



ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2004 at 7.00 PM at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT:

Councillor Barrie Hargrove (Chair)
Councillors Alfred Banya and Alison Moise

OFFICERS:

Susan Crisp – Community Safety & Support
Phil Davies – Head of Waste Management
Steve Tennison – Local Strategic Partnership Coordinator
Claire Webb – Corporate Strategy Officer
Peter Roberts – Scrutiny Team

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Gavin O'Brien, Lisa Rajan, William Rowe and Anne Yates.

NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMED URGENT

There were none.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

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 of 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.

MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24 March 2004 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

1. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP/SOUTHWARK ALLIANCE

[see pages 6 – 26]

1.1 The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Coordinator clarified the structure of Southwark Alliance and the roles of the partners within it. He explained that the Alliance was in the process of developing a performance management programme. In response to Members' questions, the LSP Coordinator outlined the commissioning process and monitoring requirements for local projects.

1.2 Members of the Sub-Committee asked how Scrutiny could best be involved in the work of Southwark Alliance. The LSP Coordinator indicated that Scrutiny could influence the development of the Community Strategy and might have a strong role in ensuring that the Council's part of the Strategy was delivered. The Sub-Committee was concerned that Members did not feel adequately represented on the LSP and that there was not an accepted route to exert influence.

RESOLVED: That the Sub-Committee be kept informed of progress in developing a performance management framework, especially for those areas affecting the Council's services and particularly within the Sub-Committee's own terms of reference.

2. REVIEW OF INTEGRATED CLEANSING CONTRACT

2.1 This item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

3. QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT/CORPORATE PLAN [see pages 27 - 31]

3.1 The Corporate Strategy Officer introduced the report

3.2 The Scrutiny Sub-Committee noted that Southwark had now fallen from fifth to fourth (worse) position in its Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Family. While acknowledging that analysis across a number of crime types showed that Southwark's position had been maintained or improved, the Sub-Committee was concerned that violent crime had increased and particularly that knife related crime and rape/sexual assault had increased. Street crimes per 1,000 (LPI2) had also not met the target. The Scrutiny Sub-Committee was particularly concerned that the Executive had made no specific recommendations in these areas in order to remedy the Council's under-performance.

- 3.3 The Community Safety & Support representative reported that the Safer Southwark Partnership was aware of the increase in knife crime and was planning a number of different strands of work in response. She commented that the profile of offenders had changed and needed a different type of campaign. Another problem was in collecting evidence when victims were not necessarily confident in reporting procedures. The Safer Southwark Partnership was working closely with voluntary and community groups in order to develop an effective strategy, including communications.
- 3.4 In response to Members' questions, the Head of Waste Management clarified the Council's performance against recycling targets. Members were concerned that when performance fell short of the target a full explanation should be provided to the Sub-Committee. The Head of Waste Management also explained that a more detailed analysis of cleanliness on housing estates was now undertaken and that the reference in the report to the cleanliness index did not provide a true picture. Members expressed the view that a more detailed commentary should be included in future reports, particularly where reporting measures had changed.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the Executive takes appropriate action to address the failure to achieve targets in respect of reducing crime rates in Southwark, specifically:
 - Violent crime, including knife related crime and rape/sexual assault; and
 - Street crime;
 2. That this is taken account of in consideration of the Council's Corporate Plan (Best Value Performance Plan); and
 3. That in future Officers provide a full explanation when performance falls short of acceptable standards or reporting measures change.

4. WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The Head of Waste Management updated the Sub-Committee on the reports to be presented to the Executive. The contract specification would be drawn up by October and, prior to this, a project governance structure would be developed.

- RESOLVED:** That one of the Sub-Committee's members be involved in any project governance structure.

5. PENALTIES & PROSECUTIONS

- 5.1 The Sub-Committee reviewed the evidence it had received from Officers in previous meetings. Members particularly focused on improving access to food hygiene training for black and ethnic minority businesses, perhaps to involve a greater role for community and voluntary sector groups and local colleges.

- RESOLVED:** That the Sub-Committee receive further reports on:

- Implementation of the Government's Anti-social Behaviour Act;
- How small, and particularly black and ethnic minority, businesses are supported in accessing food hygiene training courses; and
- Possibilities for the introduction of awards to recognise high performing businesses.

6. MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF SOUTHWARK CEMETERIES

6.1 The Sub-Committee agreed to delete this from the work programme.

7. WORK PROGRAMME [see page 1]

7.1 The Sub-Committee noted the work programme. Members expressed the view that the following year's work programme should allow the flexibility to explore unplanned issues as they arose.

8. FORWARD PLAN [see pages 2 - 5]

8.1 The Sub-Committee noted the Forward Plan.

The meeting finished at 10.40 pm.

CHAIR:

DATE: