



MINUTES of the OPEN section of the meeting of the OVERVIEW and SCRUTINY Committee held on MONDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2004 at 7.00 p.m. at SOUTHWARK TOWN HALL, PECKHAM ROAD, LONDON SE5 8UB

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Kim HUMPHREYS (Chair)  
Councillors Linda MANCHESTER, John FRIARY, Barrie HARGROVE, Eliza MANN, Andy SIMMON, Anne YATES

**ALSO PRESENT:** Angela Stanworth - SCCF  
Jet Hull - EDEN  
Adam Glasser - EDEN

**OFFICER** Shelley Burke - Head of Overview & Scrutiny  
**SUPPORT:** Stephanie Dunstan – Scrutiny Team  
Ian Hughes – Corporate Strategy  
Glen Egan – Assistant Borough Solicitor  
Guy Valentine-Neale – Project Manager Housing

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Neil Watson.

**NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMED URGENT**

None.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no disclosures made nor interests declared.

**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 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.

## **VARIATION OF AGENDA ORDER**

With the agreement of the meeting, the order of business was varied to allow a deputation from Eden representatives, followed by Item 6, Item 3, Item 5, Item 7, Item 1 and Item 2. Item 4 fell from the Agenda.

## **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** Officers supplied additional information regarding the Minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> January 2004 that was relayed to the Committee. It was agreed that the Minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2004, including this additional information, be agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

Cllr Humphreys opened the meeting at 7.10pm.

## **DEPUTATION: EDEN**

The Chair [Cllr Humphreys] introduced the item and invited Ms Jet Hull and Mr Adam Glasser to present to the Committee.

Mr. Glasser thanked the Committee and explained what had occurred since September 2003 when EDEN made a deputation to OSC, and the Executive had agreed to conduct extensive consultation on the proposal for Waverley Girls School to split campus space and encourage mixed sex education.

Mr Glasser explained that consultation had been occurring since September 03, involving parents of children attending Waverley Girls School, students at Waverley Girls School and potential students who may attend the new co-ed School. Mr. Glasser was thankful for the support of OSC and requested that OSC continue to support EDEN in their bid to have the new school opened by 2006. He commented that the consultation was due to finish by end of February 03 with an Executive decision by the end of March 03.

The main issues that had arisen during the consultation was that parents wanted a commitment for the new school to open by 2006 which probably required it to be declared an 'academy', as this was the quickest route to legally establishing the school. The original concerns by Waverley Girls School not to have boys attending the school had been alleviated with Waverley Girls School agreeing to split campus and have separate campuses for girls and boys. Mr Glasser commented that Waverley Girls School were not opposed to being classified an 'academy school' as they recognized that this quickest way to attract funding.

The Chair opened up the discussion to questions from the Committee.

Cllr Hargrove questioned the assumption that classification of an 'academy' school was the best way to attract funding and open the school on the target date.

Mr Glasser commented that this was the legal advice EDEN had received. He said that this still left two issues unresolved; will Waverley Girls school campus become an 'academy', or would just the new boys campus become an 'academy'.

There was a general discussion about the complications of having two separately classified schools. Cllr Simmons commented that legally both schools would have to be declared an 'academy school'. Mr Glasson reiterated that Waverley Girls School were not in principle opposed to being classified an 'academy school'.

Cllr Simmons asked what would need to be done to encourage local parents to send their daughters to Waverley Girls School?

Mr. Glasser replied that Waverley Girls School is becoming more proactive in its approach to attracting new students, encouraging links with local primary schools, having open days and demonstrating their excellent facilities. He also commented that the Head Teacher is successfully encouraging community interest in the school. However, he felt that often parents were making a decision as to where to send their daughters to secondary school based on a 'gut instinct' and did not have sufficient information available. EDEN had suggested that focus groups are developed as to why parents were hesitant in sending their daughters to Waverley Girls School and hoped that OSC would support EDEN in encouraging a change of opinion.

The Chair commented that OSC could not formally support EDEN until the consultation had finished. The Chair thanked EDEN for their deputation.

**RESOLVED:** That OSC receive the consultation report when finalized regarding the redevelopment of Waverley Girls School.

6. **SCRUTINY: CANADA ESTATE- REPORT FROM HOUSING SCRUTINY SUB - COMMITTEE**

Cllr Hargrove declared an interest in the Item and left the room.

The Chair invited Officer Guy Valentine- Neal to introduce the item.

Mr Valentine – Neal reported that since the OSC scrutiny of the matter Housing Officers had met with Canada Estate Residents and resolved issues of compensation, a complete list of snagging works as well as capturing the lessons learnt. The snagging list had been agreed and finalised with Mr. Duckett.

There was a general discussion regarding the report from Housing Scrutiny Sub – Committee, with members concerned that not all the background documentation had been submitted.

**RESOLVED:** That OSC thanks Housing Scrutiny Sub–Committee and requests that the documents that informed the report be forwarded to OSC at the next OSC meeting.

3. **MODERNISING DAY CARE REVIEW PROCESS – COMMENTS FROM HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY SUB - COMMITTEE**

The Chair opened the item and invited Cllr Mann to introduce the item.

Cllr Mann explained the detailed work the Sub–Committee had completed during the scrutiny and went through the recommendations contained within the final report, a copy of which is on file.

Ms. Stanworth SCFF provided commentary on the Modernising Day Care Review process. She commented that the review had been a very long process and only Phase 1: Age Concern was completed. She stated that Phases 2, 3 & 4 have only recently started which is concerning as funding couldn't be allocated without this assessment data. Ms Stanworth explained that a considerable number of older people had opted out of being assessed due to fears regarding the assessment process, with the risk that these people will lose services.

The Chair asked Cllr Mann if the Executive Member had given evidence during the scrutiny process, particularly about the Aylesbury Centre.

Cllr Mann replied that the Executive Member had not given evidence during the scrutiny but that Officers had given assurance that Aylesbury Centre would not be closed, but options for its use were being explored.

Cllr Friary expressed his concern that the Aylesbury Centre would be closed, with a loss of service to disabled residents. He also expressed his concern that given the review process was supposed to finish in September 03; it is occurring too late in the budgetary process.

Ms. Stansworth commented that Aylesbury Centre staff was lacking in morale about the Centre and that the building needed upgrading, but there were conservation issues at hand.

- RESOLVED:**
1. Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorses the recommendations of Health & Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee as set out in Item 4 in the Report.
  2. In addition, Overview & Scrutiny Committee:
    - asks the Executive for an urgent analysis of the budgetary implications of the current situation in respect of this review – this should be made available for OSC's budget meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2004; and
    - and places on record its concern over the considerable delay in starting the eligibility assessment process.

At 20:15 it was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** That the meeting adjourn for fifteen minutes.

At 20:30 the meeting reconvened.

5. **SCRUTINY: PREVENTION OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY – REPORT FROM HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Chair invited Cllr Mann to introduce the item.

Cllr Mann explained the work of the Sub – Committee in researching the issues of Teenage Pregnancy in Southwark which included a site visit to Waverley Girls School & Brook Advisory Centre.

Cllr Simmons asked Cllr Mann why teenage pregnancy was on the increase in Southwark, when in other boroughs it was decreasing ?

Cllr Mann answered that there is no one answer to this problem and that the scrutiny report refers to research that suggests it is a combination of factors that lead to increases in teenage pregnancy, such as poverty, educational levels and role models.

Cllr Simmons commented that the initial Southwark Teenage Pregnancy Strategy was not successful in reducing teenage pregnancy and that it is important that scrutiny recommendations make a difference.

Cllr Hargrove asked if the effectiveness of the Brook Advisory Centre had been examined and asked for an explanation of recommendation 7.9.2.

Cllr Mann explained that Recommendation 7.9.2 is to ensure that resources are targeted to the areas that have the highest teenage pregnancy problems and envisioned this occurring through a strengthened role of Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator is strengthened.

Ms Stanworth commented that her organisation was arranging for research to be conducted which looked into the cutting edge ways to reduce teenage pregnancy and that she would be happy to bring this research to the attention of OSC when completed in approximately 1 years time.

Cllr Friary commented that it would be important to try and learn from other borough councils that have been successful in reducing their teenage pregnancy role.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That OSC endorses the recommendations contained in the report by the Health & Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee examining Teenage Pregnancy.
  2. That the Executive Member is asked to develop a series of 'smart' objectives to reduce Teenage Pregnancy.

7. **SCRUTINY: THAMES WATER**

The Chair introduced the Item.

Scrutiny Manager [Shelley Burke] read out to the Committee some additional information in the form of an email from Allen McPherson regarding his involvement with Water Voice and Thames Water.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That OSC endorse the report into Thames Water based on Officers Notes as final.
  2. That the Report be forwarded to the Executive and Thames Water.
  3. That the Report be given wide circulation to other local authorities and media promotion

**2. SCRUTINY: PREPARING FOR EXECUTIVE MEMBER INTERVIEW**

The Chair introduced the Item and invited suggestions from the Committee as to what subjects they wanted to use as a base for interviewing Cllr Gurling.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That OSC develops questions for the Executive Member Interview of Cllr Gurling on the following topics:
    - a. Risk Assessment of Corporate Call Centre
    - b. Communications
    - c. Cash Offices
    - d. Face to Face Services
    - e. IT NET Performance
  2. That Scrutiny Officers email the above topics to Committee Members to begin to develop questions.

**1. SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORTS**

The Chair opened the item and asked each Sub Committee Chair to present their reports.

Each Sub – Committee Chair present went through their report as outlined in the Agenda Papers. Cllr Yates presented on behalf of Cllr O'Brien.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That OSC notes the progress of scrutiny Sub-Committees.
  2. That OSC requests that the progress report from Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Sub Committee to be considered at the next OSC meeting.

The Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**