

**MINUTES OF THE CULTURE, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT
SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON Monday 28th July 2025, 6.30pm -**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors Makbule Gunes (Chair), George Dunstall, Liam Carroll, Luke Cawley-Harrison, Sue Jameson
Councillor Ajda Ovat (Cabinet Member for Communities)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Eubert Malcolm, Director of Environment
Zoe Robertson – Programme Director for Well-being and Climate
Max Tolley, Housing Strategy and Policy Officer
Adam Browne, ASB, CCTV & Enforcement Manager
Ellie Duncan, ASB Manager
Fola Irikefe, Principal Scrutiny Officer

Attendance Online

- Mark Wolski, Head of Community Safety
- Adam Browne, ASB, CCTV & Enforcement Manager

Deputation attendance:

Sydney Charles, Haringey Climate Forum (HCF) and En10ergy – Heat Networks
Dr Jonny Groome and Lee Vilinsky (co-chairs of Healthy Streets North Tottenham) -
Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Grosskopf, Councillor Hakata and Barry Francis

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’.

URGENT BUSINESS

None.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS / PRESENTATIONS / QUESTIONS

The deputations were considered as detailed below.

MINUTES

That the minutes of the meeting on 11th March 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.

MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The committee noted the updated terms of reference and membership for 2025–2026. It was highlighted that the panel now includes responsibility for Culture, in addition to Environment and Community Safety.

ACTION TRACKER

To be updated for 2025/26.

DRAFT ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Following introductions, the Chair welcomed Members, officers, and guests. The Chair asked Councillor Ajda Ovat, Cabinet Member for Communities to introduce Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Policy. Councillor Ovat explained that the policy was developed to define responsibilities, processes and procedures relating to ASB and outlines the Council's approach to tackling antisocial behaviour. The policy explains how incidents can be reported and sets out our roles and responsibilities. It also highlights our commitment to prevention and details the multi-agency collaboration across the council, including input from Community Safety, Park services, estates,

safeguarding and external bodies including the police. Max Tolley further added that the policy relates to public spaces and council homes and the neighbourhoods that we manage as a social landlord.

Councillor Jameson informed the committee that in her ward there are significant anti-social behaviour issues that have stemmed from businesses owners whilst the policy doesn't address working with the licencing teams in order to persuade businesses to operate appropriately, she felt there wasn't enough. In response, Eubert Malcolm explained that this come under different legislation, the Licensing Act so this is something that will be referred to licencing colleagues and as the policy is in consultation phase, this is something that can be added into it. **ACTION.**

Councillor Dunstall enquired about the time frames as during conversations with residents, he has been told that once ASB is reported, they often don't get a response. The officer responded that the plan is to respond in a timely manner not only is it important for the initial response, but to ensure we update residents as we go along. The officer also explained that some of the issues that come through from residents are also police matters and so there needs to be better demarcations of what are police matters.

Councillor Cawley-Harrison emphasised the comment from Councillor Jameson earlier that there was a lack of reference to businesses causing ASB, he asserted that business regardless of the licencing should be included. He also pointed out that the list of areas and responsibilities that the council is meant to respond to is not clear under 4.2 and additionally links to different part in the report are not ideal. Councillor Cawley-Harrison asserted that the time frames for responses felt reasonable but ideally residents should be given a reference number to be able to put into a system and receive a status update on their report. **ACTION.**

Eubert Malcolm, Director of Environment thanked the member for the suggestions and explained that they were currently exploring implementing a case management system to refine the feedback system and they were also exploring how they will update their website once the policy is in place. It was explained that the various links in the report are because this policy is the overarching policy with more detailed

policies sitting beneath and so referencing each in detail would be unwieldy in the report.

Councillor Carroll enquired if there is provision within the report to allow for any sort of landlord licencing scheme to incorporate anti-social behaviour concerns, basically to refer into? The committee heard they are working closely with landlords and how they can really support their tenants and stop ASB.

In terms of prevention of ASB, the absence or presence of cameras and lighting is often considered an influential factor in where you see frequent anti-social behaviour hotspots Councillor Carroll expressed. He further added that more needs to be done when constructing and designing the public realm. It was heard that with developments now there is consultation with police officers who undertake an assessment and risk analysis of designs.

Councillor Jameson enquired about the size of the ASB team as the perception is its really small. The committee learnt that there are eight officers for the whole borough with some support officers. Councillor Jameson further asserted that stronger terms need to be put into contracts for tenants should they commit anti-social behaviour. The Chair enquired about the consultation process to which she heard that the various departments in the council including housing, licencing, Park services community safety will be consulted before the policy goes to Cabinet it will also go to residents and businesses.

GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT POLICY

The committee were briefed by Max Tolley, Housing Strategy and Policy Officer that the Good Neighbourhood Management policy is in response to the Housing Ombudsman spotlight on noise report recommendation which recommended that landlords have a proactive good neighbourhood management policy distinct to the ASB policy. The Good Neighbourhood Management policy applies specifically to Harringay council tenants and leaseholders. It addresses behaviours that fall below the threshold of ASB or a tenancy breach. The aim of the policy is to complement the ASB policy, and it similarly has been shaped by input from feedback provided by

council services, such as the Community safety Team and council's resident voice board.

The main focus of the policy is around when tenants' leaseholders are upset or frustrated from someone else's behaviour or actions but it isn't deemed ASB or tenancy breach. Councillor Dunstall made the point that where you've got residents potentially with relationships basically broken down, this policy may malign intentions towards another resident. The councillor sought clarity around what point does unpleasant behaviour become ASB? It was explained that residents should first approach tenancy management this usually ends with the residents' resolving things without interventions from an officer but when it can't be this policy may then be required.

Councillor Cawley- Harrison suggested that something about frequency of issue should be incorporated into the terms of escalation so if there's a frequency of medium level issues and you have a vulnerable resident etc then interventions can be made. **RECOMMENDATION.** The councillor also expressed that the name of the policy 'Good Neighbourhood Management Policy' implies it's for everyone, but it's mainly for council tenants and leaseholders. He felt that as the policy doesn't apply to everyone, down the line there may be confusion where someone may have a dispute in private property and they start referring to the policy.

RECOMMENDATION.

Officers agreed with the helpful recommendation and considered how the title could possibly be revised to include 'council housing'. Councillor Cawley Harrison also noted that there are certain expectations of the tenants but none from the council.

Will the council mediate in an unbiased and independent manner?

Councillor Cawley Harrison pointed out that there is a lack of information about further action tenants might be able to take and there isn't a referral guide should a tenant want to escalate things and make a formal complaint etc. Officers understood the point but also felt some of the detail around the procedure would be an internal staff document.

A member enquired about what would happen to housing associations and how do we advise those residents? In response it was explained that they were currently consulting on a tenancy strategy which sets the expectations for registered providers in the borough. The tenancy management policy also addresses ASB and expectations for tenants. Officers expressed that it would also be constructive to bring this also to scrutiny. **ACTION.**

The chair thanked Councillor Ovat and the officers in attendance.

DEPUTATIONS

The chair welcomed the two people/ organisations presenting deputations.

Sydney Charles, Harringay Climate Forum

Sydney Charles introduced herself as a steering group member of the Harringay Climate Forum and a director of NT Energy, which is Harringay's Community Energy Group and also a member of Community Energy Group England.

Ms Charles expressed that she would like to ask for a redirection for Haringey's heat and cooling strategy based on new technologies and funding opportunities to be redirected to the Den. The original strategy was to develop a district heat network, from Edmonton to go through to Westminster, Camden, Islington though it now seems unlikely that Haringey will be able to fund the Den and the need for cooling to be built in is more apparent. The committee heard that Ofgem will be regulating all heat networks and so it's an ideal time to put efforts into estates all across Harringay and encourage private building owners to decarbonize.

Haringey ranks near the top of councils for homes and heating in the 2025 climate emergency results. Ms Charles informed the scrutiny panel about new products such as retrofit homes with batteries and smart tariffs so the homes have no bills for energy. There is also retrofit to scale, which looks to make the most number of houses low energy for very low outlay.

Sydney Charles expressed the opinion that some of the UK and London policies are flawed assumptions, in particular calculations usually ignore the carbon to construct pipe routes and energy centres and compare heat from incinerators to individual gas boilers rather than seek solutions, she explained there is an assumption that carbon

for the electricity used for heat pumps will never decarbonise. She explained it was better to produce electricity from burning waste rather than producing heat as well as electricity as once the cost and carbon of constructing long networks and energy centres being considered it work out better.

Finally, to summarise the deputation a recommendation was made that Harringay redirect money and support from the Den, plan now and increase low-cost heating and cooling across the borough. The scrutiny panel were briefed that there are funds available to support this work.

The chair then invited questions and comments from members. Councillor Dunstall enquired about the finance options available. In response it was heard that there's funding through the National Wealth, Green Heat Network Fund that has quite good conditions in it for the cost to customers and also the carbon emissions. There is also the Carbon Offset Fund, which has £7 million to implement carbon programmes. The GLA has also got a 0-carbon accelerator programme.

Councillor Luke Cawley-Harrison sought clarity regarding what happened with the heath networks and the change in direction to which Programme Director for Well-being and Climate clarified that there was a gap in funding and because due to the wider economic position nationally with the increased cost of borrowing and council's financial position, the Council's capital allocation for heat networks was taken out of the capital strategy in the previous year. There are conversations currently taking place with the government, so the position is not yet conclusive.

A member commented that if were having Den's as isolated networks then there could stipulations with each development through planning and prescribe the developers to have that as part of their scheme which is very much within our remit as a Council. Sydney Charles gave the panel an example of a place where they have 70% of the people in the street are willing to consider air source heat pumps.

There are also a lot of university campuses and things with multi air source heat pump so there is a possibility that High Road West could have its own communal heating system. It was explained that we could, through planning, prescribe the developers to have that as part of their scheme.

The chair thanked Sydney Charles for her deputation and informed her that a response would follow. **ACTION.**

Dr Jonny Groome and Lee Vilinsky (co-chairs of Healthy Streets North Tottenham) - Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

Dr Groome introduced himself as a member of Health Streets and then briefed the panel that they worked to maintain safety of streets from a road traffic perspective, which is proving to be a challenge in an area called The Avenues and hence the reason for the deputation. He briefed that it is one of the most deprived areas of the borough, with very bad traffic, speeding, gridlock and very bad pollution on a daily basis. The gridlock is affecting emergency vehicles with delayed response times, bus's struggling to get through and hence affecting schools.

He explained he was seeking help from the scrutiny panel to make the streets safer. There has also been an increase in the pressure additional non-football related events at the Tottenham Stadium. In this coming September and December alone there will be 20 events, people struggle to leave their homes at this time. Additionally new homes are being built, 10,000 new homes in Meridian Water, over 3,000 in Tottenham Hale but there doesn't seem to be a plan to mitigate against the congestion.

Dr Groome reported that there is daily gridlock on single lane roads, HGVs get stuck and mount curbs, emergency vehicles get blocked, there is often damage to residents' cars damage, road rage, constant beeping injury and there has also been loss of life. Unfortunately, the situation isn't new and there have been efforts to change things on Shelbourne Road and reduce traffic for 35 years.

Dr Groome explained the proposed solution was through the implementation of 3 simple traffic filter to be put in place. Dr Groome requested if the scrutiny panel would be able to assist in getting an understanding of what is happening with the funded plans and the adopted walking in cycle action plan and to help drive forward traffic mitigation measures.

Councillor Dunstall clarified that the purpose of the deputation was to have LTN's implanted. Councillor Jameson enquired if they had developed the solution with any input from councillors/ officers to which they heard they hadn't but there was awareness of the challenge and that their organisation was actively looking for a solution. The scrutiny panel heard that this was a starting point but they had presented to the Climate Action Forum and liaised with the highways team which has been unresponsive of late and so the purpose of the deputation was for support and further guidance to get some progress.

A member of the scrutiny panel reminded Dr Groome and Lee Vilinsky that scrutiny does not make decisions, so the scrutiny panel can make recommendations to the Cabinet member, it's ultimately for the cabinet to make the decisions. Dr Groome explained that they hoped for the same momentum as when three other LTN's were signed off in mid-December but the momentum has really waned.

It was enquired if it was a partly funded TfL Road, to which it was. Councillor Ruth Gordon who was attending and observing the meeting and a ward councillor in the area painted a clear picture of the challenges including loud exhausts, screeching tyres, road rage, bus 318 standstill and all this leads to toxic air and all exasperated by the increasing events.

The Chair thanked the guests and informed them they would receive a formal response. **ACTION.**

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

The chair introduced the Climate Change Action Plan update, which responds to previous requests from the panel to look at the structure and the progress made to date. Zoe Robertson, Programme Director for Well-being and Climate, informed members that the action plan was adopted in 2020 following an extensive community engagement process and has since been reported each year to full council through the Annual Carbon Report. The plan includes 159 actions which are delivered across the council, coordinated by the Carbon Management Team. The action plan has

been designed to deliver projects and programmes up to 2041, with immediate actions in the plan covering the first 7/8 years.

The scrutiny panel heard that there has been an impact on proposed plans as a result of the pandemic, cost of materials, funding challenges and higher borrowing costs, higher inflation rates etc. The chair expressed that as it is a long-term plan, they will receive and update on the plan annually. **ACTION**

A member enquired about the disposal strategy and whether progress has been made because we have disposed of some of the worst performing buildings as opposed to improving on the building stock. The scrutiny panel heard there were plans for decarbonizing the councils' estates but the pace has slowed down because we haven't disposed of certain buildings yet, like River Park House.

It was also enquired about some of the green rated actions which have actions such as 'we're going to look into' as opposed to a clear action but no actual tangible outcome has come about. The councillor expressed that there should be more on delivery as opposed to the strategy. Zoe Robertson acknowledged that there should be a line in the RAG rating chart for actual impact and outcome. **ACTION.**

A councillor enquired what areas needed more improvements and how well we were doing or implementing the actions in the plan. It was heard that the Climate Partnership is used as a tool to bring people together and have the conversations around what's been done locally. There was recognition there is always more to be done, and everything can't always be summarised in a plan but it's a start for a twenty-year plan.

In view of the councils' financial challenges, what would be the impact on the plan the chair enquired. The Climate and Well-Being Board, chaired by corporate director provides the governance route for all of the work and thus cuts across all the different Council areas. Reduced resources may mean some may be slowed down or paused or they may look to community or other partners for support. Details on progress in the next project would be helpful in order to know if projects have

been on hold for a couple of weeks or a year etc. **ACTION.** It was also suggested that 'carbon impact' as opposed to impact would be helpful.

The chair thanked the officer for the report.

WORK PROGRAMME

The chair briefly commented on the work programme explaining that the scrutiny panel would be looking at the Walking and Cycling Action Plan in more detail, they would also look at leisure services which is now within the remit of the scrutiny panel.

Other items to be considered:

- Wellbeing Strategy
- Update on leisure centre – progress in managing them.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm