build capacity in equalities impact</li> </ul>

			<p>analysis within the organisation</p> <p><b>Data collection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Council has introduced new Equality Monitoring Guidance which seeks to improve the equalities data we hold for service users and includes proxy questions for socioeconomic status</li> </ul>
Rec #4.	The council should ensure parity of esteem in mental and physical health when designing and implementing eligibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Council is employing <b>person-centred</b> approaches in services to deliver wraparound care which consider both physical and mental health needs</li> <li>- Haringey is championing <b>lived experience</b>, valuing service user feedback and service design collaboration</li> <li>- Haringey Council encourages accessing <b>support before crisis</b> point through numerous outreach and early intervention programmes</li> <li>- Amending <b>service provision</b>, such as training (physical) clinicians and other professionals in mental health screening and brief interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commissioning <b>recovery-focused</b> services and interventions which improve overall long-term health</li> <li>- Encouraging the <b>integration</b> of mental health support and services with statutory provisions such as schools and the police</li> <li>- Addressing the existence of <b>stigma</b>, prejudice and discrimination which can stop those with mental health problems seeking treatment</li> </ul>
Rec #5.	The council should work with other public sector employees, partners and businesses in Haringey towards introducing the London Living Wage for their employees. The council should consider incentivising businesses to achieve this by, for example, offering reduced business rates to businesses who receive London Living Wage	<p><b>Social value requirement in council contracts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Contracts for services and supplies now have to consider social value – including whether the contractor is local to the borough and employs local people</li> <li>– Council contracts ask suppliers to pay staff London Living Wage</li> <li>– <a href="#">See source</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Social Value Lease Pilot</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Review and consider extending scope of Social Value Leases</li> </ul> <p><b>Inward Investment Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote LLW in IIS when developed</li> </ul>

	Foundation accreditation and demonstrate payment of LLW.	<b>Social Value Lease Pilot</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Rebate on council leases for businesses meeting certain social value criteria including paying LLW</li></ul>	<b>Incentives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Rate relief as an incentive will be explored with finance colleagues</li><li>- Other potential incentives will be explored with colleagues across relevant services</li></ul> <b>London Living Wage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- All new contracts over £50k include LLW as a contractual requirement</li></ul>
Rec #6.	The council should ensure that in all interactions with council staff, people feel that they have been listened to and understood, and that council staff in different parts of the organisation have worked together to address their needs.	<p>The council has been developing new approaches to supporting residents in ways that are strengths based, joined up and holistic.</p> <p><b>Connected Communities</b></p> <p>Our award-winning Connected Communities programme helps and encourages residents to live their version of a good life.</p> <p>It is based on providing the practical support that residents want across a wide range of issues. The support is based in communities.</p> <p><b>Financial Support Team</b></p> <p>The council's new financial support team is providing more proactive and joined up support to prevent residents for getting into debt, maximizing their income, accessing the Haringey Support Fund and other sources of financial support.</p>	

		<p>The Haringey Here to Help web pages are hub for a really wide range of help and support all in one place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <a href="#">See source</a></li> </ul> <p>Going forward, there is significant work underway to embed <b>the ‘Haringey Way’</b> as the way we work. This includes four key ways of working that form the foundations for how we work across the system: early intervention and prevention; integrated working; locality working; and a strengths-based approach.</p>	
Rec #7.	The Council should, recognising the barriers that disabled people face in their day-to-day lives and when accessing public services, adopt the social model of disability (which says that people are disabled by barriers in society, not by their impairment or difference) and ensure that it is reflected across council buildings, service delivery, policy-making and communications.	<p><b>Disability Action Haringey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Haringey has created a Disability Rights Organisation to advocate for the social model of disability. They are working closely with council officers on this agenda.</li> <li>- <a href="#">See source</a></li> <li>-</li> </ul>	–
Rec #8.	The council should redesign frontline, customer-facing environments so that they are more welcoming to people using services, reflecting what is important to them (for example, privacy), and ensuring that they are fully accessible to customers with different impairments.	<p><b>Introduced Customer First</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A transformation programme designed to make residents calls and correspondence as quick and simple as possible.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">See source</a></p> <p><b>Created a dedicated social media space for customer services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Haringey has created a dedicated social media channel on Twitter for customer service queries to make it easier for people to contact the council and get a faster response.</li> <li>– <a href="#">See source</a></li> </ul>	Our face-to-face services have been operating under covid safe measures over the last two years. As we move back to more normalized operations consideration of the wider set of issues envisaged in the recommendation can progress.



		<b>Mulberry Junction</b> has been opened as a one-stop shop for services and support for our residents experiencing rough sleeping.	
Rec #9.	The council, partners and other public sector organisations should prioritise embedding dignity and respect for individuals as core values underpinning the delivery of public services across the borough and commit to a culture change, so that residents always feel they are treated with humanity.	<p><b>Haringey Disability Rights Organisation created</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Haringey has created a Disability Rights Organisation to advocate for the social model of disability.</li> <li>- <a href="#">See source</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Chad Gordon autism hub launched</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our new <a href="#">autism hub</a> is to be run by people with autism.</li> <li>- The Council is taking a 'whole-life' approach to autism and ADHD, joining up services across the council and our partners.</li> <li>- <a href="#">See source</a></li> </ul>	
Rec #10.	The council should ensure that the highest standards of safe, inclusive and accessible design are secured in all new developments, recognising the frustration that disabled people and other residents feel when new local developments and businesses are inaccessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Haringey's Local Plan emphasises that a high quality, inclusive and accessible environment benefits the quality of life for residents and visitors. It allows everyone to move around easily and enables residents at all stages of life to remain within the local area as part of the community, including families with small children, older people living by themselves and those with mobility impairment. It goes on to state that if properly implemented, accessible and inclusive developments and neighbourhoods enable people to remain independent and economically active for longer, reducing the need for extensive adaptations to buildings, to meet the needs of existing and potential future users.</li> <li>- Local policies require that new developments can be used safely, easily and with dignity by all; are designed so that the layout improves people's</li> </ul>	

		<p>access to social and community infrastructure, including local shops and public transport; protect, improve and create, where appropriate, safe and accessible pedestrian and cycling routes; and have regard to the principles set out in 'Secured by Design'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Council has an ambitious programme to deliver new Council homes at Council rents, which will ensure that more people in the borough have safe and stable housing, and thus increased life chances.</li></ul> <p>With regard to safety and accessibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Every new Council Housing Scheme is designed in collaboration with the Metropolitan Police Designing out Crime Officers and aims to ensure that every development is safe and secure and that previously damaging areas of anti-social behaviour are, wherever possible, eradicated by designing them out of our new Schemes.</li><li>- Every new Council Housing Scheme has, as a minimum, 10% capacity for wheelchair adaptable homes and across the current Programme, we have more than 250 new homes, designed to a full M4 (3) standard</li><li>- All new homes created by the Housing Delivery Programme are designed in accordance with the GLA's standards to ensure high quality homes for the future</li><li>- Public Health is involved in the design of development to ensure the health impacts are assessed and negative impacts are mitigated against.</li></ul>	
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Rec #11.	The council, partners and other public sector organisations should recognise the unnecessary barriers that disabled people face in their day-to-day lives, and make collective efforts to ensure that good practice in communicating with people with different impairments is used, in line with the Equality Act and so that disabled residents are always able to access the information they need	<b>Accessible communications</b> All comms reviewed and considered to ensure inclusivity and accessibility of information and adjustments made where necessary.	<b>Communications advice</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Services continue to be advised on how to ensure their communications can be designed to be accessible through printed materials and other activities such as events.</li> </ul>
Rec #12.	When tendering new social care contracts, the council should implement the Ethical Care Charter in order to “establish a minimum baseline for the safety, quality and dignity of care by ensuring employment conditions which: a) do not routinely short-change clients; and b) ensure the recruitment and retention of a more stable workforce through more sustainable pay, conditions and training levels.”	<b>Introduced London Living Wage for homecare workers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council contracts require that care workers are now paid for travel time too</li> <li>Haringey Council became a <a href="#">London Living Wage Employer</a> in November 2018</li> <li><a href="#">See source</a></li> </ul> <b>Secure contracts for social workers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The council is moving more social workers to secure contracts – meaning that families keep the same support for longer.</li> <li><a href="#">See source</a></li> </ul>	
Rec #13.	The Council and partners should ensure that all local communities are offered a voice in service design and decision making, and that their views have a genuine impact.	<b>Chad Gordon Autism Hub</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recently opened Chad Gordon Autism Hub was co-designed with service users and carers.</li> </ul> <b>Wood Green Youth Hub</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new youth hub in Wood Green has been co-designed with young people via a steering group.</li> </ul> <b>Created a Citizens Panel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Citizen’s Panel is a representative group of local Haringey residents who are regularly engaged on policy and local issues.</li> </ul>	The council is developing its approach to resident participation and seeking to embed the learning from key projects like those listed here across the council.  Additional resources were identified in the MTFs from 2022/23 to support this agenda and new role of Participation Delivery Lead is currently being recruited.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1,200 Haringey residents have been recruited so far.</li> <li>- <a href="#">See source</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Borough Plan</b> Phase 1 of the preparation of the 2023-27 Borough Plan has involved significant resident participation including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a Residents Survey of 1900 randomly selected residents, representing the borough's socio-demographic profile;</li> <li>- on-street resident engagement in a range of locations across the borough, reaching more than 100 people in total and resulting in the completion of 43 surveys;</li> <li>- online resident engagement via a Commonplace platform, to which 36 responses were received in total, including from Citizen's Panel members;</li> <li>- a series of workshops with seldom heard communities, including Workshops with HALS and Haringey Works service users; disabled people and carers; the Somali Network; young people from the Turkish and Kurdish Network; Aspire Children in Care and Care Leaver Council.</li> <li>- One-to-one interviews with: Mums at Park Lane and Triangle Children's Centres; Mulberry Junction service users; Connected Communities service users; and,</li> <li>- A LGBTQ+ survey to address past underrepresentation in the Residents Survey.</li> </ul>	Residents will play a significant role in shaping the next borough plan in the second half of 2022.
Rec #15.	Recognising the council's influence over the private rental sector is limited, it should nonetheless review what it can do to drive improvements in the quality and security of housing for the increasing number of residents reliant on this sector	<p><b>Expanded landlord licensing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduced an Additional Licensing scheme for HMOs (Houses of Multiple Occupants) in April 2019.</li> <li>- Through this scheme over 1,000 Properties are now licenced with the council.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Selective Property Licensing to be presented at Cabinet on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, for decision.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Post lockdown restrictions compliance checks on all licensed premises are being undertaken</li> <li>– Council using powers under Housing and Planning Bill to issue Civil Penalty Notices to landlords who fail to comply.</li> <li>– Public consultation was undertaken between 17<sup>th</sup> May &amp; 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021 on a proposal to introduce selective property licensing non-HMO property.</li> <li>– Partnership working with Cambridge house and their safer renting scheme is providing training for officers and greater support for tenants in the private rented sector.</li> <li>– <a href="#">See source</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– If approved submission will go to DLUHC in March 2022 for final authorisation.</li> <li>– Council to relaunch its landlord forum which will provide opportunity to re-engage with private sector landlords and agents post pandemic, to offer training, advice, guidance, support and an opportunity to network.</li> <li>– Expand our network of partners to ensure we are reaching those tenants in most need.</li> </ul>
Rec #16.	Recognising the priority afforded to the borough's council home delivery programme and the positive impact this is intended to have on the numbers in temporary accommodation, the council should also take action to address the quality and appropriateness of housing for residents currently reliant on temporary accommodation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community Benefit Society created</li> <li>- 92 homes bought at IBSA site</li> <li>- Olive Morris Court built</li> <li>- <a href="#">See source</a></li> <li>- Joined the 'Capital Letters' programme with other councils in London to ease the growing homelessness crisis and reduce competition between boroughs for emergency and temporary accommodation space.</li> <li>- <a href="#">See source</a></li> </ul>	<p>267 homes will have been leased to the Haringey Community Benefit Society by the end of February, increasing to 277 in March.</p> <p>These homes offer longer term and good quality accommodation to households who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>The vast majority of these homes are in Haringey, and if not are in a neighbouring borough.</p>
Rec #17.	The council should do more to recognise and respond to the specific housing issues affecting disabled people.	This is addressed under rec #10 above.	Further homes to meet specific family's needs will be designed

		In addition, the bespoke homes programme, which forms part of our council house building programme, means that we are building new homes which can specifically meet the needs of families with disabled family members. For instance, this included homes at Rosa Luxembourg apartments.	and built over the next few years.
Rec #18.	The council should ensure 100% of council homes are at a decent standard by 2022.	<p>The Capital Programme has been severely disrupted by COVID and wider market conditions.</p> <p>As a result, we have revised the target to delivery by March 2025.</p> <p>This will allow us to deliver works holistically and minimise resident disruption.</p> <p>We have prioritised working on properties which have been non-decent for the longest period.</p>	
Rec #19.	The council should review the housing allocations policy in a more consultative format as part of the development of the new Housing Strategy and, once it is agreed, clearly communicate how it works and the rationale for this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Housing Allocations Policy is a separate document to the Housing Strategy; however, we are in the early stages of thinking about what a new allocations policy will look like and are committed to developing this jointly with residents who will be affected by the Housing Allocations Policy.</li> <li>- We are also committed to ensuring that that Housing Allocations Policy is clearly understood by everyone.</li> </ul>	
Rec #21.	The council should put children's rights into practice across all its policy making, service design and delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Voice of the child practice guidance has been developed and implemented with Children's Services.</li> <li>- The Youth Service have developed a new role for a Youth Participation Worker to join the service from June to develop and embed a youth participation framework.</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Young people have been at the heart of developing the plans for the new Youth Hub in Wood Green which will open in summer 2022. This has seen genuine co-production and provides some inspiring best practice that can be learned from and further developed in the future.</li> </ul>	
Rec #22.	The council should actively pursue opportunities to provide more play and leisure for children and young people and ensure that they are accessible to all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c£1M pa for next 3 years – Holiday Activities &amp; Food (HAF) targeted at children receiving free school meals.</li> <li>• Annual CYPS budget of £250K for community and additional youth holiday programming</li> <li>• Richard Hope Play Space at Finsbury Park to be completed</li> <li>• Various community activities programmes &amp; leisure centre initiatives e.g. People Need Parks, Park Tennis Lessons, Concession Campaign, New River children &amp; youth programming</li> <li>• London Youth Games/Intra &amp; inter school competitions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bruce Castle Park MUGA upgrade</li> <li>• Skate Park; Finsbury Park</li> <li>• BMX track – Highgate</li> <li>• Priory Park – various sport upgrades/installations</li> <li>• Tennis Court upgrades – Downhills, Priory, Chestnuts, Stationers &amp; Chapmans</li> <li>• Bull Lane – new 3G, MUGA and grass pitches, outdoor gym, children's play, community gardens and new sports hall</li> <li>• Wood Green Leisure Centre – inception stage.</li> </ul>
Rec #23.	The council should work with partners to secure continued funding for tackling youth violence building on the Haringey Community Gold programme.	<p><b>£0.75m secured to reduce youth violence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The council secured £0.75m from the Mayor of London's VRU (Violence Reduction Unit).</li> <li>- The Mayor's MyEnds programme will fund sport provision, employment support, a future leaders programme and mental health support in Tottenham Hale.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to apply for external funding opportunities with VCS partners and multi-sector consortiums</li> <li>• Deliver extension of Haringey Community Gold</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">See source</a></li> </ul> <p><b>£1.5m secured for youth work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The council secured £1.5m from the Mayor of London's Young Londoners Fund</li> <li>- It funds a network of detached youth workers and community programmes</li> <li>• <a href="#">See source</a></li> </ul>	<p>(HCG) programme to March 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventative Mayor of London's VRU funding repropoed to support HCG's VCS delivery</li> <li>• Develop strategy to continue HCG provision</li> <li>• Independent HCG report by Bridge Renewal Trust to be issued in Q2 of 2022</li> </ul>
Rec #24.	The council and partners should use their collective influence to accelerate a systems-wide approach to identifying and responding to the most urgent risks affecting our children and young people.	<p><b>Young People at Risk action plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Introduced a public health approach to youth violence</li> <li>– With our Young People at Risk strategy, the council formally adopted a public health approach to serious youth violence – the first London borough to do so.</li> <li>– Our gangs team has worked with more than 50 young men involved in gang-related crime – four of whom have already moved on to employment</li> <li>– <a href="#">See source</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Supported Families programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Funded two temporary targeted youth teams to support young people at risk of offending and exploitation, funding ends Mar 2023. Funds being used to extend Haringey Community Gold until March 2023. Work underway to look at how we continue this provision.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rising Green Youth Hub</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New youth hub will be operating from Wood Green in July 2022. One of the key objectives will be to contribute to the reduction of serious youth violence.</li> </ul>	



Rec #25.	The council and schools should, building on the work of the Schools Exclusion Review, prioritise work to address the issue of school exclusion.	<b>Brought Haringey's Pupil Referral Unit in-house</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Haringey's Pupil Referral Unit is no longer outsourced – and is now a maintained local provision, the <a href="#">Haringey Learning Partnership</a></li> <li>– <a href="#">See source</a></li> <li>– An exclusions steering group has been set up as an offshoot of the BAME steering group to look at and address exclusions and ensure that all are empowered to reduce the numbers being excluded</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An exclusions pledge is being shared with stakeholders to support our work in looking at need behind behavior and reducing exclusion and, where an exclusion is necessary, to ensure that the support is right to address unmet need and support a return to mainstream that can be successful</li> <li>- Two learning events have been held with heads (Nov '21) and with governors (Feb '22) and a third 'inclusion' as opposed to exclusion event is planned for the summer term</li> </ul>
Rec #26.	The council, public sector partners and voluntary sector organisations should work together to ensure that groups who experience labour market disadvantage, including BAME young men, disabled and neuro-diverse people, are prioritised for employment support.	<p>The Council's Employment and Skills Recovery Action Plan agreed by key partners in borough and prioritises employment and skills training support for those residents most impact by Covid 19.</p> <p>This includes BAME young men, disabled and neurodiverse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New SEND/Autism employment advisor commencing March 22 to be based in Autism Hub</li> <li>• Additional Care Leaver Support being delivered through Drive Forward and employment support programme for Care Leavers studying at university to commence delivery late spring 2022.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Recovery and Skills Action Plan will continue.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New youth unemployment service in Haringey Works focusing on young people at risk supported over 50 young people into work this year.</li><li>• Haringey Works delivering Hub and spoke mode in community settings supported over 800 residents to Jan 2022 with just under 500 of those securing work.</li><li>• £1.2 m ESF funding secured to increase delivery of employment support and training to residents with most significant barriers into work launching March April2022. This includes a new paid 6-month placement programme in parks and leisure with guaranteed interviews</li><li>• Haringey Employment support providers network coordinated to promote better collaboration and maximize use of resources locally.</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Work and Health programme extended</li><li>– Access UK’s BAME careers service has supported over 100 young people to improve their job prospects.</li></ul> <p><b>Work Routes Haringey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– 2-year programme of support for unemployed or economically inactive residents.</li><li>– Focus on Tottenham residents and parents, women, young people, people with a health condition or disability or from an ethnic minority group</li></ul> <p><b>Created the Haringey Fairer Education Fund</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Created a <a href="#">council fund</a> to support young people in Haringey into university.</li><li>- The fund offers bursary grants, mentoring, and paid placements with the council – paid at London Living</li></ul>	
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		<p>Wage. It also pays the cost of UCAS application fees.</p> <p>- <a href="#">See source</a></p>	
<p>Rec #27. <b>Haringey schools:</b></p>	<p>Schools and other education settings should consider how they can create LGBTQ+ inclusive environments, to foster positive attitudes to diversity and signal a zero-tolerance approach to homophobic hate crime.</p>	<p>Relationship Education and RSE curriculum within schools:</p> <p>Relationships Education is already compulsory in all primary schools in England and Relationships and Sex Education compulsory in all secondary schools. Schools must ensure that they comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010, under which sexual orientation and gender reassignment are amongst the protected characteristics.</p> <p>Schools have to ensure that all of their teaching is sensitive and age appropriate in approach and content. At the point at which schools consider it appropriate to teach their pupils about LGBT, they should ensure that this content is fully integrated into their programmes of study for this area of the curriculum rather than delivered as a standalone unit or lesson.</p> <p><b><u>Rainbow crossing</u></b></p> <p>Haringey council was proud to work with young people and the Headteacher of Woodside Secondary School to install a rainbow crossing outside the school. We believe this was the first such crossing outside a school in the UK.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will communicate with our School Improvement partners in the Haringey Education Partnership (HEP) to ensure that Haringey schools are meeting their statutory requirements and that all pupils have been taught LGBT content at a timely point as part of this area of the curriculum.</li> <li>• HEP are also able to provide support to schools on how they can develop and sensitively manage this area of the curriculum with families to foster positive attitudes and inclusive environments.</li> <li>• HEP is committed to ensuring that School Governors understand their responsibility around equality and inclusion and relevant</li> </ul>

			<p>training on equality and diversity is available for Governors and Headteachers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public Health CYP team are working with schools to ensure that schools have embedded mandatory PSHE/RSE. This academic year, the RSHE network meetings have focused on how schools can deliver an LGBT+ inclusive curriculum, tailoring the RSHE curriculum to students with SEND, being safe and consent.</li></ul>
Rec #29.	The council and partners should redress the balance in access to opportunities for growth for Haringey's voluntary and community sector.	<p><b>VCS Support team</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Council team created in 2020 to provide additional support for Haringey's voluntary and community sector, with a focus on small and grassroots community groups. Working jointly with Council's VCS Strategic Partner, Bridge Renewal Trust, the team:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Supports groups to access funding</li><li>○ Provides project planning and organizational development support</li><li>○ Builds partnerships</li><li>○ Supports relationships between Council &amp; sector, and other statutory partners</li><li>○ Identifies &amp; responds to development &amp; training needs</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Development of VCS Strategy to cover Council &amp; partners' approach to resourcing VCS</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provides resources</li> <li>○ Builds relationships with external funders.</li> </ul>	
Rec #30. Council/Police/VCS/ partners:	The police, council, VCS and partners should use their collective influence and relationships to further improve relationships between the police and local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Weekly meetings continue to take place between the police and council identifying ways in which we can engage with local communities</li> <li>- Use of comms to inform communities about what we are doing collectively to address local concerns</li> <li>- Multi-Agency Turnpike Lane and Northumberland Park Strategic working group developed to address increases in crime and violence</li> <li>- Hate crime delivery group/multi-faith groups to work with faith communities and address concerns around increases in hate crime.</li> <li>- Women's safety at night survey resulted in 2000 responses</li> </ul>	<p>Development of community safety strategy 2023-25</p> <p>Development of a corporate strategy to respond to women's safety concerns.</p>
Rec #32 Council/partners/pub lic sector:	The council, partners and other public sector organisations should work together to: a. Create a shared equality and diversity action plan for the borough to celebrate our many different cultures and experiences together b. Provide better support for refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and people with NRPF. This could include, for example, the Council's Expanded Free School Meals Working Group prioritising the provision of free school meals to children of families with NRPF.	<p><b>Free School Meals extended to children with No Recourse to Public Funds</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The council has extended Free School Meals to children with No Recourse to Public Funds</li> <li>- <a href="#">See source</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Higher payments to families with No Recourse to Public Funds</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Haringey raised rates of subsistence paid to families with No Recourse to Public Funds.</li> <li>- <a href="#">See source</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Launched a Welcome Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The council published a Welcome Strategy – one of the first councils to do so – setting out our support to migrant communities.</li> <li>- Established the Welcome Advisory Board to develop work with migrant and refugee communities in Haringey.</li> <li>- <a href="#">See source</a></li> </ul>	

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**Report for:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**Item number:** 10

**Title:** Scrutiny Review – Child Poverty

**Report authorised by:** Cllr Gunes, Chair of Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel

**Lead Officer:** Robert Mack, 020 8489 2921 [rob.mack@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:rob.mack@haringey.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 Under the agreed terms of reference, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) can assist the Council and the Cabinet in its budgetary and policy framework through conducting in-depth analysis of local policy issues and can make recommendations for service development or improvement. The Committee may:
- (a) Review the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
  - (b) Conduct research to assist in specific investigations. This may involve surveys, focus groups, public meetings and/or site visits;
  - (c) Make reports and recommendations, on issues affecting the authority’s area, or its inhabitants, to Full Council, its Committees or Sub-Committees, the Executive, or to other appropriate external bodies.
- 1.2 In this context, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 29 November 2021 agreed to set up a review project to look at child poverty within Haringey.

**2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

N/A

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That the Committee approve the report and its recommendations and that it be submitted to Cabinet for response.

**4. Reasons for decision**

- 4.1 The Committee is requested to approve the report and the recommendations within it so that it may be submitted to Cabinet for response.

**5. Alternative options considered**

- 5.1 The Committee could decide not to agree the report and its recommendations, which would mean that it could not be referred to Cabinet for response.

**6. Background information**

- 6.1 The rationale for the setting up of the review, including the scope and terms of reference, is outlined in paragraphs 1.1 to 1.4 of the report.

**7. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

- 7.1 This review relates to the People priority of the Borough Plan - where strong families, strong networks and strong communities nurture all residents to live well and achieve their potential.

**8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)**

**Finance and Procurement**

- 8.1 The Chief Finance Officer notes the report including the recommendations. At this stage there are no financial implications to highlight however the majority of the recommendations would have direct financial implications which would need to be exemplified in detail ahead of any decisions to proceed. This would also need to set out any resulting impact on existing financial plans and strategic strategies.

**Legal**

- 8.2 Under Section 9F Local Government Act 2000 ("The Act"), Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the powers to review or scrutinise decisions made or other action taken in connection with the discharge of any executive and non-executive functions and to make reports or recommendations to the executive or to the authority with respect to the discharge of those functions. Overview and Scrutiny Committee also have the powers to make reports or recommendations to the executive or to the authority on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of its area. Under Section 9FA of the Act, Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to appoint a sub-committee to assist with the discharge of its scrutiny functions. Such sub-committee may not discharge any functions other than those conferred on it.
- 8.3 Pursuant to the above provisions, Overview and Scrutiny Committee has established Scrutiny Review Panels of which the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel is one, to discharge on its behalf, defined scrutiny functions. On the request from Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel has undertaken a review on Child Poverty. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Panel must refer the outcome of its review to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration and approval.
- 8.6 The remit of the Scrutiny Panel's review is defined in the terms of reference set out in the review report. The Scrutiny Panel should keep to the terms of reference



and ensure that its findings and recommendations are based on good evidence, accord with good practice and are reasonable and rational

## **Equality**

- 8.7 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.
- 8.8 The Panel has aimed to consider these duties within this review and, in particular;
- 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.

## **9. Use of Appendices**

Appendix A: Draft report of Scrutiny Review – Child Poverty

## **10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

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# Scrutiny Review: Child Poverty

**A Review by the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel**

**2021/22**

<b>Panel Membership</b>	Cllr Makbule Gunes (Chair)
	Cllr James Chiriyankandath
	Cllr Josh Dixon
	Cllr Emine Ibrahim
	Cllr Sarah James
	Cllr Tammy Palmer
	Cllr Daniel Stone
	Anita Jakhu (Co-opted member)
	Kanupriya Jhunhunwala (Co-opted member)
	Yvonne Denny (Co-opted member)
	Lourdes Keever (Co-opted member)

Support Officer: Robert Mack, Principal Scrutiny Support Officer

[Rob.mack@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:Rob.mack@haringey.gov.uk)

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2. Child Poverty in Haringey	8.
3. Tower Hamlets	13.
4. Child Poverty Action Group	16.
5. Findings	19.

## CHAIR'S FOREWORD

Child poverty is increasing both nationally and within Haringey. This is despite targets for its reduction by 2020 in the Child Poverty Act of 2010. The impact of poverty on children is profound and long lasting. It is nevertheless inseparable from adult poverty though – poor children are part of struggling families.

Whilst the main levers to address child poverty are at a national level, there are still actions that local authorities can take to mitigate it. Haringey is already doing much and significantly more than most authorities, although there is still more that could be done. It requires a collaborative and coordinated response. In particular, action that increases earnings and employment levels or maximises access to welfare benefits can be effective. Reducing household costs, such as housing and childcare, is also important.

The review looked at how child poverty could be addressed strategically within the refreshed Borough Plan and interventions that can be effective in mitigating it. The growing cost of living crisis will have a considerable impact on struggling families and it is therefore essential that the Council ensures that poverty one of its major priority in the next four years.



Cllr Makbule Gunes  
Chair

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

### ***Strategic Approach***

#### ***Our Key Findings:***

- ▶ Data on the scale of child poverty in the borough is concerning and levels are likely to get worse in the next four years due to increases in the cost of living. Poverty therefore needs to be a key priority within the refreshed Borough Plan.
- ▶ The Council already undertakes a range of initiatives to address poverty, such as targeted income maximisation work using data, the extension of free school meals and the Council Tax reduction scheme.
- ▶ Children are not poor in isolation but as part of families. There are also a range of causes and influences on poverty. The response therefore needs to be cross cutting, coordinated and collaborative.
- ▶ Families can struggle to find out what support they can get and how to access it. There is also considerable stigma with seeking help.
- ▶ The expansion of free school meals has provided the Council with a route into schools and can provide the opportunity to improve communication of the support that is available to families from the Council and partner organisations

#### ***Our Recommendation:***

1. That alleviating poverty be set as a key priority within the refreshed Borough Plan.
2. That, as part of the refresh process for the new Borough Plan, a cross cutting review into poverty be undertaken that includes engagement with partners and residents to obtain a broader understanding of the issue and develop a strategic and coordinated response, including:
  - How the availability of support will be communicated, including the role of schools, Children's Centres and community organisations
  - How inequality will be addressed; and
  - How stigma will be avoided, including a "cash-first" approach to support.

### ***Customer Services***

#### ***Our Key Findings:***

- ▶ Customer Services are the first port of call for many struggling families seeking support and need to be of the highest quality. Work should be undertaken to increase further their accessibility and simplify application processes.
- ▶ The Covid lockdowns have made the levels of digital exclusion across the borough apparent and Customer Services therefore need to be fully accessible to those without access to IT.

- ▶ Families do not always seek to access services at the correct location. Work should be done to ensure that families are provided with assistance and support irrespective of where within the Council they seek to access support.

***Our Recommendations:***

3. That the Council's Customer Services be reviewed with a view to making them easier to access and simplifying applications and that this includes consideration how to make services of equal accessibility and quality for people without digital access.
4. That the principle of "no wrong door" be adopted and a wider group of officers than those working in Customer Services be given responsibility and the tools for assisting residents with support queries, including benefits advice.

## **Food**

***Our Key Findings:***

- ▶ Food poverty is increasing and has been exacerbated by the withdrawal of budget food lines by many supermarkets. In addition, donations to food banks and similar initiatives are likely to be affected by the rising cost of living.
- ▶ Work on the development of the Council's Food Strategy should be prioritised. In addition, it should be a key part of the refreshed Borough Plan and any strategic plan to address poverty.
- ▶ Free school meals (FSMs) are a key way in which it can be ensured that all children receive at least one hot, nutritious meal per day.
- ▶ The quality of school meals is variable and it is important that contracts are monitored carefully by schools.

***Our Recommendations:***

5. That a progress report on the development of the Council's Food Strategy be included in the workplan for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2022/23.
6. That the roll out of FSMs be extended further to make them universal and, in addition, further funding be provided for their provision during school holidays.
7. That guidance for schools on effective school meal contracts be developed including ensuring that they are of high quality and nutritional value.

## **Schools**

***Our Key Findings:***

- ▶ The role of schools is crucial in responding to child poverty as they have ready access to children and families and are trusted institutions.

- ▶ The cost of school uniforms and rigorous enforcement of uniform policies can impact adversely on the poorest families. In addition, there can be hidden costs in schooling which can also have a negative impact.

***Our Recommendations:***

8. That work takes place with schools to reduce the cost of the school day by promoting greater awareness of the financial impact of policies and initiatives on poorer families and, in particular, hidden costs.
9. That the Haringey Education Partnership works with schools to explore how they may engage more effectively with parents and carers that are hard to reach, including drawing on successful initiatives from elsewhere and consideration of the commissioning of external research.

***Leisure and Physical Activity***

***Our Key Findings:***

- ▶ Poor children should not be excluded from leisure activities. There are higher levels of childhood obesity in deprived areas and physical activity can play an important role in addressing this.
- ▶ There should be longer term planning of youth programmes, which have generally been funded on a short-term basis and through grants.
- ▶ Initiatives undertaken as part of the Haringey Community Gold scheme have been welcome and consideration should be given to whether some of these can be made permanent.

***Our Recommendations:***

10. That a commitment be made to provide permanent funding for youth programmes and services.
11. That the feasibility of longer term funding for successful initiatives undertaken as part of Haringey Community Gold be explored.



## 1. Background

- 1.1 The percentage of children living in poverty has increased in recent years, both nationally and within Haringey. The current Borough Plan 2019-23 has a number of priorities that address the issue, both directly and indirectly. Children and young people are a specific priority, with several outcomes focussed on their needs. There are also a number of other priority areas within the Plan that have a major impact on child poverty, including:
- Housing;
  - A safe, green and clean environment; and
  - A local economy that provides good training and job opportunities.
- 1.2 Since the Borough Plan was agreed, the Covid pandemic has taken place and this has had a severe impact on children and young people. The Plan is due to be refreshed in 2022. The review was set up to:
- Identify the current levels of child poverty within the borough and how these have developed since the start of the current Borough Plan; and
  - Consider interventions that may be the most effective in responding to the current challenges presented by child poverty and how these may be incorporated strategically within the updated Borough Plan to develop a coordinated approach to the issue.
- 1.3 The terms of reference of the review were as follows:  
“To consider and make recommendations to Cabinet on Interventions that may have the potential to be the most effective in addressing child poverty and how these may be incorporated strategically within the updated Borough Plan.”
- 1.4 The Panel received evidence from the following:
- Jean Taylor, Head of Policy;
  - Margaret Gallagher, Performance Manager
  - Councillor Mufeedah Bustin, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, London Borough of Tower Hamlets;
  - Frances Winter, Strategy and Policy Manager, London Borough of Tower Hamlets; and
  - Hannah Aldridge, Child Poverty Action Group.
- 1.5 The membership of the Panel was as follows:  
Councillors: Makbule Gunes (Chair), James Chiriyankandath, Emine Ibrahim, Sarah James, Tammy Palmer and Daniel Stone.

Co-opted Members: Lourdes Kever (Church representative) and KanuPriya Jhunjhunwala (Parent Governor representative)

## 2. Child Poverty in Haringey

### *Definition*

- 2.1 There are a number of ways in which child poverty can be defined. The Child Poverty Act of 2010 defines it in terms of social and economic disadvantage. There are three benchmarks for this:
- Relative, based on families with net annual incomes below 60% of the UK median or average. This threshold can fluctuate from one year to the next;
  - Absolute: 60% of the average (median) net household income in 2010/11. This is £15,600 per year and does not fluctuate;
  - Material: Families who are unable to afford certain goods and activities and whose household income is below 70% of UK median average income for that year. It is often referred to as the social inclusion model.
- 2.2 The Act set targets to be met by 2020. These included reducing the proportion living in households:
- To below 10% for relative poverty; and
  - To below 5% for absolute poverty.
- 2.3 These targets have not been met. Internationally, a wider set of factors are taken into account and can include both material and spiritual considerations.
- 2.4 Child poverty is driven principally by the circumstances of adults. Children are more likely to live in poverty than adults though. The reasons for this include the financial burden of having children and the impact that they have on the ability of people to work.
- 2.5 The welfare system currently fails to compensate fully for all the additional costs of having children. There have also been changes in welfare support that have impacted adversely on families, especially the cap on the number of children covered by Child Benefit. In addition, there are circumstantial issues. Many children living in poverty come from lone parent families or larger households.
- 2.6 The distribution of child poverty is unequal. It is concentrated in specific geographic areas and disproportionately affects children who are Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) and/or disabled. The gender of the head of the household is also a factor. Geographic inequalities are both national and mirrored within the borough. However, the outcomes of families living in poverty are worse for those living in affluent areas. The impact of poverty on children is greater than on adults and is long term. Low living standards can affect both physical and mental health and lead to educational disadvantage. There is also social stigma.
- 2.7 Medium and longer term consequences of child poverty include:
- Lower educational achievement;
  - Fewer employment opportunities;
  - Poorer mental and physical health outcomes.

### *Key Statistics*

- 2.8 34% of Haringey's population live in poverty, which is the 5th highest of all London boroughs. This compares with the median across London of 28%. The child poverty rate is higher than this, at 42%. This is within the average range for London, where some boroughs have rates of over 50%. Poverty rates are highest amongst families with children and lone parent families.
- 2.9 There are a range of different indicators related to child poverty and Haringey is below average for London in ten of eighteen of these across London. The indicators cover a range of themes, including work, living standards, housing and shared opportunity. There is a particularly low level of social mobility in Haringey, with the borough being in the bottom quartile for London. On the measure of income deprivation affecting children, Haringey is ranked 61st in the UK and 10th in London.
- 2.10 Provisional Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) data on children living in relative low income families has shown an increase of over 25% from 10,663 families in 2015/16 to 13,380 in 2019/20. The number of children in absolute poverty in Haringey has increased from 2015/16 to 2017/18 but has fallen slightly since then. At the same time, the London average has increased consistently since 2016/17, rising from 8,848 to 10,306, though Haringey remained above the average.
- 2.11 In respect of income deprivation affecting children, there is a clear contrast between the east and west of the Borough. The west has some of the least deprived areas in the country whilst the east has some of the most. Overall, Haringey is one of the more deprived local authorities in London and in the country as a whole for children. It ranks 10th in London and 61st nationally, out of 317.
- 2.12 Northumberland Park is the ward with the highest percentage of children in relative low income families with 29%. Haringey is in the 2nd most deprived decile for income deprivation affecting children, which means it is more deprived than over 80% of local authorities nationally.
- 2.13 Data from October 2021 shows that there were 22,500 children in the Borough in low income households. 56% of these were from lone parent families, 37% in families that were out of work and nearly 2,000 children were in food poverty. In terms of children eligible for Free School Meals (FSMs), South Tottenham has the highest percentage in the borough, with many parts having more than 40% of children eligible. 20% of families in receipt of FSMs would be unable to meet all their expected costs in school holidays without extra support. 3% of families on legacy benefits who receive FSMs in term time and can meet their costs are pushed into cash shortfall in school holidays as a result of extra food costs. This figure rises to 4% for families on Universal Credit.

### *Drivers*

- 2.14 The drivers for poverty in Haringey are as follows:
- Low numbers of jobs: Haringey has the 2nd lowest job density of all London boroughs;

- High levels of unemployment - Haringey has the 2nd highest rate of long term unemployment in London;
  - High numbers of low paid jobs - Haringey has the 2nd largest proportion of people earning below the London Living wage.
- 2.15 Haringey has developed a Social Progress Index, which collates how the borough compares with other boroughs on a range of metrics to provide a view of Haringey's economy, under the 5 pillars of the Economic Development Strategy. The five pillars are:
- Fairness and equality;
  - Good work;
  - Business and enterprise resilience;
  - Environmental sustainability; and
  - Health and well-being.
- 2.16 Haringey is one of the lowest performers in London across these, ranking 27th and in the bottom six. Haringey had an over-representation of residents with no qualifications, while those with higher qualifications are under-represented compared to the wider labour market. The percentage of young people in Haringey in Education, Employment or Training is amongst the lowest in London. Haringey also has the 4th highest level of fuel poverty in London at 18.3%, which is significantly higher than the average. The Tottenham area has a much higher proportion of its population in bad health than the rest of Haringey and this can be traced back to childhood for many.
- 2.17 In respect of educational attainment, not every child has an equal chance of success. Attainment for children and young people varies significantly depending on both affluence, disadvantage and ethnicity. There are gaps for children in receipt of free school meals, looked after children and children from armed forces families. The attainment gap for disadvantaged children has grown from -7.9 in 2020 to -10.5 in 2021. 57% of Haringey students progressed to higher education in 2019/20 compared to 56% in London and 43% nationally. 48% of FSM students progressed, just higher than London (45%) and England (27%).
- 2.18 There is a current trend of families moving out of central London and towards the outer areas and beyond. The increase in private rents and the economic impact of Covid has influenced this. The number of troubled families leaving the borough has an impact on funding for the Council due to the potential loss of grants. The drop in the population from the EU was showing in school rolls but it is hard to predict what the impact will be ultimately.

#### *Current Interventions*

- 2.19 Haringey is doing more than most local authorities to address child poverty issue and there is currently much going on. The Council works closely with schools and other partners. The focus is on early help and prevention, particularly household finance. The Council also looks for opportunities to bring the issues to the attention of central government. Recent developments in respect of Universal Credit are positive but not for those in work. There is also specific work taking place on debt policy and strategy and this involves partners, such

as the Citizens Advice Bureau. The borough is also one of the few to provide wider access to free school meals.

- 2.20 There are three specific levers that the Council has to address child poverty:
1. *Building the social infrastructure.* This involves building good quality universal services and developing an education offer that works for everyone, as well as wider services for children and young people, such as social care, youth clubs etc;
  2. *Supporting the poorest in the community.* This is done by helping families to access the financial support they are entitled to and providing emergency help including through the benefits system. Direct financial help was provided during the Covid pandemic and entitlement to free school meals expanded. The Council now also provides Council tax support to poorer families with children.
  3. *Making Haringey a child friendly place.* Actions in support of this include investing in affordable housing that is suitable for families and in local places, like leisure facilities. The aim of this is to make Haringey a good place for children to grow up in.
- 2.21 The Council aims to prioritise children with families in its services. The Borough Plan focusses on key outcomes and themes and includes:
- Increasing the proportion of early years settings which are rated by Ofsted as outstanding, including those in the most deprived wards;
  - Piloting provision of free school meals to children aged 5-11, evaluating its impact for the most deprived children and considering if it could be expanded;
  - Improving the attainment of children from BAME backgrounds, looked after children or those from deprived households and closing the attainment gap to the wider population;
  - Supporting schools and partners to deliver initiatives to ensure that period poverty does impact on access to education;
  - Providing high quality education, employment and training post-16 provision which meets the needs of all children to develop skills and experience irrespective of background; and
  - Seeking to close the gap in health and well-being outcomes.
- 2.22 In addition, the Council's Fairness Commission included recommendations on making Haringey a Child Friendly Borough, spaces and support for children and young people and school exclusions. Work is now beginning on the Borough Plan refresh, which will include further consideration of child poverty issues.
- 2.23 Families in need can currently also access the Haringey Support Fund. This is a scheme to help residents who:
- Have a low income;
  - Are facing unexpected costs;
  - Need help to meet their immediate needs; or
  - Need help to pay for essential items that are difficult to budget for
- 2.24 This is possible with funding from the UK Government's Household Support Fund and is funded until March 2022.

- 2.25 The role of maternal employment opportunities and childcare is also being looked at as part of the Council's work. However, being in work is not always a way out of poverty any more. It is currently unclear what the impact of the Covid pandemic has been on the childcare market but it is thought that there has been a decline in the amount of informal care, which will have an impact on people with small children seeking work.



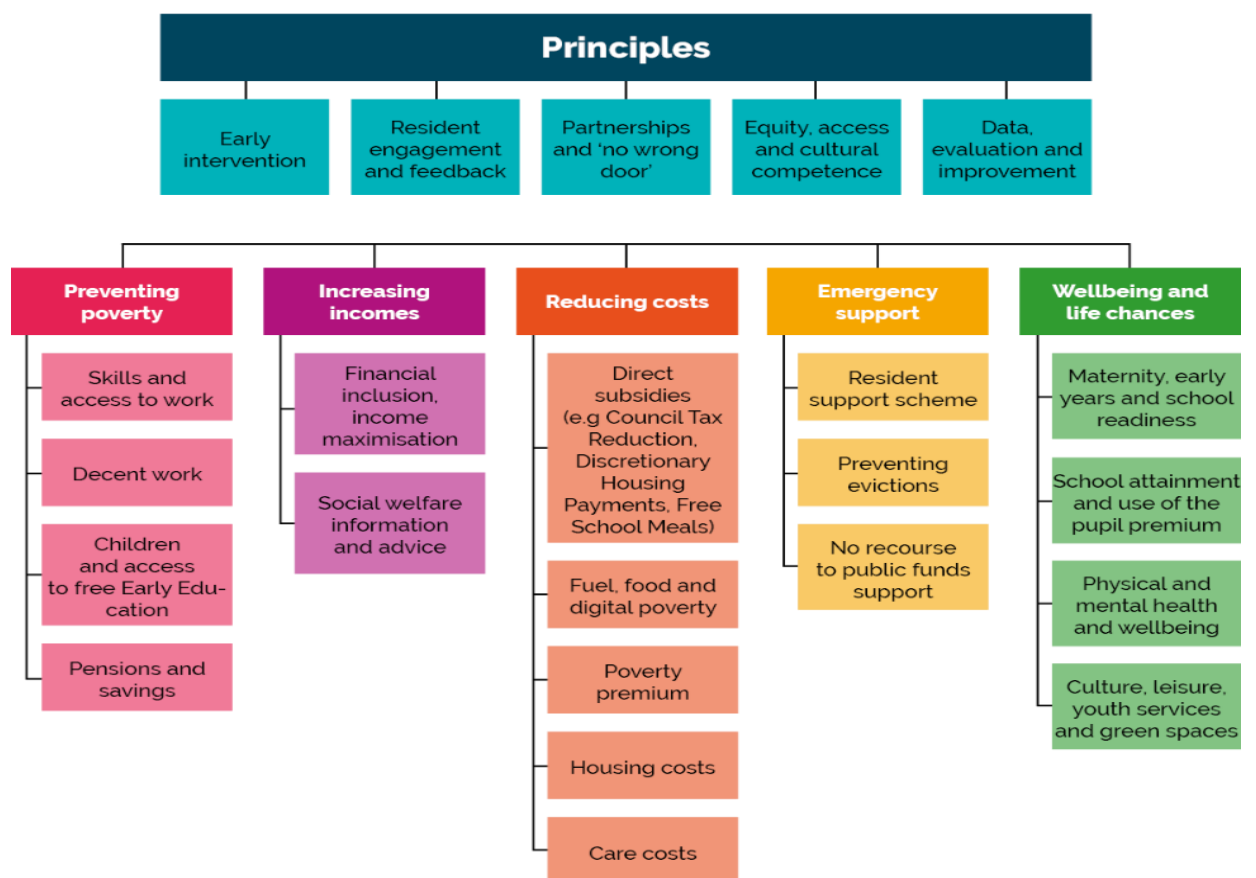
### 3. Tower Hamlets

- 3.1 The Panel received evidence on the recent review by Tower Hamlets on poverty and, in particular, the interventions that were recommended within it. The review was led by a team of four Cabinet Members. It was set up to look at what Tower Hamlets was currently doing and gain an understanding of why poverty remained such a major issue. Its objective was to develop strategic recommendations to inform future poverty reduction interventions by the Council and its partners.
- 3.2 There was a particular focus within this on child poverty, poverty affecting older residents and Council supported programmes. Rates of child poverty in Tower Hamlets are the highest in the country and pensioner poverty is also very high.
- 3.3 The review sought to answer the following questions:
  - What are the factors which are leading to high poverty levels in Tower Hamlets?
  - What local interventions can have the greatest impact on poverty?
  - What do we know about the impact of poverty-related programmes supported by the Council?
  - What should the Council do differently so that its poverty-related programmes achieve the greatest possible benefits for low-income residents?
- 3.4 There were nine review meetings in total. Ahead of the review, there was a call for evidence. Lockdown had made the process more complicated as it had required focus groups to be undertaken on-line. Toynbee Hall and peer researchers assisted with the review process, holding three workshops with residents with experience of life on a low income. Despite the challenges faced, they still managed to hear from 300 people.
- 3.5 There are a number of drivers for poverty in Tower Hamlets:
  - Worklessness;
  - Rising in-work poverty;
  - Rising living costs; and
  - Benefit levels.
- 3.6 High housing costs are a particular issue. There is a close link between inequality and poverty, with some groups significantly more likely to experience poverty. Disabled people, those from Black Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds and lone parents are more likely to live in poverty than average.
- 3.7 Residents had provided useful feedback to the review and had highlighted that community support and bringing residents together was an important way of dealing with poverty. Anxiety and shame was a big issue, particularly with young people. Digital exclusion was especially significant at the current time. The importance of health and well-being was emphasised, including access to green space, culture, leisure and youth services.
- 3.8 The review had looked at what could be done to respond to these issues. There were a number of key principles that were set:

- Early intervention was important so that action was taken before needs became acute;
  - They also used the principle of “no wrong door” so that people were able to access support irrespective of where they sought assistance in the first instance;
  - Equity of access and awareness of poverty were also key issues.
- 3.9 The Council funds several programmes to address poverty. These included:
- Free school meals for all non eligible children in Years 3 to 6;
  - A Council Tax reduction scheme;
  - School clothing grants for Year 7s;
  - Ensuring every child was on-line;
  - Children’s Centres;
  - A subsidised holiday childcare scheme;
  - Holiday activities and food; and
  - A youth service.
- 3.10 There is an extensive Tackling Poverty programme that was set up in 2017 and includes:
- An Outreach team;
  - A Resident Support Scheme;
  - Holiday hunger;
  - Benefit uptake campaigns;
  - Pilot projects with teams and external partners; and
  - Covid support and recovery, including emergency pandemic food work.
- 3.11 A data driven programme has been set up to improve benefit take up by targeting those who might be entitled. LIFT data has been used to proactively identify households who might be entitled to a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP). LIFT data has also been used to identify which areas of the borough to target services in. For example, the prevalence of households known to be eligible for Free School Meals was used to make sure that there are Holiday Activities and Food clubs in the areas with the highest prevalence. East End Citizens Advice Bureau are now also using the LIFT database
- 3.12 Short and long term priorities have been set, as well as areas for further consideration. Communication has been set as a specific short term priority as it was found that a lot of services were not well-known. Proactive use of data and the benefits calculator had also been highlighted as well as delivery of the government Kickstart and Restart schemes. Of particular significance is that there are more jobs in the borough than people of working age. There will also be a continuing focus on addressing the needs of children and young people within the Council’s strategy.
- 3.13 Many jobs in some parts of Tower Hamlets are high paying finance jobs and not accessible to local residents. There are also issues relating to aspirations and awareness of opportunities, particularly amongst parents. Some schools undertake specific work with parents to address these issues. There has been a Race Inequality Commission involving the Council and partners that had recommended a number of actions to increase employment.



- 3.14 Communications are of particular importance so that residents are fully aware of support that is available. Tower Hamlets Connect brings information and advice together on health and social care, local events and community services across the borough. They are currently trying to avoid having stand-alone services by ensuring that all were linked together as part of a strategic plan. The benefits calculator that is used by the Benefits Team is shared across the Council so that any officer can use it to assist a resident. There is close work between the Children's Service and the Tackling Poverty team. The use of Children's Centres is also being extended, such as for food hubs, youth services and training of staff.
- 3.15 Some schools are working closely together and share resources. This has helped them to address some of the challenges that they and other schools face. Many schools in Tower Hamlets have Welfare Officers and/or Family Liaison. Schools recognise the challenges that poverty presents and need to be able to respond. Children's Services are being moved into localities and this might help provide greater support for schools.



*Tackling poverty: what can a local area do?*

## 4. Child Poverty Action Group

- 4.1 Hannah Aldridge from the Child Poverty Action Group gave evidence on the actions that local authorities could consider undertaking to alleviate child poverty in their area. She reported that child poverty was 31% in the UK but higher in London, with 38%, and very high in Tottenham, with 48%. It has been rising in the UK in the past decade due mainly to austerity. There has been a particular increase in in-work poverty. Household income comprises earnings and welfare benefits. Action that increases earnings or employment levels or maximises access to welfare benefits can therefore be effective.
- 4.2 Reducing household costs, such as housing and childcare, is also important. Poverty rates vary according to demographics, with some groups having substantially higher levels of risk. This includes families with under-fives, more than three children, where someone was disabled, single parents and BAME families. The categories are all concerned with barriers of getting into work. BAME families can face additional barriers to employment, such as systemic inequality and structural racism. Policies to address poverty therefore also needed to address this if they were to be effective.
- 4.3 In discussions with government, CPAG categorised effective child poverty strategy into five themes:
- Social Security;
  - Work;
  - Childcare;
  - Education; and
  - Housing.
- 4.4 Local authorities needed to be realistic when considering how to address poverty. The main levers for addressing it are at national level so the amount that can be done is constrained.
- 4.5 In respect of social security, the following could be effective:
- Maximising the use of statutory crisis grants;
  - Helping families to navigate the benefits system; and
  - Work to maximise the income of residents through effective advice services.
- 4.6 In respect of employment, the following could be done:
- Assisting parents and carers to overcome barriers to employment;
  - Providing tailored support;
  - Encouraging employers to pay the London Living Wage.
- 4.7 In respect of childcare, the following could be done:
- Having awareness of gaps in provision, especially in respect of Special
  - Educational Needs (SEN); and
  - Making sure it was available across the area.
- 4.8 In respect of education, work could be undertaken with schools to reduce the cost of the school day. This could include increasing awareness of activities that could lead to additional costs for parents and being mindful of the cost of school

trips. Extending hours could also help parents. Action could be taken on housing through the use of duties under the Homelessness Prevention Act. This could include working with landlords to secure affordable homes and increasing supply.

- 4.9 She reported that the progress that had been made in London over a long period of time in closing the attainment gap in education had been lost due to the pandemic. CPAG had been lobbying the government to expand the school offer through extending the school day. Provision needed to be accessible for all and be regular. The cost of activities also needed to be kept low.
- 4.10 One of CPAG's key current projects was around the cost of the school day. They had been speaking to children in Greenwich and Coventry about the subtle costs that they came across that could hold back their progress. Things like charity bake sales could make children feel excluded and drive up absences. In addition, they were lobbying government to expand the free school meal offer, which could also be a gateway into other services. Provision in England was the least generous in the UK.
- 4.11 In respect of "quick wins", she felt that income maximisation was probably the most effective. There are particular difficulties relating to Universal Credit as it is complicated and volatile, despite it being designed to be smooth and responsive. Access to advice is therefore very valuable. This can be especially effective if available in schools or advertised through them. There is a government scheme called "The Best Start in Life" that focusses on the first 1001 days and creating family hubs across the country. Local authorities can apply for funding for this. The scheme is not prescriptive about what services should be provided and she would encourage all local authorities to put welfare rights advice in them and services to maximise income. CPAG is currently undertaking a project called "Your Work, Your Way" which was focusses on second earners and ensuring that both partners are able to work. It is the second earner, who is typically the mother, who faces the biggest barriers in getting into work. The Universal Credit taper rate is steeper for second earners, even though they face the biggest barriers.
- 4.12 Welfare Rights advisers are working with second earners and this includes looking to see where local childcare is available, helping them to make their first upfront payments and identifying jobs that worked well around the school day. CPAG are running the project in partnership with two local areas. Access to childcare has proven to be a major issue and, in particular, getting the first payment for childcare. Universal Credit is paid four weeks in arrears but childcare needs to be paid up front, some requiring a whole term. CPAG are lobbying the government to bring payment for childcare forward. In the meantime, there is a role that local government could pay in helping to bridge this gap. There is currently the Flexible Support Fund, which is poorly understood and advertised, and this can be used to reduce barriers into work such as this.
- 4.13 In respect of customer services, she stated that it was important that these are of good quality. People often have a negative experience of the DWP and local authorities needed to consider carefully the provision of services for people who

were in need and ensure that they were accessible. In terms of housing support, she felt that local authorities could invest in stabilising tenancies of those who at risk. In particular, work could be undertaken to identify private leases that were coming to an end in order to prevent homelessness. Those in temporary accommodation can find it difficult to access housing support as Universal Credit were often reluctant to assist those in temporary accommodation and they could find themselves being passed between the DWP and their local authority, who were responsible for Housing Benefit. Local authorities could work closely with the DWP to ensure that people were able to access Housing Benefits.

- 4.14 Ms Aldridge emphasised the importance of schools. In particular, they allowed families with children to be reached and services to be delivered to them. However, children only begin accessing them when they are five but early years settings can also be used to provide services. Local authorities can reach out to childcare providers to gain an understanding of how their finances worked and what scope there was for them to assisted so that parents were under less pressure to make their first payment up front.

## 5. Findings

### *Strategic Approach*

- 5.1 The evidence that the Panel received on the scale of poverty in the borough was sobering. The current challenges are likely to get worse due to the recent increases in the cost of living, such as those affecting fuel prices. Addressing poverty should therefore be a top priority within the refreshed Borough Plan. It is nevertheless important that there is realism in developing a response. The main levers for addressing poverty are at national level so aspirations and targets need to be realistic.
- 5.2 The Panel was glad to hear that there is much that the Council is doing, with many of the same or similar initiatives to those recommended by CPAG or being undertaken in Tower Hamlets already in place. Much income maximisation work is being undertaken and data is being used extensively to target this. Free school meals (FSMs) have been expanded and schools given access to a discretionary fund to support families, as and when required, as part of this. There is also an expectation that schools will signpost families to advice services. Significant efforts have also gone into the Haringey Support Fund. The offer of money has been used to incentivise the take up of other benefits, particularly Healthy Start vouchers, as well as ensuring that families are signposted to a range of other support. In addition, the emerging Early Help strategy places a strong emphasis on support to families with young children and, in particular, the financial context.
- 5.3 The Panel was impressed by the strategic and coordinated approach that has been developed by Tower Hamlets. The scope of this is wider than just children but poverty does not stop when children become adults. Children are also not poor in isolation but as part of struggling families. Many issues are cross cutting and require a Council wide response. The Panel is of the view that a coordinated approach needs to be developed and that this should include collaboration between a wide range of services, especially children's and adult's services.
- 5.4 It therefore recommends that a cross cutting review into poverty be undertaken, including engagement with partners and residents. The objective of this would be to obtain a broader understanding of the issue and develop a strategic and coordinated response.
- 5.5 Some families are more at risk of being in poverty, especially those with children with special educational needs and BAME and lone parent families. The Panel also noted that families with children who had a disability face significant additional costs and feel that wider recognition needed to be given to this. Inequality should therefore also be clearly addressed within such a review.
- 5.6 There is considerable stigma associated with being poor and this may deter some families from seeking help and support. CPAG advocates a "cash first" approach to supporting families. This prioritises getting money into people pockets rather than providing vouchers as it reduces stigma and allows families to shop around. The Panel is of the view that this approach to supporting families should therefore be adopted in Haringey where possible.

- 5.7 There is evidence that families struggle to find out what support they can get and how to access it. This may be due to several reasons, including people not having English as a first language, and extra efforts need to be made to get information through to some communities. Any overarching poverty strategy should include detail on how initiatives will be communicated effectively to residents who need support. Schools, children's centres and community organisations can all play an effective role in this. In particular, they should all be informed directly and routinely of any campaigns that are specific that are taking place.

***Recommendations:***

- **That alleviating poverty be set as a key priority within the refreshed Borough Plan.**
- **That, as part of the refresh process for the new Borough Plan, a cross cutting review into poverty be undertaken that includes engagement with partners and residents to obtain a broader understanding of the issue and develop a strategic and coordinated response, including:**
  - **How the availability of support will be communicated, including the role of schools, Children's Centres and community organisations**
  - **How inequality will be addressed; and**
  - **How stigma will be avoided, including a "cash-first" approach to support.**

*Customer Services*

- 5.8 Customer Services are the Council's first point of contact for residents living in poverty who need support. It is therefore essential that these are accessible and of the highest standard. There is some anecdotal evidence that residents can find it difficult to resolve issues and the Panel is of the view that Customer Services should be reviewed with a view to making them more accessible and simplifying applications.
- 5.9 The extent of digital exclusion became apparent during the Covid lockdowns, especially for children as it enabled them to access education. It affects some of the poorest members of the community. A significant number of devices were distributed in Haringey but this does not mean that the issue of digital inclusion has been resolved as there are other issues such as access to broadband and data.
- 5.10 Customer Services have developed greater use of online access in recent years and this has proven to be effective and enabled better use of the Council's limited resources. However, Customer Services should not be over reliant on online interactions and must include equally good service provision for those without digital access.
- 5.11 It should not be assumed that residents will always know how to access services or will seek advice and support at the right location. In such circumstances, they can often find themselves being referred elsewhere. This can cause



frustration and in some cases people may not bother to continue to seek help. The Panel noted to the Tower Hamlets scheme to ensure that all officers had the tools to assist with advice on benefits as well as the principle of “No Wrong Door” they have adopted. The Panel would therefore recommend that similar initiatives are developed in Haringey so that a wider range of officers are able to take responsibility for helping families and individuals, making it less necessary to redirect them.

***Recommendations:***

- **That the Council’s Customer Services be reviewed with a view to making them easier to access and simplifying applications and that this includes consideration how to make services of equal accessibility and quality for people without digital access.**
- **That the principle of “no wrong door” be adopted and a wider group of officers than those working in Customer Services be given responsibility and the tools for assisting residents with support queries, including benefits advice.**

*Food*

- 5.12 Access to affordable food is becoming an increasingly important issue and use of food banks has grown massively in recent years. The recent increase in the cost of living is further impacting on the ability of families to buy food. In addition, supermarkets have been withdrawing cheaper and budget lines of food. These additional pressures are further increasing dependency on food banks. However, the ability of people to donate food is likely to be eroded by the increases in the cost of living and current relief arrangements may be difficult to sustain.
- 5.13 There needs to be multiple ways for families to access food. Initiatives can include local growing projects, allotments and community shops but some will not necessarily work for all families. In particular, some families may not wish to use food banks. Families also need to have access to fuel so that they are able to cook food. The Panel noted that Haringey Food Network is looking at how healthy and sources of food can be accessed by the community.
- 5.14 There needs to be long term and sustainable solutions to food poverty, including an analysis of challenges and barriers. Solutions should not just be reliant on philanthropy or the goodwill of others. What constitutes the base or minimum food requirements for a family needs to be identified as part of this.
- 5.15 A Food Strategy has been in development for some time. The aspiration was to develop a stronger and more diverse food ecosystem, led by the local food network. The Panel recommends that work on the development of the Food Strategy be prioritised. In addition, it should be a key part of the refreshed Borough Plan and any strategic plan to address poverty.

**Recommendation:**

**That a progress report on the development of the Council's Food Strategy be included in the workplan for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2022/23.**

*School Meals*

- 5.16 One way in which it can be ensured that children receive at least one hot, nutritious meal per day is through having a good quality school meal. The Panel is therefore of the view that consideration should be given to extending provision of FSM to make them universal. In addition, funding for free school meals during school holidays should also be extended.
- 5.17 It was noted that the quality of school meals is variable. The Panel is of the view that it is important that contracts are monitored carefully and recommends that the Council draw up guidance for schools on effective school meal contracts.

**Recommendations:**

- **That the roll out of FSMs be extended further to make them universal and, in addition, further funding be provided for their provision during school holidays.**
- **That guidance for schools on effective school meal contracts be developed including ensuring that they are of high quality and nutritional value.**

*Schools*

- 5.18 The role of schools is crucial in responding to child poverty as they have ready access to children and families and are trusted institutions. However, they are under huge amounts of pressure at the moment. Schools vary in their ability to communicate effectively with parents and carers though. Some schools are very good at this whilst others are less so. Many are also now struggling with the heavy demands placed on them and not in a position to take on any additional responsibilities.
- 5.19 A lot of work has been undertaken to increase the take up of Healthy Start Vouchers for families with small children but they are nevertheless undersubscribed. However, the expansion of FSMs has provided the Council with a route into schools and can provide the opportunity to improve communication of the support that is available to families from the Council and partner organisations, including emergency assistance and the wider Covid support package.
- 5.20 The Panel expressed concern at the issue of strict school uniform policies. In some cases, the total cost of a uniform can exceed £70 and this could impact on some of the poorest children, who can be sent home for infringements. Recent statutory guidance has stated the need for uniforms to be affordable. It was noted that some schools in the borough had uniforms that were supermarket friendly. Some also offer vouchers for uniforms.



- 5.21 The Panel heard that there can be other costs that are hidden but impact on poor families. As Haringey is characterised by wide economic disparities, it is likely to be a significant issue in the borough. This will be particularly true for poor families in more affluent neighbourhoods. It notes the CPAG initiative to reduce the cost of the school day and feels that similar work should take place in Haringey.

***Recommendation:***

**The work takes place with schools to reduce the cost of the school day by promoting greater awareness of the financial impact of policies and initiatives on poorer families and, in particular, hidden costs.**

- 5.22 Parents can play an important role in the educational attainment of children. Engagement and communication with schools plays an important in this. Schools can find it difficult to involve some parents due to the long hours that they need to work to financially survive and support their children. The Panel is of the view that work should be undertaken by the Haringey Education Partnership with schools to explore how to engage more effectively with parents and carers who are hard to reach. This should include drawing on successful initiatives from elsewhere and consideration of the commissioning of external research.

***Recommendation:***

**That Haringey Education Partnership works with schools to explore how they may engage more effectively with parents and carers that are hard to reach, including drawing on successful initiatives from elsewhere and consideration of the commissioning of external research.**

*Leisure and Physical Activities*

- 5.23 It is important that poor children are not excluded from leisure activities. In particular, there are higher levels of childhood obesity in deprived areas and physical activity can play a role in addressing this. There is a perception that it necessarily involves cost though. There are lots of free opportunities available but people may not always be aware of them. It is important that data is obtained from those who attend Council promoted events so it can be determined who has attended whether the target demographic has been reached.
- 5.24 Youth programmes, including summer schemes, have generally been funded on a short-term basis and through grants. Whilst the budgetary reasons for this are understood, it has made longer term planning more difficult. The initiatives undertaken as part of the Haringey Community Gold scheme have been particularly welcome and consideration should be given to the feasibility of at least some of these being made permanent.

***Recommendations:***

- That a commitment be made to provide permanent funding for youth programmes and services.
- That the feasibility of longer term funding for successful initiatives undertaken as part of Haringey Community Gold be explored.

**Report for:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Title:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme 2021-22

**Report authorised by:** Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

**Lead Officer:** Philip Slawther, Principal Scrutiny Support Officer  
Tel: 020 8489 2957, E-mail: [philip.slawther2@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:philip.slawther2@haringey.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** N/A

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

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 To note the work that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the four Scrutiny Panels have undertaken in 2021-22 and identify potential items for the first meeting of 2022/23.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the work that the Committee has undertaken in 2021/22 be noted;
- 2.2 That the Committee recommend potential item(s) for the first OSC meeting of 2022/23.

**3. Reasons for decision**

- 3.1 The work programme for overview and scrutiny was approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 8 June 2021. The work that the Committee and the four Panels have undertaken is outlined in **Appendix A** as well as outstanding issues.

**4. Background**

- 4.1 Following the completion of the Overview and Scrutiny work plan for 2018-20, work began on the development of work plans for 2020-22. An on-line survey took place in February 2020 and a Scrutiny Café consultative event planned but the process was disrupted by the Covid pandemic. The priorities and suggestions from the survey were incorporated into the work planning process for 2021-22. In addition, the Committee and its Panels each undertook consultative meetings during March 2021 with a range of community and voluntary sector organisations relevant to areas within their terms of reference.
- 4.2 The consultative meetings looked at and prioritised a range of suggestions that had come from the following:
- Responses to the on-line scrutiny survey undertaken in early 2020; and
  - Outstanding matters from current work plans.

- 4.3 There was also the opportunity to add additional issues. Following these, the Committee and its Panels each met informally to finalise their proposals. Relevant Council officers were invited to these meetings to provide feedback on proposals. Each scrutiny body was asked to prioritise issues and consider if there were any additional matters that also should be included in work plans.
- 4.4 Each scrutiny body decided on the following:
- A suitable topic for a scrutiny review;
  - Items to prioritise for one-off items at scheduled meetings; and
  - Which item(s) to select for the agenda for the first meetings of 2021-22.
- 4.5 Workplans were developed accordingly for each scrutiny body and these have been actioned. The work that the Committee and Panels have undertaken during the year is outlined in **Appendix A**.
- 4.6 This is the final scheduled Committee meeting of the year and the local government elections will be taking place on 5 May. There will be insufficient time after the forthcoming elections for the new Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its Panels to develop a new work plan before the first round of scheduled meetings. It is therefore proposed that the Committee recommends one or two items as potential items for the first meeting. This will ensure the new Committee is able to begin its work promptly and that there is not a hiatus whilst the new workplan is being developed.

#### *Forward Plan*

- 4.7 Since the implementation of the Local Government Act and the introduction of the Council's Forward Plan, scrutiny members have found the Plan to be a useful tool in planning the overview and scrutiny work programme. The Forward Plan is updated each month but sets out key decisions for a 3-month period.
- 4.8 To ensure the information provided to the Committee is up to date, a copy of the most recent Forward Plan can be viewed via the link below:
- <http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RP=110&RD=0&J=1>
- 4.9 The Committee may want to consider the Forward Plan and discuss whether any of these items require further investigation or monitoring via scrutiny.

### **5. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

- 5.1 The contribution of scrutiny to the corporate priorities will be considered routinely as part of the OSC's work.

### **6. Statutory Officers comments**

#### **Finance and Procurement**

- 6.1 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**

- 6.2 There are no immediate legal implications arising from the report.
- 6.3 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the approval of the future scrutiny work programme falls within the remit of the OSC.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 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**

- 6.6 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.
- 6.7 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.

- 6.8 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.

**7. Use of Appendices**

Appendix A: The work plans for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panels for 2021/22

**8. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

N/A

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### Work Plan 2021-22

<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.		
Project	Comments	Priority
High Road West Regeneration Site	Completion of review previously undertaken by the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel	Complete
Violence against women and girls.	The first evidence sessions for this Review took place in September 2021.  Sessions continuing in Jan/ Feb/March 2022	Ongoing

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>8 June 2021</b>	Cabinet Member Questions: Leader	Leader and Chief Executive
	Performance update; To monitor performance against priority targets	Performance Manager
	Terms of Reference	Principal Scrutiny Officer
	Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan	Principal Scrutiny Officer
	Impact of Covid	Head of Policy and Cabinet Support
<b>6 July 2021</b>	Cabinet Member Questions - Cabinet Member for House Building, Place-Making and Development	Cabinet Member and officers



	Haringey Good Economy and High Streets Action Recovery Plan	Assistant Director for Regeneration and Economic Development
	Gambling Policy	Licensing Team Leader
	Scrutiny reviews 2021/22; scopes, terms of reference and project plans	Panel Chairs
<b>7 October 2021</b>	Cabinet Member Questions; Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation	Cabinet Member and officers
	2020/21 Provisional Outturn report	Director of Finance
	Performance update – Q1; To monitor performance against priority targets	Performance Manager
	Digital Together	Director of Customers, Transformation and Resources
<b>29 November 2021</b>	Cabinet Member Questions - Customer Service, Welfare and the Public Realm	Cabinet Member and officers
	Performance update – Q2; To monitor performance against priority targets	Performance Manager

	Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector	Director of Customers, Transformation and Resources
	Complaints Annual Report	Head of Customer Experience & Operations
<b>13 January 2022</b>	Your Council Budget Proposals	Director of Customers, Transformation and Resources
<b>20 Jan 2022</b>	Finance Quarter 2	Director of Finance Deputy Chair (in the Chair)
	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)	
	Treasury Management Statement	Assistant Director of Finance
<b>10 March 2022</b>	Universal Credit	Director of Customers, Transformation and Resources
	Fairness Commission	Head of Policy and Cabinet Support
	Scrutiny Review Reports	Scrutiny Team

TBA:

- Fire Safety in High Rise Blocks
- Brexit
- Consultation, Engagement and Co-production

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## Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel

### Work Plan 2021 - 22

<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 of 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.		
Project	Comments	Status
Adult Social Care Commissioning & Co-production	This scrutiny review was established to examine the process behind commissioning decision-making including the overall strategic approach to commissioning and co-production.	Report to OSC on 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2022
Health and Wellbeing in Sheltered Housing	The aim of this scrutiny project is to review the current arrangements for the provision of sheltered housing in Haringey including the care and support provided to residents living in sheltered housing.	Report to OSC on 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2022

<b>2. “One-off” Items;</b> These will be dealt with at scheduled meetings of the Panel. The following are suggestions for when particular items may be scheduled.
---

Date	Agenda Items
<b>2021-22</b>	
<b>24 June 2021</b> (Additional briefing meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer of GP contracts from AT Medics to Operose Health</li> </ul>
<b>28 June 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CQC Overview</li> <li>• Living Through Lockdown report (Joint Partnerships Boards) – response to recommendations</li> <li>• Public health response to Covid-19 pandemic</li> </ul>
<b>9 September 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet Member Questions – Adults &amp; Health</li> <li>• Day Opportunities Scrutiny Review – Follow up</li> <li>• Hospital Discharge Arrangements &amp; Continuing Health Care</li> </ul>
<b>15 November 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haringey Safeguarding Adults Board – Annual Report 2020/21</li> <li>• Locality Working</li> <li>• Adult Carers’ Strategy 2020-2023</li> </ul>

<b>16 December 2021 (Budget Meeting)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget scrutiny</li> </ul>
<b>3 March 2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet Member Questions – Adults &amp; Health</li> <li>• Working towards Mental Health and Wellbeing</li> <li>• JPB Living Through Lockdown report – update on Council’s response</li> </ul>

Possible items to be allocated to future Panel meetings:

- Annual CQC Overview
- Impact of NCL CCG merger
- New community mental health model
- Supporting older people post-pandemic
- IAPT waiting times
- Council house adaptations

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## Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel

### Work Plan 2021 - 22

<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
Schools	<p>There are now a range of different types of school within the borough. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community schools;</li> <li>• Foundation schools and voluntary schools;</li> <li>• Academies;</li> <li>• Free schools; and</li> <li>• Faith schools.</li> </ul> <p>The resulting fragmentation presents challenges for local authorities. These include ensuring that all schools are providing a good standard of education and the planning and co-ordination of school places. In addition, schools are subject to varying degrees of local democratic control.</p> <p>The review will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to identify the different categories of school that there are within Haringey and their characteristics as well as the diversity of curriculum and ethos offered by individual schools;</li> </ul>	In progress

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the ways that might be available to the Council to influence schools within the borough and, in particular, facilitate school improvement and co-ordination of school places most effectively; and</li> <li>Look at practice in other local authority areas and what appears to have been most effective.</li> </ul> <p>The review will then focus on how the Council might best respond strategically to the significant surplus in school reception places that there is within Haringey. These have serious budgetary implications for many primary schools due to the way in which schools are funded. Demand for school places is subject to fluctuation and there will also be a need for sufficient places to be available to accommodate future any increases in demand for places. As part of this, the review will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The role the Council has in working with schools to effectively manage the reductions in school rolls;</li> <li>How a balanced range of school provision across the borough might best be maintained; and</li> <li>What could be done to mitigate financial pressures on schools and ensure that any adverse effects on schools are minimised</li> </ul>	
Child Poverty	Scope and terms of reference to be determined.	

2. <b>“One-off” Items; These</b> will be dealt with at scheduled meetings of the Panel. The following are suggestions for when particular items may be scheduled.	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Potential Items</b>
<b>2021-22</b>	

<b>20 July 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms of Reference</li> <li>• Work Planning; To agree items for the work plan for the Panel for the forthcoming year</li> <li>• Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families</li> <li>• Covid; Impact on children and young people</li> <li>• Youth Services</li> </ul>
<b>23 September 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Monitoring</li> <li>• Annual Youth Justice Plan</li> <li>• Missing Children</li> <li>• Support to Refugee Afghan Children</li> </ul>
<b>18 November 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families</li> <li>• Whittington Health Estates and Services Reconfiguration – Implementation</li> <li>• SEND Inspection</li> </ul>
<b>4 January 2022 (Budget Meeting)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget scrutiny</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haringey Children's Safeguarding Partnership – Annual Report</li> <li>• Youth Justice Thematic Inspection Report Findings</li> <li>• Children's Social Care; Annual Report</li> </ul>
<b>7 March 2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families</li> <li>• SEND Inspection &amp; Strategy</li> <li>• Mental Health and Well-Being</li> </ul>

TBA

SEND Transport

Kinship Care

Engagement with Young People

Stop and Search

Youth Offending Service - Interventions with young people and their effectiveness

**Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel - Work Plan 2020-22**

<p>▪ <b>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 of 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>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Low Traffic Neighbourhoods	Examining the Council’s plans to implement Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and examining What lessons can be learned from other local authorities who have successfully implemented similar schemes? The Panel were concerned about the communication and consultation process undertaken as part of the previous pilot scheme as part of Liveable Crouch End.	

<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Potential Items</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership &amp; Terms of Reference.</li> <li>• Appointment of Non-Voting Co-opted Member</li> <li>• Covid-19 Recovery update</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on Youth at Risk Strategy</li> <li>• Gangs, Knife Crime &amp; Hotspot locations. (MOPAC Performance update?). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transport hubs as hotspot locations for crime, especially Finsbury Park, Turnpike Lane, Seven Sisters and surrounding areas, particularly drug-dealing, knife crime.</li> <li>▪ Update on the Ducketts Common stakeholder Strategic Group</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Work Programme: To agree items for the work plan for the Panel for this year.</li> <li>• Cabinet Member Questions; Communities, Safety and Engagement (to cover areas within the Panel's terms of reference that are within that portfolio).</li> </ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet Member Questions; Climate Change and Sustainability</li> <li>• Improving Air Quality &amp; reducing pollution</li> <li>• Street Trees &amp; Update on Queens Wood</li> <li>• Update on Single Use Plastics Policy</li> <li>• Recycling Rate</li> <li>• Update on Parks and Green Spaces Strategy</li> <li>• Parks Performance</li> <li>• Membership and Terms of Reference</li> <li>• Appointment of non-voting co-optee</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Budget Scrutiny</b>  10 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget Scrutiny</li> <li>• Police Priorities in Haringey &amp; Community Safety Partnership Update; To invite comments from the Panel on current performance issues and priorities for the borough's Community Safety Partnership.</li> <li>• Update on Haringey &amp; Enfield BCU integration.</li> <li>• Additional Police numbers in Haringey</li> <li>• Cabinet Member Questions: Communities, Safety and Engagement (to cover areas within the Panel's terms of reference that are within that portfolio).</li> </ul>
4 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet Member Q&amp;A – Cabinet Member for Transformation and Public Realm Investment. To question the Cabinet Member on current issues and plans arising for her portfolio.</li> <li>• Waste, recycling and street cleansing data</li> <li>• Update on Fly Tipping Strategy</li> <li>• Planned and Reactive Highways maintenance Performance</li> <li>• Work Plan update</li> </ul>

28 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership &amp; Terms of Reference.</li> <li>• Appointment of Non-Voting Co-opted Member.</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> <li>• Cabinet Member Q&amp;A – Cabinet Member Questions; Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and the Climate Emergency and Deputy Leader of the Council</li> <li>• Strategic Transport update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ TfL funding (post Covid)</li> <li>▪ Reducing Congestion (Better west to east transport links)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Liveable Neighbourhoods</li> </ul>
9 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet Member Q&amp;A – Cabinet Member for for Customer Service, Welfare and the Public Realm.</li> <li>• Waste, recycling and street cleansing data.</li> <li>• Briefing on the changes to Waste Legislation</li> <li>• 12 month update on the recommendations from the Review into Blue Badges and Supporting Better Access to Parking for Disabled People. Inc update on implementation of designated disabled bays.</li> <li>• Update on Parking Transformation Programme (inc. the new permit system).</li> </ul>
11 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet Member Q&amp;A – Leader of the Council (N.B. questions which related to the Leader’s portfolio which the Panel has responsibility for i.e. Community Safety and Serious Youth violence).</li> <li>• Police Priorities in Haringey &amp; Community Safety Partnership Update; To invite comments from the Panel on current performance issues and priorities for the borough’s Community Safety Partnership.</li> </ul>



## Appendix A

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North London Waste Authority –Edmonton Incinerator &amp; context within the wider Waste Strategy</li> <li>• Crime &amp; ASB Hotspots.</li> <li>• Work Plan</li> </ul>
14 <sup>th</sup> December 2021 (Budget Scrutiny)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget Scrutiny</li> <li>• Cabinet Member Q&amp;A – Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and the Climate Emergency and Deputy Leader of the Council.</li> <li>• Trees update – (Queen’s Wood, Parkland Walk [lessons learnt], staffing resources within Trees team, removal of street trees, funding for new trees)</li> </ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on Fly-tipping strategy</li> <li>• Cabinet Member Questions; Cabinet Member for for Customer Service, Welfare and the Public Realm</li> <li>• Update on the works to Stanhope Road Rail Bridge</li> <li>• Update on the Parking Management IT System</li> </ul>

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## Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel

### Work Plan 2021 - 22

<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 of 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.		
Project	Comments	Status
Broadwater Farm	<p>A short scrutiny review was proposed at the Panel’s meeting in Sep 2021 to make recommendations to Cabinet on repair and maintenance issues on the Broadwater Farm estate. It was proposed that this would involve a one-day evidence gathering session, including a site visit to the estate.</p> <p>A site visit was conducted on 21<sup>st</sup> October. The Panel is in the process of drafting the recommendations.</p>	Evidence gathering completed
Wards Corner	A short scrutiny review was proposed at the Panel’s meeting in Sep 2021 to make recommendations to Cabinet on the future of the Wards Corner market. It was proposed that this would involve a two-days of evidence gathering, including a site visit to the market.	Started
The Future of Housing Management in Haringey	A report to Cabinet in July 2021 recommended the approval of a consultation process with tenants and leaseholders on a proposal to bring Homes for Haringey back in-house. This Review will be comparing different models of housing management in local government to make recommendations for the future approach in Haringey.	TBC

Sheltered Housing – Care and Support (Adults & Health Scrutiny Panel)	<p>To review the current arrangements for the provision of sheltered housing in Haringey including the care and support provided to residents living in sheltered housing. This Review is being conducted by the Adults &amp; Health Scrutiny Panel but members of the Housing &amp; Regeneration Scrutiny Panel may wish to provide some input given the overlap with its remit.</p> <p>Evidence sessions started in September 2021 – led by the Adults Panel.</p>	Started
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2. <b>“One-off” Items; These</b> will be dealt with at scheduled meetings of the Panel. The following are suggestions for when particular items may be scheduled.	
Date	Agenda Items
2021-22	
8 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update - High Road West</li><li>• Update - Wards Corner</li><li>• Update - Broadwater Farm</li><li>• Update - HfH repairs service</li><li>• Update - New Local Plan</li><li>• Work Planning; To discuss items for the work plan for the Panel for 2021/22</li></ul>
13 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wards Corner Scrutiny Review – Follow up</li><li>• Update – Broadwater Farm (Stapleford consultation)</li><li>• Update – Broadwater Farm (Maintenance issues)</li><li>• Update – HfH Repair Contracts</li></ul>

<b>4 November 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update – St Ann’s Development</li> <li>• Climate Change – contribution to reducing carbon emissions from Cabinet Member portfolios</li> <li>• Love Lane estate ballot</li> </ul>
<b>9 December 2021 (Budget Meeting)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget scrutiny.</li> </ul>
<b>7 March 2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on Housing Delivery Programme</li> <li>• Progress Update on Insourcing of HfH</li> <li>• HRW – Update on the Council Housing Provision in the Development Agreement.</li> <li>• Progress on Noel Park Pods</li> </ul>

Possible items to be allocated to Panel meetings:

- Procurement in the Housing sector (including the London Construction Programme)
- Financing of housing developments
- Monitoring of progress - Accommodation Strategy
- Practice of separating social tenants from other private residents in the same housing developments
- Sheltered housing (Joint meeting with Adults & Health Scrutiny Panel)
- Creation of Residents Forums (one each to represent different tenures)
- Haringey Covid-19 Development Intelligence Group
- Fire safety in HfH estates
- Policy on demolition of existing council housing in order to build new properties through the housing delivery programme
- Tottenham Hale District Centre Framework
- Converted Properties cleaning service charge

- Decent Homes Plus
- Housing support services provided by local community organisations
- Empty homes
- Asset Management Strategy
- Funding models relating to the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account
- Homelessness