

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL
TUESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Councillors Blake (Chair), Gallagher, Jogee and Newton

Co-opted Member: Mr. I. Sygrave (Haringey Association of Neighbourhood Watches)

CSP1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Doron and Gunes.

CSP2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CSP3. DEPUTATIONS/ PETITIONS/ PRESENTATIONS/ QUESTIONS

None.

CSP4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Councillor Jogee raised the issue of community cohesion and which scrutiny panel was responsible for addressing the issue.

AGREED:

That clarification be sought regarding which scrutiny body is responsible for addressing issues related to community cohesion.

CSP5. WORK PLAN

The Chair reported that Councillor Doron had requested that issues relating to the green economy, air pollution and the natural environment be added to the work programme.

Councillor Bull, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, welcomed the proposal to include the local policing model within the workplan. He felt that Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) had been reduced in their effectiveness since they had been reorganised. Having the issue as an agenda item would provide the opportunity for the Panel to express their concerns. He suggested that the relevant senior Police officer responsible for the SNTs be invited to come along as well. Mr. Sygrave commented that the concerns of Neighbourhood Watches regarding the changes had been communicated to the Borough Commander.

In terms of the proposed in-depth piece of work on equality of access to sporting facilities, Panel Members felt that quality should also be looked at as part of this.

The Cabinet Member for Environment commented that scrutiny could play a particularly valuable role by looking at how other local authorities addressed issues. Site visits could be particularly useful. He welcomed dialogue with the Panel.

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That, subject to the above mentioned additions and amendments, the draft work plan be agreed for recommendation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

CSP6. CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS; CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Councillor McNamara, the Cabinet Member for the Environment, reported on the key areas within his portfolio. These included parks, leisure, waste and traffic management.

He acknowledged that measures to mitigate the impact of reconstruction works to Colney Hatch Lane could have been undertaken in a better way. However, action had been taken quickly when issues had been raised. He also stated that signage provided in the Muswell Hill and Wood Green areas by Transport for London (TfL) during the works could be improved.

In answer to a question, the Cabinet Member reported that cycling plans for the borough involved reducing the amount of traffic on some roads, such as Mary Neuner Road, and these would therefore not be used as relief roads during road closures.

He reported that the controlled parking zone (CPZ) in Wood Green was currently being reviewed. It was the longest standing CPZ in the borough and had the longest hours. The aim was to examine all relevant issues as part of the work. If successful, consideration would be given to adopting a similar approach to reviewing CPZs in Muswell Hill and Tottenham.

In respect of waste and recycling, he stated that discussions were taking place with Veolia regarding a number of issues, including bins, collection of purple bags and timed collections. In respect of timed collections, these were beginning to be rolled out and only included 10 streets so far. The service was currently focussing on street furniture, including jet washing of bins.

He reported that the borough had recently achieved its 18th green flag for parks in respect of Down Lane Recreation Ground. He stated that the same standards applied to all parks, irrespective of their status. He also wished to ensure the cleanliness of all parks and was happy to use enforcement as a tool to achieve this if necessary. Money could be better spent on Council priorities rather than cleaning up unnecessarily.

The Cabinet Member acknowledged that Finsbury Park concerts were not popular with some residents and changes had been made to how they were organised in order to address concerns. However, the big events that took place should not obscure the many smaller, community events that also happened in the park. He was committed to ensuring that meetings of the Finsbury Park Stakeholder Group were open and public.

In answer to a question, he was pleased that there was ongoing dialogue regarding the concerts. By the time of the next series of summer concerts, the new bookings policy would have been in place for over a year which would allow lessons from the first series of concerts to have been taken on board. There had been some issues in respect of noise and further discussion was needed, particularly in respect of minimum standards. It was hoped to engage with the community at an early stage. It was noted that bookings were normally finalised from January onwards.

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Refurbishment work on leisure centres was almost complete. However, there had been issues relating to Park Road but it was anticipated that the centre would be open fully from January. In answer to a question, the Cabinet Member stated that leisure staff had been transferred over to Fusion through the TUPE process and agreement had been reached that changes could not be made to their terms and conditions for at least two years. However, this did not preclude Fusion from restructuring, which they had done. During this process, staff had been offered three options:

- To remain on their current terms and conditions;
- To accept a buy out of their current terms and conditions in return for accepting Fusion ones; or
- Redundancy.

The situation at White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre was different as it had been leased to Fusion on a long term basis. The extensive refurbishment associated with this had resulted in some redundancies for Haringey staff.

He reported that the drop bins were to be introduced across Haringey and he was happy to share the programme for their introduction with Panel Members when finalised. Graham Beattie, the Interim Assistant Director of Single Front Line, reported that care would be taken in where the bins were sited. They were roughly the same size as grit boxes. If objections were received regarding their placement, they could be moved. It was agreed that engagement would take place with ward Councillors regarding location of the bins.

It was noted that, in the first instance, the drop bins were to be introduced in Wood Green and Tottenham initially and then Green Lanes. The cost of the boxes was £163 and would be borne by Veolia as part of their development budget. Their use would save money in the long term and they would also help make purple bin bags less visible on streets.

In answer to a question regarding what lessons that could be learnt from practices in other boroughs, he stated that some boroughs spent more on enforcement than Haringey but they also had larger aggregate budgets. Veolia were contracted by several other boroughs besides Haringey and lessons could be learnt from them. In particular, drop bins for purple bin bags had been used successfully elsewhere.

Panel Members noted that there had been performance issues relating to waste collection that had coincided with holiday periods when higher numbers of temporary staff were being used. The Cabinet Member reported that there had been discussions regarding this with Veolia. Should the number of missed collections not improve, the contractor could be fined.

Members of the Panel raised the issue of street clutter and enquired as to whether it was possible to remove unused telephone boxes. The Cabinet Member agreed to give further consideration to the issue and report back in due course.

The Panel noted that the Council had a responsibility to treat Japanese knotweed. There was a three year cycle of treatment in parks and the Council was commissioned to undertake similar work on housing estates.

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The Chair stated that standards of street cleansing acted as a barometer for the state of the borough. She welcomed the improvements that had taken place but was concerned about rubbish origination from houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). She accepted that this was difficult to address but felt that the Council should pursue such the issue. She welcomed the introduction of jet washing of bins and drop bins for purple bin bags. In terms of the Finsbury Park concerts, it was noted that these had brought in a total of £750,000 of income that would be ring fenced to parks. Half of this would go to Finsbury Park with the remainder going to other parks.

AGREED:

1. That it be recommended that engagement be undertaken by Single Front Line Service with ward Councillors regarding location of drop bins for purple bins bags; and
2. That the Cabinet Member be recommended to give further consideration to the issue of the removal of unused telephone boxes and report back to the Panel in due course.

CSP7. STREET CLEANSING; CURRENT POSITION

Graham Beattie, the Interim Assistant Director of Single Frontline Services reported on current performance. He commented that targets had been achieved consistently for several months until August and officers were looking at why this had occurred. Performance in respect of detritus and graffiti was also good. Performance levels in individual wards was generally good but there had been issues in Northumberland Park and the reasons for this were being looked at. There had been some issue relating to fly posting, where there was a particular issue with business card sized stickers being placed on shop windows. Removing these could be very time consuming.

In respect of fly tipping, the Cabinet Member commented that fly tipping was a large problem for the borough and addressing it was dependent on people acting responsibly. The Panel noted that it might be possible to develop the Council's mobile app so that arrangements could be made through it for rubbish to be picked up. There was also a need to communicate to all people how upsetting fly tipping was for residents.

AGREED:

That the current performance data be noted.

CSP8. WASTE AND RECYCLING DATA - CURRENT PERFORMANCE.

Graham Beattie, the Interim Assistant Director of Single Frontline Services reported that recycling performance had been ahead of target except for August. The priorities for the forthcoming year were to address the issue of food waste in social housing developments. A pilot scheme had proven to be very successful. In addition, recycling in the street was being encouraged.

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That the current performance data be noted.

CSP9. LEISURE CENTRE REFURBISHMENT AND WHITE HART LANE IMPROVEMENTS

Andy Briggs, Head of Direct Services, reported that in 2011, the Council's Cabinet approved the seeking of an alternative management solution for three of the five leisure centres operated by the Council and agreed that the remaining two should be leased out. The rationale for the different approaches was based upon an options appraisal exercise that had informed the Cabinet report. This stated that White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre, as a mainly outdoor focused facility that required considerable investment, should be considered for an alternative approach to that recommended for the majority of the mainstream leisure centres.

As part of the award of the contract, Fusion were committed to investing £14.7m to refurbish the centres and enhance the facilities at Broadwater Farm, Tottenham Green Leisure Centre and Park Road Leisure Centre. Whilst the works at Broadwater Farm and Tottenham Green had proceeded to plan, there had been unforeseen issues in respect of Park Road arising from the refurbishment of the lido. These issues had resulted in delay. Alternative arrangements had been made for several of the activities offered and Fusion were committed to getting all the facilities open as soon as possible.

White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre differed from the other centres as it was more orientated towards sport rather than leisure. The agreement with Fusion had committed them to refurbish and develop the facilities. This included:

- A newly resurfaced full sized multi use games area;
- A new four court indoor tennis dome;
- A new full size stadium 3G pitch;
- Refurbished athletics track; and
- Ten 5-a-side 3G pitches

These works were scheduled to be completed in November. Work would also be undertaken to refurbish the areas under the grandstand and these were scheduled to be finished by March next year.

In response to a question regarding the diving pool facility at Park Road, the Cabinet Member commented that there had been technical issues that had arisen in the process of refurbishing it. All efforts would be made to find a solution but there were genuine difficulties and a range of options had already been tried. Stakeholders would be kept informed of progress. It was noted that the improvements to Park Road would include heating for the outdoor pool.

Mr Briggs stated that Fusion had full ownership and control over pricing at White Hart Lane although the Council had retained control over concessionary rates. However, Fusion were not expected to charge excessive amounts which the local market could not sustain.

The Chair reported that proposals had been made in the borough's last sports and physical activity strategy to establish a borough football hub and enquired what progress had been made with this. Mr Briggs reported that a lot of football development work had been undertaken with local clubs and organisations. There was

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still a strong desire to develop sport and White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre would be part of this.

The Chair reported that there appeared to be an issue in the east of the borough with the availability of sports facilities. One specific problem was the lack of changing facilities. In particular, she had been approached by a local resident regarding the lack of changing facilities for football at White Hart Lane Recreation Ground. The Panel noted that the changing facilities at Downhills Park were slowly being brought back into use.

The Cabinet Member stated that he would welcome the Panel undertaking some work on this issue. The Council was only responsible for some of the sports facilities within the borough. In addition, he felt that the quality and quantity of facilities in the west of the borough could be over estimated. The issue impacted on other key issues for the Council such as public health, health inequalities and children. In particular, the move of responsibility for public health to the Council could provide opportunities for addressing sport and recreation more effectively.

It was noted that physical activity and sport were a key part of the borough's Health and Well Being Strategy. In addition, work was to be undertaken in developing an outdoor facilities strategy. Work was also being undertaken with schools to improve community access to facilities.

AGREED:

That the report be noted.

Clr Barbara Blake
Chair