



## **COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SAFETY SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of the COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SAFETY SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE meeting held on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2003 at 7.00pm at Southwark Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

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<b><u>MEMBERS</u></b>	Councillor Barrie Hargrave (Chair)
<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	Councillors John Friary, Linda Manchester and Anne Yates (reserve).
<b><u>OFFICERS:</u></b>	Maggie Sullivan - Corporate Strategy
	Nathalie Hadjifotiou - Head of Social Inclusion
	Richard Abraham - Consultation Unit
	Stephen Gaskell - Corporate Strategy
	Eleanor Rees - Constitutional Support Unit

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Margaret Ambrose, Alfred Banya and Gavin O'Brien.

### **NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT**

There were no urgent items.

### **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no interests and dispensations declared at the meeting.

### **RECORDING OF MEMBERS' VOTES**

Council Procedure Rule 1.17(5) allows a Member to record her/his vote in respect of any motions and amendments. Such requests are detailed in the following Minutes. Should a Member's vote be recorded in respect to an amendment, a copy of the amendment may be found in the Minute File and is available for public inspection.

The Sub-Committee considered the items set out on the agenda, a copy of which has been incorporated in the Minute File. Each of the following paragraphs relates to the item bearing the same number on the agenda.

**18 CO-OPTED MEMBERS AND SCRUTINY – FOLLOW UP** (see agenda pages 359 – 369)

- 18.1 Members considered the report, and it was agreed in principle that the scrutiny process would benefit from wider input drawn from co-opted members and from externalising the scrutiny process. Some concern was expressed that the Community Support and Safety Scrutiny Sub-Committee should actively pursue community engagement, and should consider ways in which community groups could be identified and brought forward to feed into the work of the Scrutiny Sub-Committee.
- 18.2 Members discussed the possible appointment of co-opted members to assist the Sub-Committee with the scrutiny on Domestic Violence to be considered in the new municipal year. It was noted that the Council was currently in dialogue with a national organisation concerned with domestic violence, and the organisation could be approached to give a view to the scrutiny. Officers noted the equalities agenda was being progressed and investigations were being made to set up an external challenge panel concerning domestic violence, which would comprise of 15 groups, and this could be a possible further source for input to the scrutiny.
- 18.3 With further regard to the Work Programme for the next municipal year, it was suggested that the Sub-Committee might wish to group together scrutiny reviews/investigations that come under a particular subject matter, so that the scrutiny work could be considered over 2-3 meeting sessions, and interested/specialist groups be invited to attend meetings and contribute to the scrutiny reviews concerning particular subject areas.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1 That the debate concerning co-opted members and scrutiny be widened to include considering externalising the work of scrutiny, to encourage wider local community input into the work of scrutiny, to obtain outside views and to draw on expertise for specific scrutiny reviews and investigations.
- 2 That Officers be asked to report back to the Sub-Committee in March with a detailed list of groups identified, and with proposed structures for new working arrangements to be drawn up in consultation with the Head of Social Inclusion.
- 3 That future scrutiny reports be circulated widely for consultation and contributions from groups and individuals identified at resolution 2 above.
- 4 With regard to the Change of Work Programme: review of Domestic Violence paper circulated at the meeting, the Sub-Committee agreed that the scrutiny topic on Domestic Violence be postponed until June 2003, to coincide with the results of the Best Value Review of Domestic Violence.

**19 COMMUNITY STRATEGY** (see agenda pages 370 – 371)

- 19.1 The report was presented by Stephen Gaskell, an updated version of the Community Strategy chapter on 'Cutting Crime and the Fear of Crime' detailing what is to be achieved, how it will be done, why it is a priority and what is going

to be done, was circulated at the meeting, along with an updated timetable for the Community Strategy as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
23 January 2003	Revised Community Strategy discussed at Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) meeting
25 February 2003	Community Strategy reported to Executive
26 March 2003	Finalised Community Strategy formally adopted by Council Assembly
Late April/May 2003	Community Strategy published

19.2 It was noted that the Community Strategy was not intended as a management tool, but a communications tool. The Community Strategy had been subject to a consultation process through the SSP, which had multi-agency representation, and the Community Strategy had been debated widely before being agreed as presented to the Sub-Committee.

19.3 Members noted that the SSP had a varied membership, but did not operate widely outside of the SSP membership. Consideration was made of the SSP monitoring role in terms of determining the targets were to be met, but the Scrutiny Sub-Committee could consider, with regard to wider public perceptions, the wider monitoring role of the Community Strategy.

19.4 It was noted that sub-groups had been set up which were dedicated to working on the issues highlighted as the particular headings in the Community Strategy, these sub-groups were reporting to the LSP. The Sub-Committee agreed that it would consider the work programmes of the sub-groups in the next municipal year, for possible areas for scrutiny, and would intend this type of scrutiny work would concentrate on in-depth consideration of performance and outcomes, rather than scrutinising statistical targets.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1 That the Sub-Committee write to the Chair of SSP to ask how the SSP engages in community involvement in line with the Community Strategy.
- 2 That the Sub-Committee consider the particular issues / subject headings detailed in the chapter on the Community Strategy for future scrutiny topics in the new municipal year.
- 3 That the Sub-Committee recommend that the references to “multi-agency” be expanded to provide clarity in the draft chapter of the Community Strategy. It was noted that youth crime and early intervention was mentioned, which implied the root causes to crime, but that the root causes of crime also be more explicitly conveyed in the draft chapter of the Community Strategy.

**21 RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE SUB-COMMITTEE** (see agenda pages 374 – 380)

21.1 The Chair agreed to take this item before item 20 on the agenda.

21.2 Richard Abraham presented the report and the following points were raised by Members:

Emerging Communities

21.3 Officers noted there was a new Race Impact Group being developed, in conjunction with the Council. Members agreed:

- (a) that the Race Equality Impact Assessments be considered as a scrutiny review for the Sub-Committee in new municipal year.
- (b) That consideration of the overview report on Equalities be considered at the February Sub-Committee meeting and this would be followed up when closer consideration on disabilities is made.

Domestic Violence

21.4 Members agreed:

- (a) Not to commission independent research into Domestic Violence at this stage.
- (b) Recommendations from the Sub-Committee be made to the Best Value Review of Domestic Violence whereby scrutiny could feed into the BVR consultation process.
- (c) That the terms of Reference for the Best Value review into Domestic Violence be circulated to the Sub-Committee.
- (d) That the estimated costs for the research and consultation proposals detailed for the domestic violence topic be provided to the Sub-Committee.

CCTV

21.5 Members noted that CCTV could be an issue to be addressed by the new Community Councils, and there was some consideration made of the role of scrutiny and role of community councils generally. It was further noted that an audit of CCTV provision in the borough would be useful. However, in terms of consultation, the information would not be available until after the audit proposal had been carried out by the Head of Performance and Commissioning in Environment and Leisure Department.

Gun Crime

21.6 Members noted that meaningful research on gun crime in the Borough would be very expensive and time-consuming to carry out. Gun crime occurred in extremely hard to reach communities, within a very closed sub-culture, and, beyond providing research and consultation with the victims of gun crime, it was not a realistic option for scrutiny.

Disabilities

21.7 The Head of Social Inclusion noted that a programme was being set up, with external representation, which would be addressing a mystery shopping exercise in terms of how the Council's services were provided to people with disabilities.

- 21.8 Members discussed the issue of none disabled people parking in bays designated for the disabled, and that the Council was in communication with the large shopping stores in the Borough through the Blue Badge Scheme. Members expressed concern that there was a high abuse of the Blue Badge Scheme.

Agreed:

That a briefing be provided at the meeting in February regarding the Council's arrangements for meeting the needs of the disabled and details of the mystery shopping exercise.

**20 PREPARATION FOR THE MEETING WITH THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

- 20.1 Maggie Sullivan gave a presentation on the background and types of issues for the Sub-Committee to formulate their questions to be addressed to the Executive Member.
- 20.2 Members discussed the types of questions they would like to raise with the Executive Member, and the Chair asked Members to e-mail him on [Barrie.Hargrove@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:Barrie.Hargrove@southwark.gov.uk) with any further issues and questions to be raised with the Executive Member.
- 20.3 Members agreed that an extra meeting be arranged in January for Sub-Committee Members to discuss and formulate a list of questions to be made to the Executive Member.

The meeting ended at 10.25 pm

**CHAIR:**

**DATE:**