

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026, 7.00 - 9.40pm**

## **PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Matt White (Chair), Pippa Connor (Vice-Chair), Makbule Gunes, Anna Lawton and Adam Small**

### **90. FILMING AT MEETINGS**

The Chair referred Members present to Agenda Item 1 as shown on the agenda front sheet, in respect of filming at meetings, and Members noted the information therein.

### **91. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

### **92. URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

### **93. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

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

None.

### **95. MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record. It was noted that the outstanding action points would be followed up with responses circulated.

**RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026 be approved as an accurate record.**

### **96. MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL MEETINGS**

The minutes of the following meetings were noted:

- 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Children & Young People’s Scrutiny Panel

### **97. SAFEGUARDING: GROUP-BASED CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (CSA DATA)**

Cllr White reported that he had been informed that it had not been feasible for the Metropolitan Police to provide the report covering the statistical data requested by the Committee in time for this meeting. He reported that no formal explanation for this had been received by the Committee. He added that he had requested that the Police attend the meeting to provide a verbal update, given that the written report was not available, but this invitation had been declined.

Cllr White emphasised that this had been a straightforward request from the Committee about how group-based sexual exploitation crime was being recorded and classified in Haringey in order to determine whether the Committee should conduct further scrutiny work on this issue. Cllr White expressed his dissatisfaction that this information had not been provided, having originally been requested by the Adults & Health Scrutiny Panel in December 2025.

Cllr Connor also expressed disappointment that the Police were not present to provide an update on this issue. She highlighted the relevance of the Baroness Casey's 2025 audit report on group-based child sexual exploitation and abuse which made recommendations on the recording and categorisation of police data in this area and on joint partnership working locally. She proposed a recommendation that the 2026/27 Overview & Scrutiny Committee should consider conducting a Scrutiny Review based on the local data and Baroness Casey's recommendations. She acknowledged that the membership of the Committee was likely to have changed by 2026/27 and that it would be for those Members to determine whether or not to proceed with this recommendation.

Cllr Gunes spoke in favour of this recommendation, citing the Council's responsibility to children and young people in the Borough, particularly those to whom the local authority had a corporate parenting responsibility. She also suggested that a future Committee could choose to delegate this Review to a Scrutiny Panel as appropriate.

Cllr White noted that the remits of the Scrutiny Panels would be determined at the beginning of 2026/27 but that the recommendation could be included as part of a handover report summarising the issues considered in the 2024/26 work programme to the next version of the Committee.

**RESOLVED – That the 2026/27 Overview & Scrutiny Committee should consider conducting a Scrutiny Review on the subject of group-based child sexual abuse, specifically to consider the data available regarding relevant offences in Haringey and how the findings of Baroness Casey's recent audit report on this issue could be applied in Haringey.**

## **98. FINANCE UPDATE - Q3 2025/26**

Cllr Dana Carlin, Cabinet Member for Finance & Corporate Services, introduced the report for this item, which provided an update on the Council's financial position at the end of Quarter 3 of 2025/26, and made the following points:

- The overall position had improved since Quarter 1 when a £34m overspend had been projected. This had fallen to £23.4m at the end of Quarter 2 and had now been reduced further to around £19m at the end of Quarter 3.
- There were around £8m of historic parking arrears and, while this was disappointing, it was not a service pressure that would impact on the following year's budget.
- The improvements in the service overspend were mainly in the areas of Adult Services and Temporary Accommodation.
- There had been an improvement in the Housing Revenue Account with reduced overall expenditure of £1.3m, due to improved contractor performance management and lower capital financing costs.
- Capital spend had been reduced and this would mean reduced revenue expenditure in future years. Capital spend was challenged throughout the year to ensure that it would deliver savings or income or was essential/emergency work.
- The government had recognised the need for additional funding for Boroughs such as Haringey with an additional £25m in core spending over the next three financial years. There had been increases in areas such as homelessness grants and the government had also committed to fully covering the cost of SEND services in future which would help.
- It was understood that the monthly financial reports received by officers had shown further improvements in month 10.
- She acknowledged the hard work of officers in achieving these improvements but noted that there was a lot more to do for the Council to get to a point of financial sustainability.

Taryn Eves, Corporate Director of Finance & Resources, added the following points:

- The £19m of projected overspend was expected to be reduced further by £8m of uncommitted corporate contingency. She clarified that the projected overspend was in addition to the £37m of Exceptional Financial Support
- Certain factors had been included at the Quarter 3 stage rather than at the end of the financial year in order to provide a more accurate forecast. These factors included bed debts provision, use of reserves and external finance.
- The improvements in the 2025/26 position could be partly attributed to the additional controls that had been put in place, further details of which were provided in Appendix 10. There had also been less volatility in the second half of the year and more accurate forecasting.
- The Council was still carrying some risks in areas including parking, adult social care debt and commercial property.
- The delivery of savings was still not being fully achieved and so this needed to be the focus of attention next year.

Cllr Carlin and Taryn Eves then responded to questions from the Committee:

- Cllr White observed that much of the improvements in the 2025/26 position appeared to be due to the reduction in demand rather than reductions in price and asked about the future impact of price rises due to external factors. Taryn Eves addressed the three main demand areas and wider economic issues:
  - Children's Services had remained steady throughout the year with the overspend due to the issues with the delivery of savings.
  - Adult Services was showing a further improvement in the most recent forecast and this was due to a combination of demand and price. A provision was made in the budget for inflation on adult social care contracts but negotiations were still underway. There had also been work on the contributions from health partners for joint care packages and Continuing Healthcare.
  - With Temporary Accommodation, numbers were steady but the prevention offer was strong which helped to manage demand. However, prices were higher than expected for nightly-paid accommodation.
  - Assumptions on interest rates for next year were based on a downward trajectory for inflation and there was a risk in this area due to global events, though this would be the same for every local authority.
  - The corporate contingency had been increased significantly for 2026/27 and now stood at £25m which helped to manage risk.
- Cllr White asked about the realistic feasibility of reaching a financially sustainable position in the medium term. Cllr Carlin acknowledged that this would not be easy but that the trajectory was heading in the right direction, such as through the capital position, the improvement in government funding, income from the commercial portfolio and some reductions in pressures on services compared to previous forecasts. She added that a strategic approach would be necessary, potentially including investment in areas where longer-term savings could be achieved. Overall, she felt that financial sustainability was achievable.
- Cllr Small queried why savings delivery appeared to have been more successful in Adult Services and Housing than in Children's Services. Taryn Eves explained that the delivery of savings in Children's Services was almost entirely related to the 5% staff savings target and there hadn't been the scope to deliver this in 2025/26. Although this 5% target also applied to other Directorates, there had been a wider range of savings in areas such as Adult Services and Housing. It was assumed in the Budget for 2026/27 that these savings would be achieved in full. Asked by Cllr Small about the possible lessons of relying on an area of savings that could not then be delivered, Cllr Carlin commented that this depended on the service, noting that there was not as much scope for savings in Children's Services compared to some other services. Taryn Eves added that the downside of setting targets across the Council was that it assumed that there was similar potential for savings across all services which was not necessarily the case. The focus of the Finance Recovery Board would be on the evidence for the deliverability of savings and so this process was expected to be stronger in 2026/27.
- Asked by Cllr Small about the likely impact of SEND funding being covered by the government in future, Taryn Eves said that this would be quite limited. She

explained that further details were still being awaited but that a grant would be received for 90% of the Council's Dedicated Schools Grant deficits for 2025/26, which was largely driven by SEND. In addition, the government had confirmed that no local authority that was part of the Safety Valve Programme would be worse off. However, there were still question marks about the future funding for the 10% of the deficit.

- Cllr Connor referred to Table 3 on page 30 of the agenda pack which indicated that 44% of the projected savings for 2025/26 would not be delivered and queried how financial sustainability could be achieved given that savings were not being fully delivered and that the deficit was becoming progressively worse. Taryn Eves acknowledged that, while some non-delivery of savings was typically expected, a rate of 44% was too high and this was a key reason why there was not a high level of new savings proposed for 2026/27 as the main focus was on delivery of agreed savings. This had been a challenge for some time as the budgets assumed that savings would be delivered, any non-delivery contributed to an overspend. She added that there was now more challenge in the run-up to the budget setting process while monitoring and reporting processes had also been tightened. She also felt that narrative reporting to Cabinet and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee should be strengthened in future and that there should be greater scrutiny of the RAG ratings. Josephine Lyseight, Director of Finance, commented that there could be more challenge on the profile of the savings as savings were sometimes delayed by the need for more lead-in time before the outcomes were achieved.
- Cllr Connor queried the impact of scrutiny given that the Committee often scrutinised the papers after the decision making and whether this process could be improved, including through the closer tracking of recommendations. Cllr Carlin replied that, constitutionally, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the decisions of the executive and so 'pre-scrutiny' would require a constitutional change. Taryn Eves agreed that closer action tracking between the quarterly monitoring should be implemented in future. **(ACTION)**
- Referring to the Disposals Policy on page 43 of the agenda pack, Cllr Connor noted that £800k of capital receipts had been received with up to £1.2m estimated by the end of the year and queried how positive this progress was against the overall total of £20m. Taryn Eves noted that the £20m figure had been agreed by Cabinet in June 2025 when the Disposals Policy was approved and an updated Disposals Policy would be provided to Cabinet in 2026/27. She noted that an accurate profile could not always be predicted and that the majority of disposals were now anticipated in 2026/27.
- Cllr Connor referred to paragraph 6.6 which specified a reduction of £1.9m in forecast interest costs, but noted that this reflected slippage in the capital programme. Cllr Carlin replied that this was due to a combination of planning and profile but reiterated that the Council was continually challenging throughout the year about reducing spending and borrowing. In relation to the accuracy of the forecasts on capital spend, Taryn Eves said that new capital governance had been in place for almost a year which meant tighter profiling and timing of new capital schemes and there was a higher level of confidence around the 2026/27 figures. She noted that capital spend was less predictable

than revenue and that much of the significant slippage related to the large regeneration schemes. A major cause of slippage was the delays to procurement processes and sometimes the forecasts about timescales had been too optimistic. Cllr White observed that it was important for Councillors to understand how long it could typically take for schemes to be implemented given the governance and procurement processes that needed to be completed.

- Referring to paragraph 9.14 on page 42, Cllr Connor noted the slippage on capital support for digital outcomes and queried how this would impact on services for residents, the modernisation of the Council website and any associated savings. Taryn Eves explained that the service modernisation programme had been running for about 18 months but, because there was so much to do in the digital space, it couldn't all be done at once. Areas with the largest impact on customer services, such as housing, had therefore been prioritised. An investment of £2m had been estimated but the plans on implementation in 2025/26 had been too ambitious so the unspent funding had been carried over to 2026/27.
- Cllr Small then had to leave the meeting (8:02pm) and his remaining question was read by Cllr White which queried the large write-off of parking debts. Taryn Eves said that the service itself would be able to provide a detailed response if required, including on collection rates, but she explained that an extensive piece of work had recently been carried out to address the high level of debt that went back a number of years. This had looked at outstanding debt and PCNs up to March 2025 and, as a consequence of this, the bad debt provision for parking had been increased by £9.9m. Asked by Cllr Connor for clarification on the figures in paragraph 1.4 of the report, Taryn Eves explained that, as illustrated in Table 2, bad debt provision had reached £3.9m in Quarter 2 followed by a further £6.0m in Quarter 3 to make a total of £9.9m for the year. She clarified that bad debt provision involved an estimate of how much debt could be recovered, while the write-offs were a separate category as these were unrecoverable debts and had recently been approved by Cabinet. Cllr White noted that there were significant sums of money involved and suggested that a future piece of scrutiny work could be to compare the Council's performance in this area to other Boroughs, including the collection rates, level of bad debt and write-offs. Cllr White proposed that parking debts should be included as an issue of concern in the hand-over report to the 2026/27 Overview & Scrutiny Committee. **(ACTION)**

## **99. CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN UPDATE - Q3 2025/26**

At the outset of this item Cllr White noted that, due to a clash with the Staff Awards event, the senior service officers were not available to respond to relevant questions on the Corporate Delivery Plan. However, responses to any questions from the Committee could be provided in writing.

It was noted that Cllr Dana Carlin and Taryn Eves were available to respond to questions relating to their remits. Taryn Eves introduced the report noting that it

provided the Quarter 3 performance update on the Council's Corporate Delivery Plan (CDP). The information was presented by eight themes with detailed appendices to show the progress against 188 individual activity lines. She added that this would be the final performance update of the current CDP cycle because a new Corporate Delivery Plan would be developed following the May 2026 local elections. This would include a revised performance framework, a revised set of indicators and local outcomes framework metrics.

Regarding progress at Quarter 3, Taryn Eves made the following points:

- There had been strong delivery progress with 93% of outcomes rated green or amber at the end of Quarter 3.
- Eight activity lines were rated as red and explanations for each of these were provided in the report.
- The 'RAG' (red/amber/green) ratings were subjective and a negative rating did not necessarily mean that nothing had been delivered but rather that parts of the commitment had not been met.
- The majority of activity lines had remained stable since Quarter 2, 15% had improved and only six had declined.
- In February 2026, the government had published a new Local Government Outcomes Framework which introduced a new outcomes-based set of measures. This Framework would be used to inform the development of the new CDP and provide the basis for the quarterly performance updates.
- The Council's aspired to develop more integrated reporting across finance, performance and risk into a single narrative in 2026/27.

Taryn Eves and Cllr Carlin then responded to questions from the Committee:

- Cllr White noted that, due to the development of the previous CDP, Scrutiny had not had access to any performance data during this transition period and sought reassurance that this would not be the case again in 2026/27. Taryn Eves explained that the new CDP would have a new set of performance indicators based on the new national outcomes framework as well as local priorities. The timescales for the new CDP was anticipated to be Autumn 2026 but the national indicators were expected to be reported on earlier than this after the local elections in May 2026. It was therefore possible that there could be a period of hybrid reporting before the new CDP was fully established. Cllr White commented that these timescales would be satisfactory as they would fit broadly in line with the Committee's previous work programmes but emphasised the importance of data being available for scrutiny by Autumn 2026. **(ACTION)**
- Cllr Connor highlighted a number of questions, some of which would require written responses:
  - **Adults, Health & Welfare – Immunisation uptake improving** (page 180 of the agenda pack). Cllr Connor expressed concerns about the recent rise in cases of measles that had been reported in Haringey and Enfield and requested a written update on the public health response to this. **(ACTION)**
  - **Theme 1 – Resident experience and enabling success – Number of complaints upheld by Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman** (page 181 of the agenda pack). Cllr Connor noted that this

matter had previously been discussed by the Committee but expressed concern that the high number of upheld complaints continued to be an issue and requested a written update on how this was being addressed.

