

Notes from Overview and Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 13th June, 2024, 7.00 pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Matt White (Chair) and Lester Buxton

ATTENDING ONLINE: Cllr Connor & Cllr Worrell

14. 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.

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Gunes and Cllr Connor.

Cllr Connor and Cllr Worrell joined the meeting virtually through Microsoft Teams.

The Chair noted that Yvonne Denny resigned as a co-opted member of the Committee. The Committee thanked Yvonne for her many years of sitting on Scrutiny and passed on their best wishes to her.

16. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair advised that as there were only two Members of the Committee present in the room, the meeting was inquorate (with three members being required for a quorum). The scrutiny officer advised that the meeting would therefore have to continue on an informal basis. As the meeting was inquorate, no decisions could be taken by the Committee, these would need to be ratified by the Committee at another meeting, when there was a quorum.

The Members agreed to hold a short meeting on the 24th June to formally agree any decisions that it was unable to take this evening. **(Action: Philip).**

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

18. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None.

19. MINUTES

The Committee noted the minutes of the previous meetings. There were no points of accuracy raised.

20. MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL MEETINGS

The Committee noted the minutes of the following meetings:

- Housing, Planning & Development Scrutiny Panel – 13th March 2024
- Adults & Health Scrutiny Panel – 22nd February 2024
- Climate, Community Safety & Culture Scrutiny Panel – 27th February 2024
- Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel – 5th March

The minutes would need to be formally agreed as a correct record at the Committee's next meeting. **(Action: Philip).**

21. MEMBERSHIP & TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee received a report which set out the Membership and Terms of reference for Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the four Scrutiny Panel that sit below the main Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- (a) Noted the terms of reference, as set out at Appendix A of the report, the Protocol for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its Panels at Appendix B, and the Protocol for non-voting co-opted Members on Scrutiny Panels at Appendix C;
- (b) Subject to approval by the Committee at its meeting on 24th June, established the following Scrutiny Panels for 2024/25:
 - Adults and Health;
 - Children and Young People;
 - Climate, Community Safety and Environment; and
 - Housing, Planning and Development;
- (c) Subject to approval by the Committee at its meeting on 24th June, approved the remits and membership for each Scrutiny Panel for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix of the report; and
- (d) Proposed that Cllr Matt White and Cllr Pippa Connor be appointed as the two Haringey representatives to the North Central London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2024/25, subject to approval by the Committee at its meeting on 24th June.

22. OSC WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report which sought comments on how best to develop the scrutiny work programme and sought member's input into how targeted, inclusive and timely work could be undertaken around issues of local importance. The report was introduced by Philip Slawther, Scrutiny Officer as set out at pages 107-119 of agenda pack. Members were also asked to propose items for upcoming meetings in July and September. The following arose as part of the discussion:

- a. The Committee commented that they were broadly supportive of coming up with a different approach for a scrutiny café event. It was agreed that the session should be quite informal and conversational in nature, rather than a series of deputations or pitches.
- b. The Chair of the Adults panel suggested that she would like to be able to hear from frontline staff and to hear their perspective. It was suggested that this could perhaps be done through the unions.
- c. It was suggested that the Comms around the event should be framed in terms of 'how you can help us improve council services'. It was noted that the idea of scrutiny and what it does might not mean a lot to most residents.
- d. It was proposed that Scrutiny needed to hear from a wide array of people and that it was good to speak to people who perhaps didn't engage with the Council very often. Local colleges were suggested as one cohort of people that members would like to engage with.
- e. Members suggested that a key age demographic would be 18-35.
- f. It was suggested that the café event should seek to hear from people who use council services, particularly private renters, council tenants, leaseholders and also potentially landlords. The Chair commented that organisations such as Acorn or LRU perhaps represented a fairly narrow group of very politically engaged tenants/renters.
- g. It was suggested that scrutiny would also like to hear from councillor colleagues, particularly in terms of persistent or unusual issues that have come up as part of casework and whether some of these people could be invited to the event.
- h. In response to comments about whether Members were happy with having one event covering each of the panels, the Chair commented that he was in favour of one event – particularly as four different events might make it even harder for people to understand what was happening and which session they should attend.
- i. Members had differing opinions on whether it should be one joint session or whether there should be different stalls for each panel and attendees could focus on a particular stall. The idea of timeslots was welcomed, in terms of trying to keep a degree of structure. Another possible suggestion was noted as having one joint session but allocating say an hour for each panel area.
- j. The Chair of the Housing Panel suggested that she would prefer to see small groups of people speaking to a particular panel chair and that this could be managed like a councillor's ward surgery where the flow of the meeting was determined by who showed up. It was also noted that attendees could be encouraged to mingle around different stalls if they were interested.
- k. The Committee noted that for the July meeting there was also a report scheduled around and update on agency staffing. **(Philip)**.
- l. The Committee commented that they would like to receive an update on the insourcing of leisure services in the borough, given that this was due to happen in October. After discussion, it was felt that the update would be most useful if it

came after the insourcing had happened so that there was enough time for the service to be up and running and in order to receive a meaningful update on how the new service was functioning. The Scrutiny officers agreed to speak to officers for timescales. The December and March meetings were floated as possible dates. **(Action: Philip).**

RESOLVED

- I. That, subject to approval by the Committee its meeting on 24th June, the Committee agreed the overall approach outlined at Section 5 of the report, including developing a two-year work programme for Overview and Scrutiny for 2024-26, for approval at its meeting on 14 October 2024; and
- II. That the Committee gave comments on how they would like to proceed with a consultative 'Scrutiny Café' event to engage with the local community about the work programme, as well as conducting an online scrutiny survey.
- III. That, pending commencement of the finalised work programme, the Committee agree the provisional items for its meetings on 23 July and 14 October, subject to approval by the Committee its meeting on 24th June.

23. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

N/A

24. FUTURE MEETINGS

The future meeting dates were noted as:

- 23 July 2024
- 14 October 2024
- 25 November 2024
- 12 December 2024
- 20 January 2025 (Budget)
- 27 March 2025

CHAIR: Councillor Matt White

Signed by Chair

Date