

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 9 October 2019 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G01A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Kieron Williams

OFFICER SUPPORT: Duncan Whitfield - Strategic Director of Finance and Governance
Shelley Burke – Head of Overview & Scrutiny

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jason Ochere.

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

Minutes of July meeting had been omitted from the agenda pack in error and would therefore need to be carried forward to the committee's next meeting

5. INTERVIEW - CLLR KIERON WILLIAMS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION

Councillor Kieron Williams introduced his portfolio area and answered questions from committee members. The committee discussed:

Freedom passes

The council's new work force strategy and progress on diversity

Customer services – Councillor Williams agreed to check the position on training for agency staff who are brought into the contact centre at peak times, as there was a question about the consistency of response, in particular when residents call to report heating or water outages. He also agreed to circulate the phone number for councillors and TRAs, and encouraged councillors to visit the contact centre.

The sustainability of the council's building estate – Councillor Williams agreed to provide a note on the work in this area – practical actions and training for staff.

Future plans for the out of hours service.

Plans for the Aylesbury housing office.

The resilience of the council website.

Progress on digital channel shift and the IT service more broadly.

6. LOCAL FUNDS

The committee discussed this piece of work, which is focussed on assembling a clear picture of the funding programmes available to local people to bid for. Finance officers had drawn up a spreadsheet as a starting point. Committee members agreed that this was a very useful document and could be developed further. One specific suggestion was to add cabinet members areas of responsibility. Cllrs Humaira Ali and Alice Macdonald agreed to take it away for more work and bring back a proposal.

7. BRIEFING ON POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY 2020-21 TO 2022-23

Duncan Whitfield, Strategic Director of Finance and Governance, attended the committee to brief members on the Policy and Resources Strategy which had recently been presented to cabinet.

8. UPDATES FROM COMMISSION CHAIRS

Commission chairs updated the committee on their work.

Cllr Edwards (Housing) was working on an in depth scrutiny on housing repairs

Cllr Werner (Environment) had held a meeting on air quality and carbon reduction. Her commission would shortly produce a report aiming to influence the carbon strategy.

Cllr Babudu (Education and Business) was working on scrutiny reviews on school exclusions and procurement.

Cllr Olisa (Health and Social Care) was looking at the commitment on young people's mental health, and quality assurance in adult social care. She also reported that she and Councillor Noakes had visited Kings College hospital and met their new Chief Operating Officer to question the state of the trust, their deficit and future plans, also visiting the helipad and its extension plans for South London and globally. She had also attended the Wigan Deal Conference, which outlined how the council had a 30 year strategy to change the relationship with local people, in order to use community organisations to deliver public services, partially based on the Preston model. This was an opportunity to consider whether Southwark could possibly incorporate some of their best practice, e.g. Community and Health Link workers in the delivery of health and social care with the changing face of the NHS. The 6 borough Joint Health Scrutiny committee had sent a strongly worded reservation letter about the inadequate local consultation on plans to merge the 6 into 1 large CCG by April 2020, which has been driven by NHS England.

The committee also discussed how to track reports and recommendations and agreed to schedule a agenda future item on this.

CHAIR:

DATED: