MINUTES OF THE CULTURE, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON Tuesday 13th October 2026, 6.30pm

IN ATTENDANCE:
Councillors Adam Small (Chair), Ibrahim Ali, Karolina Braun, Mark Grosskopf, Andrew Reid, Nelly Tackie and Edward Thacker

Councillor Gio Iozzi, Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Transport

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:
- Jess Crowe, Corporate Director for Culture, Strategy & Communities
- Barrie Francis, Corporate Director of Environment & Resident Experience
- Rob Krzyszowski, Director of Built Environment & Highways Planning & Building Standards
- Fola Irikefe, Principal Scrutiny Officer
- Maurice Richards, Head of Transport Planning & Building Standards

Attendance Online:
- Frances Palopoli, Head of Finance (ERE & Corp)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
- Councillor Erin Wolson, Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure
- Eubert Malcolm, Director of Environment
- Zoe Robertson, Director of Wellbeing & Climate

2. 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'.

3. URGENT BUSINESS
None.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Councillor Grosskopf declared an interest as the Chair of friends of Markfield Park.

5. DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS / PRESENTATIONS / QUESTIONS
There were none received.

6. MINUTES
That the minutes of the meeting on 23rd February 2026 were agreed as an accurate record by Councillor Mark Grosskopf (as the only remaining councillor from the previous municipal year).

The Chair commented about the TfL cycle training and that it would be useful to discuss further when considering the Cycling Safety Scrutiny Review. In respect of the meeting with the Borough Commander to be scheduled in the work programme, he suggested the panel should also follow up on the issue of funding for events in the borough.

7. 2026/27 FINANCE UPDATE QUARTER 1

The Chair invited Frances Palopoli, Head of Finance to provide an overview explaining that the general spend forecast at quarter one was an overspend of £21.7 million over and above the £84.3 million of the financial support that has been agreed with the government. The overspend is driven by demand from third party cost pressures and the impact of government legislative changes since the budget was set and partial non-delivery of pre-agreed savings. Finance Recovery Board both the officer and member led group being set up are focussing on the delivery of savings and tracking them. The General Fund Capital Programme in quarter one was forecasting an underspend of 32%.

Jess Crowe, Corporate Director for Culture, Strategy & Communities briefed that there are no forecast revenue pressures in Arts and Culture. Libraries are forecasting a pressure of £213, 000 driven by income targets that they were falling short of sustainable and alternative ways to deliver. The panel heard that the libraries IT and buildings upgrade was mainly related to Hornsey Library and there will be some slippage in terms of implementation into the next financial year.

Councillor Ali enquired about the level of confidence in the capital programme given the slippage and whether there was a belief that the targets could be met and in particular in relation to Down Lane Park? The Corporate Director for Culture, Strategy and Communities responded that the Down Lane Park scheme was reduced and some of the investment re-distributed to eight other park schemes and this change is what has led to the slippage. The panel heard that work is currently underway to review what the scheme with community engagement to ensure it meets the communities requirements. On further questioning, the Corporate Director for Culture, Strategy and Communities expressed that the scheme could be delivered between 2027/28.

Councillor Ali enquired about the £213k overspend in Libraries and whether it was due to people not being able to hire out the spaces due to issues with the booking systems. **Follow up**: The Corporate Director for Culture, Strategy and Communities explained that she would follow up on the with digital. It was explained that in terms of engagement, development plans for each library have been pulled together in collaboration with various groups exploring how they can be hired out and utilised more efficiently. Fees for hiring are currently being benchmarked against neighbouring boroughs to ensure the affordability. There is recognition that the marketing of the spaces needs to be improved and hence why the projections haven’t been realised.

The Chair sought clarity on if it was a demand issue or due to the inefficient booking system in place? The Corporate Director for Culture, Strategy and Communities confirmed that the challenges were due to a lack of awareness of what was on offer and the need for more promotional work and also the digital interface. It was confirmed that the savings wouldn’t be met due to the lack of demand.

Councillor Tackie enquired about the consultation process in relation to Down Lane Park and when the most recent consultation took place as there was a lot of confusion surrounding this. The Corporate Director for Culture, Strategy and

Communities explained that a significant amount of engagement took place in 2022 and the most recent workshop was held in 2025 which was consultation on the revised scheme. Councillor Tackie explained that there had been a lot of confusion regarding whether the pavilion would remain and whether the plans following consultation would retain the pavilion? The officer reported that they were working with residents and present there is a scheme to build a new pavilion for 2027/28 with planning permission approved. Consideration is currently being given to what capital investment would be required to retain the current building and whether a completely new pavilion would be better value, this will be considered by Cabinet. **Follow up:** To provide further detail on the pavilion for Down Lane Park to Councillor Tackie in her capacity as a relevant ward Councillor.

In respect of Down Lane Park, Councillor Ali enquired about the public engagement, what the cost implications would be and how members of the community will know if it will provide value for money as the options will go directly to Cabinet? The Corporate Director for Culture, Strategy and Communities explained that any scheme that is put forward for decision will need to be tested for value for money to determine the best approach to take.

Councillor Grosskopf explained that in respect of booking spaces, there are various systems used across the libraries and he enquired whether they will be incorporated into one system. The Councillor further enquired if there will there be consultation regarding the plans for Markfield Park and the use of the pavilion. It was explained that digital services were currently looking into the system and what would be the most cost effective.

In respect of the shaping of Tottenham and the shaping of Wood Green, the Chair enquired about the in-year change and what would happen going forward. The Corporate Director for Culture, Strategy and Communities explained that an extensive review was carried out in the previous year exploring where spending could be reduced and all the place making schemes were reviewed and this has led to some delays. In respect of Shaping Wood Green, the main project is the Wood green central project and proposals and schemes for this project are being developed.

The Chair enquired about the plans for Borough of Culture and for details in relation to funding. The Corporate Director for Culture, Strategy and Communities explained that the majority of funding was from grants including the GLA, the Arts Council, National Lottery and Heritage Fund to name a few along with the council's match funding. The panel heard that there is a ring-fenced budget which will be monitored by a board of trustees and the officer steering group chaired by the Chief Executive. The member incite group will also provide an additional layer of governance. Councillor Reid suggested that the figures are added into the paperwork as well. **Follow up**: further details on The Borough of Culture finances and governance arrangements to be included when the panel considers this item as a whole.

Frances Palopoli gave and overview of the Environment and Resident experience Directorate explaining that in respect of revenue, parking and highways there was an overachievement of income of £1.7 million with the forecast based on volumes

issued and best estimate of the impact of the new traffic management schemes. The service has highlighted risks in respect of the forecast as it is a volatile income stream. In respect of waste and enforcements, it is also marked as an over achievement of income at £400, 000. There is a planned staffing underspend in respect of anti-social behaviour enforcement. In transport and travel there is £253, 000 overspend.

Councillor Small enquired if there was confidence that the current arrangements are rigorous enough to deliver on the savings proposals and whether there was assurance that the Financial Recovery Boards will be able to deliver the saving promised in year. Barry Francis, The Corporate Director of Environment and Resident Experience explained that the Financial Recovery Board doesn't work in isolation and they are going through the position line-by-line to challenge the organisation although there are always unknowns. He further highlighted that the breadth and scale was the main challenge and work was taking place to maximise the enforcement income.

Councillor Small further enquired about the interaction with Financial Recovery Board with the impact of political and policy aspirations. The Corporate Director of explained to the panel that the majority of savings were actually officer driven and based around management action. The Chair further enquired about how much of the overall level of saving will be based on the challenge between policy choices and the reality of the financial restrictions. It was explained that it is essentially managed by officers regularly meet with Cabinet Members to discuss and monitor spend and income. The Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Transport explained that there is currently a lot of alignment with policy aspirations and investment. The Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Transport explained that there are plans for LTN's, more CPZ's but some policy choices are being led by the Councils financial position. The Corporate Director explained that the work has been underway for a considerable period looking at existing schemes and whether they are currently in the process of developing the Local Implementation Plan which will underpin everything.

Councillor Ali enquired if the Cabinet Member was prepared to forgo some of her policy aspirations due to staff capacity and focus on quick wins or is the focus on longer term aspirations which will require more consultation and engagement. The Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Transport explained that she was very delivery focussed and would like to deliver some schemes which will have a big impact but will also address some lower scale schemes quickly.

Councillor Ali advised that LTN's required feasibility studies, stress testing, modelling, engaging with TfL and significant consultation and engagement for certain schemes and can be long winded. The Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Transport explained that she was committed to delivering both short-term and long-term schemes and she was aware that some projects will be legacy projects that will be delivered through a phased and rational approach that she may not see to fruition.

The Corporate Director of Environment and Resident Experience added that delivering large scale projects has never been to the detriment of smaller, timely

projects. He further added that funding is critical for this through, TfL, Department for Transport or Section 106 agreements. The panel were informed by him that there was a need to flex and re-prioritise resources and staff as and when and not everything will be delivered.

Councillor Ali further enquired about what has had changed since May 2026 with the change of leadership given the resources and capacity available to deliver LTN's schemes, cycle lanes etc remains the same and he suggested that a realistic approach would be to prioritise quiet lanes as opposed to LTN's.

Maurice Richards, the Head of Transport Planning and Building Standards explained that when the council initially implemented LTN's they were still experimental. However, having gone through the process there was now experienced and knew how to reduce the timescale for e.g. feasibility studies. The Head of Transport Planning and Building Standards expressed that at present the council was in a good position as there is a plan and there are also resources to support it. Work is currently underway looking at work streams with resources. The Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Transport explained that the entire Cabinet shares the same ambition, and this alignment will support momentum. Councillor Ali advised that large schemes should not be done all at once.

Councillor Grosskopf enquired about the underspend in parking and highways and that as some of it came through CPZ's and PCN's and enquired if a breakdown could be provided. The Corporate Director of Environment and Resident Experience explained that the majority of the overachievement was from parking fines along with the statutory increase across London last year. He reported that in respect of PCN's the council is coming in slightly less than the previous year. **Follow up:** detailed breakdown to be provided to the panel. The Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Transport explained that they were also in the process of procuring an agency to tackle persistent offenders and therefor they will be recovering more going forward. Seizing unregistered vehicle at point of discovery and data analytics will support this work.

Councillor Ali enquired about the recovery position with bad dept and whether there has been an improvement and whether recovery of debt changed since May. The panel heard that the council makes some provision to cover bad dept and the value of debt has increased because the charge and fee has increased. The panel were briefed that recovery methods have not changed either as we are still in contract with the same recovery agent.

Councillor Grosskopf enquired about the community safety underspend, he explained there had been increased antisemitism in Markfield Park and it was unfortunate cameras were being taken down and he asked what reassurance can be given to communities. **Follow up**: further report detailing what is being done in relation to CCTV and safety in parks and to be included as part of the meeting involving the Borough Commander. Councillor Grosskopf enquired about the number of vacancies under anti-social behaviour enforcement. **Follow up**: the figure indicates that it may equate to around two officers, figure tbc. The Corporate Director of Environment and Resident Experience explained that this was an area where they were actively recruiting.

The Chair further enquired about the 5% staff saving and whether it was a saving that we knew we could deliver to which he heard that reducing salary spend on ring fenced roles can be difficult as it's different in different areas.

Councillor Reid enquired about the underspend of £1.7 million and what's done with the income. In response, the Corporate Director of Environment and Resident Experience briefed that the income which is generated through parking fines is ring fenced and can only be spent on e.g. freedom pass and highways and transport schemes. **Follow up**: information detailing the income generated from parking fines and how its spent to be provided with links to the parking accounts. Councillor Tackie enquired if there was a process that allowed members to have a say in deciding how PCN income is spent. The Corporate Director of Environment and Resident Experience explained that income generated is ring-fenced although there is an engagement process to consider certain schemes with public and the annual account published ensure transparency. Councillor Tackie expressed that residents are keen to know how the funds are spent.

Councillor Reid explained that there is a perception that it's easier to take legal cars as opposed to abandoned ones and he cited Suffolk Road which is littered abandoned cars which aren't removed. The panel were told that the delay is caused due to the need to identify who the statutory owner of the abandoned cars to be removed was and they must follow the due process.

Councillor Grosskopf enquired about how the redeployed cameras will be taken out of service and Head of Finance told the panel that the council is currently going through a process of evaluating the value in maintaining the cameras. In relations to this, the Chair enquired what the framework for making the decision was. The Corporate Director of Environment and Resident Experience explained that should the changes be significant, there would be consultation. **Follow up:** include consideration of redeployed cameras as part of the discussion covering community safety in March.

The Chair enquired about leisure centres and the fact that they weren't able to achieve their full income target due to the lease agreements with nurseries, cafes etc within leisure services. The Corporate Director of Environment and Resident Experience explained that although the target is within Leisure Services, the lease negotiations is delivered by the Commercial Property Team and so this area sits within the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He did explain that the lease negotiation takes a long time, making it tricky and it depends on the particular park. **To Follow:** Seek clarity with Taryn for OSC.

Councillor Small enquired about the £24 million in relation to waste vehicles without any commentary on the scheme progress, The Corporate Director of Environment and Resident Experience explained that the figure relates to the replacement of the entire fleet and the changes that have led to slippage including the negotiations for tender and change in specifications and also changes in food waste management funding from Defra.

