



## **Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission**

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission held on Tuesday 8 April 2025 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Cassandra Brown (Chair)  
Councillor Rachel Bentley (Vice- Chair)  
Councillor Renata Hamvas  
Councillor Youcef Hassaine  
Councillor Irina Von Wiese  
Martin Brecknell (Co-Opted Member)  
Jonathan Clay (Co-Opted Member)

**OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor John Batteson

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

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Renata Hamvas.

### **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 interest and dispensations.

### **4. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2025 are to follow.

## **5. YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT**

The commission received a report from Councillor John Batteson, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Jobs and Business and Nick Wolff, Employment and Skills Manager on the following topics

- Strong and Fair Economy, Southwark 2030, Local Economy, Youth Services, Care-Leavers, Creating opportunities such as internships and apprenticeships
- Working with partners across Southwark, opportunities for young people with SEND, better signposting for young people for jobs, Youth parliament, e-newsletters, Tik-Tok and Instagram
- Southwark Skills partnership and skills delivery plan, Council team's role in delivering jobs services, Southwark Works, specialist support, Southwark Youth New Deal.
- Bringing together all skills services providers, awareness amongst young people and have access to pathways, communication strategy, one- hub, youth news bulletins.

The commission then asked questions on the following points

- Consultation with young people on jobs
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure success of these initiatives
- Government Policies- Right to work
- Connect to work program for young people with SEND
- Unpaid internships and council's role to discourage it
- Refugees and Asylum Seekers – access to training schemes

The commission then asked further questions on the following themes

- Challenges in advertising jobs for young people
- Prioritising work experience and internships opportunities
- SEND needs in young people and jobs
- Adult unemployment and economic crisis
- Collaboration across the 32 London Boroughs
- Support employers in hiring young adults with neurodiversity and SEND needs
- Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on jobs

## **6. EAST STREET TRADERS**

The commission then received a report from the East Street Market renovation project team on the following topics

- High Street Funding, engagement with traders, research on history of local area, strategies for improvement, clear strong brand for east street
- Securing additional funding, electric power for market, meeting for changes in the market, East Street Community, parking issues.
- Blockage of roads, access to market, ineffective market management, one point of contact needed, incentive for bringing more footfall in market
- Separate areas for food stall sitting area, business hub and community area for IT facilities, bringing together shop owners and street traders, upskilling and collaboration.
- Attracting new young traders, new broadband for market, apps for delivery services, compelling vision for East Street Market, aim for destination market
- Report driven by thriving high streets and its funding, project management of deliverables, further Community Infrastructure Levy funding for East Street
- Professional and unified market, health and safety issues, waste management issues, lighting and wi-fi, nursery parks within the strategy, solar panels, power for permanent barrows, recycling waste management like cardboard compactors.
- Refrigeration, murals, workspace for young entrepreneurs, artists and traders, structure for governance and market management, budgetary considerations and feasibility studies.

The commission then asked questions on the following points

- Volunteer led market project team – 1200 unpaid hours
- Parking analysis and increase in footfall
- Delivering to homes
- Night markets over summer months
- Parking machines and 2-hour parking for market
- Long term vision for East Street; issues with changing the character of the market due to food hubs
- Supporting traders in pricing within the strategy
- East street market vision- leading independent sustainable market in London.

The commission noted the recommendations in the report.

## **7. SOUTHWARK SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP (SSCP)**

The commission then received a report from Alasdair Smith, Director, Children & Families on Southwark Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) covering the following topics

- Safeguarding Children 2023 statutory guidance, role of Police Health Service and Council, Structure of partnership- sub groups, Quality and

effectiveness, Local Children Safeguarding, Learning Network and Multi Agency Child Exploitation network (MACE)

- Major Changes- Children's well-being and schools bill in parliament, scrutiny of safe-guarding work, core child protection activity, reduction of children in child protection plan
- High level of agency workers, Health, Social Care and Police's role, serious youth violence, SSCP a self-critical system, internal home environment and external factors in community
- Neglect strategy- multi agency response to neglect due to pandemic and cost of living crisis, helping families get help earlier, child safeguarding reviews
- Government push for change in responding to families, multiagency service teams joint working, arrangements for targeted early help, online harm.

The commission then asked questions on the following points

- Priorities as the Chair of SSCP - transformation and additional roles
- Recent report on abuse and neglect in nursery settings and child minders
- Regular inspections of child minders and nurseries, mental, physical and psychological abuse

## **8. DRAFT SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORT**

The commission discussed recommendations and agreed to re-order the sequence to bring similar topics together especially recommendation 8 and 11.

The commission also discussed making recommendations more specific and to combine some of the recommendations to make it more succinct.

## **9. WORK PROGRAMME 2024-25**

The commission noted the work programme for the 2024-25 year.

The commission proposed discussing impact of school closures, impact on mainstream schools with SEND and the increase in the number of special schools in the upcoming council year 2025-26.

Meeting ended at 9:04 pm

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**