



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 24 May 2010 at 7.00 pm at Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Lisa Rajan (Chair)
Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Neil Coyle
Councillor Toby Eckersley
Councillor Gavin Edwards
Councillor Mark Glover
Councillor Renata Hamvas
Councillor David Hubber
Councillor Tim McNally
Councillor Paul Noblet
Councillor the Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Michael Bukola

OFFICER SUPPORT: Shelley Burke, Head of Overview & Scrutiny
Doreen Forrester-Brown, Legal Services
Peter Roberts, Scrutiny Project Manager

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 There were no apologies for absence.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2010 be agreed as a correct and accurate record.

5. SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS 2010/2011

- 5.1 Members of the committee considered and were in agreement over the size, composition and terms of reference of the five scrutiny sub-committees for the upcoming municipal year.
- 5.2 In discussing nominations of chairs and vice-chairs to each of the sub-committees, the chair and other members were concerned at the majority group's nomination of the chair of the housing and community safety scrutiny sub-committee. The chair and other members were of the view that it was important that this position should not be held by a majority group nominee, especially when other nominations had been put forward. The vice-chair and other majority group members of the committee noted the concerns being raised but stressed that their scrutiny members would not be influenced by cabinet members.

RESOLVED:

1. That the following five scrutiny sub-committees be constituted for the municipal year 2010/2011, each composed of four labour members and three liberal democrat members:

Education & children's services

Environment, transport, communities & citizenship

Health & adult social care

Housing & community safety (with responsibility for crime and disorder within the meaning of section 19 of the police and justice act 2006)

Regeneration & leisure

2. That chairs and vice-chairs be appointed as follows:

Education & children's services

Chair: Councillor David Hubber

Vice-Chair: Councillor The Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole

Environment, transport, communities & citizenship

Chair: Councillor Tim McNally

Vice-Chair: Councillor Renata Hamvas

Health & adult social care

Chair: Councillor Neil Coyle

Housing & community safety

Chair: Councillor Gavin Edwards

Regeneration & leisure

Chair: Councillor Mark Glover

3. That appointment of the vice-chairs of the health & adult social care, housing and community safety and regeneration & leisure scrutiny sub-committees be delegated to the first meetings of those sub-committees.

6. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10

- 6.1 The vice-chair proposed three possible topics for scrutiny review – the election and counts, primary school places allocation and the overspend on the Canada Water library. The committee agreed that the second and third topics be included in the list of possible topics to be put to each of the sub-committees when considering their work programmes for the year ahead.
- 6.2 Members of the committee felt that it would be important to look into whether the counts for the general and council elections were organised effectively and to establish the impact of any queues at polling booths. The committee asked the head of overview and scrutiny to investigate whether any other London boroughs were considering a scrutiny of their election process. The head of overview & scrutiny indicated that, in terms of any scrutiny, it would be necessary to explore with the Returning Officer where accountabilities lay. This discussion would need to take place before the committee began to look into any issues around the election.

7. FINAL SCRUTINY REPORT: DE-CLUTTERING PROGRAMME REVIEW (SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE B)

- 7.1 Councillor Tim McNally declared a personal and prejudicial interest in recommendation 9 of the report, as a member of and a supplier to Living Streets. Councillor Mark Glover declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as a director of Greening the UK.
- 7.2 The head of overview & scrutiny clarified that the committee could add recommendations of its own but not if they were in direct opposition to those of the originating sub-committee. It was also possible to delete recommendations if this did not substantially alter the findings and recommendations of the sub-committee.

- 7.3 Members of the committee expressed the view that recommendation 9 should refer to all relevant stakeholders and not specify an individual organisation. Members also felt that recommendation 12 was unnecessary in view of other recommendations that promoted use and championship of the design guide. Finally, the committee agreed to add a recommendation to encourage highways officers to remove temporary and redundant signage.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the following, the final scrutiny report be referred to the cabinet for consideration:

- Recommendation 9 be amended to read, "Relevant stakeholders should be consulted on public realm issues wherever practicable"
- Recommendation 12 be deleted
- Add new recommendation, "That highway officers be encouraged to be more proactive in removing temporary and redundant signage"

8. FINAL SCRUTINY REPORT: PLANNING ENFORCEMENT REVIEW (SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE C)

- 8.1 Councillor Toby Eckersley, former chair of scrutiny sub-committee C, introduced the report. Members asked whether the recommendations could be made direct to the planning committee. The head of overview & scrutiny explained that, within the council's constitutional structure, a report could only be submitted to the cabinet. In view of this the committee agreed to add a separate recommendation asking the cabinet to refer the report on to the planning committee, the constitutional steering panel and chairs of community councils as appropriate.

- 8.2 Members of the committee proposed that recommendation 11 off the report be deleted and that, instead, it be left up to individual chairs of community councils to determine whether they receive reports on planning enforcement issues.

- 8.3 The committee welcomed an excellent report and

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the following, the final scrutiny report be referred to the cabinet for consideration:

- Recommendation 11 be deleted
- Add new recommendation, "That the cabinet refers the recommendations from the report to the planning committee, constitutional steering panel and chairs of community councils as appropriate, for consideration and implementation"

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm