

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL  
THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2013**

Councillors Adje, Basu, Bull, Reid and Winskill (Chair)

Co-opted Member: Mr F. Andrew

**LC46. WEBCASTING**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and informed them that the meeting was being webcast.

**LC47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**LC48. URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**LC49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**LC50. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS**

None.

**LC51. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Panel noted that Paul Njoku had been nominated by Haringey Youth Council and Fitzroy Andrew nominated by Haringey Association of Voluntary and Community Organisations (HAVCO) to act as co-opted members of the Panel. A representative from the 19 Safer Neighbourhood Panels was still being sought.

**AGREED:**

1. That the terms of reference for the Panel, as approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2013, and replicated at paragraph 4.2 of this report, be noted; and
2. That Paul Njoku from Haringey Youth Council and Fitzroy Andrew from HAVCO be appointed to act as non-voting co-opted members of the Panel.

**LC52. MINUTES**

In respect of item LC36 (Minutes), the Panel asked for confirmation that an update had been circulated regarding the outcome of the Council's bid for MOPAC funding. They also requested an update on progress in obtaining footfall figures in respect of attendance at Haringey Police stations. In respect of Member enquiries, it was reported that a Member Development session on the issue had taken place. Members of the Panel felt that it had been very useful.

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In respect of the item regarding Community Hubs, Cllr Richard Watson, the Cabinet Member for Communities, reported that four meetings had been arranged with library users. There had also been a meeting with staff, who were happy with the direction of travel. Panel Members were welcome to come along to any of these. The possible use of libraries to pay parking fines and purchase visitor's permits was still being considered and would be taken forward once the necessary staffing resources required to take this forward had been put in place. There were no issues with the principle of doing this but practical ways of putting it into practice needed to be identified. The Panel hoped that this could be prioritised to make it more convenient for residents and visitors.

In respect of the item on the MOPAC Police Plan 2013-17, the Cabinet Member noted with concern the drop in public confidence in the Police that there had been locally and which had been reported at the last meeting of the Panel. The Panel noted that a letter had been sent to the MOPAC on its behalf requesting clarification of how the new arrangements for neighbourhood policing would operate. No reply had so far been received to this.

In respect of the item on tasers, the reply that the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee had received from his letter to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner had suggested that a further reply relating to engagement with the wider community would be sent to him from the Assistant Commissioner for Territorial Policing. It had been agreed that the Chair would be asked if this had happened. It was noted that no further correspondence had been received on this issue. However, the Chair had given evidence to the investigation being undertaken by the Police and Crime Committee of the London Assembly into the issue. The report on their findings was due shortly. It was agreed that this would be circulated to Panel Members.

**AGREED:**

1. That the minutes of the meeting of 28 March 2013 be approved; and
2. That updates be provided to the Panel on their previous request for information on the outcome of the application for MOPAC funding and footfall figures for Haringey Police stations.

**LC53. CABINET MEMBERS QUESTIONS - CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES**

Councillor Richard Watson, the Cabinet Member for Communities, updated the Panel on matters arising from his portfolio and answered questions. He reported that in the aftermath of the killing of Trooper Lee Rigby and the arson that had been committed against an Islamic centre in Muswell Hill, a meeting had been held by the Police and community safety partners with representatives of the local Muslim community to provide them with reassurance. Support would be provided for the community and the Safer Neighbourhood Teams would be available to address any issues that might arise. Funding was being identified to help re-establish the Muslim network. It was felt important that inter faith forums were put in place where any tensions could be addressed.

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Panel Members noted that the Council's Race Equality Joint Consultative Committee (REJCC) had been disbanded. It had been proposed at the time that a replacement body should be established but nothing had been put in place. It was suggested that it might be appropriate to re-visit this issue. The Cabinet Member stated that he was agreeable to this suggestion. He also felt that the new Safer Neighbourhood Board might have a role to play.

In response to a question regarding area forums/committees, the Cabinet Member stated that it was not possible to allocate any additional money to fund publicity or refreshments at meetings. If there was an issue about the availability of water at recent meetings where it had been unusually hot, he was happy to take this up. He was also happy to take up any other specific issues relating to area committees that Members might wish to raise if they e-mailed them to him.

Panel Members raised the issue of plans by the Council to celebrate Black History Month. The Cabinet Member stated that there was currently no budget for events. There was, however, 0.5 of a post in the Policy and Equalities team to assist with events as well as 0.5 of a post within the Library Service. However, the Chief Executive and the Director of Strategy and Performance had been asked to look at the issue and consideration would be given to identifying a small budget for events. He was happy to report back in due course. He was also happy to deal with any specific issues that there might be regarding the arrangements for this year. He agreed to circulate details of what had taken place last year and what was planned for the forthcoming year to the Panel. The Chair stated that he did not feel that he was receiving notifications of Council events to the same extent as previously and suggested that the Cabinet Member might wish to remind the Council's Communications Team that Members were often interested in Council wide events.

In response to a question, the Cabinet Member reported that the consultation on the Gypsy and Romany communities finished four months ago. It had been praised by national organisations as the only one that had been commissioned by a local Council on the communities in question. An action plan had been developed as a result of this and could be circulated to the Panel. The Panel might also wish to have the issue as an agenda item. In response to a question on Member enquiries, he stated that if there was an issue relating to a specific case, Members should contact him in the first instance. He would accept that the quality of responses could be variable but this was not the direct responsibility of the Complaints Team, who acted as a conduit for services and had much reduced resources. In respect of the new Police Safer Neighbourhood structure, he reported that he had had a very useful meeting with the Borough Commander, who had clarified the new model of policing and how it would work. The changes had been publicised through an article in Haringey People and letters to every household in the borough. Safer Neighbourhood Panels had also received briefings and the Borough Commander had offered to come along to all area committees.

Concern was mentioned by a Member of the Panel on the issue of street prostitution towards the east of borough, particularly in areas close to the border with Hackney. This had been an issue for many years and could affect the quality of life of local residents. The Cabinet Member stated that he was happy to raise the issue with the Police. There were now more front line Police officers who were also working later shifts at weekends so it was not a question of resources. If further details were passed to him, he would take the issue up. It was noted that there had been an in depth

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scrutiny review into the issue and agreed that this would be circulated to Panel Members.

#### **AGREED:**

1. That the Cabinet be recommended to give further consideration to the establishment of a replacement body for the Race Equality Joint Consultative Committee;
2. That details of the programme for Black History month for last year and the forthcoming year be circulated to the Panel;
3. That the Action Plan arising from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Needs Assessment and consultation be circulated to the Panel; and
4. That the Cabinet Member be requested to raise the issue of street prostitution in the east of the borough with the Police and the report of the Scrutiny Review on this issue be circulated to the Panel.

#### **LC54. CRIME STATISTICS**

Claire Kowalska, Community Safety Manager, reported that there had been almost unprecedented reduction in crime levels in the last year. The vast majority of crimes had seen significant reductions. This was possibly due to a number of factors:

- “Hot spot” targeted policing;
- More young people were now living at home with their parents;
- Technological advances had helped to reduce many forms of crime, particularly vehicle theft.

Haringey’s performance figures were better than their statistical neighbours and other London boroughs. There had been particularly strong performance in respect of violent and property crime.

The Panel noted that incidents of reported domestic violence had nevertheless shown a large increase. However, this was due to more being reported rather than incidence being significantly greater. There was now a new Domestic Violence Co-ordinator in post and she was currently commissioning mapping work. Call outs did not necessarily indicate an incident. There had been 715 cases of domestic violence with injury which was a higher rate than statistical neighbours and other London boroughs. This particular statistic had not been looked at before and was part of the development of a more sophisticated set of data.

There had also been an increase in sexual offences within the borough and the level was higher than statistical neighbours and other London boroughs. It was not clear why this had happened. The reduction in personal robbery and residential burglary figures was unprecedented. In terms of robbery, the use of Q Cars had been a factor. The higher risk of being caught acted as deterrent. There was evidence that criminals were instead turning to internet crime.

Although the figures for the reduction in the number of first time young offenders entering the system showed a considerable improvement, the level of re-offending was higher than statistical neighbours. However, this could be due to the successful

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use of triage as the percentage of those entering the system who were likely to re-offend was a lot higher.

The Chair of the Panel commented that the figures were very good news for the borough. The Panel noted that 40% of crime within the borough originated from just six wards. The Community Safety Manager reported that reductions in crime had been shared across all wards within the borough. Ward data was available and could be shared with the Panel. In terms of statistics for race and religiously motivated crime, officers agreed to report back to the Panel. However, it was noted that the volume of such crime was low.

In terms of domestic violence, although the bulk of the increase was likely to be linked to higher levels of reporting, there were nevertheless issues that needed to be addressed. The Cabinet Member commented that not nearly enough had been invested in relevant services. Additional funding as well as resources from the MOPAC had now been allocated. There was now more funding than was being provided in other boroughs. As well as the new Domestic Violence Co-ordinator, the number of Independent Domestic Violence Advocates had been increased from 1 to 4. In addition, a mapping exercise was being undertaken. Improvements would nevertheless take time to be deliver results.

The Panel noted that very comprehensive and sophisticated data was now available on this issue. The Panel commented that domestic violence was also an issue for mainstream services. In addition, perpetrators needed to be dealt with as well as support provided for victims.

Members of the Panel raised the issue of the role of youth services in providing diversionary activities for young people. The Cabinet Member reported that a meeting was being organised with officers responsible for youth services as well as the relevant Cabinet Member. There was considerable cross over between community safety and services for youth and a co-ordinated approach was important. In particular, consideration needed to how services engaged with people on the cusp of gang activity. It was noted that the Cabinet Member responsible for the youth offer was on the Community Safety Partnership and that there was clear strategic direction. It was at operational level where there was scope for improved co-ordination.

It was noted that the youth offer was within the terms of reference of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel, who would be looking at future plans for it in due course. As there was cross over with the work of the Communities Panel, the Chair agreed to seek clarification from Overview and Scrutiny Committee on how best the issue might be approached.

Karl Thomas from the Police Service reported on clear up rates. There was good performance in two particular areas but performance was less good in other areas. Q Cars had been effective in dealing with robbery and the find my i Phone app had proven to be very successful. Q Cars had also challenged false reports of robbery. There were, on average, 5 to 6 of these per week and were normally due to individuals wishing to claim on their insurance. Dealing with these had had an impact on clear up rates. Burglary clear up rates had been helped by improved forensics and CCTV focussing on particular hot spots.

**AGREED:**

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1. That a further report on improvements to domestic violence services be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel and that this include a breakdown on ethnicity, religion and age;
2. That, in view of the links with community safety, the Chair raise the issue of the appropriate scrutiny body to consider the youth offer at the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and
3. That the next presentation of crime statistics to the Panel include, as an integral part of it, detection rates as well as figures for racially and religiously motivated crime.

**LC55. WHITE HART LANE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE - LEASING**

Paul Ely, the Head of Commissioning for Leisure Services reported that the Council had withdrawn its subsidy for the White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre in 2011 in the light of the reduction in the Council's budget. In order to make the Centre commercially viable, it was considered that significant investment was required. The option of a long term lease of 50 years was pursued and three bids had been received. The bid from Fusion was significantly better than the other two and removed the need for further revenue subsidy by the Council and ongoing liability for maintenance. It had been approved by Cabinet on 9 July. The lease included a range of milestones. Key to the achievement of these was the obtaining of planning permission. Fusion were a charitable organisation and the agreement secured that accessibility of the site to residents for the next 50 years. The long term security of the site was considered an important issue for potential bidders which was why a 50 year lease was chosen.

The Panel noted that various periods for the lease were considered and 50 years was a compromise. A shorter period of time might not have been attractive to prospective bidders. There had been in depth consultation with stakeholders and they had worked with Fusion to develop the bid. The procurement had been challenging and complex. There had been a target level of investment and the scoping had looked at the two particular aspects:

- Who might take it on; and
- Would it achieve the necessary level of investment?

There were not many organisations that were in a position to bid. External advice had been sought and this had led to the recommendation that the lease be offered for 50 years.

The Chair reported that Overview and Scrutiny had expressed concern at the large losses that the Centre was making as part of budget scrutiny in 2010/11. He noted that the lease allowed Fusion to control pricing, including concessions.

It was noted that officers had worked closely with voluntary sector sports organisations and bodies including Tottenham Hotspur and Haringey Sports Development and there was support from amongst them for the Fusion proposals. In particular, the proposals would have the potential to bring investment into the borough and improve leisure facilities. The Councils leasing out of facilities at Finsbury Park had worked along similar lines and was hoped to attract external funding. Sports funding bodies appeared to be more inclined to assist in such circumstances.

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The Cabinet Member reported that service users were pleased with the performance of Fusion in running the borough's other leisure centres. Fusion also had now had a community involvement officer who would be working closely with local voluntary and community organisations. In terms of pricing and concessions, although the Council would no longer have ultimate control, it was unlikely that the pricing would be any different from the other leisure facilities across the borough as the provider would probably wish to have consistent pricing across all of their facilities. However, they had not wanted to be bound by conditions regarding this being included in the lease. It was noted that Fusion was a charitable trust and inclusiveness was part of their stated aims.

The Panel drew attention to the lack of facilities for cricket in the east of the borough. The Head of Commissioning for Leisure reported that the demand for particular sports and activities had been looked at. It was considered that football, tennis, fitness and swimming had unmet demand. It was not considered viable to build a swimming pool on the site so the focus had been on the remaining activities. It was recognised that there was a shortage of cricket facilities in the east of the borough but this would need to be addressed by the voluntary and community sectors as the Council did not have the resources to act, although support for a particular group that might be able to play a role could be considered. The Panel suggested that an approach be made to the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) who might be able to assist.

The Cabinet Member suggested that the Panel may wish to visit the Fusion leisure facility in Southgate to observe the facilities that were available there.

**AGREED:**

That the Panel recommend that an approach be made by leisure commissioners within the Council to the England and Wales Cricket Board regarding assistance in the development of facilities for cricket in the east of the borough.

**LC56. PREVENT UPDATE**

Claire Kowalska, Community Safety Manager, reported that Haringey had been chosen by the Home Office as a Prevent priority borough and had obtained funding to 2015 for a number of projects through this. These included:

- Safe space debates;
- Web guardians, which was aimed at working with Muslim women who were worried about their sons; and
- Establishing the Muslim voice in Haringey, which would play a part in reassurance and preventative work.

In addition, training was being provided for appropriate front line staff.

The Panel noted that the scheme also dealt with right wing extremism. It was also noted that khat had now been re-classified as a class c drug and work was being undertaken with the Haringey DAAT team to address the issue, particularly amongst the Somali community.

The Community Safety Manager reported that the delivery plan 2013-14 still required final approval. Research was also being undertaken but had been delayed.

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**AGREED:**

That the report be noted.

**LC57. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD**

The Cabinet Member reported that a workshop, led by the MOPAC, had been arranged on this issue for 1 August. This would address what Safer Neighbourhood Boards were likely to look like at borough level. It was an issue that was providing challenge for the MOPAC and it was hoped that the workshop would provide greater clarity. It would include a wider range of people than those who normally attended meetings of the Community Safety Partnership.

The Panel noted that arrangements in Haringey were more advanced than was the case in other boroughs. They were of the view that it was important that a suitable replacement was put in place for Haringey Community Police Consultative Group.

**AGREED:**

That the Panel recommend that a letter be sent on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime requesting clarity on how the Safer Neighbourhood Boards will operate and, in particular, their structure and how they will be expected to operate.

**LC58. WORK PLAN**

The Panel were of the view that the issue of Black History Month should be an item on the agenda for the next meeting of the Panel. Many local authorities arranged events under the banner of Black History Month but these were not always directly relevant to the issue. As discussion of what might be appropriate would be useful. In addition, it was important that the occasion was not marginalised. The aim of the discussion would be to refresh and re-affirm the Council's commitment. It was agreed that Councillors Adje and Reid and Fitzroy Andrew would draft a short discussion paper to assist with the issue. It was noted that Black History Month was in October, which might make it difficult for the Panel to influence the arrangements for this year's events.

It was noted that the issue of the development of the voluntary sector would be on the agenda for the next meeting and the Chief Executive had confirmed that he would be attending. It was agreed that Mr Andrew would also present on this issue.

In respect of the Panel's proposed project on community safety and mental health, it was noted that race was an important issue in respect of this and would need to be taken into account.

**AGREED:**

1. That the issue of Black History Month be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Panel and that Councillors Adje and Reid and Mr Andrew be requested to draft a discussion paper on this issue;



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2. That, in respect of the agenda item for the next Panel meeting regarding the voluntary sector, Mr Andrew be requested to present his views on the further development of volunteering within the borough; and
3. That, subject to the above, the draft work plan for the Panel be approved.

**Cllr Dave Winskill**  
**Chair**