



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 12 February 2025 at 6.30 pm 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 Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Richard Leeming
Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor Martin Seaton

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Natasha Enin and Councillor Helen Dennis

OFFICER SUPPORT: Amit Alva, Scrutiny Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cassandra Brown, Councillor Sam Foster, Councillor Laura Johnson, Martin Brecknell (Co-opted member) and Jonathan Clay (Co-opted member).

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Catherine Rose.

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

There were no item of business which the Chair deemed urgent.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2024 are to follow.

5. SOUTHWARK COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES AND REFRESHED PLAN

The committee received a report on the Southwark Community Safety Partnership Priorities and Refreshed Plan covering the following points and discussed the following questions

- Influence of Casey Review on the MET and partnership working - Policing Oversight Board
- Local policing accountability- diverse range of representation on the Policing Oversight Board
- Social media and Misogyny & VAWG related offences – Online child abuse and sexual exploitation teams (police)
- Robberies and theft of personal items (on street) – Dulwich area higher in cases, areas mainly NW of borough, priority policing in these areas
- No. of community wardens correlated with VAWG, personal theft, types of crimes – Community wardens’ investment, body cams, Wardens mainly a protective force.
- PAN London- Community Safety Document (Mayor’s police and crime plan in consultation) and its correlation to Southwark’s Community Safety Partnership Strategy and the Southwark 2030 Strategy.
- Drugs prevalence in the community- effectiveness of strategy: supply of drugs, taking drugs, detection by police and Southwark 2030 commitments in this regard – Southwark’s Drug Action Plan- Tackling supplier routes and decreasing demand through Public Health Campaigns.
- Chair’s comment- Prevalence of general substance use – street drinkers Camberwell and Camberwell Green.
- Holistic approach- Glasgow example drug consumption centre- NHS comment Change, Grow, Live charitable organisation provides drug services in Southwark.
- Southwark 2030 connected/aligned to CSP - reducing ASB and Crime.
- Investment areas in CCTV and effectiveness (covering hoods and scarves) – resident buildings area need CCTV, defecating and intravenous drug use. Providing good evidence to MET for prosecuting traffic incidents.
- Bad driving and road violence (ASB) not mentioned in strategy – Deployment of live facial recognition, identifying registered sex offenders in BCUs; ANPR operations for vehicle offences (PAN London)
- Guidelines for responsible use of live facial recognition, civil liberties impact - Facial Recognition Centrally controlled team running pilot phase.
- Plans for building public confidence in policing- More engagement with community- empowering the public through community led events (cabinet

paper).

- Early Intervention and preventing crime plan- 71 nighttime safety spaces and youth services need more advertising
- Process after dealing drugs reported on estates – Monitoring areas that are reported, drug dealing and use should be reported to police not council.
- Different languages posters for phone thefts on roads – look up look out posters in hotspots. Tik-Tok drives, dedicated resource fore-newsletters
- Third party crime reporting by council officers in housing team to the police
- Community Payback Scheme numbers and projects – probation delivery unit has 1300 people supervised in custody and the community. Several community payback projects
- Pan London policing, prevention of radicalisation of young men- Counter terrorism work done more locally, Homicides- specialist murder investigations team – gun and knife crime
- Final CSP plan to come back to OSC

Violence against women's forum – OSC to assess VAWG forum work and events progress (subject to approval from senior officers)

6. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION CHARTER

The committee first heard from the 'We love Snowsfields' group on the Statement of Community Involvement and Development Consultation Charter 2024 covering the following topics.

- Planning application submitted and improvements suggested, development consultation charter not strengthening the consultation process.
- Heritage, accessibility and movement omitted from charter, proposed change in treatment of early engagement strategy not released to public before planning application
- No clarity on the release timing of the early engagement proposal to public, pre-application process of meeting between planning officers and developers and residents before design is discussed.
- Consultations run by a third-party service provider and no senior developer present at such consultations

The committee then asked questions on the following themes

- Evidence of third-party providers and consultations conducted not reflective of public opinion

The committee then received the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and Development Consultation Charter (DCC) 2024 from Cabinet member for New Homes and Sustainable Development, Councillor Helen Dennis and officers discussing the following points

- Live Consultation of Charter, holding developers accountable, objective to strengthen consultation process.
- Early engagement strategy- timeliness of release, who, how and where questions, fact-based audits.
- Heritage statements, use of third-party companies by developers discouraged, senior level developer engagement crucial to consultation.
- Equality Impact needs assessment (EINA) on socio-economic impacts, minor renovation projects omitted from DCC
- Thorough assessment of protected characteristics and impacts mitigated, transport links, uses of high street shops.
- Positive impact of EINA on design of developments.

The committee then asked questions on the following topics

- Buffer period between planning application and early engagement
- Borough triangle of 900 homes and 17% affordable housing
- Grow and protect local jobs, protection for consultation processes
- Affordable housing policy and delivering social rent
- Student accommodation and social rent homes in Southwark Plan
- Third-party providers of consultation and their commercial responsibility towards the client to capture and deliver accurate feedback from the public

7. SCRUTINY IMPROVEMENT REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION - UPDATE

The committee then received a progress update on implementation of the actions arising from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) scrutiny improvement review from Everton Roberts, Head of Scrutiny.

- 130 actions agreed in October 2023 implemented through to 2025
- Recommendations have had minor tweaks
- Minor enhancements, strengthening the collaborative relationship between Cabinet members, officers and Scrutiny Committee Members
- Cabinet Scrutiny Protocol- dialogue between Cabinet Members and Scrutiny Chairs, prioritising work to add value, evidenced based recommendations
- Improvements- key strategic priorities discussions within scrutiny
- Cabinet response and monitoring of recommendations
- Pre-scrutiny and leadership providing updated information on council delivery
- Timescales- protocol in place by March-April 2025
- Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker and 'Engage at Southwark' Website, scrutiny section for public to suggest scrutiny topics

The committee then asked questions on the following themes

- Cabinet Member feedback on Cabinet Scrutiny protocol
- Feedback and agreement from Overview and Scrutiny Committee on

Cabinet Scrutiny protocol

- Community Engagement in Scrutiny – differentiation between case work and scrutiny topics, managing expectations of the public
- Complaints follow different process, shortlisting of scrutiny topics chosen on value it adds
- Early meeting and pre-meetings- early planning of work programme, pre-meetings to identify information needed to carry out effective scrutiny and possibility of pre-meeting recordings circulated to members

8. WORK PROGRAMME

Agenda item for upcoming meetings

- Canada Estate and Devon Mansions final report
- Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR)
- Governance and Oversight of Housing Services and Strategic Responsibility

Meeting ended at 9:15 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: