

**MINUTES OF MEETING Climate, Community Safety & Culture
Scrutiny Panel HELD ON Thursday, 13th July, 2023, 7.00 - 8.45
pm**

PRESENT:

**Councillors: Eldridge Culverwell, George Dunstall, Luke Cawley-Harrison
and Simmons-Safo (Chair)**

ALSO ATTENDING: Ian Sygrave (Co-Optee)

210. 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'.

211. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Adje. Cllr Adamou attended the meeting virtually.

212. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

213. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest

214. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None.

215. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting on 16th March 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

216. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Panel received a report which set out the terms of reference and membership for Overview and Scrutiny and the Scrutiny Panels for 2023/24.

RESOLVED

That the Panel:

- I. Noted the terms of reference (at Appendix A of the report) and Protocol (at Appendix B of the report) for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its Panels.
- II. Noted the Non-Voting Member protocol (Appendix C of the report).
- III. Noted the policy areas/remits and membership for each Scrutiny Panel for 2023/24 (Appendix D of the report).

217. APPOINTMENT OF NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER

The Panel received a report which sought formal approval of the re-appointment of a non-voting co-opted Member to the Panel.

RESOLVED

That, as a representative from Haringey Association of Neighbourhood Watches, Ian Sygrave be appointed as a non-voting co-opted Member of the Panel for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

218. UPDATE ON FLOOD WATER MANAGEMENT AND HIGHWAYS GULLY CLEANSING

The Panel received a report which provided an update on floodwater management and the highways gully cleaning programme. The report was introduced by Mark Stevens, Assistant Director of Direct Services, as set out in the agenda pack at pages 53 to 64. By way of introduction, officers set out that the Borough had suffered from two bouts of significant flooding in July 2021 and August 2022 and that since then the Council had cleaned all 16,000 gullies within its network. The following arose during the discussion of this report:

- a. Members enquired about the water tank in Priory Park and what was happening with it. In response, officers advise that there was an ownership dispute taking place with Thames Water about whose responsibility it was to manage and maintain it. Part of the dispute emanated from the transition process from the National River Authority to the Environment Agency in the 1970s. The Council had challenged Thames Water's assertion that it was not their responsibility and were waiting for a further response.
- b. In response to a follow-up question, officers advised that the tank was not functional during the severe flooding incidents in July 2020 and August 2021 and that subsequent photographs had showed that the tank was completely dry. In relation to a further follow-up around timescales, officers advised that it was being handled by the Council's legal team and that there were no firm timescales at present. There was a flood alleviation scheme planned for Priory

- Park but that this would be undertaken following resolution of the issue with Thames Water. Without the tank being properly maintained there was a risk of the water being stored but not dissipating in the right way.
- c. In response to a question about the balance between cyclical and reactive cleansing, officers advised that the Council's highways contractor Marlborough Highways carried out reactive maintenance as well as planned maintenance. Cleansing in response to yellow flood warnings was undertaken and there was a degree of judgment required from officers about how and when this was undertaken and the associated costs.
 - d. The Panel sought assurances that the Council was not effectively doing Thames Water's job for them. In response, officers advised that as the lead local authority for flooding, the Council could look into the causes of an incident of flooding. It was noted that a lot of the issues were caused by the fact that there was a capacity issue with the Victorian sewage system in London. Officers commented that there was some consideration needed of how the pressure on the sewer system could be alleviated and that fact that the Council had allowed people to pave over their gardens which has caused problems with surface water run-off. Officers advised that they were looking into whether enforcement action could be taken under the Highways Act.
 - e. The Panel queried what could be done in respect of digital poverty and the fact that the useful advice section on flooding was all online. In response, officers acknowledged that was a challenge and it was a challenge that was not limited to just highways or flooding. Officers advised that social media updates had also been provided around flooding. Non-digital forms of communication, such as lamppost banners, were perhaps better suited to more general information. The Chair highlighted the importance of maintaining a level of communication to people whilst it was still relatively fresh in their minds.
 - f. The Panel queried whether a piece of work could be done to identify resident associations in high-risk areas and meet with them to discuss flooding. In response officers advised that this was something they would consider going forwards.
 - g. Officers advised that there was still a piece of work to be done around improving flood reporting and that this would form part of the multi-agency flood plan.
 - h. The Panel raised concerns about flooding on Seven Sisters Road and that this did not seem to be one of the priority areas mentioned in the report. In response, officers advised that this was a TfL managed road and that did create some problems in terms of getting things done. Officers agreed to provide a written response to officers on what was being done to push back to TfL about flooding on their road network. **(Action: Mark Stevens)**.
 - i. The Panel sought clarification about whether the entire gully network would be cleaned every two years. In response, officers advised that they had completed the first cycle and that all gully networks had been cleansed as part of this. The second tranche was underway which was risk based, with High, Low and Medium priority levels.

- j. In response to a question about cleaning of the footway gullies on Harringay Passage, Mark Stevens agreed to speak to the team and provide an update on what was happening in relation to cleansing footway gullies. **(Action: Mark Stevens).**
- k. In relation to gullies on the highway, officers set out that rainwater gardens may be more appropriate in some circumstances. Cllr Cawley Harrison agreed to let officers know of any specific gullies he was concerned about.
- l. In response to a follow up question, officers acknowledged that they would be willing to receive recommendations from Members about possible locations for potentially removing a parking bay and installing a rainwater garden or a pocket park.

RESOLVED

Noted

219. UPDATE ON RECENT CABINET DECISIONS

The Panel received a report which provided an overview of the reports received by Cabinet, between March and June, that fall within the policy remit of the scrutiny panel

RESOLVED

That the update was noted.

220. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The following agenda items were put forward for future meetings of the panel

- Update on Road Safety and Speeding, as well as the achievement of 20MPH across the borough
- Street lighting – Is there an issue around safety, dark spots etc. and are there gaps in coverage.
- Update on Electric Vehicle charging. We only have one provider – do we need more? Seems to be only a small number of new charging points rolled out year on year.
- Cllr Jogee to be invited to the next meeting to discuss how as a Council, we are working with the police in light of the Casey report and in order to improve trust and confidence within the community.
- The Borough Commander to be invited to the November meeting to discuss a New Met for London and how can the council work more collaboratively and more effectively with the police. Also, what is the vision for community policing in the borough – access to SNTs seems to vary from ward to ward.

The Panel agreed to put forward a request to Overview & Scrutiny Committee to change the name of the panel to the Climate, Community Safety and Culture Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED

That the Panel considered its draft work plan and put forward future agenda items for inclusion on the work plan.

221. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

N/A

222. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 11 September 2023
- 6 November 2023
- 19 December 2023
- 27 February 2024

CHAIR: Councillor Michelle Simmons-Safo

Signed by Chair

Date