



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 15 October 2018 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G01A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Bill Williams (Chair)
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Humaira Ali
Councillor Peter Babudu
Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Helen Dennis
Councillor Tom Flynn
Councillor Jon Hartley
Councillor Alice Macdonald
Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor Jason Ochere

OTHER MEMBERS Councillor Peter John
PRESENT:

OFFICER SUPPORT: Shelley Burke – Head of Overview & Scrutiny
Kevin Fenton – Strategic Director of Health and Wellbeing,
Children's and Adults' Services
Norman Coombe - Head of Corporate Team
Fitzroy Williams – Scrutiny Officer

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Martin Brecknell

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

2.1 There were none

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

3.1 There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the committee's meeting on Monday 3rd September were approved as a correct record.

5. INTERVIEW WITH LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Please note that these minutes are incomplete due to loss of Wi-Fi at the meeting

Councillor Peter John attended OSC for his annual interview as council leader. The chair invited him to make brief introductory comments. Councillor John spoke about the challenge of the council budget, given constraints on local government finance, the spending review and risk of distribution of funds away from London, the housing crisis, but noting that councils cannot build at the level regional or central government requires. There were major infrastructure projects which may unlock ability to deliver more housing, for example the Bakerloo line extension and a pedestrian/cycle bridge but it remained to be seen what Transport for London budgets can deliver. On violent crime, he said that the police have brought in additional resources as has council for example investing in CCTV. His view was that taking funding out of crucial areas such as youth services since 2010 was a significant factor.

Committee members asked Councillor John about the resident involvement review, delivery of housing, TfL proposals to cut bus routes, regeneration, changes at Lewisham Southwark College and its potential impact on the jobs and skills agenda, Dulwich Hamlet, the night time economy around London Bridge, how to reduce cars, build quality in new housing schemes.

The leader undertook the following:-

1. To provide a written answer to OSC on the total number of Right to Buys from 2012 to date.
2. To arrange a conversation with Cllr Humaira Ali re the impact of the night time economy on residents in her ward
3. To supply a written answer to OSC on the Council's recycling targets, how they are set and met, including the variance year-on-year.

6. UPDATE ON SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE OPENING HOURS

Professor Kevin Fenton, Strategic Director of Place and Wellbeing, provided the committee with a briefing on the sexual health service. He set out the context around level of need in borough as well as central government funding reductions.

Councillor Linforth-Hall asked for more detail on the performance of the London-wide service,

which Southwark had joined, replacing SH24. Professor Fenton said that Southwark and Lambeth joined the London e-service in April 2018. He sits on the governing body which meets monthly and discusses performance. There were initial teething problems but these had been resolved and the transition has gone relatively smoothly. Professor Fenton had done a mystery shopper test, as had a number of the committee members and found it straightforward to order a kit. He explained that as more people take tests online, a shortfall develops in income for clinics so they need to change their services in response. The service is now testing more people than it has done before. More people in aggregate are being tested. The board want to increase access to contraceptive services online too and is currently testing that. Kings offer multiple routes for collecting kits or having them delivered. CCG needs to review GP skills to ensure they can play their part in screening for sexual health. Councillor Linforth-Hall suggested there could be more publicity about the options for accessing kits.

Councillor Chamberlain asked what advice is available to young gay men about the PrEP trial. Professor Fenton responded that Southwark and Lambeth are taking part in the trial and there is no plan to limit the number of participants.

Councillor Chamberlain added that there is an important survey taking place for LGBTQ+ people living in Southwark. He suggested that the committee might wish to ask for the findings

Councillor Linforth-Hall asked how virtual clinics are working. Professor Fenton said that it is still early days but telemedicine is increasing. Public health in Southwark and Lambeth is keen to contribute and can build on a strong track record of innovation

Councillor Babudu asked if there is a risk of disenfranchisement of any groups by using the e-service. Professor Fenton said that the service is monitoring this and aware that it needs to be sensitive. He gave the example of young people who might be concerned about receiving a kit at while living at their parents' home. He also said there is data indicating a slightly higher proportion of black and minority people receiving kits and not returning them – the service need to keep in mind practical issues such as translation of leaflets but also to keep reflecting on the behavioural aspects of this service.

Councillor MacDonald asked if there is guidance available for people using kits at home and any analysis of how people are getting on with it. Professor Fenton said there is a helpline. He did not have data on numbers who've called but the services track complaints and any feedback that comes in with the kit or directly at clinic. There is no cap on the number of kits available to Southwark/Lambeth residents. A 6 month report on the service was due to be published shortly and this could potentially be picked up in Cllr Akoto's interview at OSC.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

Work plans

Helen update re housing & environment commission- empty homes and community energy. Would like to be able to invite commission members to submit questions for cabinet member interviews. Will take a report towards end of year on how bringing repairs in house has gone

Note from Barrie re his commission's first meeting

Meeting ended at 9.30 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: