

MINUTES OF THE CULTURE, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON Monday 15th September 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

Daliah Barrett, Licensing Team Leader

Maurice Richards, Head of Transport and Travel

Fola Irikefe, Principal Scrutiny Officer

Attendance Online

Councillor Mike Hakata, Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Environment, and Transport

Jess Crowe, Corporate Director of Culture, Strategy and Communities

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Grosskopf, Zoe Robertson 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

There were non.

MINUTES

That the minutes of the meeting on 28th July 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.

STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

Councillor Ovat presented the Statement of Licensing Policy explaining that the local authority is required to review the policy every five years under Section 5 of the Licensing Act. The policy statement sets out how the local authority will carry out its licensing responsibilities under the act. The key features of the policy statement is the promotion of the full licensing objectives established under the act which include the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

The Council will use the policy to make decisions about licence applications from businesses in the borough that wish to sell or supply alcohol, provide regulated entertainment and sell hot food or drink between 11pm and 5am. The purpose of the statement is to provide clarity to everyone, including residents, businesses and licence applicants. The panel heard that the policy was currently in consultation phase, ending on 22 September.

The chair opened the questions by enquiring if within the 5-year period before the policy is renewed again whether there will be further review. The Licensing Team Leader explained that once the policy is adopted in January 2026, if there are changes to the guidance and once Martins Law is implemented then there will most likely be a need to make some changes.

The Chair enquired further, given the diversity of the borough how the policy ensures fairness in terms of accessibility and whether the consultation phase has involved reaching out to other groups. Councillor Ovat explained that consultation had taken place with the police, public health, businesses and online on Common Place. The Licensing team leader explained that the consultation phase has involved reaching out to trade associations, resident associations and community groups have also been contacted through Common Place.

Councillor Dunstall requested for further information in relation to match event days and the increase in events held at Tottenham Stadium what were the plans in terms of managing the increasing number of events at the stadium. The Head of Licensing explained that there is a public safety protection order immediately outside of the premises and so as part of this they have requested for retailers to be mindful about retailing alcohol responsibly on match days. Correspondence also goes out prior to concert season; enforcement officers visit sights and liaise closely with retailers. Councillor Ovat also directed the scrutiny panel members to page 58 of the policy

which provided specific details regarding Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and Finsbury Park.

Councillor Jameson enquired about whether West Green Road had a disproportionate number of alcohol retailers as there seemed to be a disproportionate number of inebriated people on the road at all hours of the day. The Head of Licensing responded that feedback from Public Health and the Police Licensing Team is that they will be imposing a cumulative order on High Road Tottenham because of this situation. The cumulative order will be partly where the stadium is and also on West Green Road because of the wide variety of outlets that provide alcohol in that area.

Councillor Cawley-Harrison enquired if Temporary Event Notices (TEN's) posed a threat and whether some unlicensed premises used them repeatedly as loophole. It was explained by the Head of Licensing that (TEN's) are there for premises without licenses on a temporary basis and it is monitored how often applications are made. Those issues with TEN's are required to have additional security in place. The scrutiny panel heard that the number of times an individual can submit a TEN's is set by law. The councillor further enquired if there was any unregulated selling of alcohol in the borough for example through a hatch as this has been on the increase in other countries possibly due to the challenging economic climate. The scrutiny panel heard that this had been the case during the COVID pandemic, but it generally wasn't the case at present.

The Chair of the panel who also sits on Licensing Committee enquired if there is enough resource in the borough to manage the enforcement of the policy and to possibly issue penalties and revoke licences as and when necessary. The Cabinet Member for Communities agreed that resources are limited but this is managed through close working with the police, Public Health and the Anti-Social Behaviour Team and the intel from residents was invaluable. The Director of Environment added that the enforcement is very much intelligence lead from residents and Members.

The Chair enquired whether it was felt that the policy struck the right balance between supporting local businesses, nightlife and entertainment establishment's whilst simultaneously supporting and protecting residents, and particularly the most vulnerable residents. In terms of striking the right balance, Councillor Ovat briefed the scrutiny panel that legislation along with consultation from Public Health and the councils' corporate priorities is considered. The Licensing Team Leader further added that within the policy there are model conditions and examples to assist both residents and applicants. **ACTION**, the panel would formally submit their comments as part of the consultation for the policy in time for consideration by Cabinet.

QUARTER 1 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The chair opened the discussions explaining that the quarterly budget report will be considered at Cabinet on 17th of September and further considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 19th of September. The chair reminded the panel that their remit will be to consider the service specific pressures and those relating to the Directorate budgets that they cover.

The Director of Environment set out to the panel that the directorate is reporting a projected overspend of £1.09 million. The overspend includes £563,000 MTF physical digital transformation savings and £169,000 transformation savings which is expected to be delivered by the service modernisation £394, 000 for transformation. The Director of Environment briefed the scrutiny panel that parking and highways which is forecasting a net overspend of £117, 000 in quarter one and this is mainly due to unachievable medium term financial saving and this was assigned to streetlights and third party contracts for TfL traffic lights. Parking income is under review to ensure the projections are in line with actual income that's collected.

Parks and leisure was also forecasting an overspend of £327,000 which was because of unachievable events income and duplicated entry of a savings. Work is currently underway to ensure that the service budgets are aligned with the spending plans.

Councillor Cawley-Harrison enquired about the digital transformation savings as it tends to come under one saving which makes it difficult in terms of clarity with the overspend and whether it's one single project or multiple project, he asked if it was half a million unrealised saving across multiple projects or if it was due to slippage as it is deemed 'invest-to-save'. Councillor Cawley-Harrison asked further if there were any projects previously marked as 'invest-to-save' that have been realised. Councillor Dunstall agrees and further enquired about digital savings having considered it at Children and Young People's Scrutiny panel as annually the digital saving seems to be a re-occurring theme.

In response, Corporate Director of Culture, Strategy and Communities responded that digital saving has often been grouped together in the past without detailed plans regarding how it will be fully implemented. It was explained that last year a restructure was carried out to bring in the skills required to deliver digital savings projects in a collaborative way with service departments. There has been gradual rollout and hence the slippage in service areas, so targets have been divided into departments, some are from amalgamations in applications and consolidating e.g. last year with cyber security and firewall arrangements as e.g. essentially paying twice with Microsoft. A significant number of the upcoming savings are with staffing efficiencies which take longer as restructures needs to take place. Digital services are currently developing a roadmap with the various services areas.

Councillor Cawley-Harrison expressed that he understands the approach with the digital team and it would be useful to speak to them directly with services to

understand if there are issues with the strategy, roll out. **RECOMMENDATION:** to have an overview from the digital team to get a better understanding of their role.

It was also enquired over where things stood in terms of staff savings of 5% and whether it was a rolling target and if staffing levels would then be stabilised? The scrutiny panel heard that staff savings, in terms of Culture have been achieved – some through mitigations and it was a one-off saving target. Director of Environment explained that they would be meeting the 5% savings from the perspective of staffing members that bring in income.

Councillor Carroll enquired about what the pressures were in relation to libraries. The Corporate Director of Culture, Strategy and Communities explained that libraries have always had an income target and there have been historical challenges to meet it and the plan going forward with the renovation of the spaces if to market them more to promote the spaces and services to bring in income as will be set out in the imminent Libraries Strategy. The approach now is also to work closely with partners like the NHS for them to utilise spaces to deliver their services. Last year, £300, 000 income was achieved nevertheless the target set is significant so hasn't been met.

Councillor Cawley -Harrison enquired that as Haringey was part of the consortium, if there was any type of fee along with the agreement that the authority had to pay. Corporate Director of Culture, Strategy and Communities said she would come back with the details of the multi-year agreement. **ACTION**

CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN - QUARTER 1 2025/26 PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Director of Environment explained to the scrutiny panel that fly tipping had moved negatively with quarter one showing around four and half thousand incidents. Much of it can be attributed to more staff reporting incidents as well as seasonal reasons and in response to this the council communications is working in focussed areas and focussing on bulky waste. Criminal offences have also moved negatively and has risen to just over 12% against these offenses are around theft and violence against a person.

Councillor Cawley-Harrison enquired if we have had Kingdom in place collecting fly tipping for long enough and whether the impact has been positive. The councillor also enquired about when fly tipping is reported what the timeframe was for responding and what was the relationship between Viola and Kingdom. Councillor Cawley-Harrison reported that there have been several incidents reported by residents and progress has been slow in particular on Coppetts Road and that the approach to collections felt inconsistent.

The Director of Environment reported that the collection is intelligence lead and staff look at areas of high incidents and put staff in place in those areas. The council manages the Kingdom contract with weekly and monthly meetings including Viola. He felt that Kingdom has had a positive impact, but more time was required to ensure its data led as they have only been in place for a few months. In response to

an enquiry about FPN's it was head that they are collected by Kingdom on behalf of the council and reconciled against monthly monitoring. **ACTION** To have team investigate Coppetts Road. **ACTION** to come back regarding the time scale between reporting and collections and a detailed briefing on how Kingdom and the in-house team are doing in terms of the overall enforcement targets.

Councillor Hakata informed the scrutiny panel that directly related to environmental improvement Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), a collaborative programme coordinated by London councils with Islington leading the collaboration of boroughs to purchase renewable energy has unfortunately had some slippage as it has been beset by a number of challenges. Some of the challenges includes the war in Ukraine and volatility of energy prices etc. As a result of this the decision was taken by Cabinet to not got to full business case for the District Energy Network DEN due to the changing circumstances. The borough is currently looking at how things will pan out but work is currently underway with other boroughs and the GLA for the energy network.

The anti- idling campaign is also a key priority for the council but there isn't any government funding to support the aspirations and a significant part of the campaign is enforcement which requires funding and an awareness raising campaign, so officers are currently exploring funding. Health School Zones, a sub part of the School Streets Plan to make schools safer, cleaner and greener is also down as a negative as there are challenges meeting the target with schools on main roads. Officers are currently exploring how to clean the air on the significantly impacted schools with tree planting, air filtration with the GLA and the National Education Parks Grant from central government. The National Education Parks Grant is looking at greening projects with twenty schools in the borough to receive funding.

Corporate Director of Culture, Strategy and Communities reported that a report on the preparations for the plans for the London Borough of Culture went to Cabinet in July. A delivery charity has been set up and there has been increased subscription to the newsletter. In terms of pre-existing cultural events, forty took place in quarter one with a lot of events focussed on Windrush and they were currently making plans for South Asian heritage month and working towards Black History Month in October. The Corporate Director of Culture, Strategy and Communities also informed the scrutiny panel that Bruce Castle had re-opened. The Culture team is also increasingly working in partnership with other teams including Inclusive Economy, Regeneration Place Making team and the voluntary sector.

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF WALKING AND CYCLING ACTION PLAN

The chair opened the discussions for the committee to plan the walking and cycling action plan review and to narrow down the scope of the review. The scope of the review had been developed in March 2025. The Chair felt that the proposed timeline needed to be re-considered with completion in March 2026.

Councillor Cawley-Harrison who sat on the panel the year before explained that the aim of the review was to focus on the cycling elements within the draft Walking and Cycling Action Plan and where we were with the implementation followed by a discussion about accessibility around the borough in general. The focus was initially meant to be on the delivery of cycling infrastructure, safety for cyclists within the present infrastructure and how that sat against the Walking and Cycling Action plan. The panel had also planned to look at LTN's and the impact on boosting cycling and whether cycling was increasing because of the councils' interventions or it was just down to people picking up lime bikes as and when necessary.

The Chair expressed that the infrastructure for cycling was quite visible but walking routes were less visible and so it could be useful to look at walking routes as well. Councillor Dunstall added that alongside the development of cycling infrastructure, it has come at the same time as the increase in powered two-wheelers and the lawlessness of the riders and the safety concerns should also be considered. Councillor Cawley-Harrison explained further that there had been a discussion about the danger that they pose to themselves, pedestrians, other cyclists and children. Councillor Dunstall also added that in terms of good practice within this space authorities like Waltham Forest and Hackney may be ideal people to take evidence from.

