

## Housing and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Housing and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission held on Wednesday 14 October 2020 at 6.00 pm Online/Virtual meeting.

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Gavin Edwards (Chair)  
Councillor Radha Burgess  
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE  
Councillor Jon Hartley  
Councillor Nick Johnson  
Councillor Sunny Lambe (Reserve)

**OTHERS  
PRESENT:** Councillor Jane Salmon  
Cris Claridge

**OFFICER  
SUPPORT:** Everton Roberts, Head of Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
(Acting)

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Paul Fleming and Hamish McCallum.

### CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

Those members listed as present, were confirmed as the voting members for the meeting.

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

The chair informed the meeting of the late papers circulated on the supplemental agenda. There were no additional late items.

### 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

### 4. MINUTES

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2020 be approved as a correct record.

**5. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF ESTATE CLEANING**

The commission heard from Councillor Catherine Rose, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Environment and Roads and Michael McNicholas, Head of Waste and Cleaning.

Following the introduction of the report, questions and discussion took place round the following:

- Flytipping and flytipping hotspots
- Efficiencies and savings
- Client / Contractor relationship of in house service
- Performance monitoring, data and targets
- Delay in regular collections of waste from newly built blocks/properties
- Modernisation of the collections service
- Responding quickly to incidents/issues, such as dumped rubbish
- Future of waste collection
- Accountability of service to residents
- Deep cleansing
- Service level agreement – twice yearly on demand tasks
- Strategy around designing out flytipping spots
- Bulk waste collections and additional charges/fines

The chair indicated that there would be further scrutiny session held on this subject, along with some background scrutiny such as site visits with an inspection team or with some estate cleaners. Further inspection of the statistics and raw data to be provided for future session.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**6. WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21**

The chair invited suggestions from the commission in respect of proposed work programme items.

The following items were put forward:

- Affordable Housing Delivery and Retention
- Empty Homes
- Building Safety and Cladding
- Review of the Council's Engagement Structures
- New Homes Projects
- Anti-Social Behaviour and Noise
- Access to Local TRA Halls [Particularly for young people]

The chair agreed to present a work programme for the next meeting.

## **7. DISTRICT HEATING AND HEAT NETWORKS FINAL REPORT**

### **RESOLVED:**

That the final report be noted.

## **8. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF COMMUNITY HUBS**

Councillor Helen Dennis, Cabinet Member for Social Support and Homelessness gave an overview of the development work taking place around community hubs and the report due to be considered by cabinet in respect of the implementation of the Southwark Community Support Alliance.

The commission also heard from Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities.

Questions and discussion were held around the following:

- Increase in people in need at a time when mutual aid groups are winding down
- Decrease in food supply provision
- Re-activation of congestion charge limiting tenants association representatives being able to deliver food across the borough
- Planning for the future with uncertainty around what financial resources will be available
- Embedding service provision within neighbourhoods
- Resources to be made available to community groups
- Role of Community Southwark

### **RESOLVED:**

That the reports circulated in connection with this item be noted.

The meeting ended at 8.02pm

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**