

Open Agenda



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 4 June 2019 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Wingfield (Chair)
Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Humaira Ali
Councillor Peter Babudu
Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Helen Dennis
Councillor Gavin Edwards
Councillor Alice Macdonald
Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Victoria Olisa
Councillor Jack Buck (Reserve)

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Richard Livingstone – Old Kent Road Ward
Councillor Dan Whitehead – Surrey Docks Ward
Councillor Johnson Situ - Cabinet Member for Growth, Development and Planning
Councillor Adele Morris - Borough & Bankside Ward
Councillor Martin Seaton - North Walworth Ward

OFFICER SUPPORT: Shelley Burke – Head of Overview & Scrutiny
Norman Coombe – Head of Corporate Team
Rebecca Towers – Interim Director of Leisure
Alistair Huggett – Planning Project Manager

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Leanne Werner and 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

4.1 The Minutes of the meetings held on Monday 11th March 2019 and Monday 8th April 2019 were approved as a correct record.

5. ESTABLISHING SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS 2019/20

The committee agreed to establish 4 scrutiny commissions as follows:

Education and business – Chair Cllr Peter Babudu
Environment – Chair Cllr Leanne Werner
Health and social care – Chair Cllr Victoria Olisa
Housing – Chair Cllr Gavin Edwards

Vice-chairs would be formally appointed at the next meeting but this would not prevent the commissions from starting their work.

6. SOUTH DOCK MARINA FEES

Councillor Nick Johnson explained to the committee why he had requested a scrutiny session on the South Dock Marina fees. The committee heard from representatives of the berth holders association, the cabinet member and the director of leisure.

The committee agreed to recommend to the cabinet member:

- that the council should strengthen its communication with the berth holders by establishing a standing forum to work through all matters relating to the management of the marina, including the equalities assessment of fee increases
- that a clear and transparent formula for fee increases should be drawn up
- that the cabinet member reviews the 2019 fee increases to ensure that the correct inflationary measure has been applied

7. ALLOCATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY FUNDING

Councillor Johnson Situ introduced this item, setting out the history and updating the committee on progress since the call-in. He said that the proposed process for community

investment plans was more transparent and consistent across the borough and would facilitate effective delivery of schemes. He explained that there would be consultation over the summer about the themes and geographic areas. Some members were concerned that the full cabinet report had not been provided to the committee and that this reduced the opportunity for scrutiny. The chair asked that all cabinet members are informed that draft full reports should be sent in future when pre-decision scrutiny is undertaken.

A councillor asked why the consultation was being undertaken over the summer and whether this might undermine its effectiveness. The cabinet member responded that the council had recently published new consultation principles and this would be conducted in line with those and would tie in with the meeting cycles of the new ward forum arrangements. A number of members had detailed questions about the process for drawing up and agreeing the community investment plans, and agreed to write to the cabinet member. The cabinet member emphasised that a set of support materials would be provided when this was discussed at ward forum meetings. A member asked how a decision would be adjudicated if there was a difference of view between ward members and cabinet on priorities. The cabinet member said that the themes and eligibility criteria should prevent this happening. He could not envisage a scenario where a community investment plan that had been developed through the set out process and agreed by the relevant ward forum would not be signed off by cabinet. He saw the cabinet stage as an important checkpoint for a new process. The chair pointed out that there was responsibility on ward councillors to ensure that any local priorities are aligned with the council plan. The point about disagreement between local councillors and cabinet was hypothetical but a mechanism for agreement could be developed should the need arise. A member asked how the community investment plans would work with social regeneration charters, whether the recently agreed delegation to ward councillors of matters including community project banks was undermined by the cabinet role in sign off of community investment plans, and how themes would be set. The cabinet member responded that the council had already published the Canada Water social regeneration charter with most to be ready by the end of the year, aligned with the timing for community investment plans. Three of the themes would be developed by the social regeneration charters and one would be local. A member noted concern about the additional pressure this process may place on ward forums. The cabinet member said a lot of effort was being made to produce clear and accessible guidance materials to promote this funding. A member was concerned about the council's capacity to undertake the level of outreach required to support this process adequately. The cabinet member said that this was being discussed at officer level. The chair encouraged committee members to write to the cabinet member with any further questions, and copy to the committee if they wished.

The committee asked the cabinet member to circulate the full report to them and to ensure that the discussion points were reflected.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

The commission chairs briefly discussed their early thoughts on areas for scrutiny during 2019/20. Work programmes would be developed at the commission meetings.

Meeting ended at 9.50 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: