

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 15 June 2015 at 7.00 pm at

PRESENT: Councillor Gavin Edwards (Chair)
Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai
Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor Maisie Anderson
Councillor Catherine Dale
Councillor Paul Fleming
Councillor Tom Flynn
Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Johnson Situ

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Stephanie Cryan

OFFICER SUPPORT: Stephen Douglass - Head of Community Engagement
Norman Coombe - Head of Corporate Team
Shelley Burke – Head of Overview & Scrutiny

1. APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Martin Brecknell, co-opted member of the committee

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the committee's 20th May 2015 meeting were approved

5. VICE-CHAIRS FOR SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEES 2015/16

Sub-committee vice-chairs were appointed as follows:

Education & children's services: Cllr Lisa Rajan

Healthy communities: Cllr David Noakes

Housing & community safety: Cllr Ben Johnson

6. NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE ENFORCEMENT

Cllr Edwards welcomed Andy Hull, Islington councillor, to the committee to talk about the role councils can play in raising awareness of the national minimum wage. He drew the committee's attention to a research report he had written for the Trust for London [Settle for nothing less](#) and to Newham Council's report [Pay By the Rules](#), which found that around 17% of Newham residents were earning less than the minimum wage

Andy Hull explained how the HMRC enforces the national minimum wage with a mix of reactive and proactive methods, and its power to impose fine and pursue prosecutions for non-compliance. Problematic areas included home care, apprenticeships, unpaid internships, and hotels.

The committee discussed the potential channels open to councils:

- Specifying payment of minimum wage in contracts
- Asking questions about payment of minimum wage alongside enforcement and regulatory activities
- Monitoring the list of companies named for non-compliance and drawing attention to any who are local

Councillors suggested that enforcement of the minimum wage might be more effectively managed if it were devolved to local government. London Councils could be asked to coordinate a letter from council leaders to the Business Secretary making this suggestion. There was also a suggestion about involving open data campaigners in the push for minimum wage enforcement

VIDEO - NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE ENFORCEMENT

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnTLT1YMXlw&list=PL_maFEOk7e9gsxyknVF85aGdVkgDs-jT1&index=1

7. AGE FRIENDLY BOROUGH

Councillor Cryan updated the committee on the different strands of the Age Friendly Borough project. Councillors discussed how the project can work creatively to reach isolated people and suggested that it should include provision for intergenerational work .

The committee agreed to ask Councillor Vicky Mills to attend a future meeting in order to discuss how this work is being approached with young people.

VIDEO - AGE FRIENDLY BOROUGH

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0AAwwuVJxxQ&list=PL_maFEOk7e9gsxyknVF85aGdVkgDs-jT1&index=2

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zktNTAV3nro&list=PL_maFEOk7e9gsxyknVF85aGdVkgDs-jT1&index=3

8. COUNCIL RENTS FOR VOLUNTARY AND BUSINESS PREMISES

Rachel Clarkson and Truly Johnson from Community Action Southwark attended the committee to talk through their paper on premises issues for voluntary sector organisations

VIDEO - RENTS FOR COUNCIL PREMISES

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_Ch1Hp0Dkl&list=PL_maFEOk7e9gsxyknVF85aGdVkgDs-jT1&index=4

9. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The committee discussed the draft work programme and agreed to add some time for ongoing regeneration projects.

As a general approach, the chairs were keen to link up their work programmes and look for synergies, both between scrutiny committees and with Audit & Governance

The committee agreed to change the date of budget scrutiny to 2nd February

VIDEO - SETTING THE WORK PROGRAMME

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCFM4IBHsRg&list=PL_maFEOk7e9gsxyknVF85aGdVkgDs-jT1&index=5

CHAIR:

DATED: