



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 7 May 2025 at 6.30 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Wingfield (Chair)
Councillor Cassandra Brown (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Sam Foster
Councillor Laura Johnson
Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Martin Seaton

**OTHER
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Irina Von-Wiese, Councillor Suzanne Abachor, Councillor Margy Newens, Councillor Richard Leeming and Jonathan Clay (Co-opted member).

Councillor Rachel Bentley, Councillor Sabina Emmanuel and Councillor Richard Livingstone were present as substitutes.

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

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

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2025 were approved as a correct record.

5. DELIVERING SOUTHWARK 2030

The committee first received a report from Rhona Cadenhead, Assistant Chief Executive of Strategy & Communities supported by officers on delivering Southwark 2030– Council Delivery Plan and Q3 2024/25 performance covering the following topics.

- Update on progress on new delivery plan and how council will monitor and measure the progress, end of year reports on previous delivery plan agreed in 2022.
- Robust measures and milestones on the new delivery plan towards 2030, working with partners on first year on delivery plan- Partnership Delivery Plan
- Chief Executives performance dashboard with a focus on delivery and performance of projects and maintaining service levels.
- Focus also on socio-economic impact and commitments, Child poverty, outcomes framework and reports to this committee, regular internal scrutiny from Corporate Management Team (CMT)
- Delivery Plan constructed on six goals from Southwark 2030 Strategy, residents' priorities and aspirations

The committee then asked questions on the following points

- Annual report to go to Cabinet in July 2025
- Delivery targets in this document align with other strategies in Southwark 2030- cross cutting in goal-based workshops, service plans delivered within departments in accordance with Southwark 2030.
- Partners and Anchor Network tracking of progress- ambition to have shared action plan shared with partners on the goals of Southwark 2030. Best combination of resources and action points
- Internship targets within council
- Agility of Framework to respond to changes in legislation on adult social care, education, housing legislation and reform through devolution in London
- Goal 6 on Environment, statutory and discretionary services differentiation
- Well-run council and transformation budget, base budget funding for call

centre- changes in renters reform and adult and children social care aligned, monitored and adapted through normal working of the council services.

- Delivery plan capturing and delivering discretionary and statutory services, parks and libraries, reducing inequality, participation and engaging with residents
- Commitment on Goal 5 towards NHS, maternity and mental health and obesity, resource implications- work with public health colleagues in partnership to achieve action plans

The committee then asked further questions on the following themes

- Resident perspective on document and the six strategic goals – ease of understanding and resident engagement. Measurable targets on crime- huge progress on council delivery plans, housing challenges, priority community safety action progress. Customer Experience Strategy to address housing customer experience issues. Future papers will have clear and understandable language
- Customer engagement and empowering people in Southwark 2030, new engagement program to be developed further, residents' insight survey on crime.
- Strategies in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)- £2m investment in community wardens over the past two years. Significant resources in community safety review.
- Page 34 of report 71% residents satisfied with the council - externally committee residents insight survey of 800 residents across demographics age, background etc. Tenants' satisfaction levels are a challenge.
- Proportionate representation of tenants among 800 residents in survey
- Empty homes, influencing private void homes and measures – work with partners and use of regulatory powers
- Elderly people vulnerabilities and their access to services (Call Centre)- New Customer Experience Strategy
- Council Staff Skillset for delivering Southwark 2030 and support for current and new elected members

6. CABINET SCRUTINY PROTOCOL

The committee then received the Cabinet Scrutiny Protocol from Everton Roberts, Head of Scrutiny covering the following points

- Council's Scrutiny Improvement Review, comment and feedback on protocol from Cabinet Members, Senior Officers and Committee Members in April 2025
- The purpose of the protocol is to enable Cabinet members (and senior officers) and the Scrutiny function to have a clear understanding of the expectations and behaviours of members, officers, organisations, and individuals engaging in the various aspects of the scrutiny process and to foster good working relations

- There will be processes that sit underneath the protocol to support agreed arrangements, detail to be established. The protocol was reviewed by CMT in October and further reviewed by CMT in April 2025. In addition, comments on the protocol have been sought from cabinet members and overview and scrutiny committee members in February and March 2025. The attached version of the protocol factors in comments received as part of that consultation process.
- The effectiveness of the protocol will be kept under review and reported annually through the chair of overview and scrutiny committee annual report to council assembly.

The committee then asked questions on the following topics

- Pre-decision scrutiny within Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission meeting had very little impact in the development of the strategies going to Cabinet when compared annual scrutiny reports of the commission with recommendations – protocol seeks to involve officers at a greater level, receiving feedback earlier in the scrutiny review process in cases of contentious issues. Scrutiny members to clarify specific areas of concern in case of scrutiny and pre-scrutiny.
- Policy development areas to be discussed with Cabinet members and Senior Officers in detail.
- Process of co-opting members for Local Economy on the Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission- Provisions for co-opting non-voting members and in this case, local economy representatives exist in the council constitution. However, they must be identified upfront and justified by the work plan of the scrutiny commission for the year. It also requires agreement from the Chair and Vice-Chair of OSC.
- Compliance with protocol and monitoring implementation of protocol – provision for changing processes in the protocol by the Chair of OSC, if issues arise throughout the year and warrant change. Following, that to be confirmed by council assembly.
- Cabinet Scrutiny protocol to be mentioned at opening statements at committee meetings.
- Different ways of working, conducting scrutiny meetings in the community, and task and finish groups to be considered for upcoming committee and commission meetings.

The Cabinet Scrutiny Protocol was agreed by the committee.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) meeting on 23 June 2025 is to be confirmed. Work programme to be developed by consideration of the terms of reference of OSC.

Meeting ended at 7:55 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: