

MINUTES OF MEETING ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON THURSDAY, 5TH MARCH, 2020, 7.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillors: Adam Jogee (Chair), Peray Ahmet, Barbara Blake, Eldridge Culverwell, Julie Davies, Julia Ogiehor and Sygrave

ALSO ATTENDING:

1. 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'.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Emery.

Apologies for lateness were received from Cllr Ahmet and Cllr Ogiehor.

3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Ian Sygrave advised that as Chair of the LCSP he had been in contact with the Cabinet Member to raise concerns about the impact of traffic overspill in and around the Ladders that had occurred following he Liveable Crouch End trial.

5. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None

6. MINUTES

The Panel noted concerns with the response to the action around the CCTV enforcement of HGV weight limits being received on the afternoon of the meeting. The Panel also commented that the numbers of HGVs seemed to be on the increase and questioned whether usage by HGVs that was not deemed to be legitimate was resulting in prosecution. In response, officers acknowledged these concerns and apologised for the late response. Officers advised that they didn't have the figures to

hand but would come back to members with numbers of prosecutions and FPNs issued. Officers also set out that some work was being undertaken to assess the impact on adjacent roads and would provide a response on alternative locations for cameras, such as the Ladders. **(Action: Stephen McDonnell)**.

In response to a previous action from the 17th December meeting, the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability confirmed that she met with members of the deputation party from the Climate Change Action Group.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting on 17th December were agreed as a correct record.

7. LIVEABLE STREETS UPDATE

The Panel received a written update on the Liveable Neighbourhoods scheme in Crouch End. The report was introduced by Peter Watson, Major Schemes Project Manager, as set out in the agenda pack at pages 11-13. The following was noted in discussion of the report:

- a) The Panel raised concerns about the impact of the trial road closure which took place between 7-20 October on the displacement of traffic to the surrounding roads including the Ladders and Wightman Road. The Panel suggested that it was important to engage with residents and to bring them along with the scheme. The impact of traffic displacement and a failure to properly engage with those residents was likely to be perceived negatively.
- b) In response, the Cabinet Member acknowledged these concerns and advised that officers were continuing to implement an engagement programme, undertake a design survey and that she had met with residents recently. The Cabinet Member also set out that ward councillors have joined the stakeholder forum and their concerns and comments had been taken on board. The Panel were advised that the pre-election Purdah period was due to start on 23rd March and that this would have an impact on the timescales for agreeing phase 2 of the scheme. Consultation would continue following the expiry of Purdah.
- c) The Panel sought clarification on how the final report would be publicised when released in March. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that she had prepared a video blog for the website and that leaflets had been sent out to libraries etcetera.
- d) The Chair sought reassurance around whether engagement had been undertaken with traders on Hornsey High Street, given the disproportionate impact on those traders. In response, the Cabinet Member acknowledged that the engagement to date had been focused on Crouch End but that additional resources were going to be available from the Regen team going forwards. The Cabinet Member agreed that she would commit to engaging with the Hornsey traders as well as any other groups that the Panel would like to put forward. **(Action: Cllr Hearn)**.
- e) Officers clarified that they had not yet reached the design phase and that before extensive engagement took place on these proposals, they would like to have design proposals in place.
- f) The Panel noted the 500 email addresses received as part of the initial stage of engagement and questioned whether the results of the survey had been shared with these people. In response, officers advised that the survey had not been

- completed yet but that extensive consultation would take place once it had been finalised. In response to questions around the extent to which local MPs and GLA members had been engaged with, the Cabinet Member advised that formal consultation had not taken place but that she was meeting Catherine West MP tomorrow.
- g) The Panel acknowledged the extent to which residents had responded to the survey, with 2493 responses received to date, but cautioned the need for the Council to listen to those responses as well.
 - h) The Panel requested clarification on why Crouch End was chosen as the trial location rather than say Tottenham, which had a much higher population density and number of schools. In response, officers advised that Liveable Crouch End was one of 7 successful bids selected by TfL from 26 submissions and one of the main attractions of the Crouch End bid was the proximity of the TfL cycling route from Kentish Town to Crouch End. TfL also chose Crouch End due to its traffic density and the proximity of main arterial roads. It was noted that the Crouch End bid was prepared by the previous administration. Officers advised that they had submitted a bid for a Liveable Streets scheme in Bruce Grove but were still awaiting the outcome of that bid.
 - i) In response to a question about the feasibility of incorporating improved pedestrian access to rail/Overground facilities, the Cabinet Member advised that this was outside of the scheme. The Cabinet Member agreed to circulate a briefing on what was included in the Liveable Streets scheme and what wasn't. **(Action: Cllr Hearn).**
 - j) The Panel sought clarification about air quality on Crouch End and whether this was significantly worse than in other parts of the Borough. In response, officers set out that the primary driver was around modal shift and that improved air quality was a secondary consequence of reducing the number of vehicles on the road. Officers fed back that there were 1000 fewer vehicles on the road over the two week trial period and that it was considered successful in that context.
 - k) In response to a question, officers advised that the Transport Planning team had been tasked with putting together a strategic plan to link up the Liveable Streets scheme and see how other parts of the borough could benefit from this.
 - l) The Chair urged caution in applying for further bids and set out that he was surprised that these were being made before the first scheme had been successfully implemented and adequate engagement with the community had been sought. Cllr Davies commented that she was broadly supportive of expanding the scheme across different parts of the Borough.

RESOLVED

That the Panel noted the written update in relation to Liveable Crouch End.

8. UPDATE ON SINGLE USE PLASTICS

The Panel received a verbal update from Joe Baker, Head of Carbon Management on actions taken to date to reduce the amount of single use plastics and the development of a single use plastic policy. The draft Single Use Plastics policy was scheduled to

go to Corporate Board in May before being agreed by Cabinet in June. The following update was given in relation to the work undertaken to date:

- a. George Meehan House no longer used plastic stirrers, lids, cups, individual milk containers or cutlery.
- b. From 31st January, new staff were given a reusable coffee cup at their Corporate Induction, which would reduce the number of disposable single use plastics coffee cups being purchased by staff.
- c. The Council's café (Podium) introduced a charge for the provision of disposable cups and plastic containers and is offering reusable coffee cups for sale.
- d. A Staff Waste Reduction Network had been set up with 30 members. The network would be working on waste and plastic reduction goals and help with communications to improve the rate of recycling and prevent contamination of recycling. Plastic cups were no longer being ordered for water dispensers and the current stock was being run down.
- e. Investigations had begun regarding the provision of food waste bins in office kitchen areas.
- f. The recycling bins at the back of River Park House were now locked, which had significantly reduced contamination.
- g. An audit has been sent out to all senior staff to identify areas for plastic and waste reduction in service areas.
- h. The Events Team sent a questionnaire out to all past event organisers to determine what single use plastics they used and how we could work to reduce them. The Parks and Green Spaces Strategy would include new policies on single use plastics.
- i. Officers were working on the installation of up to 5 water fountains across the borough with the GLA – providing publicly accessible drinking water.
- j. Work was ongoing with procurement to include weighting towards not using single use plastics in our procurement processes.
- k. The Council was working with the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) to deliver waste reduction and single use plastic workshops in two Haringey schools.
- l. Work has also been undertaken with the NLWA and Plastic Free Crouch End to work towards achieving 'low plastic zone' accreditation in Crouch End.
- m. Many of the actions identified were cost-free or low cost and can be delivered without significant resources.

The following was noted in discussion of this item:

- a. The Chair raised concerns that there was no written briefing circulated in advance of the meeting and requested that a written briefing be provided in future. Officers agreed to circulate a note on single use plastics to the Panel. **(Action: Joe Baker).**
- b. The Chair requested that Councillors also be given a reusable plastic cup as well as new staff members. Officers agreed to look into this. **(Action: Joe Baker).**

- c. In response to a question around whether consideration had been given to providing water fountains in parks, officers advised that they were looking to secure free provision of water from available cafes and kiosks in parks.
- d. In response to a question around whether there was a figure around the reduction in single use plastics achieved, officers advised that a baseline survey was carried out by the champions network but no assessment of current usage had been done as yet.
- e. In response to a question on eco-friendly comms, officers acknowledged that further work on this would be undertaken and that this would form part of the programme moving forwards.
- f. The Panel suggested that more could be done to promote local litter picking events across the borough.
- g. The Panel sought reassurance around the role of the champions' network and why there were only 30 staff involved. In response, officers advised that they were leading on culture change within the organisation and that they would be used to mentor other staff and increase awareness.
- h. The Panel raised concerns about ensuring that actions taken as part of this strategy were measurable. Officers advised in response that, as part of the Cabinet report in June, there would be an action plan developed that would contain measurable outcomes.

RESOLVED

That the Panel noted the update on single use plastics.

9. WASTE RECYCLING AND CLEANSING DATA

The Panel received a report which set out current performance on waste and recycling and progress against Borough Plan commitments for waste and street cleansing, including fly-tipping. The report was introduced by Ian Kershaw, client and Commissioning Manager. The following was noted in discussion of this report:

- a. The Panel sought assurance around what was being done to tackle contamination of recycling from items such as nappies and whether producing comms materials in different languages was required. In response, officers acknowledged that kerbside contamination was a key issue. Communication leaflets were being produced in a number of different languages for residents. These would complement the work carried out by Veolia Outreach officers (who spoke several languages) and the core information new sent to all residents with our collections calendar – which was to be circulated borough-wide in the next two weeks. Officers agreed to share the work review undertaken by the NLWA with the Panel. **(Action: Ian Kershaw).**
- b. In response to a query about the response to contaminated bins and whether they were rejected at the kerbside, officers advised that the most effective response was to put a label or sticker on the bin in question. If the bin was still contaminated the following week then the bin would be collected to prevent overflowing rubbish. If the same thing happened again then a letter would be sent out. In severe cases, the Council could remove the recycling bin altogether, especially in regards to HMOs.
- c. The Panel commented that they would like to see additional enforcement taken against rogue landlords, particularly in light of the further rollout of mandatory

- licensing. Officers advised that conditions were being prepared covering control of waste in conjunction with the selective licensing scheme.
- d. In response to concerns about those without English as a first language, officers advised that leaflets were designed to be as pictorial as possible in order to be easily understood by different community groups.
 - e. The Panel enquired about whether additional rollout of CCTV cameras was in the pipeline. In response, the Panel was advised that the Council was undergoing a significant upgrade of its CCTV facilities. The Cabinet Member also acknowledged the role that education played but emphasised the fact that people already knew that fly tipping was against the law and that it was necessary to create a risk factor.

RESOLVED

That the Panel noted performance to date and comments on progress against Borough Plan objectives.

10. ENGAGING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

Clerk's note: The Chair requested that agenda items 10 and 11 be combined and that the Cabinet Member provide a short combined verbal update, followed by the scheduled question and answer session.

The Panel received a verbal update from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods in relation to how the Council sought to engage with residents and communities and involve them in service delivery. The Panel also received a more general update on the Cabinet Member's portfolio. This was followed by a question and answer session. The following was noted in relation to the verbal update:

- a. The Panel were advised that the AD Stronger Communities was now responsible for the contract management of Veolia as well as waste enforcement. It was noted that the merging of those teams reflected a clear synergy and provided greater opportunities for joined up working across this area, including HMO licencing and ASB.
- b. The Panel noted that work was ongoing with bringing the Street Enforcement Team back in-house, following the conclusion of the pilot with an outsourced service through Kingdom. Staff were being recruited and it was anticipated that this should be in place by May. The in-house service would have a wider remit than Kingdom and would be responsible for general flytipping and trade waste enforcement.
- c. The Cabinet Member advised that 280 FPNs for flytipping had been issued since April 2019. Work was also continuing with increasing signage about flytipping/dumping across the borough.
- d. The CPZ policy was due to be considered by Cabinet in March, which would provide an updated and refreshed strategy to reflect current parking pressures and new housing developments.
- e. The Highways Plan was also due to be considered at Cabinet at the meeting taking place the following week. This would set out the planned highways maintenance works for the next 12 months and would reflect an increased investment in highways. The plan would also include the upgrading of around 4000 street lights. Some of which were identified as being over 30 years old.

- f. The Cabinet Member advised that she was working to bring reactive highways maintenance back in house and that the additional investment into highways infrastructure would make this economically viable and allow significant improvements to be made.
- g. The Cabinet Member advised the Panel that she was also seeking to bring the reporting of potholes back from Customer Services in order to improve the service and make it more joined-up.
- h. The Cabinet Member characterised the overall strategy as one of ensuring that the Council responded to residents properly and that it did what it said it would.

The following was noted in discussion of this item:

- a. The Panel sought assurance about the length of time it had taken to bring the street enforcement service back in-house. In response, the Cabinet Member acknowledged that initial discussion about insourcing of the service began two years ago. The Cabinet Member set out that a lot of work had been undertaken since then looking at a variety of different models and learning from best practice elsewhere. The proposed service would have a much broader role and remit than Kingdom, including enforcing timed waste collections. The Panel were advised that the recruitment process was underway and that interviews were taking place.
- b. In response to a question, the Cabinet Member advised that the intention was that the Wood Green inner zone would be one of the first zones to be looked at as part of the review of CPZ policy.
- c. The Panel raised concerns with the quality of pothole repairs in the Borough and suggested that cheap repairs resulted in cracks appearing and the work having to be redone. The Cabinet Member acknowledged these concerns and advised that there had been some issues with the LOHAC contract and the contract monitoring of this. The Cabinet Member advised that a new contract had been awarded and better contract management would be put in place to ensure improved service levels.
- d. The Panel also raised concerns about recent flooding in the Borough, particularly in and around Green Lanes as well a recent spate of blocked drains. In response, the Cabinet Member acknowledged these concerns and advised that drains often involved a number of agencies including Thames Water and the Council. The Cabinet Member advised that work was underway to look at how improvements could be made in respect of responding to block drains and localised instances of flooding. The Panel were advised that Green Lanes was a principal road and managed by TfL, the Council was in discussion with TfL to try and agree greater investment and improvements to Green Lanes.
- e. In response to further questions around roadworks and road closures, the Cabinet Member confirmed that most of the disruptive work was done by utility companies and tended to be unplanned emergency works.
- f. In response to a question around the evidence base for the wall of shame, the Cabinet Member advised that Barking and Dagenham had a similar scheme in place for two years which had resulted in 28 prosecutions and led to a reduction in fly tipping by a third. The Cabinet Member emphasised that the education/behaviour change aspect was the main driver. In response to concerns about whether there were performance targets in place, the Panel was advised that targets were set out as part of the Fly tipping Strategy.

- g. In response to a question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that all councillors had been given the opportunity to provide comments on the Highways Plan.

RESOLVED

That the update was noted.

11. CABINET MEMBER Q&A WITH CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS

As per the minutes for Agenda Item 10.

12. SCRUTINY REVIEW INTO BLUE BADGES

The Panel considered the Scrutiny Review report on Blue Badges and improving access to disabled parking services.

The Panel raised concerns about the fact that Blue Badge holders had to buy tickets/permits to park in Apcoa managed car parks, but without any apparent facility to purchase them on site. In response the Chair advised that this was outside the scope of the review and instead he would address the issue with the Cabinet Member directly. **(Action: Chair).**

RESOLVED

- I. That the Panel noted the report and approved its recommendations.
- II. That the report be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for formal approval at its meeting on 12th March.

13. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Panel suggested that they would like to see a future agenda item looking into why the recycling rate had dropped.

RESOLVED

The Panel noted the Work Plan.

14. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

N/A

15. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

There are no further meetings in the current municipal year.

CHAIR: Councillor Adam Jogee

Signed by Chair

Date

