

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 15th March 2010
Q 'N' A: Item 7, Questions on the Leader's Portfolio

No	Page/ Point	Question/Observation	Answer (Where applicable)
<u>Questions from Cllr. Winskill</u>			
1	Comms	<p>The Comms Team “ .. <i>managed to achieve 75% proactive output across the entire range of council services.</i>”</p> <p>a. Please tell me what this means: 75% of what? b. Was the remaining 25% non-proactive or did it not happen at all. c. How is this stuff measured?</p>	<p>a. This means 75% of all the Media & PR Team's output. b. The remaining 25% was reactive work, gathering information and responding to the media's enquiries. c. All media enquiries, the council's responses and pro-active outputs are recorded so that in conjunction with the weekly cuttings service take-up rates can be checked.</p>
2	Comms	<p>“...as well as introducing the new localised editions, which have proved very popular.”</p> <p>Referring to the February issue, please tell me which local supplement was distributed in which Neighbourhood Assembly, how the error occurred and (if appropriate) what compensation is being sought?</p>	<p>Some localised editions were distributed to incorrect addresses because of an error by the contractor. We picked up on this immediately and arranged for a number of copies to be made available to residents at Area Assembly meetings. We also posted an item on the website informing people that they could: contact us by telephone or e-mail so we could send the appropriate pages to them; or view the pages on our website. The contractor was not able to identify exactly how many copies were affected but accepted full responsibility and has re-distributed the localised pages with the March issue at their expense.</p>
3	Legal services, income	<p>Please indicate how income from property searches and other out-facing services is currently holding up.</p>	<p>The Land Charges Team cover a number of distinct areas of working including providing the Land Charges service, the Local Land and Property Gazetteer, the Authority Liaison Officer role and Street Naming and Numbering.</p> <p>The Land Charges service generates an income. As of April 2009 two major changes affected and limited the amount of income received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New charging regulations requiring local authorities to cover the cost of providing the service • The HIPs providers have brought about a change in demand by making personal searches of the LLC Register at a significantly reduced fee limited by statute to £22 per search and the demand for this type of search has overtaken the demand for



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			<p>official searches which attract a fee of £142.</p> <p>This month, there has been an increase in the number of searches and there is likely to be an increase in income for March 2010.</p> <p>Overall the Land Charges service expects to make a small surplus for the year, in the region of £8,000.</p> <p>Income from the Registrars Service has held up well this year. Customer receipts for 2009/10 are projected to be £222,800 as against £206,900 in 2009/9. We budgeted for customer receipts of £213,900. This income excludes further significant grant income received from the Home Office.</p> <p>Income gained from receipt of debts owing to the Council have also been significant this year. By way of example, in relation to debts owing in respect of Adult Social Care we recovered approximately £747,000 in 2008/9. To date this financial year we have recovered approximately £600,000. This drop is due to our success at recovering a lot of the historic debts.</p> <p>In respect of debts owing predominantly to Property Services, we recovered approximately £337,000 in the financial year 2008/9 and this year to date we have recovered approximately £574,000. The increase in debt in this area is likely to have been caused by the economic downturn.</p>
4	<p>Strategic sites, Hornsey Depot Planning and Regen. Marc Dorfman (MD Cleared)</p>	<p>a. Why does Hornsey Depot not appear in the list? b. Please provide an update of the most recent position regarding plans for homes, retail and any benefits envisaged to provide jobs and regeneration for the Hornsey Ward.</p>	<p>The site does not appear in the list because the Council is working on over 50 major sites at any one time and the list includes only a selection of these. Hornsey depot site is going through a review to ensure that a draft design for homes, retail, community facilities, heritage preservation and jobs complies with Council planning policy - and can be put out to public consultation through and pre planning application process.</p> <p>The site is also part of the Council's asset portfolio and the review is assessing how it would best contribute to improving council services. It is expected that draft designs for public consultation will be put in to the public domain between June and October 2010.</p>
5	<p>Strategic</p>	<p>a. Please tell us what specific regeneration benefits</p>	<p>The Spurs proposal is currently going through a review of the design of the housing,</p>



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	<p>sites, Tottenham Hotspur FC planning application</p> <p>Planning and Regen. Sue Cooke (MD Cleared)</p>	<p>that this development will deliver for Tottenham?</p> <p>b. Please update us on the s106 agreement that Haringey will be pressing for as part of any permission that may be granted?</p> <p>c. Please update us on any discussions that might have taken place (with NHS Haringey or others) about a new health facility anywhere on the site.</p>	<p>supermarket, public space and heritage preservation elements of the scheme. A final scheme will not be presented to Planning Committee before June 2010.</p> <p>The indicative regeneration benefits of the scheme, (should it be approved) would include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 additional jobs created by the development, approx 340 construction jobs • 80% of existing firms and jobs relocated within the Borough and 15% within North London • New private sector investment into the local area of up to £500m over 6 years. • New stadium for 56k people. • New homes , public open space and investment in listed building and businesses in the High Road • Improvement to public transport and highways in the area. Including better traffic management, a new parking control scheme, better event stewarding to prevent anti social behaviour and a new event clean up programme • Creating of a social fund to support youth, community and health facilities, development and employment and training • A new commitment to join with the Council to develop a long term regeneration plan for Northumberland Ward and Tottenham as a whole • Improvement to facilities for local schools <p>Spurs are working with the local PCT and the Council at the possibility of creating a new area wide health facility either on the site or close by. This work will be concluded in June 2010.</p>
		<p><u>Questions from Joseph Ejiofor</u></p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>General</p> <p>Planning and Regen. Mark Hopson (MD cleared)</p>	<p>What sort of regeneration does the council envisage for Wards Corner?</p>	<p>A 2004 approved planning brief sets out the regeneration aim for Wards Corner : “create a landmark development that acts as a high quality gateway to Seven Sisters, providing mixed uses homes and improved facilities and safer underground station access.”</p> <p>This aim was carried forward into the Council’s Unitary Development Plan 2006 based on proper research and public consultation.</p> <p>In December 2008 the Planning Committee approved a scheme for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of a mixed use development comprising 197 residential</p>



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			<p>units and 3792sqm of retail. This includes the retention of space for the existing Seven Sisters Market, with access to parking with associated landscaping and public realm improvements to create a new public square and underground entrance at Seven Sisters.</p> <p>In 2009 the Council agreed with the London Mayor that he would provide funding for the existing market to be relocated and have the opportunity to return to the new development. The Council and English Heritage also looked at whether the existing buildings were worthy of listing and EH said they were not.</p> <p>The scheme has not progressed because the Council's decision was contested by a judicial review in the High Court. This appeal to stop the scheme was lost on all counts. However the objectors have now taken the appeal to the Court of Appeal and this is likely to be heard in May 2010.</p>
7	<p>General Planning and Regen. Sue Cooke (MD cleared)</p>	<p>What dialogue has the Leader had with the commercial interests proposing the Northumberland Development Project about the prevalence of one-bedroom as opposed to family housing within their planning application, and their proposals for alleviating the local impact of the additional 25,000 people who would be travelling into Tottenham to see [the mighty] Spurs play?</p>	<p>The Council's Planning Service is in regular contact with the scheme developers. Whilst currently going through a design review – the current proposals include a good mix of homes which generally complies with Council policy. The sites and scheme lends itself to high density and small units – a type of development that the Council also needs along with more family units in the social rented sector.</p> <p>The Transport plan for the scheme will involve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving bus, train and tube access to the area and stadium, • improvements for walking and cycling • a bigger and better controlled parking zone • support and regulation to make fans come increasingly by public transport • better stewarding of events in the stadium to ensure crowds disperse quickly and anti social behaviour is reduced • ensuring that all the lessons learned from the Arsenal development, are applied to Tottenham and that the ongoing problems experienced there are addressed in Northumberland Park.