

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday 9 November 2020

6.30 pm

Online/Virtual. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting. Please contact FitzroyAntonio.williams@southwark.gov.uk for a link to the online meeting

Supplemental Agenda No.1

List of Contents

Item No.	Title	Page No.
4.	Minutes To approve as correct records the Minutes of the meetings held on 7 and 12 May, 2 June, 22 July and 15 October 2020.	1 - 20

Contact

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Date: 2 November 2020



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 7 May 2020 at 5.00 pm (Virtual Meeting).

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Wingfield (Chair)
 Councillor Jane Salmon (Vice-Chair)
 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 Leanne Werner

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Peter John
 Councillor Rebecca Lury
 Councillor Evelyn Akoto
 Councillor Jasmine Ali
 Councillor Stephanie Cryan
 Councillor Richard Livingstone
 Councillor Victoria Mills
 Councillor Leo Pollak
 Councillor Johnson Situ
 Councillor Kieron Williams

OFFICER SUPPORT: Norman Coombe, Head of Corporate Team, Legal Services
 Everton Roberts, Head of Overview and Scrutiny (Acting)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Eleanor Kelly, Chief Executive and apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Peter John.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

The chair agreed to accept the following late item:

Item 4 – Council Response to Covid 19 Pandemic.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. COUNCIL RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Caroline Bruce, Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure introduced the report. The strategic director highlighted the impact the Covid-19 pandemic was having on Southwark residents, the disproportionate health impact on BAME communities, and the significant ongoing and long term economic impact - there had been a great increase in people seeking financial support.

The strategic director reported on the council's response to the pandemic through its Borough Emergency Control Centre, with Gold and Silver arrangements put in place fairly quickly to manage and co-ordinate the emergency response.

Throughout the pandemic the council had maintained core levels of service with more than 80% of staff being available at all times. There had been challenges and complexities but the council had been in a very good position throughout.

The committee also heard from David Quirke-Thornton, Strategic Director of Children's and Adults Services, who highlighted the work being undertaken between departments to support victims of domestic violence, and the service of the community hubs. Over 20 staff had been redeployed to support activity across the council. There had also been partnership working with the NHS and other partners.

The committee also heard from Michael Scorer, Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation who updated the meeting on the work of the seven core community hubs which, amongst other things were providing hot meals for the homeless and vulnerable, and communicating and listening to people who felt isolated. The committee also received information on the response to homelessness, helping homeless people off the street and working with people who have no recourse to public funds who were waiting for their status to be settled.

The committee then heard from Duncan Whitfield, Strategic Director of Finance and Governance who reported on the financial situation and the changing position on government funding.

The committee also heard from cabinet members, Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities and Jin Lim, Consultant in Public Health.

Following questions and discussion the committee deferred consideration of recommendations to cabinet, to the overview and scrutiny committee meeting scheduled for 12 May 2020.

The meeting ended at 8.48pm

CHAIR:

DATED:



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 12 May 2020 at 5.00 pm (Virtual/Online Meeting).

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Wingfield (Chair)
 Councillor Jane Salmon (Vice-Chair)
 Councillor Humaira Ali
 Councillor Anood Al-Samerai (Reserve)
 Councillor Peter Babudu
 Councillor Helen Dennis
 Councillor Gavin Edwards
 Councillor Alice Macdonald
 Councillor Jason Ochere
 Councillor Victoria Olisa
 Councillor Leanne Werner

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Richard Livingstone
 Councillor Rebecca Lury

OFFICER SUPPORT: Norman Coombe, Head of Corporate Team, Legal Services
 Everton Roberts, Head of Overview and Scrutiny (Acting)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Victor Chamberlain.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

The chair agreed to accept the following late items:

Item 5 – Scrutiny Call-in: Contract Award – generalist community legal advice services 2020-2025

Item 6 – Scrutiny call-in: Delivering a Climate Strategy for Southwark

Item 9 – #Southwark Together: Council Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Victoria Olisa declared an interest in item 5, 'Gateway 2 Contract Award – generalist community legal advice services 2020-2025' as she was a trustee of the Southwark Law Centre. Councillor Olisa indicated that she would not take part in the discussion on the item.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 11 November 2019, 27 January 2020 and 29 January 2020 be approved as correct records and signed by the Chair.

5. SCRUTINY CALL-IN: CONTRACT AWARD - GENERALIST COMMUNITY LEGAL ADVICE SERVICES 2020-2025

Councillor Jane Salmon, introduced the reasons for call-in.

The committee heard from Councillor Rebecca Lury, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Equalities and Communities and Jessica Leech, Community Engagement Manager.

The committee also heard from Tim Clark, Citizens Advice Southwark and Sally Causer, Southwark Law Centre.

The committee discussed the merits of the call-in and agreed the following:

RESOLVED:

1. That having considered the decision and all relevant advice, that the matter not be referred back to the cabinet member for consideration.
2. That the following recommendations be referred to the deputy leader and cabinet member for culture, leisure, equalities and communities for consideration:
 - That a review of the budget process be undertaken with providers and draw out any lessons to be learnt for future processes.
 - That the council and service providers work together on a longer term approach to deal with the long term implications relating to Covid-19.
 - That the impact of the budget reductions on the service be monitored.
 - That the council review very seriously the capacity of advice services to continue to respond to increased demand for advice services in light of Covid-19.

6. SCRUTINY CALL-IN: DELIVERING A CLIMATE STRATEGY FOR SOUTHWARK

Councillor Humaira Ali introduced the call-in.

The committee heard from Councillor Richard Livingstone, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and the Climate Emergency and Chris Page, Climate Change Director.

The committee discussed the merits of the call-in and agreed the following:

RESOLVED:

1. That having considered the decision and all relevant advice, that the matter not be referred back to cabinet for consideration.
2. That the cabinet member for environment, transport and the climate emergency is requested to:
 - Produce a document for submission to the 2 June OSC meeting outlining additional consultation that can be carried out between now and July 2020.
 - Produce a clear timetable within the next 10 working days of when the cross party working group will be established.
 - Ensure engagement and consultation with young people through the next two months ie through the setting up of a youth council to engage with young people.
 - That as part of the consultation, a concerted effort be made to reach the BAME community, young and older people as sometimes with environmental issues they tend to be left out of the process and classed as hard to reach.

7. SCRUTINY COMMISSION CHAIR UPDATES

The committee received updates from the scrutiny commission chairs.

RESOLVED:

That the latest developments in respect of the work of the scrutiny commissions for the 2019/20 year as set out in the scrutiny commission chair updates be noted.

8. WORK PROGRAMME 2019-20

The chair requested that committee members give some consideration of scrutiny topic areas that Overview and Scrutiny Committee might want to consider over the next 12 months.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme as at 12 May 2020 be noted.

9. #SOUTHWARKTOGETHER: COUNCIL RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Having heard from cabinet members and chief officers at the last meeting, the committee discussed the issues raised and agreed recommendations as detailed below:

RESOLVED:

That cabinet consider the following recommendations from overview and scrutiny committee in respect of the council response to Covid-19 Pandemic:

Overall response and process

1. That the decisions of cabinet in respect of the council response to Covid-19 pandemic be note and supported.
2. That the council provide overall coordination to ensure that aid duplication is avoided between the NHS, Southwark Council Community Hub operations, charities, religious institutions and mutual aid groups as well as formally recognising the role of the thousands of volunteers supporting the effort in these unprecedented times. Until now there is no one visibly taking the lead across all bodies. Many charities, religious groups and residents are still looking to the Council to be that body.
3. That the council ensure that it is using all resources available to best use during a crisis or in the event that business continuity procedures are invoked. Councillors hold a great deal of knowledge about their wards and the council must ensure this is leveraged to avoid duplication of knowledge. The role of councillor must be clearly defined as part of the Council Business Continuity Plans.
4. That as part of new councillor induction, all Councillors should receive a briefing on the Council's Business Continuity plan and training on the role of Councillors during an event which invokes the Business Continuity response, especially a crisis.
5. That a cross party working group be established as soon as possible to help plan for the borough post the lifting of the Covid-19 lockdown.

Adult Social Care

6. That cabinet ensure that it is clearly outlined over the coming two months what the transition plan is around mutual aid groups providing adult care services. This is to give assurance that there is a smooth process in place for the council to find out which adult services of care mutual aids are carrying out and how the council plans to take this on when volunteers return to work/no longer have the capacity to provide the same level of care.
7. That cabinet take proactive steps to co-ordinate weekly testing of all care staff and residents in Southwark care homes as a matter of urgency, in order to ascertain the level of Covid-19 infection.
8. That cabinet liaise with each Southwark care home provider to ensure that the relevant PPE and levels of PPE are being used in each local care home, to protect care staff as much as possible.

9. That cabinet monitor the pay of care staff at this time, to ensure that none of these low paid workers are being disadvantaged at this time, especially if they have to self-isolate themselves or shield themselves due to their medical conditions, as there is some evidence in the care industry, that some care workers are receiving less than their usual OSP during this crisis.
10. That cabinet remind all care providers to adhere to the key principles of the Ethical Care Charter that exists across the borough, especially at this difficult time.
11. That in respect of some key figures which will ultimately need to be acted upon, cabinet be recommended to:
 - Establish the number of vulnerable and shielded individuals that the council has not been able to make contact with via any of its departments [and adapt the council's outreach strategy to get this figure to as near to zero as practical].

Education

12. That in respect of some key figures which will ultimately need to be acted upon, cabinet be recommended to:
 - Confirm the Council's own estimates of the number of vulnerable children not physically attending schools that need assistance (e.g. equipment, internet) to effectively access education
13. That once the Government has allowed schools to reopen under safe circumstances, the council look at what support it can offer in terms of afterschool, weekend and holiday clubs to assist children to catch up on missed schooling. This support could be funding for schools, providing space in council buildings or helping to coordinate DBS checked volunteers to offer appropriate provision

Children's Services

14. That the council monitor the number of nurseries and daycare centres for liquidity, capacity and ability to function post lock down. If there is a shortfall the council should rapidly agree a plan and put the appropriate provisions in place. Additionally, it should monitor the demand for number of paid 2, 3 and 4 year old places and see if additional provision is required/can be supported.
15. That cabinet consider what the council might be able to do to mitigate any negative impact of COVID 19 on childcare provision.

Local Economy / Businesses

16. That the council examine how it can review its procurement procedures to promote and prioritise local businesses (particularly SMEs) for example using local contractors to bring empty homes back into use.

Public Health

17. That the cabinet ensure the continued prioritisation of mental health & wellbeing and

partnership working with the NHS and SLAM.

18. Overview and scrutiny committee welcomes the measures put in place to support social distancing through maximising pedestrian space and calls on cabinet to continue identifying measures that can be taken to make streets safer for keyworkers, essential journeys and physical exercise during lockdown and in the longer term to support increased cycling and walking.
19. That the Southwark Climate Strategy team actively consider how to embrace the environmental opportunities the lockdown has provided before people return to the way things were.
20. That the Council (with Transport for London) take steps to prioritise pedestrians, runners and cyclists to keep two metres apart on most roads. This is an opportunity to trial the priority of these groups on roads, by, for example, ensuring non-major roads are prioritised for pedestrians (and cyclists) and introducing temporary traffic calming/access measures on residential streets. Ward councillors should be consulted on how to do this sympathetically. We also support the recommendations from Southwark Cyclists in response to COVID-19.

Financial hardship and council tax reduction claimants

21. That the cabinet investigate extending the council tax reduction scheme of 100% of council tax to all *low income households (*as currently defined by the council) during the financial year 2020/21.
22. That cabinet investigate offering all Southwark council tenants who request it, a 'holiday' from paying rent in the current financial year with the arrears incurred to be paid off slowly over a mutually agreed time frame (e.g. 2-3 years). This payment holiday would exclude any part of the rent which is paid for by Housing Benefit or Universal Credit.
23. That the council write to housing associations and registered social landlords (including the Corporation of London) in Southwark to request a similar payment holiday and repayment plan to be offered to tenants in housing association properties.
24. That the council bolster the support available from the council for tenants who are renting privately, and should publicly call on private landlords to offer their tenants payment holidays similar to the schemes outlined above.
25. That the council write to all residents to inform them of these new arrangements and any other financial support which is available to support them in this difficult time. The Council should ensure this information is localised (where appropriate) and produced in a range of accessible formats and languages.

Homelessness

26. That cabinet provide an update to overview and scrutiny committee as soon as information is received from the government on what the council plans are regarding homeless people that have no recourse to public funds.

Housing

27. That the council commit to ensuring that all those being temporarily housed during the pandemic are not forced to return to the streets after the pandemic. We believe this could provide an opportunity to explore a rapid expansion of the 'Housing First' policy.

Community Safety

28. That it be noted that there was a promise to provide more information to overview and scrutiny committee on the outcome of domestic abuse cases for example whether perpetrators have left or whether the survivors have had to move.

Information Technology / Organisation Transformation

29. That a report is presented to the September Cabinet meeting outlining the resulting benefits from remote and flexible working during the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in utilising technological innovation and reviewing the use and potential savings from the Council's office estate.

Recovery and renewal

30. That a report be presented to the July Cabinet meeting outlining the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Council Plan 2018-22 in terms of changed targets and timescales, and specifically any changes relating to the Council's Emergency Plan.

Community impact

31. Overview and scrutiny committee welcomes the establishment of a review by Public Health England into disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19 on BAME groups and calls on cabinet to assess how to carry out the council's own review in Southwark of the impact of both Covid-19 and the council's response on people from black and minority ethnic groups.
32. That overview and scrutiny committee calls on cabinet to investigate how the council can collect borough-level disaggregated data on the impact of Covid on different groups including women, children, the elderly and people from minority ethnic groups.
33. That cabinet assess whether Council communications are adequately reaching all residents, for example those for whom English is a second language.
34. That in respect of cabinet decision 11 of the report in respect of the council continuing to work with voluntary and community sector partners to explore ways in which to take forward the work that has been delivered in partnership during this crisis. Cabinet is requested to bring forward initial recommendations to cabinet by September.

The meeting ended at 8.54pm

CHAIR:

DATED:



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 2 June 2020 at 6.00 pm (Online / Virtual meeting).

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

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Evelyn Akoto
 Councillor James Coldwell
 Councillor Eleanor Kerlake

OFFICER SUPPORT: Norman Coombe, Head of Corporate Team, Legal Services
 Everton Roberts, Head of Overview and Scrutiny (Acting)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Peter Babudu and Martin Brecknell, Co-opted Member. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Humaira Ali.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

The chair gave notice of the late items contained on supplemental agenda No. 1 in respect of:

Item 5 – Delivering a Climate Strategy for Southwark – Additional Consultation Information

Item 7 – Amendment to Terms of Reference of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Reconfiguration of Lambeth Hospital Mental Health In-Patient Services

Item 8 – Work Programme 2020/21

The chair also reported that additional correspondence had been circulated in respect of Item 6 – Cabinet response to Recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Brandon Estate.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. MINUTES

It was report that the minutes of the meetings held on 7 and 12 May 2020 were still in draft form and not able to submitted for approval.

The chair informed the meeting that the key action points arising from those meetings had been actioned and the relevant decision makers informed of the overview and scrutiny committee recommendations.

5. DELIVERING A CLIMATE STRATEGY FOR SOUTHWARK - ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION INFORMATION

RESOLVED:

That the additional consultation information – Letter from Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and the Climate Emergency be noted.

6. CABINET RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON THE BRANDON ESTATE

Following the publication of the agenda item, a number of communications had been circulated by ward councillors in respect of some recent events at Brandon Estate and also from Mr Tom Lloyd of the Brandon Estate in connection with the Jack Hobbs Club, situated on the Estate. The cabinet member for community safety and public health had also circulated updated information in respect of the cabinet response to the recommendations of the overview and scrutiny committee.

The committee received an update from Councillor Evelyn Akoto, cabinet member for community safety and public health in connection with the overview and scrutiny committee recommendations.

The committee also heard from local ward councillors Alice Macdonald, Eleanor Kerslake and James Coldwell in respect of the Jack Hobbs Club, engaging the community, activities for young people, heating and hot water, and the system put in place for the managing of particular issues on the Brandon Three and the noticeable improvements. The local ward councillors highlighted the issues contained in their letter circulated to members of overview and scrutiny committee.

The committee also heard from Mr Tom Lloyd, Chair of the Brandon One TRA, in respect of the Jack Hobbs Club, lack of space and resources for the TRA to operate, and youth provision. The committee also heard from local residents Patrick Goodwin on the importance of having the Jack Hobbs hall fixed to enable activities for the whole community post lockdown, Babs Chalho, former treasurer of Brandon TRA in respect of representation on the TRA and relationship with the Council and June Lewis, Chair of Brandon Two TRA in respect of heating and hot water outages and leaseholder service charges, Ola Olungan regarding communication with parents around youth activities, and Siobhan Convery who spoke in support of the work of the Brandon One chair and the need for the hall to be up and running to enable events to be put on for the community.

Members of overview and scrutiny committee asked questions of the residents and cabinet member for community safety and public health.

Noting that overview and scrutiny committee was not the decision maker in respect of the issues raised, the chair summarised the discussion and highlighted the following:

- The need for a physical or virtual meeting between residents, officers and local ward councillors.
- The heating and hot water issue to be picked up by the housing scrutiny commission.
- The general issues raised could be picked up by local ward councillors.
- In respect of Jack Hobbs, imperative that core group is formed and that communications are up and running as quickly as possible.
- The need for the best use of the Jack Hobbs centre, residents feel that they are being listened to and engaged.
- The overall lead officer and member had been identified as Stephen Gaskell and the lead member Councillor Evelyn Akoto.

RESOLVED:

1. That the cabinet response to recommendations of the overview and scrutiny committee, including the update provided by the cabinet member for community safety and public health be noted.
2. That residents be invited to the Housing Scrutiny Commission to discuss the issues related to heating and hot water outages.

7. AMENDMENT TO TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - RECONFIGURATION OF LAMBETH HOSPITAL MENTAL HEALTH IN-PATIENT SERVICES

Councillor Victoria Olisa, Chair of the Health and Social Care scrutiny commission introduced the report.

RESOLVED:

That the terms of reference of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Reconfiguration of Lambeth Hospital Mental Health In-patient Services) as set out at Appendix 1 be amended for the reasons detailed in paragraphs 4 to 13 of the report.

8. WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

The committee discussed the work programme.

- It was noted that the LGBT consultation would be coming to the July meeting.
- Local Funds to be rolled forward to next years work programme.
- The chair stressed that the new municipal year would only be approximately 6 months, September 2020 to March 21 and that some of this time would be taken up by the budget. The chair also stressed the need for the current years scrutiny reviews to completed in time for the annual report to council on the work of OSC and the scrutiny commissions.
- Additional OSC meeting to be arranged for September/October.
- In terms of Covid-19 it was agreed that OSC wait to see what Cabinet decide at their June meeting before shaping work programme around Covid-19.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme as at 2 June 2020 be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.54 pm

CHAIR:

DATED:



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 22 July 2020 at 6.00 pm. (Online/Virtual meeting).

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Wingfield (Chair)
 Councillor Jane Salmon (Vice-Chair)
 Councillor Humaira Ali
 Councillor Peter Babudu
 Councillor Victor Chamberlain
 Councillor Helen Dennis
 Councillor Gavin Edwards
 Councillor Sunny Lambe
 Councillor Jason Ochere
 Councillor Victoria Olisa
 Councillor Leanne Werner
 Martin Brecknell (Co-optee)

OTHER MEMBERS

PRESENT: Councillor Evelyn Akoto
 Councillor Rebecca Lury

OFFICER SUPPORT: Norman Coombe, Head of Corporate Team, Legal Services
 Everton Roberts, Head of Overview and Scrutiny (Acting)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alice Macdonald.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were no late items of business.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Victor Chamberlain declared an interest in item 5 'Strong in Southwark (Southwark LGBTQ+ Community Consultation 2018-19)' as he was LGBTQ.

4. MINUTES

It was reported that the minutes would be submitted to the next meeting for approval.

5. STRONG IN SOUTHWARK (SOUTHWARK LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY CONSULTATION 2018-19)

The overview and scrutiny committee received a presentation (available on the meeting agenda page) from Nathan Lewis, Chair of the Southwark LGBT Network and Catherine Negus Healthwatch Southwark Manager on the needs and experience of the Southwark LGBT communities and on the report Southwark LGBTQ+ Community Consultation 2018/19 circulated in the agenda.

Areas highlighted from the report were:

- LGBT concerns around inclusivity of the health service
- Lack of awareness of LGBT specific health care services in the borough
- Higher mental health need – loneliness and isolation playing a big part
- Steep rise in Chem sex
- Need for Trans specific support

The committee also heard from the deputy leader and cabinet member for culture, leisure, equalities and communities.

Following questions and discussion, the overview and scrutiny committee agreed to refer the matter onto the deputy leader and cabinet member for culture, leisure, equalities and communities to take forward the report recommendations through the appropriate decision making processes and also to refer on the recommendations relating to partner organisations for consideration.

Given the time that had passed since the consultation and the report being written, the chair invited both the Chair of the LGBT Network and Healthwatch manager to submit any additional comments / recommendations that were not included in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the deputy leader and cabinet member for culture, leisure, equalities and communities be recommended to take forward the report recommendations through the appropriate decision making processes and also to refer on the recommendations relating to partner organisations for consideration.

6. INTERVIEW WITH THE POLICE BOROUGH COMMANDER, COLIN WINGROVE

The overview and scrutiny committee heard from Police Borough Commander Colin Wingrove.

Police Borough Commander Wingrove provided the committee with some information as to his background and informed the committee of his priorities and areas of focus. Areas highlighted were as follows:

- London's and the national response to Covid-19
- Future Impact on communities experiencing high degree of trauma, economic and educational difficulties – police response in terms of empathy and support
- Bearing down on violent crime / public space violence
- Domestic abuse and violence against women and girls
- Reviewing hate crime approach
- Burglary – historically high levels of domestic burglary
- Community engagement
- Recruitment – increasing opportunities as an employer (recruiting more from BAME communities)
- Serious youth violence and youth crime – looking at interventions that aren't police enforcement interventions
- Community harm and exploitation – identifying individuals concerned.

Following the presentation, Commander Wingrove answered questions from members of the committee.

The committee also heard from Councillor Evelyn Akoto, cabinet member for community safety and public health.

7. LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT - POST COVID - REVIEW AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS [REFERRAL FROM CABINET]

The committee heard from Councillor Rebecca Lury, deputy leader and cabinet member for culture, leisure, equalities and communities and Rebecca Towers, Director of Leisure. The committee also heard from David Bibby and Mark Basker, representatives of Everyone Active, Sue Harding, service user of a number of leisure centres and Paul Stokes, Head of Programmes, Public Health.

Following the introduction of the report, members asked questions of the cabinet member, Director of Leisure and representatives of Everyone Active. Questions were asked around the following:

- Performance of contract pre-covid - Better understanding of why some of the council objectives were not being met.
- Granting of money during period closed in the context of not meeting all council objectives and dividends being taken from company.
- Conditions put around the funds allocated to SLM?
- Assurances sought around ensuring that the council is getting what it is paying for and that money is being spent as it should be. Also that not going to get drop off in performance if contract is going to come to an end.
- Castleview Events Limited and their consideration and contributions to SLM in light of their significant turnover. Why council contribution only option?

It was clarified at the meeting by David Bibby that Martin Bell received £2m dividends from Castleview (not £15.5m). David also reported that Mr Bell would not draw any further dividends until such time as things were back on track.

- Discussions being held with London Councils, other local authorities and government around keeping leisure centres open.
- Provision for some form of clawback mechanism if it transpires that further dividends have been paid within the next financial year.
- Questions around users of the service, including particular target groups, such as people from low income families and people with ill health.
- Information requested in respect of year on year contract performance targets and outcomes for each specific area to enable comparison about how the contract has been delivered from 2016 up to March 2020 (start of lockdown).
- Question around leisure service contract being delivered jointly with other local authorities via charitable trusts or other cooperative models.

It was agreed that consideration be given as to whether this issue come back to overview and scrutiny committee or whether answers to questions outside of the meeting would be sufficient.

8. WORK PROGRAMME 2020-21

RESOLVED:

1. That the work programme as at 22 July 2020 be noted.
2. That the following work programme items be agreed for the remainder of the year:
 - Post Covid-19 review (across Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission),
 - Continuing the work on climate/pollution and transport (Environment Scrutiny Commission)
 - Health inequalities (Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission)
 - opportunities for young people (Education and Business Scrutiny Commission)
 - Harnessing community liaison/mutual-aid groups (Housing Scrutiny Commission)
 - regeneration/planning strategy (Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

9. HEALTHWATCH SOUTHWARK ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

10. CABINET RESPONSE TO OSC RECOMMENDATIONS ON COVID 19

RESOLVED:

That the response to the overview and scrutiny committee recommendations be noted.

11. CABINET RESPONSE TO OSC RECOMMENDATIONS ON BUDGET SETTING

RESOLVED:

That the response to the overview and scrutiny committee recommendations be noted.

The meeting ended at 9.44pm

CHAIR:

DATED:

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MUNICIPAL YEAR 20-21

AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)

NOTE: Original held by Scrutiny Team; all amendments/queries to Everton Roberts Tel: 020 7525 7221

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Councillor Humaira Ali			
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Councillor Jack Buck			
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Councillor Michael Situ			
Councillor Cleo Soanes			
		Dated: September 2020	