Councillor Carroll added that the issue of dockless bikes and how they can be incorporated as part of the Walking and Cycling Action Plan and how can we ensure we are at the forefront of discussions was key as there isn't a London wide system. He stressed that it was important that cycling and the expansion in cycling infrastructure shouldn't be to the expense of other modes of transport although expanding the scope into the area of public realm would be too wide.

The Chair invited the Head of Transport and Travel to give an update to the scrutiny panel and his views on the proposed scope. He explained that the dockless bike has always been incorporated as part of the walking and cycling action plan as the authority realised early on that accessibility to bikes was one of the challenges for people taking up cycling as a mode of transport. They were initially implemented as an eighteen-month trial to have the opportunity to look at lessons learnt and the new contract was being considered by Cabinet on 16th September. The new contract was to have additional restrictions on operation and reduce the impact on residents to ensure cycling and dockless bikes were not expanding to the detriment of pavement users.

The authority is currently rolling out fixed dockless bike parking locations and the first forty have been implemented with another hundred by the end of the year and a further hundred in the year to follow with the view to having them 100 meters from each other. The authority is also part of the Micromobility Working Group looking at best practice across London.

Having gone through the trial period and also taking on the learning from other boroughs, they have learnt that the borough needs to have more power around

enforcement with robust KPI's in terms of retrieving bikes and dealing with complaints. The plan is also to have a tighter contract and systems in place whereby if operators are performing well, the number of bikes will be increased and if they are under performing there will be a reduction. **ACTION** It was reported that members will be updated with progress in terms of the development of the tender document.

As Haringey infrastructure will be in use, there are also plans to ensure that there is some financial benefit to the council and it has been advised that the authority goes into a revenue share with the chosen operator so that the council gets money back with increased usage. It is envisaged after the eighteen-month trial that there would be a pan-London contract to have universal legislation to manage some of the issues, the authority will enter the contract with a break clause. The authority will continue to work with the Microbility Group and liaise with public through Common Place. Once a contract has been awarded the Common Place exercise will be re-launched in order to monitor what is working well and consider where there may be challenges.

The Head of Transport and Travel explained that the Walking and Cycling Action Plan is vast and this should be considered for the review. The scrutiny panel heard that for the next five years the authority was in good position for walking and cycling infrastructure as most of the funding was coming externally including TfL.

Councillor Jameson expressed that electric bikes on the pavement's are fast and dangerous and pose a safety threat to cyclists as well as others, and particularly the vulnerable. The Head of Transport and Travel agreed that as we have an increasing delivery economy there will be a continuous rise and he urged Councillors to communicate hotspots where they may not be known to enforcement. It was explained that further education and publicity campaigns need to be carried out for those in the gig economy for the safety of pedestrians and for their own e.g. wearing high vis etc. He acknowledges that there are some challenges with some of the drivers as English is not always their first language.

Cllr Hakata agreed that the visibility of walking routes was an important element of the Walking and Cycling Action Plan that needs developing and it was agreed that the current infrastructure was a disincentive. The safety of cycle routes and incentivising healthy choices is the objective of the plan and in trying to achieve this they are working closely with Public Health. A lot of work has been done to enable access to cycling but it has also had some negative impact on the detriment of other footway users and the scrutiny panels review would be welcomed.

Councillor Cawley-Harrison expressed that the discussions felt like the focus was drawing towards the safety elements of cycling for both cyclists and other road users and that the panel could draw on third party surveys already available for evidence. The scrutiny panel concluded that the review will explore; 'what does a safe cycling look like for the whole of Haringey, whether it be for cyclists or non-cyclists/ pedestrians'

The review will consider:

- Infrastructure for cyclists
- How we can work with new emerging technologies
- Enforcement and the position of other partners on the illegal bikes
(Westminster has a strong approach to enforcement)
- Good practice in other boroughs

The panel decided that the aim would be to complete the work by February/ March 2026. Next steps are to develop a narrower scope for comment and contribution and then on to Overview and Scrutiny.

WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The chair highlighted the upcoming items to the panel.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm