

**MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, 30 JULY 2007**

Councillors Councillors Bull (Chair), Davies, Jones, Mallett, Newton and Winskill

Apologies Councillor Egan and Ms Indu Shukla

<b>MINUTE NO.</b>	<b>SUBJECT/DECISION</b>
<b>OSCO14.</b>	<b>WEBCASTING</b>  The meeting was webcast on the Council's website.
<b>OSCO15.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Pat Egan, and from Ms Indu Shukla.
<b>OSCO16.</b>	<b>URGENT BUSINESS</b>  Item 15, Scrutiny Review of Services For Older People and Item 17, Minutes, were admitted as late items as a result of requiring additional consultation with Members.
<b>OSCO17.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>  Councillor Davies declared a personal interest in respect of item 16, Whittington Consultation, by nature of being an employee of the Healthcare Commission.
<b>OSCO18.</b>	<b>DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS</b>  There were no such items.
<b>OSCO19.</b>	<b>CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS - CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES</b> The committee received a briefing and answers to questions supplied by Cllr Adje, Cabinet Member for Resources.  Councillor Adje thanked the committee for varying the order of business to allow him to attend another event subsequent to the meeting and presented his briefing and key issues in his portfolio to Members. The Cabinet Member assured Councillors that his number one priority for the year was Performance, ensuring the Council maximised it's Value for Money potential whilst providing high-quality services to residents of the borough.  The Cabinet Member assured Councillors that he continued to work on the issue of lowering sickness absence amongst Council staff, with flexible and family friendly policies being pursued and investigated. In

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	<p>terms of increasing government funding for the administration of housing benefit, Cllr Adje informed Members that the Office for National Statistics was being spoken to over what was believed to be flawed census figures informing Haringey's financial allocation.</p> <p>The committee was informed that the Cabinet Member was investigating confusion relating to teachers at a Haringey school in relation to the Council's payroll. The committee was also informed that work was going on relating to sick leave, although the Cabinet Member was keen to stress that correct implementation of personnel policies was also the responsibility of individual Heads of Business Units, in addition to Personnel themselves.</p> <p>Cllr Adje closed by re-iterating his commitment to Value for Money and fiscal responsibility in all areas of spending by the Council.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the briefing and answers to questions be noted.</li> </ol>
<p><b>OSCO20.</b></p>	<p><b>SCRUTINY REVIEW OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS</b></p> <p>The committee received this report to consider and endorse the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of Information Technology Projects, and to refer the recommendations to Cabinet. The Cabinet Member for Resources thanked the committee for the report, and stated that he was pleased that its objectives had been achieved.</p> <p>Members noted that a recommendation from the Audit Commission's review of the Tech Refresh project was that a post-implementation review should be carried out with regards to all major I.T. projects. Members agreed that given the size of the project, it was appropriate that a review of this nature be carried out into the Tech Refresh project.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Cabinet Member for Resources write to the committee setting out the timetable for and the scope of a post-implementation review of the Council's Tech Refresh project.</li> <li>2. That the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Panel be endorsed and be referred to Cabinet.</li> </ol>
<p><b>OSCO21.</b></p>	<p><b>BUDGET SCRUTINY</b></p> <p>The committee received this report to set out a process for scrutiny of the budget within the Council's financial and business planning framework, and to consider the financial strategy issues for the three-year planning period.</p>

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	<p>Members noted that training sessions for Budget Scrutiny would be convened prior to the Budget Scrutiny sessions. It was noted that in past years Members had only been able to view the 'total' budget figures at a relatively late stage. The committee expressed a view that it would be useful to do some work around base budgets, particularly in relation to Adult Social Services.</p> <p>In terms of Haringey continuing to be awarded the Floor Settlement by Ministers, the Cabinet Member for Resources assured the committee that he was engaging with ministers, and that the matter had also been taken up through London Councils.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That the Director of Finance and the Head of Benefits &amp; Local Taxation arrange for Member Training to be conducted on Benefits and Benefit Take-Up.</li><li>2. That the possibility of the committee engaging in some base budget scrutiny work be investigated.</li><li>3. That the Budget Scrutiny process as set out in the report be agreed.</li></ol>
<p><b>OSCO22.</b></p>	<p><b>TOWARDS EXCELLENCE - THE COUNCIL'S END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE - APRIL 2006 TO MARCH 2007</b></p> <p>The committee received this report to review 2006/07 service performance against the Council's basket of key indicators reported in a balanced scorecard format.</p> <p>The committee learned that approximately three quarters of the Council's performance indicators had been achieved or were close to target. Of those that had not, various key areas had been identified for focus over the current municipal year. It was noted that approximately 80% of the performance indicators were those from the CPA or otherwise set at a national level.</p> <p>Members expressed concern over figures concerning potholes and road repairs, and the committee agreed that the Director of Urban Environment should report to the committee on this issue. Members also requested an update from the Director on the issue of street cleaning and the work carried out by Accord.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That Officers explain to Members the seeming discrepancy in the rent collection figures.</li><li>2. That Officers feed back to Members on current work being carried out concerning NEATS.</li><li>3. That the Chair of Overview &amp; Scrutiny write to the Director of</li></ol>

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	<p>Urban Environment inviting him to a future meeting of the committee to discuss issues around street repairs and refuse collection.</p> <p>4. That the Cabinet Member for Housing write to the committee concerning the status of the £231 million decent homes money for Homes for Haringey.</p> <p>5. That Officers provide information for Members on the 20-day target for responses to Freedom of Information requests.</p> <p>6. That the report be noted.</p>
<p><b>OSCO23.</b></p>	<p><b>HARINGEY COUNCIL'S PLAN 2007-2010</b></p> <p>The committee received this report to note the contents of the Council Plan, as well as performance against indicators and three year targets.</p> <p>The committee noted that the Plan contained the Council's key achievements in the previous municipal year, the actions that were to be taken to achieve priorities in the upcoming three years, performance against performance indicators and three year targets, details on the agreed Local Area Agreement targets and the key principles of the Council's financial strategy.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>1. That the report be noted.</p>
<p><b>OSCO24.</b></p>	<p><b>CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS - CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE</b></p> <p>The committee received a briefing and answers to questions from Councillor Liz Santry, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member stated her priorities for the upcoming year. These centred around new initiatives concerning children in care, working with the Youth Service, and maintaining and raising educational achievement. She also stated that ensuring that effective monitoring and scrutinising arrangements were in place for the Building Schools for the Future programme continued to be a priority.</p> <p>Members raised queries over the usage of sprinklers in Schools. They were informed by the Cabinet Member that as discussion on this topic was taking place at a national level, definitive guidance was still being awaited. Members were informed that sprinklers were not currently being installed at this time. It was noted that the issue of sprinklers would be considered by the BSF Project Board once clearer information was available.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p>

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	<p>1. That the briefing and answers to questions be noted.</p>	
<p><b>OSCO25.</b></p>	<p><b>SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING ANNUAL REPORT</b></p> <p>The committee was reported to on the subject of demand for pupil places in Haringey's Primary, Secondary and Special schools and actions taken in response.</p> <p>In response to queries relating to traffic travelling to School across the railway line, Officers agreed that information on this topic be included within an update when plans relating to the Hornsey Central Depot were finalised. Officers confirmed that Planning Area One was taking into account surplus capacity in secondary schools, with all developments in areas being taken into account. Members were pleased to note that work on the new school was on schedule.</p> <p>Members enquired into the possibility of a reception school for those children who were recent international migrants. Officers stated their belief that a conventional school provided an element of stability, and pointed to initiatives such as intense English-learning support classes at CoNEL for aiding integration.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>2. That the Cabinet Member for Children &amp; Young People write to the committee informing them of the exact surplus figure relating to the new School.</p> <p>3. That the recommendations of the report be agreed.</p>	
<p><b>OSCO26.</b></p>	<p><b>POSITION STATEMENT AND UPDATE ON IMPROVEMENT PLANS FOR YOUTH PROVISION IN THE BOROUGH</b></p> <p>The committee received this report to note the progress, achievements and plans for future actions with regards to Youth Provision contained within the borough.</p> <p>Members stated that they hoped that maximum use was being made of the facilities which existed within the borough; Officers assured Members that they were working to see all specialist facilities used, with the media equipment at Bruce Grove being an example of this.</p> <p>Officers informed the committee of the forthcoming post-inspection action plan, and agreed to provide to Members further information on this topic in due course.</p> <p>Officers stated that they were proud of the work of the Youth Council, and agreed to provide for Members information on the democratic arrangements for elections to that body.</p> <p>Officers also stated that they were very pleased with uptake for the Summer University programme for young people.</p>	

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	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Youth Service's BVPI's be broken down by ward and this information be provided to the committee.</li> <li>2. That Officers report back to the committee with information on the Service's Post Inspection Action Plan.</li> <li>3. That Officers provide to the committee a briefing addressing issues over representation on the Youth Council, encouraging Schools to elect their representatives democratically.</li> <li>4. That the report be noted.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>OSCO27.</b></p>	<p><b>THE WHITTINGTON HOSPITAL NHS TRUST - PUBLIC CONSULTATION SUPPORTING APPLICATION FOR FOUNDATION STATUS - RESPONSE BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>The committee received this report to agree a process for considering a response to the public consultation by the Whittington NHS Trust for foundation status. The Chair agreed to liaise with his colleagues on the committee for the setting up of a small review panel to consider with this issue.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That a scrutiny review panel be set up to consider the proposed application in the manner recommended in the report, including the scope and terms of reference.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>OSCO28.</b></p>	<p><b>SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE</b></p> <p>The committee noted and approved the scope and terms of reference for the Scrutiny Review of Services for Older People.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the scope and terms of reference as set out in the report be approved.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>OSCO29.</b></p>	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Chair of the Overview &amp; Scrutiny committee circulate to the Committee a note on the Cabinet's recommendations with regards to Wi-Fi in schools.</li> <li>2. That the minutes of the meeting of the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007 be confirmed and signed.</li> </ol>	

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<b>OSCO30.</b>	<p><b>IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY IN HARINGEY</b></p> <p>The committee received this report to be informed of the outcome of the scrutiny review of Improving Road Safety in Haringey, and to endorse it's recommendations.</p> <p>Councillor Bevan, Chair of the Review Panel presented the report and informed the committee that several of the recommendations within it had already been implemented. The committee noted that recommendations three (TfL bidding timetable), nine (Safer Neighbourhoods Police Teams and school road safety training), twelve (school children conducting speed surveys), thirteen (Road Safety Strategy Group) and sixteen (20pmh zone painting) had all been initiated or were progressing well.</p> <p>The committee expressed reservations over recommendation ten, Walking Bus Scheme. The Chair of the Review stated that he did not regard the scheme is making optimum use of limited resources available. However, the committee agreed to amend the review, removing this recommendation on account of the benefits such a Scheme could bring.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That the committee pass onto the Road Safety Team its thanks for the excellent work carried out with regards to the review.</li><li>2. That the committee place on record its thanks to Councillor Bevan and other Members who contributed to the review.</li><li>3. That Recommendation Ten: Walking Bus Scheme be removed from the review.</li><li>4. That the remaining recommendations of the review be agreed.</li></ol>
<b>OSCO31.</b>	<p><b>NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>There were no such items.</p>

COUNCILLOR GIDEON BULL

Chair