The Cabinet Members views were sought in respect of areas of concern for her portfolio and whether there was anything she had requested from Directors to scale back on. The Cabinet Member expressed that the focus was on areas where they could generate income through things like parking fees and levy on motorised vehicles. The Cabinet Member explained that over the next few months there would be a concerted effort to generate income from anything on wheels. The Chair made the point that often the most polluting vehicles are the older ones owned by those who are unable to afford newer cars and by increasing levy, this puts a strain on families that are already stretched. The Chair enquired whether there were any concerns on the social impact of this policy often impacting on people who may be struggling and their cars may be essential for their livelihood? The Corporate Director of Environment and Resident Experience explained that the policy was in alignment with the previous administrations objective to reduce the dependence on private car journeys and there are fewer cars on the road now.

The Chair of the panel stressed that the question related to the impact on residents who are unable to afford less polluting vehicles. The Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Transport explained that she would need to look into further detail about the data. Councillor Ali briefed that there is diesel surcharge and he enquired what else would the Cabinet Member do to penalise polluting vehicles side from the surcharge for polluting vehicles and SUVs. The Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Transport explained that aside initial discussions and details are still in development, but she will be lobbying the government about polluting vehicles.

Councillor Ali expressed that there are some polluting vehicles that aren't SUV's and there may need to be some distinction between trades people and those who use their vehicles for leisure. The Councillor also asked that if we are introducing more cycle lanes, LTN's, quiet ways then there will be a reduction in parking spaces and therefore a loss of revenue and how will this be mitigated. It was explained by the Corporate Director of Environment and Resident Experience that some benchmarking work will be carried out in relation to charging, fee proposals and disincentivising private car ownership and promoting active transport. The Cabinet Member explained that Haringey is not aligned with other boroughs in terms of parking fees and this needs to be re-considered.

Councillor Grosskopf enquired about what will be done to compensate families with older cars and less income and can’t afford electric vehicles. The Cabinet Member for said that other boroughs are moving forward on their active travel and there will be discussions on how to progress this with her counterparts in other boroughs. The Corporate Director of Environment and Resident Experience explained that there is some compensation available through the Anti-Poverty Strategy to support people but the authority is essentially trying to disincentivise large vehicle ownership. Councillor Small stressed that this was a political choice and henceforth appropriate for the Cabinet Member to address.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Pre-scrutiny questioning in spring 2027 around CCTV to be included in the meeting with the borough commander and consider the renewal of CCTV locations.

- Commercial lease questioned in respect of Corporate Policy and hence should possibly be addressed by OSC. Broader issue about corporate property in parks, there needs to be more clarity relating to this- is it parks, community team or corporate landlord?

The Chair commented that it was unfortunate that Councillor Erin Wolson, Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure was unable to attend.

Cycling Safety Scrutiny Review
Rob Krzyszowski, Director of Built Environment & Highways - Planning and Building Standards briefed the panel on the item, explaining that the new contract for dockless bikes was signed off in March 2026 and progress was being made to implement. The Director of Built Environment & Highways informed the panel that a number of the recommendations in the interim report addressed a lot of the concerns raised in resident engagement that they had carried out and by the scrutiny panels review.

Councillor Ali expressed that he supports the new contracts as it was more comprehensive than the previous one and his reservations are related to the implementation in the recent roll out. The Councillor stressed that there has been limited member input with one weeks' notice in relation to views on the implementation of docking bays in certain wards. In respect of recommendation four related to hotspot data, the councillor enquired about the pavement locations of some docking bays that are near junctions, zebra crossings and one outside of Wood Green cinema. The councillor felt that a number of the bays were inappropriately positioned on pavements, obstructing vulnerable users.

In respect of data and non-compliance, Councillor Ali expressed that he was aware of the bespoke Tottenham Hotspur plan, Alexandra Palace and Finsbury Park plan but felt that the community involvement regarding where they are being located hasn't taken place and questioned why they were on the pavement and not on the highway. The Director of Built Environment & Highways - Planning and Building Standards explained that an all-councillor briefing took place in September 2026 regarding the bays, a ward councillor letter was also sent although it was agreed that more time could be applied for responses.

Councillor Ali stressed that going forward it would be suitable to discuss with ward councillors who are familiar with their wards and include a cite visit to locations prior to consultation. The Head of Transport, Planning and Building Standards responded that in respect of the bay in Wood Green there isn't the option to have a carriage way bays unless the bus lane is removed and the bay outside the cinema is also the second-best solution. It was stressed by the officer that the bays were temporary which allows for testing and to see if they work. The choices are ultimately being made on the basis of usage data, compliance and how promptly the operator responds.

The Chair further enquired about the democratic process and oversight before the decision is made for certain locations and as the bays are temporary, whether councillors are aware they can have an input into where the bays are. The Head of Transport, Planning and Building Standards clarified that all ward Councillors are

sent details of where temporary bays will be and feedback is weighed against the data.

Councillor Ali enquired about contract implementation and not the actual contract with the Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Transport. In response, the Cabinet Member agreed that with the significant expansion there have been a wave of problems and she expressed that she was in favour of taking space from the highway and by the end of 2027 there should be around 200 bays in total. The Cabinet Member stressed that it is a work in progress.

The Chair enquired about the progress that had been made in terms of pan-London plans and where did we stand presently in respect of conversations with the GLA. The Head of Transport, Planning and Building Standards explained that there are a number of working groups looking into this and TfL are working on the details to try and standardise procurement and enforcement in terms of revenue. The Cabinet Member further added that there was currently a consultation at the GLA lead by Caroline Russell and Haringey will be submitting a response and there is synergy amongst all the boroughs in terms of regulation.

Councillor Grosskopf asked about what would be done about Lime bikes driving dangerously and often breaking red lights that that impacts pedestrians. The Cabinet Member explained that she was in dialogue with TfL about speeding cameras. The Head of Transport, Planning and Building Standards clarified that the local authority doesn't have the power to enforce but there is work in place to educate through training and publicity. Enforcement in the areas with high footfall via the police will be essential.

Councillor Grosskopf asked if the council was also privy to calls from pedestrians to the bike companies where bikes are posing a hazard. The Head of Transport, Planning and Building Standards explained that they do get a report and live access to their system. The panel heard that the non-compliant data they also receive is being used to plan where parking bays should be and combining it with ward councillors and resident feedback. **Follow up**: follow up data.

Councillor Thacker enquired over the difficulties in transition towards e-bikes and given that road usage is essentially designed for car usage, what is being done to support signage for bikes. The Head of Transport, Planning and Building Standards concurred that if the infrastructure was better there would be higher compliance. In respect of more people getting onto e-bikes - access to training to cycle on the carriageway would also support this aspiration. The need for better design also comes with improved infrastructure. In respect of the statistics on accidents, e-bike collisions are not recorded separately.

The Head of Transport, Planning and Building Standards also explained a number of measures that could support e-bike usage including making Advanced Stop Lights (ASL), encouraging helmet usage. Within the dockless bikes contracts it has been requested that incentives are put in place to get people to wear helmets and training.

Councillor Ali commented that there should be a re-think of some of the bays on pavement and when there are alternatives on the highways. The Councillor also

emphasised that the Lime bikes operator has been responsive to feedback, but this was not the case for Forest. Councillor Ali also reported that there is a challenge of enforcement on housing estates. It was explained that the contract has been developed in a way that should there be minimum responsiveness to enforcement, the companies fleet operation in the borough would then be reduced. **Action**: should other Councillors be experiencing minimal response from Forest they should contact docklessbikes@haringey.gov.uk.

Councillor Tackie commented that there is currently a live complaint from an elderly resident with a significant number of HMO's obstructing her home. **Follow up**: Councillor Tackie to send particular details regarding removal of bikes to Head of Transport, Planning and Building Standards.

RECOMMEDATION

- To conclude the review, going forward the panel will annually receive:
  - Information on any significant changes in policy
  - data on hotspots
  - data on collisions
  - details of changes to infrastructure
  - enforcement data
  - direct evidence and correspondence with the operators, Forest Bike and Lime Bikes
- In respect of the consultation and implementation approach - further detail needs to be clarified on the complaint's procedure with more transparency.

- Further consideration also needs to be given to pavement parking and provide further clarity on this (image online of a bike parked by a car door)

- Some consideration needs to be given to improving and clarifying cycling and walking lanes as stressed by Haringey Cycling Campaign.

Work Programme 2026 - 2028

The chair gave feedback form the recent scrutiny cafe event including

It was decided that the March 2027 meeting would be a crime and community safety focussed meeting involving the Borough Commander and covering:

- Borough Commander
- VAWG
- Community Safety in Parks
- CCTV
- Drug fuelled related crime and police response to this/ implications of public health e.g. with no rehabilitation

Borough of Culture (December 2026 or March 2027)

Meeting following the budget will focus on this and will include:

- Feedback from Councillor Wolson
- Use of events and spaces in parks and changes with impact and consequence on income generation
- Funding and budget
- Diversity

- Communication and commercialisation plan - not well known

Communication and Engagement (June 2027)
- Youth
- community sector
- bringing people together

Fly Tipping and Waste Enforcement (2027/28)
- Contract recently renewed
- Scrutinise the performance of the contract

The meeting ended at 9.30pm

CHAIR: Councillor Adam Small

Signed by Chair ……..

Date …….