**(ACTION)**

- **Theme 1 – A supported and enabled workforce – Implementation of the Procurement Modernisation Programme** (page 184 of the agenda pack). Cllr Connor observed that, according to the report, the reason for the red RAG rating on this item was due to the introduction of a new e-procurement system that was now not going ahead and asked how much money had been lost on this. Taryn Eves explained that the Procurement Modernisation Programme had been in existence for three years, large elements of which had been delivered. However, the e-procurement system had not been delivered. The intention had been to replace the existing system to improve the alignment with the Procurement Act but there was now a much wider project underway to replace the system that managed finance, HR and payment issues. In order to avoid having separate systems, the new e-procurement system was being included in the wider project and therefore had not yet been delivered.
- Asked by Cllr Connor about a £200k saving relating to this in the budget papers, Taryn Eves explained that Haringey managed the London Construction Partnership which was based on a series of procurement frameworks. This generated a small income which had been projected to rise but, due to complications related to the Procurement Act, income had been lower than expected. Some mitigations had been identified by holding vacancies within the team.
- **Theme 3 – Children & Young People - Rate of first-time entrants into the Youth Justice System** (page 186 of the agenda pack). Cllr Connor noted that the direction was negative for this indicator and requested a written response on the reasons underpinning this and how this was being addressed. **(ACTION)**
- **Theme 4 – Adults, health and welfare – Percentage of people in adult social care extremely or very satisfied with the service/support they receive** (page 188 of the agenda pack). Cllr Connor requested a written response on why the direction was negative for this indicator. **(ACTION)**
- **Theme 5 – Improving social housing and the private rented sector – Complete void works to existing and newly acquired properties to bring up to a lettable standard** (page 193 of the agenda pack). Cllr White requested a written response on why the direction was negative for this indicator. **(ACTION)**
- **Theme 5 - Homes for the future – Repairs fixed right first time** (page 192 of the agenda pack). Cllr Connor noted that this was an issue on which Councillors received considerable correspondence from residents and requested a written response on why the direction was negative for this indicator. **(ACTION)** Cllr Carlin responded that the need for asbestos testing was a key reason for this.

- **Theme 6 – Safer Haringey – Domestic abuse offences per 1,000 population** (page 196 of the agenda pack). Cllr Connor noted that the rate of domestic abuse offences was down and that the raw number of offences had seen a slight rise but at a slower rate than elsewhere in London. She requested a written response on whether there was an explanation for why the rise was lower in Haringey than London as a whole. **(ACTION)**
- **Theme 6 – A reduction in violence against women and girls – Increase the number of safe havens in local businesses for women to use at night** (page 197 of the agenda pack). Cllr Connor commented that, while it was useful to have these safe havens, many women would not know that they existed and queried how their availability was being communicated. A written response was requested. **(ACTION)**
- **Theme 6 – A reduction in violence against women and girls – Continue to develop and pilot work on a Safer Parks for Women and Girls Network** (page 197 of the agenda pack). Cllr Connor reported that residents had contacted her to improve lighting in the Alexandra Park area but it had proved difficult to obtain a positive response from the Council on this. She requested clarification on who was leading on this at a senior level so that the concerns of residents could be raised. **(ACTION)**
- **Theme 8 – Place and Economy – Employment rate of 16-64 year olds** (page 201 of the agenda pack). Cllr White noted that the direction was negative for this indicator and queried why this was the case and whether employment support programmes such as Haringey Works were delivering effectively. A written response was requested. **(ACTION)** Cllr Lawton said that she had some further detail to add to this question which she would submit in writing. **(ACTION)**
- **Theme 8 – Place and Economy – Percentage of non-major planning applications decided on time** (page 201 of the agenda pack). Cllr White noted that the RAG rating for this indicator was green but that the direction was negative with a slight decline compared to Quarter 2. He requested a written response on how a further decline would be avoided. **(ACTION)**

As this was the last Committee meeting of the current administration, Cllr White wished to place on record his thanks to Cllr Carlin, Taryn Eves, Haydee Nunes de Souza and other officers for their attendance at the meetings over the past few years and for the detailed answers that had been provided.

#### **100. NORTH CENTRAL LONDON JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (NCL JHOSC) - AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Cllr White explained that the purpose of this item was to approve the new draft terms of reference for the North Central London Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (NCL JHOSC) which covered five Boroughs (Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington) The draft terms of reference had already been approved by the NCL JHOSC and, if approved by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, would then

be sent to full Council for ratification the following week. He noted that a key part of the report was on how the support for the NCL JHOSC would be resourced as Haringey had been providing the administrative support for several years without any financial contribution or contribution in kind from the other four Boroughs.

Cllr Pippa Connor, who was the Chair of the NCL JHOSC, added that an agreement had been reached on officer support by the Committee and that a letter, signed by all NCL JHOSC members was to be sent to the Chief Executives of each of the Boroughs regarding the details of how this could be done.

Cllr Connor observed that there were two recommendations for the Committee in the main cover report for this item. The first of these was to approve the terms of reference and the second was to note that the terms of reference would be subject to further review later in the year after further details on the governance arrangements had been established following the merger of the North Central London Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the North West London ICB. However, Cllr Connor clarified that the NCL JHOSC had determined to continue as a five-Borough committee because a merged committee to cover both areas would involve thirteen Boroughs and was therefore considered to be too difficult to manage. She added that a future iteration of the NCL JHOSC could choose to revise the terms of reference if required.

Cllr White proposed that the first recommendation to approve the new terms of reference be agreed but that the second recommendation on a further review of the terms of reference later in the year should not be agreed because the NCL JHOSC had determined that the new terms of reference should remain in place. This proposal was approved by the Committee.

**RESOLVED – That the amended terms of reference for the NCL JHOSC be approved.**

**RESOLVED – The proposed further review of the NCL JHOSC later in the year was not approved by the Committee, though it was noted that the NCL JHOSC could choose to carry out a review in future if required.**

## **101. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Cllr White reported that there were four Scrutiny Reviews for the Committee to consider, two of which were ready to be approved and sent to Cabinet, while some further work was required in relation to the other two.

### Walking & Cycling Safety

Cllr Gunes provided a summary of the Interim Report on Walking and Cycling Safety on behalf of the Culture, Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel. The Review examined the walking and cycling action plan with a particular focus on safe cycling and issues relating to e-bikes. The Panel held evidence sessions with relevant Cabinet members, Directors and stakeholder groups. Key findings included that there had been an unfortunate increase in the collision rate for both pedestrians and cyclists over the past couple of years.

Regarding next steps for the Review, Cllr Gunes said that further work was expected in the next municipal year, including an analysis of best practice in other local authorities. Cllr White suggested that details about the progress of the Review should be included in the handover report to the 2026/27 Overview & Scrutiny Committee given that it was not yet known who the scrutiny members would be. **(ACTION)**

#### Communications with Residents (Adult Social Care)

Cllr Connor provided a summary of the Interim Report on Communications with Residents (Adult Social Care) on behalf of the Adults & Health Scrutiny Panel. She explained that difficulties in communicating with the Council had been a longstanding issue for residents and that it had also emerged as a prominent issue in the most recent 'Scrutiny Café' consultation event. The Panel had spoken to representatives of service users at local groups including the Joint Partnership Board to obtain details of specific concerns, such as issues with safeguarding referrals. The Panel had also received information about the redesigned adult social care directory on the Council's website.

The evidence for the Review had been gathered with recommendations developed and so it was anticipated that a final draft could be provided to the first meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in 2026/27 without the need for any additional work by the new scrutiny members. **(ACTION)**

#### Provision of Services for Children Under One Year Old

Cllr Lawton reported that the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel had conducted an extensive review of services for children under the age of 1 in the Borough. Due to the large scope of services in this area, the Panel had decided to focus less on healthcare services and more on services such as childcare, children's centres and family hubs. Evidence had been received from various witnesses, including those involved with providing childcare services, and the Panel had visited children's centres and family hubs. Specific issues had included:

- The government provided some childcare funding for babies over the age of nine months but only for working parents. However, there was evidence that childcare was beneficial for most children, particularly those from more deprived backgrounds, regardless of whether their parents were in work. There was therefore a recommendation about lobbying the government regarding the current situation in Haringey.
- Another recommendation concerned improved communications to residents about the services for under-1s in the Borough, including through a directory and by using social media channels.
- After receiving evidence about the difficulties that childminders experienced in accessing Haringey provision, there was a recommendation about the Council improving partnerships with childminding businesses, including by considering greater use of Council spaces such as libraries.
- Improved antenatal support was considered by the Panel. A free online NHS offer was available which mainly focused on providing information, but this did not enable the development of the type of support network that was typically developed through paid-for services such as NCT groups. There was therefore

a recommendation for the Council to work with health partners to provide free perinatal peer-support groups for parents on low incomes.

Committee members welcomed the report and endorsed in particular the recommendation on free access to support groups, noting the importance of physical meetings and support networks.

Cllr Lawton noted that the report was essentially completed but with some minor checks to be carried out. It was therefore proposed that the Committee approve the draft report as currently available and to delegate any minor amendments to the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel. It was anticipated that the final version of the report could be approved at the first 2026/27 meeting of the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel and then sent to the Cabinet. This proposal was agreed by the Committee on the understanding that only minor amendments would be made by the Panel and it was further agreed that the final version of the report would be made available to the Committee. **(ACTION)**

### Violence Against Women and Girls

This report had been developed through the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and so members were already familiar with the recommendations. Cllr White noted recent feedback that had been received from members proposing minor amendments to the recommendations which had been circulated to the Committee:

- **Recommendation 7** (Family Hub Navigators) - a minor edit to specify that advice, guidance and referrals to support services to be provided within the Family Hubs.
- **Recommendation 8** (Consultation with young people) – a minor edit to include different communities and areas of the Borough in the consultation.
- **Recommendation 9** (Children & young people) – a minor edit to add online harms as a consideration.
- **Recommendation 14** (Supreme Court ruling) – the removal of a sentence on waiting for the publication of the updated Statutory Code of Practice as this was advised to be unnecessary.

The Committee agreed that these minor amendments should be accepted. **(ACTION)**

Cllr White also referred to some new more substantive amendments to the recommendations that had been proposed:

- **Recommendation 1** (Domestic Abuse Awareness training) – the draft recommendation welcomed the introduction of mandatory Domestic Abuse Awareness training for all Council staff, but a proposal from a member was that there should also be mandatory specialist training for those who delivered services directly.
- **Recommendation 6** (Whole school approach) - the draft recommendation stated that the Council should aspire to developing a whole school approach as it was understood that this would be one of the most resource intensive of the recommendations. However, a proposal from a member was that the senior officers should submit a detailed implementation programme within 12 months and to seek funding to develop a pilot programme.

- **New recommendation** – A new recommendation proposed by a member was that *“Given the short-term nature of some government funded projects, the VAWG team are asked to assemble the end of project reports with a brief introduction on the learnings and the future viability of projects in the lifetime of the upcoming strategy.”*

The Committee approved the amended recommendations and the new recommendation to be included in the final report. **(ACTION)**

**RESOLVED** – That the Scrutiny Review on Violence Against Women and Girls be approved (included the amendments outlined above) and sent to Cabinet.

**RESOLVED** – That the Scrutiny Review on Provision of Services for Children Under One Year Old be approved, subject to any minor amendments deemed necessary by the Children & Young People’s Scrutiny Panel, and sent to Cabinet.

**RESOLVED** – That the Scrutiny Review on Communications with Residents (Adult Social Care) be completed within the current municipal year and then sent to the first 2026/27 meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for approval.

**RESOLVED** – That the Scrutiny Review on Walking & Cycling Safety be referred to the 2026/27 Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration to be given on next steps.

**102. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Cllr White advised the Committee that the dates of the 2026/27 meetings of the Committee were yet to be determined but would be published when available.

Noting that this was the last Committee meeting of the current administration, Cllr White also thanked the Councillors and officers for all their work on the Committee over the past few years. As vice-Chair, Cllr Connor also recorded her thanks to Cllr White for his work as the Chair of the Committee and this was supported by the other committee members.

CHAIR: Councillor Matt White

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....

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