



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 20 January 2025 at 10.30 am at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Wingfield (Chair)
Councillor Irina Von Wiese (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Suzanne Abachor
Councillor Cassandra Brown
Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Sam Foster
Councillor Richard Leeming
Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Martin Seaton
Martin Brecknell (Co-Opted Member)

**OTHER
MEMBERS**

PRESENT: Councillor Kieron Williams – Leader of the Council
Councillor Stephanie Cryan – Equalities, Democracy and Finance
Councillor Helen Dennis - New Homes & Sustainable Development
Councillor Jasmine Ali – Children, Education and Refugees
Councillor Sarah King – Council Homes

**OFFICER
SUPPORT:** Amit Alva, Scrutiny Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Laura Johnson who substituted by Councillor Sabina Emanuel.

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

The Chair read out the Scrutiny Committee Procedure rules from the council's constitution

There were no additional late items which the Chair deemed urgent.

The informed the commission of the composition of the supplementary agendas as follows:

Circulated on supplemental agenda No.1 is the 8 January presentation to Overview and Scrutiny Committee Policy and Resources Strategy 2025/26 Scene Setting and 3 December 2024 Cabinet report Policy and Resources Budget Setting Update 2025-26.

Circulated on supplemental agenda No.2 is the Budget Scrutiny - Cabinet Member interviews timetable, Budget Equality Analysis report, Equality Impact and Needs Analysis (EINA) documents.

In addition, also enclosed in supplemental agenda No.2 are presentations on

- Transformation (Budget Scrutiny) Jan 2025, Presentation
- Temporary Accommodation (TA) and Homelessness – Finance
- No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)
- Contact Centre
- Collection Fund Council Tax & Business Rates

Furthermore, also enclosed in supplemental agenda No.2 are cabinet reports from 7 January 2025 Cabinet for context.

- Policy and Resources Revenue Monitoring 2024-25
- Policy and Resources Capital Monitoring 2024-25 and Southwark 2030 Strategic Alignment and Appendices A, A1, B, C1, C2, D, E & F

Supplemental agenda No.3 contains the update to the Presentation on Temporary Accommodation (TA) and Homelessness - Finance. Slides 3 & 4 on Background and London & National Context

Supplemental agenda no.4 contains the Budget Contextual Information.

Supplemental agenda no. 5 contains a presentation on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. CABINET CONSULTATION WITH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET 2025-26

The committee received an overview of the proposed Policy and Resources Strategy 2025-26, scene setting from Councillor Kieron Williams, Leader of the Council and Councillor Stephanie Cryan, Cabinet Member for Equalities, Democracy and Finance. The committee also heard from Clive Palfreyman, Strategic Director Finance Resources and Tim Jones, Director Corporate Finance resources

The committee then received presentations from cabinet members on their respective budget portfolio areas. The cabinet members and chief/senior officers in attendance answered questions of the committee members.

The meeting ended following the question-and-answer session, with the committee due to meet the following day to consider the information received, and whether there were any recommendations the committee felt should be made to Cabinet on the 2025-26 budget proposals.

5. POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY 2025-26

This report was circulated with the agenda for information.

Meeting ended at 3:02 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: