

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 22ND JUNE 2026, 7.00PM - 7.45PM

PRESENT:

Councillors: Lucia das Neves (Chair), Luke Cawley-Harrison (Vice-Chair), Bethany Anderson, Marc Jenner and Adam Small

1. 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.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for lateness were received from Cllr Adam Small.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

Scrutiny Officer, Philip Slawther, advised the Committee that late papers had been tabled which provided an update on the scrutiny membership and terms of reference for consideration under agenda item 8.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

5. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None.

6. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous two meetings were approved as an accurate record.

Scrutiny Officer, Dominic O'Brien, noted that responses to the action points related to the Corporate Delivery Plan (CDP) would be provided to the Committee as part of the next full update on the CDP which was anticipated to take place in the autumn.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings held on 11th March 2026 and 26th March 2026 be approved as an accurate record.

7. MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL MEETINGS

The minutes of the following meetings were noted:

- 9th February 2026 – Adults & Health Scrutiny Panel
- 23rd February 2026 – Culture, Community Safety & Environment Scrutiny Panel
- 26th February 2026 - Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel
- 9th March 2026 – Housing, Planning & Development Scrutiny Panel

8. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Scrutiny Officer, Philip Slawther, explained that the recommendations in the report were:

- To note the terms of reference provided in Appendix A.
- To agree the amended Scrutiny Protocol for 2026/27 in Appendix B.
- To formally establish the four Scrutiny Panels and to agree the membership of these Panels as set out in the tabled papers.
- To appoint two Councillors as Haringey's representatives to the North Central London Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (NCL JHOSC) for 2026/27.

Cllr das Neves reported that, following initial discussions between committee members, the preferred approach was to retain the existing terms of reference but that the committee may wish to realign these later in the year when more was known about the plans of the new administration, particularly the new Corporate Delivery Plan (CDP). She added that a session with the Centre for Governance & Scrutiny was planned soon to consider areas of best practice and how to evolve the scrutiny structures, including public engagement.

Cllr Cawley-Harrison added that, when the new CDP became available, this would provide an opportunity to review the remits of the Scrutiny Panels and ensure that they were properly focused on key scrutiny priorities. Cllr das Neves concurred with this and also noted the importance of allocating adequate time to scrutinise areas of cross-cutting work within the Council.

Cllr Cawley-Harrison suggested that Panel Chairs should report back to the Committee if they felt, after initial discussions with their new Panels, that there were any areas of responsibility missing from the draft remit.

A minor error on the Panel Membership list in the tabled papers was highlighted. While the membership of the Housing, Planning & Development & Scrutiny Panel was correctly listed, the Chair of the Panel was not recorded and it was clarified that the Chair for 2026/27 would be Cllr Cawley-Harrison.

With these points taken into consideration, the recommendations in the report were agreed by the Committee. It was also agreed that Cllr Lucia das Neves and Cllr Bethany Anderson be appointed as Haringey's representatives on the NCL JHOSC.

RESOLVED –

- **That the amended Scrutiny Protocol for 2026/27 be formally adopted.**
- **That four Scrutiny Panels be established with the remits and membership as set out in the tabled papers.**

- **That Cllr Lucia das Neves and Cllr Bethany Anderson be appointed as Haringey's representatives on the NCL JHOSC for the 2026/27 municipal year.**

9. APPOINTMENT OF PARENT GOVERNOR REPRESENTATIVES

Scrutiny Officer, Philip Slawther, explained that the report for this item was for noting only. This was because the current Parent Governor Representatives had been appointed on a two-year term from May 2025. He also advised that the Parent Governor representatives primarily participated in scrutiny as members of the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel but noted that they were also entitled to participate in meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for items concerning education matters.

The Committee noted the report and Cllr das Neves recorded her thanks on behalf of the Committee to the Parent Governor Representatives for volunteering their time to support Scrutiny.

10. APPOINTMENT OF NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Scrutiny Officer, Philip Slawther, advised the Committee that, in addition to the statutory Parent Governor Representatives, the Committee was entitled to appoint non-voting co-opted members to the Scrutiny Panels. These co-opted members would typically represent local community groups and/or have specialist knowledge to contribute. The Committee was requested to reappoint Amanda Bernard to the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel and Helena Kania to the Adult & Health Scrutiny Panel.

The appointments were agreed and thanks from the Committee were recorded to the co-opted members for their ongoing support to Scrutiny.

RESOLVED –

- **That Amanda Bernard be appointed to the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel for the 2026/27 municipal year.**
- **That Helena Kania be appointed to the Adults & Health Scrutiny Panel for the 2026/27 municipal year.**

11. ISSUES ARISING FROM 2025/26 WORK PLAN

Scrutiny Officer, Dominic O'Brien advised that the purpose of the report for this item was to assist the Committee in developing its work programme for the year. Areas for inclusion in the new work programme could be drawn from various sources including the 'Scrutiny Café' consultation event that was scheduled for September 2026, the Scrutiny Survey, the priorities of the Council's new Corporate Delivery Plan which was currently in development and issues that had been identified by the previous Committee. The report also described the previous Committee's schedule for scrutinising financial and performance data on a regular basis throughout the year.

The following points were then raised as part of the subsequent discussion:

- Cllr das Neves highlighted the importance of the topic of group-based child sexual abuse in Haringey which had been highlighted by the previous Committee. It was noted that the previous Committee had requested that a data report be provided on this topic by the Metropolitan Police but it had not been possible to provide this report in time for the last Committee meeting. The previous Committee had therefore recommended that this scrutiny work be continued by the new Committee. It was agreed that a further request be made by the Committee for the Police to provide a data report to a future meeting of the Committee. **(ACTION)** Cllr Cawley-Harrison added that it would be useful to understand the reasons why the report had previously been delayed.
- Cllr Cawley-Harrison referred to the Scrutiny Review on Walking & Cycling Safety which had been started by the Culture, Community Safety & Environment Scrutiny Panel at the beginning of 2026. While some evidence had been received, the Review had not been completed and so there would be an opportunity to continue with this work in 2026/27 and consider what other local groups should be consulted to provide evidence.
- Cllr Cawley-Harrison referred to the concern raised by the provision committee about parking and bad debt provision at a previous finance update item in March 2026. He noted that the levels of bad debt may have increased since then and suggested that this be considered as part of the Committee's item on the Financial Outturn report in July 2026. **(ACTION)**

12. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

Cllr das Neves referred to the initial outline of the work programme including in the agenda papers. A number of finance items had been added including on the Financial Outturn Report in July which would be attended by the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Finance & Corporate Services.

Jess Crowe, Corporate Director of Culture, Strategy & Communities, advised that it would be useful for the Committee to consider in advance which officers and Cabinet Members would be required to attend finance items. While the Director of Finance could provide a good level of detail, there could sometimes be issues relating to service provision where additional detail could be provided by the directors and Cabinet Members responsible for those services. Scrutiny Officer, Dominic O'Brien added that there had previously been difficulties when the Committee had a wide range of questions that related to different services. Options previously considered to address this had included cascading service issues to the relevant Scrutiny Panels or focusing finance sessions on specific service areas at different stages in the year. It was agreed that further discussion would be required with the Finance team on how best to structure future sessions. **(ACTION)**

Scrutiny Officer, Dominic O'Brien, informed the Committee that the performance updates had previously taken place twice per year (at the end of Quarter 1 and Quarter 3). The new Corporate Delivery Plan was not expected to be available for scrutiny until later in the year but there was also expected to be a new Local Outcomes Framework (LOF) published by national government which would display data outcomes in local authority areas across the country. The Committee agreed that an update on how performance would work in 2026/27 and the anticipated format of the data that would be available to scrutinise should be brought to the Committee

meeting in July 2026. **(ACTION)** Jess Crowe added that the LOF would consider outcomes for a local area and would include a range of data rather than be limited to specific local government indicators. The Council had therefore been undertaking work to establish how best to interact with the requirements to report against particular indicators.

Cllr das Neves commented that effective scrutiny of performance data was an area that would be useful to cover in training for Councillors. **(ACTION)** Cllr Cawley-Harrison suggested that performance scrutiny should include a focus on corporate performance including the success on transformation and outcomes previously set out in Council strategy documents.

It was noted that the item to question the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive was now unlikely to go ahead in July, but Committee Members emphasised the importance of this taking place at the September meeting at the latest.

13. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that Scrutiny Panel meetings would commence in September and October 2026.

Committee Members were reminded that finance training would be repeated on 9th July 2026 for any Councillors who had not been able to attend the initial session.

CHAIR: Councillor Lucia das Neves

Signed by Chair

Date

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