

**MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 21 JANUARY 2009**

Councillors Councillors Bull (Chair), Adamou (Vice-Chair), Aitken, Alexander, Dodds, Egan and Winskill

Also Present: Felicity Kally, Councillors Cooke and Haley

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION
OSCO17.	WEBCASTING The meeting was webcast on the Council's website.
OSCO18.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE There were no apologies for absence.
OSCO19.	URGENT BUSINESS There was no urgent business.
OSCO20.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.
OSCO21.	DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS There were no such items.
OSCO22.	PRIMARY CARE UPDATE The Committee received an update from James Slater, Director of Performance and Primary Care at Haringey TPCT, on the implementation of key projects within the "World-Class Primary Care" programme. The update covered progress relating to consultation, the transport and access study, community survey, neighbourhood development planning, Hornsey Central, The Laurels, Lordship Lane and IT systems. The Chair invited a number of interested parties to address the Committee. Local residents expressed concern regarding the lack of consultation on or scrutiny of the fundamental principles behind the 10 year strategy for primary care, including the plans for polyclinics and the "contestability" element of the procurement process for services. Residents also expressed concern regarding the lack of information available on the specific services that would be in place at Hornsey Central by the time of its planned opening. Dave Morris of the Stop Haringey Health Cuts coalition called for an additional meeting of the Committee for an in-depth review of the proposals.

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In response to questions and comments from the public, Mr Slater denied that there had been a lack of consultation and reported that the TCPT was making great efforts to meet the expectations of service users; lessons learned from the Laurels consultation included the need to consult and involve clinicians at an earlier stage, and the value of using external organisations to facilitate consultation. Responding to concerns raised regarding the recruitment of volunteers by an external agency to look at mobility and access issues, Mr Slater reported that this was an example of the TPCT commissioning work to test the proposals and that specific points raised regarding the process would be responded to outside the meeting. It was reported that “contestability” within the procurement process was a legal requirement under procurement law.

It was reported that a special meeting would be convened when the Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) were published in April 2009, and that there were four local consultation processes proposed to consider the four Plans in detail. The Neighbourhood Development Plans would contain detailed information on the transport and access survey, and all the data from the survey would be made available to anyone interested on request. Mr Slater apologised that there had been no response to an email requesting information on the services and providers already agreed for Hornsey Central, and reported that the NDP would help to inform the services appropriate at the site in future, and shape the consultation process.

In response to a question from the public, it was confirmed that the proposals would be Compact compatible, as signed up to by the TPCT. In respect of individual experiences relating to primary care services in the borough, Mr Slater would discuss residents’ specific feedback with them outside the meeting.

The Committee requested updates on the issue of a health centre site for the Wood Green area, and also the cessation of GP services in Stuart Crescent. Mr Slater responded that discussions were taking place regarding a possible site in the Wood Green area, and it was hoped that further information could be provided at the next meeting. It was reported that closure at Stuart Crescent was the result of the retirement of a local GP, but that investment was taking place at a site across the road from the GP that was closing down to enable two other GP practices to provide services for a larger list of patients in same locality.

The Committee asked for further details on the transport and access study; Mr Slater reported that the study did include baseline data of the current transport situation for comparison purposes, and that the full report would set out whether average journey times and frequency of transport services had been taken into account in the report’s findings. Mr Slater hoped that further details on discussions with TfL could be brought to the next meeting. In response to a question from the Committee on the footcare strategy, Mr Slater reported that money was available for non-medical footcare, and that he could provide

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	<p>contact details for further information to those who were interested.</p> <p>Responding to a question from the Committee about the current situation in North Tottenham, Mr Slater reported that service gaps had been identified in that area, and that preliminary talks were taking place with Tottenham Hotspur FC regarding possible health facilities as part of the new stadium development. Councillors expressed concern about pursuing only one option in this area, and were assured by Mr Slater that other options were being looked into.</p> <p>The Committee asked about the monitoring of out of hours services and the issue of GPs expanding beyond capacity. Mr Slater reported that the contract for out of hours provision was monitored very closely, particularly in relation to the calibre of the individuals employed, and that any concerns raised regarding GP practices expanding beyond capacity would be acted on.</p> <p>In response to a question regarding healthcare provision in Green Lanes and the specific needs of non-English speakers, Mr Slater reported that the Neighbourhood Development Plans would cover issues such as this and would promote further discussion with residents on how the needs of the area could best be met. The Committee asked whether there would be an opportunity for the development boards to include local people, and it was confirmed that ways of involving local people in the process were currently being explored.</p> <p>The Committee emphasised that it was important for details of services at Hornsey Central be brought to the Committee for consideration at the very earliest opportunity, and looked forward to the discussions that would be held around the NDPs when they were published.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the content of the report and responses to questions be noted.</p>	
<p>OSCO23.</p>	<p>REPAIRS TO HIGHWAYS</p> <p>The Committee received a report on progress made with implementing the executive responses to recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on repairs to highways.</p> <p>The Committee asked about the Pothole Blitz, and whether this was a short-term initiative or a permanent programme. It was reported that the Pothole Blitz focussed on specific wards in turn for a two-week period and that, once all wards had been dealt with, the process would continue to be repeated. This was in addition to the Council's general pothole service.</p> <p>The Committee also asked about the funding obtained from TfL in relation to damage caused by buses. It was reported that TfL had</p>	

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	<p>made additional funding available in the past few years, but that TfL had not been able to make this contribution in the current financial year due to budget shortfalls. It was reported that the Council was continuing to pursue the issue of the condition of the sewer system in the borough with Thames Water.</p> <p>In response to a question from the Committee, Cllr Haley, Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation, confirmed that street lighting in the borough operated in response to light sensors, and that for safety reasons there were no proposals to switch off any street lights during night-time hours.</p> <p>It was reported that pavements were a priority within the action plan, and that money was being obtained upfront from developers to cover repairs to footpaths for damage related to construction work.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) That a written response on the issue of collapsed trenches following utility works be provided to the Committee.ii) That data on the number of reports received from the public via the website on general highway matters be provided to the Committee.iii) That the update be noted.	
<p>OSCO24.</p>	<p>HARINGEY COUNCIL CONSULTATION STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>The Committee received a report on the review of the consultation strategy and proposals for the development of a new strategy. Cllr Cooke, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Involvement, introduced the report and reported that the strategy would sit alongside the communications strategy, and within the Community Engagement Framework.</p> <p>The Committee enquired regarding the process for recruiting area panels. It was emphasised that robust structures would be necessary to ensure that the process was democratic and open. The Committee requested that they be kept updated as to progress with the recruitment process.</p> <p>In response to a question from the Committee, it was reported that, where response rates to previous consultations had been low, reasons would be identified and ways of addressing this in future would be incorporated into the strategy.</p> <p>The role of area assemblies was discussed and it was agreed that, where there was disparity between different area assemblies in terms of taking recommendations forward, this should be looked into.</p> <p>The Committee thanked the Cabinet Member for presenting the report,</p>	

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	<p>and looked forward to further updates with progress.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the content of the report be noted.</p>	
OSCO25.	<p>ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE UPDATE - VALUE FOR MONEY</p> <p>The Committee received an update on the Value for Money aspect of the Achieving Excellence Programme.</p> <p>In response to a question from the Committee about expenditure, it was reported that all savings indicated in the report were net of any associated costs. It was also confirmed that, where applicable, a breakdown of the individual savings specific to each recommendation in the report could be provided to the Committee.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) That information on expenditure relating to the refurbishment of office space and an update on progress regarding home-working be provided to the Committee.ii) That, where applicable, figures for savings relating to the individual recommendations outlined in the report be provided to the Committee.iii) That the content of the update be noted.	
OSCO26.	<p>BUDGET SCRUTINY - PRE BUSINESS PLAN REVIEW DOCUMENTS</p> <p>The Committee received a report on the issues raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on departmental Pre Business Plans and Cabinet budget proposals.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Pre Business Plans and budget proposals, as set out in the report, be agreed.</p>	

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	<p>Cllr Egan announced that this would be his last meeting as a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee thanked Cllr Egan for all of the excellent work he had done as a member of the Committee, and congratulated him on his appointment as Chair of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board.</p> <p>The meeting finished at 20:15 hrs.</p>	
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COUNCILLOR GIDEON BULL

Chair