

**MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 29 APRIL 2013**

Councillors Councillors Winskill (Vice-Chair), Adamou, McNamara, Newton and Rice (Chair)

Also Present: **Co-optees:** Yvonne Denny, Mariatta Ezeji and Evan Reid
Councillors: Goldberg
Officers: Martin Tucker - Economic Development Manager, Paul Head – Principal of College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London, Dinesh Kotecha – Head of Corporate Property, Melanie Ponomarenko – Scrutiny, and Felicity Parker – Clerk.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION
<p>OSCO206.</p>	<p>WEBCASTING</p> <p>Councillor Rice welcomed everyone present to the meeting. He informed attendees that the meeting was being webcast.</p>
<p>OSCO207.</p>	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>There were no apologies for absence.</p>
<p>OSCO208.</p>	<p>URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There was no urgent business to discuss.</p>
<p>OSCO209.</p>	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
<p>OSCO210.</p>	<p>DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS</p> <p>None.</p>
<p>OSCO211.</p>	<p>CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS - CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND CARBON REDUCTION</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Councillor Goldberg (Cabinet Member for Finance and Carbon Reduction). Councillor Goldberg updated the Committee on various aspects of his portfolio.</p> <p>NOTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget was a continuing challenge, which would eventually see a 50% reduction in the Council’s budget between 2010-16. • In February, Cllr Goldberg announced that a zero-based budgeting exercise would be carried out and reported back in Summer 2014. • The Benefits Cap went live two weeks ago. So far 100 out of 1100 families had been capped. There would be 2500 households affected by the Bedroom Tax. Fortnightly monitoring meetings were being held to monitor the impact on residents and the progress.

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- Youth – there had been a long discussion at the standing panel on youth services. Cllr Goldberg was working with a new officer, Paul Senior, in terms of the implementation of the youth strategy – were outcomes being achieved, how could performance be improved? A decision was to be made on whether the summer programme would be re run.
- The Green Deal pilot had been set up – this was a financial initiative set up by the government where people who sign up to energy saving measures had a discount on their energy bills.

Councillor Goldberg responded to questions from Members:

How are the Council approaching the benefit capping process?

The benefit capping was something that the Council has to do. The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) looked at 13 different types of benefits to assess the total amount of benefits received by people, and then picked out those who were over the cap. This was roughly 1100 families in Haringey.

In the 1st week of the cap, 22 names were sent through to Haringey from the DWP. Officers need around three days to decipher the information, and out of the 22 sent through, only 18 were capped at varying amounts.

Individuals do not lose any money – the money is capped via the Housing Benefit Payment. This means that the landlords would be left with a shortfall, and the benefit recipient may only be made aware of this when their rent fell into arrears. The Council were working with both benefit recipients and landlords to explain the situation. There was some DHP money available to address the shortfall – however, the shortfall is estimated to be £6m, and there was only £2m available.

The Council had made a plea to the Government to exempt those in Temporary Accommodation, however this request had been denied by DWP and the Government.

What is the Council doing to work with Housing Associations and their tenants?

Although no specific cases of Housing Associations giving tenants notice to leave their properties have been presented to Councillor Goldberg, he was aware of the concerns that they might have. The two main concerns were that there could be unnecessary evictions, and landlords refusing to rent to new tenants who were on benefits – thus impacting on the availability of Council accommodation.

Would there be an external evaluation by the Leader of the Council on the benefits cap?

Councillor Goldberg was working with the Leader to monitor the affect. A case would be made to the Government to make sure that there was an independent assessment. 54-56% of the caps were in London – this was directly related to rents and the costs of living in London. Work was being done with Newham's good landlord scheme.

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What were the figures for the take up of the Green Deal Assessment?

Provided after the meeting:

	Haringey
Domestic Assessment referrals	389
Domestic Green Deal Assessments completed	223
Non Domestic Assessment referrals	8
Non Domestic Green Deal Assessments completed	4

The Chair thanked Councillor Goldberg for attending.

OSCO212. JOBS FOR HARINGEY

Martin Tucker - Economic Development Manager – introduced the report as set out. This was an update on the Jobs for Haringey programme which was launched last year, following the Haringey Guarantee.

The main focus was on people who had been away from the job market, were not on benefits / job seekers, and had been left behind by the mainstream programmes.

There were three elements to the programme –

ESF tri-borough employment programme (North London Pledge)

An employment & skills programme across Haringey, Enfield and Waltham Forest funded through councils revenues matched by ESF from June 2012 to June 2014. The total value of the programme was £3m, with each borough providing £500,000 match funding, with ESF providing £1.5m. The overall objective was to support 600 residents from the 3 boroughs into sustained employment lasting a minimum of 26 weeks.

Haringey Employment and Skills Team

An in-house team to provide additional support from day one of their time on the programme, and in-work support to ensure that people supported into work sustain that employment for at least 26-52 weeks.

Haringey Jobs Fund

For each new job that an employer pledges for Haringey residents, the Council match fund the cost of the job (no more than 50%). All employment offers come with a subsidised training package provided by the College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London (CHENEL) and Haringey Adult Learning Service. The employer will make a contribution of around £1k.

By March 2013, 490 residents had registered on the programme and 220 were supported into employment.

Paul Head – Principal, CHENEL – explained how the college supported the jobs fund. The fund focused on the group of people who had been unemployed for a long time. Referrals were made to the college to develop people’s life skills, employability and to towards a work placement. 3000 residents had been referred by Job Centre Plus. The success rate was 30-35%.

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Martin Tucker responded to questions from the Committee:

- Many referrals from the Wood Green Job Centre Plus came from the West of the borough. Discussions had taken place with businesses in Crouch End, and the team have offered to provide local businesses with information of unemployed young people to use when they want to look at employing staff. There were a number of apprentices in the West of the Borough.

Councillor Winskill requested an assurance that the West of the borough was being sufficiently engaged with.

ACTION: Martin Tucker

- Residents who were part of the programme were trained on 'soft skills' – courses had been provided on how to deal with people, how to keep a job, motivation, confidence building and how to apply for jobs.
- The Advisors in the team also acted as mentors. This was identified as an important element of the programme.

Councillor McNamara volunteered to be a mentor under the Jobs for Haringey programme. Martin Tucker agreed to provide information on how to apply.

ACTION: Martin Tucker

- The requirement was that people must work for 26 out of a 30 week placement. The placements were monitored, and if a person is not attending their placement then an advisor will work with them to identify any issues and work to getting them back into the placement.
- Martin Tucker was working with the new Sainsburys in Tottenham to try to secure jobs for Haringey residents. There would be a maximum of 250 jobs created, and work was being carried out to create links with the store manager and HR manager.
- The programme covered a range of partnerships across the borough. People with mental health issues were accepted, as were those with disabilities.

Members requested a short briefing note on how the Jobs for Haringey programme was engaging with people with disabilities and mental health needs.

ACTION: Martin Tucker

The Chair thanked Martin Tucker and Paul Head for attending.

Members requested that a review of the Jobs for Haringey programme be added to the OSC work programme for the forthcoming year, and that this would include information on the ESF funding – how it was calculated and how Haringey compared with other boroughs.

ACTION: Melanie Ponomarenko

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OSCO213.	REVIEW UPDATE - HARINGEY GUARANTEE Martin Tucker – Economic Development Manager – introduced the report as set out. The Haringey Guarantee ran from September 2006 to March 2012. In total 5120 residents were supported, with 1204 starting work. 71.5% sustained employment for at least 13 weeks, 1157 gained a qualification and 1066 completed a work placement. The Guarantee was funded by a £1.2m allocation of Area Based Grant monies until 2011/12. As an interim measure for 2011/12, £500k was allocated for worklessness projects. Jobs for Haringey (as reported earlier) was the successor programme to the Haringey Guarantee.
OSCO214.	SCRUTINY REVIEW - COUNCIL'S PROPERTY PORTFOLIO Dinesh Kotecha – Head of Corporate Property – introduced the report as set out. The report outlined the current position of the property review. The review focused on leveraging assets to meet the priorities for Haringey. There were three main strands – community buildings, corporate buildings and commercial portfolio. Councillor McNamara commented that this was a constructive and positive piece of work. However, there were two areas where more work needed to be carried out – customer services (what is provided, and where), and ceremonial / civic functions (Alexandra Palace, Bruce Castle, Woodside House, Hornsey Town Hall, Tottenham Town Hall and Civic Centre). Councillor Goldberg explained that the purpose of the review was not to decide the design of the council, and that he and officers were happy to work with OSC to take the review forward. Councillor Winskill commented on the decline of a municipal presence in the borough, with only 4 council buildings in the west of the borough. A strong civic presence would add a lot to community cohesion. Councillor Winskill added that the issue of sub-letting should be looked into, and gave the example of the Health Centre in Middle Lane. Councillor Goldberg responded that it was important to have appropriate buildings for appropriate uses and the right services in the right buildings in the right places. With regards to sub-letting, there was little that could be done with old leases, and there was a clear inconsistency across tenancy arrangements. Councillor Newton stated that some community buildings were not suitable for public access, and referred to the library in Muswell Hill which has a large empty space behind which could be developed for community use. Councillor Goldberg explained that capital resources were limited for development. Dinesh Kotecha added that there was a further constraint in that the area cannot be overdeveloped. Evan Reid asked for an update on the Welbourne Centre. Councillor Goldberg explained that the tenants of the Welbourne Centre had been two years behind on their rent, and that the land would be used for housing. The Chair thanked Dinesh Kotecha and Councillor Goldberg for attending.

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<p>OSCO215.</p>	<p>WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2013/14</p> <p>NOTED that the work programme for 2013/14 would be agreed at the first meeting of the Municipal year.</p> <p>Items to be included for consideration were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexandra Palace • Tottenham Regeneration / Lipton report • School places • Planning • NLWA • Property follow up <p>Melanie Ponomarenko advised that there would be a meeting between OSC and Cabinet on 28 May 2013.</p>
<p>OSCO216.</p>	<p>SCRUTINY PANEL REPORT BACK (TO FOLLOW)</p> <p>Members received and noted the minutes and executive summaries for:</p> <p>Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel – 5 March 2013 & 16 April 2013 Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel – 14 March 2013 Communities Scrutiny Panel – 28 March 2013 Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel – 21 March 2013</p>
<p>OSCO217.</p>	<p>SCRUTINY PANEL REPORTS TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the recommendations of the following Scrutiny Panel reports be approved:</p> <p>School Places – conclusions and recommendations of Children & Young People’s Scrutiny Panel project</p> <p>Area Forums / Committees – interim conclusions and recommendations of Communities Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>Interim scrutiny report on strategic parking issues ahead of the Tottenham Hotspur redevelopment (Environment & Housing Scrutiny Panel)</p> <p>Waste and recycling Part II: Further policy options to increase recycling (Environment & Housing Scrutiny Panel)</p>
<p>OSCO218.</p>	<p>AREA COMMITTEE REPORT BACK</p> <p>Members commented that the link between the Area Committees and OSC was not very clear. Melanie Ponomarenko would email Members to ask for any suggestions to strengthen this link.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ACTION: Melanie Ponomarenko</p>
<p>OSCO219.</p>	<p>NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</p>

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	There was no such business.
OSCO220.	MINUTES The minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2013 were approved as a correct record.
OSCO221.	FUTURE MEETINGS NOTED the dates of future meetings. Members of the Committee put on record their thanks to the Scrutiny team for all of their work over the past year. Councillor Rice thanked the Members of Committee and Co-opted Members for their work over the past year. Councillor Winskill requested that a letter of thanks be written to Helena Kania (LINK) for all of her hard work and input on OSC over the past few years.
OSCO222.	SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTIONS REQUESTED (TO FOLLOW)

Chair

The meeting ended at

Councillor

Chair

SIGNED AT MEETING.....DAY

OF.....

CHAIR.....