

# **MINUTES OF MEETING Overview and Scrutiny Committee HELD ON Tuesday, 8th June, 2021, 7.00 - 9.30 pm**

## **PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO ATTENDING: Yvonne Denny, Lourdes Keever, KanuPriya  
Jhunhunwala and Anita Jakhu**

## **44. 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'.

## **45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

## **46. URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no Items of Urgent Business.

## **47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

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

None.

## **49. MINUTES**

The Committee commented that the response to an action from 15<sup>th</sup> March did not include reference to the request for ward Councillors to be able to access the full fire safety reviews for blocks in their wards. **(Action: Clerk).**

## **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

## 50. CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS - THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Ahmet, the Leader of the Council gave a verbal overview to OSC on the priorities for the new administration in 2021-22. This was followed by a Q&A session with the Committee. The Chief Executive was also present for this agenda item. The Leader outlined her key priorities for the year:

- Boosting housing delivery, the number of council homes and the adoption of a whole communities approach in doing so, to ensure community friendly facilities and space. The Leader set out that homes needed to be built for different ages and family sizes and that her administration would be looking to open up construction contracts to local suppliers and to also ensure value for money.
- The value of cooperation and being a listening Council. This involved ensuring the voices of residents were acted upon and that Haringey was a Council that worked with residents, rather than for them. The key elements of this included building co-production and co-design models into the heart of everything the Council did. By way of an example, the Leader set out that the Section 20 consultation with Noel Park Leaseholders had been extended.
- Crime and Community Safety – keeping communities safe through working with residents to deliver a multi-agency public health approach to crime, safety and serious youth violence. A key focus within this was identified as the need to listen to the voices of young people, whilst recognising that they were not a homogenous group.
- Improving services for education and child care to allow children to get the best start in life. A new strategy would be developed for early years and under 5s and the Council would be looking to expand on the current offer for children’s centres and child care centres.
- Renewing the commitment to the insourcing of Council services and giving residents more of a say in the services that they use. This would allow more money to be invested in those services. The Leader identified that the Council needed to coordinate the insourcing agenda better, including cross-borough insourcing as well as cross-service insourcing.
- The role of community organisations and improving Council services through strengthening partnerships with voluntary and community sector organisations. The need for closer working was recognised, particularly in light of the impact of the pandemic and the effect it had on the voluntary sector.
- Tackling the climate emergency with bold steps to protect the environment and protect the planet. This would involve improving walking and cycling access, increasing green space where possible, increasing the number of trees in the borough and bringing residents on board with the low traffic neighbourhoods. There was also a need to join up the Green Spaces Strategy with the Education Strategy, and to ask young people what they would like to see in our parks.
- Supporting small businesses and supporting the local economy. One of the key tasks going forwards was identified as working with small businesses and organisations such as the Wood Green Bid to support those businesses following the impact of the Covid pandemic. The Leader outlined that youth unemployment in Tottenham had reached some of the highest levels in the country and the furlough scheme was due to end in September. Local business would need to be at the heart of place making plans. The administration would

also be looking to support the community wealth building agenda, support local jobs and look at how the Council's procurement strategy could be used to support both of these.

In addition to these points, the Chief Executive emphasised the importance of supporting local businesses and the local economy in recovering from Covid-19 and the fact that Council services were adapting to the new models of working that people had come to expect, whilst also recognising the importance of face to face services. The impact of Covid on residents' mental and physical health was also an important area and ensuring that the council fully understood the impact of Covid on residents was a key task, along with ensuring that services were organised in the best way to support this.

The following points arose in discussion of this item:

- a. The Chair read out a question from a local resident, who sought assurances from the Leader about raising awareness of the consequences of institutionalised racism. In response the Leader set out that it was a difficult issue to overcome as it was systemic by its nature. However, it was suggested that a key facet in raising awareness was through constantly challenging it. The Council had rules and policies in place to prevent discrimination, such as its recruitment policies, for example. The Leader set out that there had been a number of meetings around how the Council could better design services and it was important that a diverse group of voices was represented around the table. As a result, the Council would be adopting co-design and co-production collaborative models of service design.
- b. The Chief Executive emphasised the importance of data in relation to tackling structural racism, in terms of understanding who was accessing services and understanding whether there were barriers to some groups accessing services. Furthermore, it was important that the Council and its staff reflected the people that lived in Haringey.
- c. In response to further questions from residents around action being taken to tackle the climate crisis, the Leader advised that the Council would be adopting a number of policies to alleviate the crisis, which included promoting cycling and walking, increasing green spaces and planting more trees. The Leader set out that a crucial element of this was the need for the voices of young people to be involved in these discussions. In response to a question which sought assurances about not closing libraries, the Leader advised that the Council had not closed any libraries and had no plans to do in the future.
- d. A co-opted Member raised concerns about chestnuts park and its accessibility in wet weather; with regular flooding causing blocked paths, the need for work around traffic and pedestrian crossings and a general lack of maintenance. In response, the Leader and Chief Executive agreed to come back with a written response on this. **(Action: Leader's Office)**.
- e. In response to a question around a report on Wards Corner and the involvement of stakeholders going forwards, the Leader set out that this was not a Council report and that it would not be appropriate to comment further on it.

- f. The Committee sought assurances about the end of the furlough scheme and what mitigations the Council could look at to support those who lost their jobs, the Chief Executive advised that this was a particular concern given the high numbers of people on furlough in Haringey. The Committee noted that some forecasts had suggested that unemployment in London would peak in spring next year. It was acknowledged the end of furlough would have a disproportionate effect on vulnerable groups, minorities and young people in general. The Council was working with the DWP and adapting its offer to those groups. The Council was also working closely with a variety of local government bodies to lobby the government in relation to its employment programme, to make sure that it was tackling the impact on the most vulnerable.
- g. In relation to a question around free school meals, the Leader advised that the offer had been expanded and within that offer there was a focus on specific priority groups. Cabinet agreed a paper in January 2021 which set out that the position in relation to future provision would come back for further decision prior to budget setting in April 2023. The Leader noted that under 5s would be a key priority group going forwards, particularly in light of Covid.
- h. The Committee sought assurances around adult social care, with a co-opted member suggesting that she did not believe that the redesign had worked, and it was questioned whether an independent reviewer could be brought in. In response, the Leader advised that she was open to a further discussion on this and directed the co-optee to meet with the relevant Cabinet Member, Cllr Das Neves on this issue. **(Action: Lourdes Keevner)**
- i. The Chair read out some further questions from residents. The Leader agreed to consider looking at new technology to remove recyclable waste from black bags. In relation to a question about pausing plans to enlarge the incinerator at Edmonton, the Chief Executive cautioned that the incinerator was managed by the North London Waste Authority, which involved seven different boroughs and had its own decision-making structures. As a result, this was not something the Leader could commit to on her own, even if she wanted to. In relation to a question around Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, the Leader agreed that she would be considering residents' concerns before going ahead.
- j. The Committee questioned whether the residential offer and Love Lane ballot was being deferred in light of the decision not coming to June Cabinet. Similarly, the Committee questioned why the planned purchase on 177 council home in Tottenham Hale had been dropped from the June agenda, along with a report around consulting with residents on HfH insourcing. In response, the Leader set out that it was the previous Cabinet that had deferred the residential offer and Love Lane Ballot to June and that was not a timescale she agreed to. The Leader commented that she was a new Leader with a new Cabinet and wanted to apply some fresh eyes to all of these schemes. No decision had been taken not to go ahead with any of these schemes. They would be coming back to Cabinet at a later date.
- k. In a follow-up, the Committee questioned what advice she had received about the implications of a deferral on the High Road West (HRW) scheme on the ability of the Council to draw down £90m of funding from the GLA. The

Committee also sought assurances about the implications on 200 residents living in Temporary Accommodation who had been promised secured tenancies through the homes built as part of HRW. In response the Leader advised that she had received advice and that she had taken this on board. In relation to the £90m of funding potentially being in jeopardy, she did not believe that this was the case. The Leader reiterated that no decision not to progress these schemes had been taken.

- i. The Committee queried what learning points the Leader had taken into her new role, having previously been the Chair of OSC. In response, the leader set out that one of her biggest reflections was around the collaboration and consultation agenda and how as a Committee, OSC were disappointed with how the Council engaged with its residents. The Leader set out that she would be putting residents' voices at the heart of what the Council did going forwards.
- m. The Committee also sought assurances around housing delivery and what the strategy was for building homes at social rents. In response, the Leader advised that this would fall under the Housing Delivery Plan. The Leader advised that she would be seeking to adopt a Place building approach that took into account the wider needs of the community, including the need for family sized homes. The Leader suggested that the Committee should refer to Cllr Gordon for further detail on the housing delivery plan, when she came to OSC.
- n. In relation to concerns around trees being cut down and feedback from residents about a lack of communication or consultation when this happened, the Leader agreed to come back to the committee with a written response.

**(Action Cllr Ahmet/Clerk)**

- o. The Committee noted particular concerns around mental health in schools and whether, in light of successive waves of budget cuts in this area, partners were being engaged with to ensure that provision was being put back in schools. In response, the Chief Executive commented that the Council and its partners were aware that the pandemic had a significant impact on children and young people, both in terms of their learning and their mental health. However, it was suggested that although there would be an increase in demand for mental health services, it was not known what that increase in demand would be. The Chief Executive set out that the Council was working closely with mental health partners across NCL and that the Health & Wellbeing Board had been undertaking work on this issue. It was also acknowledged that resources in this area had been subject to funding cut backs. The Chief Executive highlighted the CAMHS trailblazers project by way of an example of the work that had been done on this issue.
- p. As a follow-up point the Committee emphasised the need to consider how best to advertise this across the system in relation to being clear that the school funded mental health provision had been subject to cuts in school budgets. The Council needed to give some further thought on how it coordinated this messaging.
- q. In relation to some further questions from residents, the leader set out that she did stand by the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review on leaseholders in Noel Park. The Leader set out that an extension to the consultation with leaseholders had been put in place and that she had committed to looking at

- the issue with fresh eyes. A report was coming back to Cabinet in June and the Leader commented that the Council would be looking to have another meeting with residents in the near future.
- r. In relation to HMOs, the Chief Executive set out that the council was looking to broaden its HMO licensing scheme. The Chief Executive acknowledged that she was aware of general concerns around issues such as littering and fly tipping but that, given some of the specific concerns raised in this question by the resident, she would come back with a written response. The Chief Executive also agreed to come back to the Committee on the concerns raised about staff using essential permits and the impact this had in particular areas on residents being able to park their cars. **(Action: Chief Executive/Clerk).**
  - s. The Committee raised concerns in relation to the pandemic and food security. In particular, the Committee was concerned by the loss of the food hub in the borough and the consequent inability to take ambient food that was on offer, as there was nowhere to store it. Instead this would now go to other boroughs. The Committee emphasised the need to find a large suitable site and it was suggested that being able to provide food supplies to those that needed it in the borough cut across other key strategic outcomes. The Committee also expressed concern that a decision had been taken recently to not have a specific food policy and that this would instead be wrapped up into a more general poverty policy. The Committee urged the Leader to look into this issue. In response, the Leader agreed to take this away and come back with a response. **(Action Cllr Ahmet/Clerk).**
  - t. As a follow-up point the Committee sought to emphasise the importance of the issue of food security and the impact it had on Children. This would likely be a particular concern going forwards with the end of furlough and as the economic impact of the pandemic began to trickle down.
  - u. Assurances were sought around utilising Equality Impact Assessments and how the Council would consider intersectional and cross-cutting issues such as housing, health and FSM going forwards. In response, the Leader acknowledged these concerns and commented on the need to look broadly when considering assessments and not just limit these to particular characteristics.
  - v. The Chair thanked the Leader and Chief Executive for coming along to scrutiny and answering questions. Cllr Moyeed also apologised to any residents whose questions he did not have time to ask. Cllr Moyeed noted that he would supply the Leader's office with any questions that were not asked for a written response. **(Action: Chair).**

## **RESOLVED**

That the update, and responses to questions were noted.

## **51. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee considered a report which set out the Membership and Terms of Reference for Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Panels. The report was introduced by Rob Mack, Principal Scrutiny Officer as set out in the agenda pack

at pages 13-48. The Committee nominated Cllr Moyeed and Connor as the Haringey representatives on the JHOSC for 2021/22.

## **RESOLVED**

The Committee:

- I. Noted the terms of reference (Appendix A) and Protocol (Appendix B) for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- II. Endorsed the draft Protocol (Appendix C) for non-voting co-opted Members on scrutiny panels;
- III. Established the following Scrutiny Panels for 2021/22:
  - Adults and Health
  - Children and Young People
  - Environment and Community Safety
  - Housing and Regeneration;
- IV. Approved the terms of reference/policy areas and membership for each Scrutiny Panel for 2020/21 (Appendix D);
- V. Appointed Councillors Moyeed and Connor as the two Haringey representatives to the North Central London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2021/22.

## **52. IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON HARINGEY**

The Committee received a report which provided an overview of the impacts of COVID-19 on the borough. The report also set out impacts by Borough Plan Priority Area and summarised key equalities implications arising from the most significant impacts. The report was accompanied by a detailed evidence pack which set out the latest data available at a borough level. The report and accompanying evidence pack were included in the second dispatch agenda pack at pages 3-56. The report was introduced by Jim Pomeroy and Eduardo Lopez Salas. Jean Taylor, Head of the Policy Team was also present. Dr Will Maimaris, Director Public Health and Denise Gandy, Director Housing Demand (HfH) we also present for this item.

The following arose during the discussion of this item:

- a. The committee sought clarification on the figures for vaccine roll-out in the borough and queried what the current rates were. In response, the Director of Public Health responded that the latest figures for the percentage of adults who had received their first vaccine dose, broken down by age group were:
  - 85-89 – 89%
  - 79-84 – 88%
  - 75-79 - 87%
  - 69-75 – 85%
  - 65-69 – 81%
  - 60-65 – 76%

- The overall rate for over 30s on 1<sup>st</sup> June was 59%

The Director of Public Health advised that these figures were similar to other London boroughs. It was cautioned that although these figures were good, they did not reflect the equalities considerations underneath these figures and the disproportionate gaps with minority groups. It was suggested that Haringey had a lower level of vaccinated population than some other boroughs due to it having a younger population. The Director Public Health agreed to share the data slides with the Committee. **(Action: Dr Will Maimaris).**

- b. The Committee sought reassurance around the health inequalities between the east and west of the Borough and what was being done to tackle these during the pandemic. In response, the Director Public Health advised that vaccine roll-out had been targeted to areas in the east of the borough and that pop-up clinics had been set up for this. Some focused pieces of work had also been carried out in Northumberland Park, including door-knocking. In relation to some of the broader impacts, the Policy Team Manager advised that there were also wider pieces of work being undertaken to target employment support services to particular areas and to deliver them in localities to ensure they were accessible to residents. Employment navigators had also been established at Broadwater Farm and other locations. Officers advised that socio-demographic concerns fed into a body of work being undertaken by the council on how services were delivered and this included multi-dimensional and cross-cutting inequalities.
- c. The Committee queried when an update on the Fairness Commission would be coming to Cabinet, given the inequalities that it highlighted. In response, officers advised that a detailed appendix would be coming to Cabinet in July, which would set out the Fairness Commission recommendations and a progress report on the Borough Plan.
- d. In response to a query, the Director of Public Health agreed to provide further assurances to a co-opted member of the committee about what the guidelines said around healthcare workers not needing to wear gloves when administering the vaccine. **(Action: Dr Will Maimaris).**
- e. The Committee raised concerns about businesses complying with Covid-safety regulations such as keeping windows open in restaurants for ventilation, and sought assurances about what information the Council was providing to businesses on Covid-safety. The Director of Public Health agreed to check with the Communications team and come back to the Committee on this point. **(Action: Dr Will Maimaris).**

## RESOLVED

That the report and accompanying evidence pack were noted.

## 53. PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Committee received a report which provided a progress update on the Borough Plan 2019-23 and accompanying performance framework, reflecting the end of year position as of March 2021. The report was introduced by Claire McCarthy, Assistant



Director of Strategy and Communications as set out in the agenda pack at pages 53-60. The following arose during the discussion of the report:

- a. The Committee noted that following a period of review, performance reporting had been moved to the corporate centre and that quarterly performance reporting would resume.
- b. The Committee sought clarification on the housing delivery test, which was referred to at page 51 of the report. Specifically, the Committee sought clarification that the 75% government threshold referred to the 2719 units delivered rather than the 7000 units that were in the pipeline. Officers advised that they believed this to be the case, but that they would check this with colleagues and provide a written response to the Committee if this was not accurate. **(Action: Claire McCarthy)**.
- c. The Committee sought clarification around whether the Council's commitment to deliver 1000 homes by 2022 would be at risk from particular decisions being delayed or re-thought, particularly in reference to the Section 106 purchase of 177 Council rent homes. Officers agreed to come back to the Committee with a written response. **(Action: Claire McCarthy)**.
- d. The Committee sought clarification around the housing section of the report and what the presumption in favour of sustainable development meant in layman's terms. This related to falling below the 75% threshold for the housing delivery test. Cllr White commented that in practice this related to only a small number of planning applications and that the presumption was one of a number of material considerations for the planning authority to consider. Officers agreed to contact planning colleagues and request a written response on this. **(Action: Claire McCarthy)**.
- e. The Committee noted with concern that the report suggested that the numbers of domestic abuse cases were down and that the RAG rating for this indicator should be changed to green, given conflicting accounts elsewhere and the widely reported increases due to Covid and lockdown. Officers acknowledged that this seemed slightly incongruous and that measures of recorded crimes did not necessarily reflect a true picture. Officers agreed to take this point away and give some further consideration on how best to describe performance levels for certain indicators. **(Action: Claire McCarthy)**.

## **RESOLVED**

That Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the high-level progress made against the delivery of the strategic priorities and targets in the Borough Plan as at the end of March 2021.

## **54. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panel's work programmes for 2021/22.

Officers emphasised the fact that any reviews undertaken this year would need to have the evidence gathering process completed by Christmas in order that they could be agreed by OSC and then considered by Cabinet in time for the end of the municipal year and the start of Purdah.

The Chair advised that he would be contacting Members outside of the meeting to arrange the terms of reference for a Scrutiny Review on serious youth violence. **(Action: Chair).**

The Chair also noted that the Committee would be finishing off the Housing Panel's review on High Road West, with three evidence gathering sessions still outstanding.

The Committee noted concerns with the fact that the Children's Commissioner had criticised Haringey over how the Council had handled its Published Admissions Number (PAN). The Chair agreed to arrange a conversation offline between the Chair of the Children's Panel and concerned co-optees. **(Action: Chair).**

## **RESOLVED**

That the work programmes for the main Committee and Scrutiny Panels, as set out in Appendix A of the report, were agreed.

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

N/A

### **56. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- 6 July 2021;
- 7 October 2021;
- 29 November 2021;
- 13 January 2022;
- 20 January 2022 (Budget); and
- 10 March 2022

CHAIR: Councillor Khaled Moyeed

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....