



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 19 June 2017 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G01B - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Gavin Edwards (Chair)
Councillor Ben Johnson
Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor Paul Fleming
Councillor Tom Flynn
Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Eleanor Kerlake
Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Kieron Williams
Martin Brecknell

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Stephanie Cryan Cabinet member for Housing

OFFICER SUPPORT: Gerri Scott (Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation)
Dave Markham (Director of Asset Management)
Tony Hunter (Head of Engineering)
Shelley Burke (Head of Overview & Scrutiny)

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall and co-opted member Lynette Murphy-O'Dwyer

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

2.1 The Chair had asked for an urgent item on fire safety in Southwark housing in view of the Grenfell fire.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

3.1 There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the committee's 19 April and 13 May meetings were agreed

5. FIRE SAFETY

The chair had requested an urgent discussion on fire safety in view of the Grenfell Tower fire. Councillor Stephanie Cryan (Cabinet member for housing), Gerri Scott (Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation), Dave Markham (Director of Asset Management) and Tony Hunter (Head of Engineering) attended the committee.

The cabinet member and housing officers presented on Southwark's programme of fire safety work and discussed the still unfolding implications of the fire at Grenfell. Committee members and members of Tenant Council asked questions and raised concerns that had been put to them by local residents since the fire. Tenant Council circulated a list of questions, which were discussed and responded to.

The following recommendations were agreed:

1. That the cabinet member orders a review of council high rise blocks in Southwark to ascertain the need for and cost of fitting sprinkler systems and any other fire safety measures in those buildings. OSC assumes wider government guidance will be given but this review should not be delayed while that guidance is forthcoming. We encourage Tenant Council to submit a letter to the cabinet member setting out any further representations on fire safety measures, and this should form part of the review
2. The cabinet member should consider making all fire risk assessments for high rise flats above 7 floors public via the council's web site
3. The cabinet member should encourage TRAs to hold local meetings with fire fighters to review their fire evacuation arrangements and check that access routes are clear.
4. The cabinet member consults with Tenant Council in order to find appropriate representatives to accompany officers on site visits where testing of cladding and building materials is taking place.
5. The council reviews best practice and current procedure around fire safety relating to scaffolding used on council buildings
6. That the appropriate cabinet member reviews internal guidance documents in respect of both new build and refurbishment projects to ensure they are up to sufficient standard in respect of fire safety.
7. That the leader and the cabinet member lobby the government to investigate and respond to the cause of the Grenfell fire quickly and provide funding for fire safety solutions.

VIDEO OF OPENING OF THE MEETING & FIRE SAFETY

<https://bambuser.com/v/6776067>

<https://bambuser.com/v/6776105>

<https://bambuser.com/v/6776118>

<https://bambuser.com/v/6776148>

6. WORK PLAN 2017/18

The committee discussed its work plan for the coming year. Suggestions included: value for money from the council's cultural strategy, access to youth justice, fire safety, emergency planning, budget scrutiny and ongoing monitoring on savings in childrens and adults services, regeneration schemes including their environmental aspects and the implications for local public service infrastructure, social regeneration, knife crime – drawing together work to be carried out in 2 sub-committees, Brexit, implications of new government's legislative programme, check in for progress on the council's air quality strategy, road safety particularly as it interplays with regeneration

The committee agreed to move its scheduled January 2018 meeting to better accommodate budget scrutiny

The chair agreed to take away topic suggestions and draw up a proposed work programme for the committee to consider

VIDEO OF WORK PLAN 2017/18

<https://bambuser.com/v/6776183>

7. FE SCRUTINY REPORT

The report was accepted by the committee

VIDEO OF FE REPORT AND REPORT INTO GP PRACTICES

<https://bambuser.com/v/6776196>

8. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE REPORT INTO GP PRACTICES

The report was accepted by the committee

The meeting ended at 9.40 p.m.

CHAIR:

DATED: