

REGENERATION AND LEISURE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Regeneration and Leisure Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on Wednesday 13 October 2010 at 7.00 pm at Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Mark Glover (Chair)
Councillor Columba Blango
Councillor Dan Garfield
Councillor Helen Morrissey
Councillor Martin Seaton

OTHER MEMBERS

PRESENT:

OFFICER Julie Timbrell; Project Manager, Scrutiny
SUPPORT: Paul Cowell; Events, Film and 2012 Manager
Adrian Whittle; Head of Culture, Libraries, Learning and Leisure
Tim Thompson, Project Director, Regeneration & Neighbourhoods

1. APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Catherine Bowman and Paul Noblet. Cllr Paul Noblet sent a message explaining that because of his previous cabinet position, held during the last administration, he would have conflicts of interest for both of the agenda items being covered tonight; Canada Water and Olympics.

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

- 2.1 There were no urgent items.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

- 3.1 Councillor Columba Blango indicated that he had a personal but non prejudicial interest in the Olympics. Councillor Mark Glover indicated that he had a personal but non prejudicial interest in Canada Water, as the Ward member.

4. MINUTES

- 4.1 The minutes of 29 June 2010 were agreed as an accurate record apart from a correction needed to the spelling of Cllr Richard Livingstone's name.

5. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH CLLR VERONICA WARD ; CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS

- 5.1 The Chair reported that Cllr Ward would not be attending tonight's meeting to take cabinet questions on her portfolio because there had been a breakdown in communication which meant that Cllr Ward had not been briefed and therefore would not have been able to do justice to the questions. Officers indicated that Gill Davies, strategic director for environment and housing, had sent an email apologising on behalf of officers. The Chair requested this be circulated to committee members.
- 5.2 Cllr Ward will attend the next meeting to take the questions already submitted and there will be another opportunity for committee members to ask additional questions.

6. OLYMPICS

- 6.1 Paul Cowell; Events, Film and 2012 Manager and Adrian Whittle; Head of Culture, Libraries, Learning and Leisure presented the report circulated on the Olympics. Officers reported that the original pledges are currently being reviewed by the Cabinet to form a new Olympic vision for Southwark and this is expected to be the subject of a member decision. Officers stated that they would appreciate feedback to review and inform the new vision.
- 6.2 The Events, Film and 2012 Manager covered the facts and figures detailed in the report and also explained the local and London 2012 governance structures.
- 6.3 The Head of Culture, Libraries, Learning and Leisure explained that two years ago Southwark Council launched 18 Olympic and Paralympic pledges to coincide with the handover from Beijing to London. Since the pledges were agreed, there have been significant changes within the Council and

nationally. Some of the funding that had been anticipated will no longer be available. In addition to this some of the pledges have been fulfilled, such as the major commitment to investing in our leisure facilities. This has resulted in the need for the pledges to be overhauled and work is being undertaken in this area.

- 6.4 The Chair invited questions from committee members. A member commented that the pledges are very aspirational and the world has changed. It will be some time before we know what funds will be available. However members suggested that health outcomes should be prioritised alongside volunteering. Members commented that the new pledges will need to be both aspirational and achievable.
- 6.5 Another member commented that the focus should be on enterprise opportunities, schools programmes and events in Southwark.
- 6.6 A member drew officers' attention to the problems of gangs and prostitution being associated with the delivery of the Olympics in host cities. She commented that it is critical that the police and the council work together to prevent the exploitation of women and gang activity.
- 6.7 Members asked if any Southwark venues will be used. Officers confirmed the Olympic marathon will go through the borough.
- 6.8 Cllr Blango commented that Southwark Community Games was inspired by the Olympics and he hoped there would be opportunities for linkages.
- 6.9 Members commented that the pledges are very broad and they would like to see more details and realistic outcomes within the timeframe. In particular members asked for information on what had been delivered already, what would be taken out and what would be fulfilled. There was a request for action plans and details on how the community and partners will be involved in its delivery.
- 6.10 Officers responded that they are working on updated and detailed action plans and these will be based on the refreshed pledges. The Southwark NHS was involved in delivering parts of the programme, particularly those elements detailed in the related strategies: Southwark Physical Activity Strategy and Southwark Health Strategy. Southwark Volunteer Centre is involved as an active partner in delivering the volunteering strand.
- 6.11 Southwark Community Games is also a key initiative, however half the funding comes from the Working Neighbourhood Fund.
- 6.12 Officers also reported that Surry Docks leisure centre refurbishment is completed, Camberwell Leisure Centre will open in January 2011, Dulwich Leisure Centre phase one has been completed and phase two will be

completed by March 2011.

- 6.13 Officers said that they will continue to support Southwark sports clubs to increase their capacity. This will not be via grants, instead the emphasis will be on advice to improve their organisational management capacity and build on coaching.
- 6.14 Officers reported that the extensive "Building Schools for the Future" programme has been implemented. 42 % of schools are signed up to the 'Get Set' programme.
- 6.15 The "Personal Best" programme is being delivered in partnership with Volunteer Centre Southwark and also involved Pecan employment. This builds on participants key skills.

RESOLVED

The Chair summed up and requested that officers come back with an updated action plan with clear outcomes, based on resources that will now be available following the anticipated cuts to local government grants. The committee would like indicate what the Olympic legacy will be with key benefits indicated in concrete terms. In particular members would like to see the plans detail:

- i) How young people , for example school parties can attend the Olympics, particularly those who cannot afford tickets;
- ii) Aspirations in terms of health;
- iii) How will be the economic benefits be maximised , for example the East London line and tourism;
- iv) What are the volunteer plans , particularly in relation to skills;
- v) Links to Southwark Community Games.

It was agreed this item would come back to the committee in February.

7. CANADA WATER

- 7.1 The Chair reported that he and the scrutiny officer had visited the Canada Water library and had received both an overview of the regeneration scheme and a tour of the library skeleton structure.
- 7.2 The Chair asked the project director, Tim Thompson, if the library was still on track to be delivered on time and to budget. The officer confirmed that it was. The library is due to be 'toped out' shortly and is become more de-risked. The 'Value Engineering' is half way towards being fully realised to reach the final target of £1M.

- 7.3 Members enquired if the library would offer a suitable place to hold Council Assembly meetings once completed, following the Democracy Commission recommendations. Officer confirmed that the auditorium can hold up to 150 people and will be a good meeting space for both assembly and community council meetings.
- 7.4 Members enquired further about project risks and the project director explained that while there were no categorical guarantees the building has completed the substructure and there will shortly be an envelope in place which will substantially reduce the risks with winter shortly upon us. The risks are now different , but likely to be less serious, for example the officer reported that we are now have a number of trades people working simultaneously and it is possible for an error to impact on several people. The officer stated that they are managing this proactively.
- 7.5 The project director explained that they are using a traditional contractual arrangement which meant that they had more control over the quality but that this was slightly more financially risky. The alternative is a commercial design and build which reduces the financial risk but could impact on the quality of the building. These different contractual options are subject to ongoing consideration. The Chair encouraged officer to keep considering this and asked that the committee be kept informed of any changes.
- 7.6 Members enquired if the issue with the errors made in estimating the costs had been pursued with the quantity surveyors? The project director indicated that no decision had been made on this but they had not reached the statue of limitations yet.
- 7.7 The Chair indicated that he was particularly concerned with risks to services, as the Council could be looking at 33% cuts to local government grants.
- 7.8 The Head of Culture, Libraries, Learning and Leisure said that funds for new books had already been allocated and he was purchasing stock for the new library. The aim was to contain revenue costs by making extensive use of self service and some of the programme will be run by external organisations.
- 7.9 The Chair summed up by noting the progress since the last meeting and commended officers. The importance of the library being delivered on time and too budget was emphasised. The Chair noted the potential for community councils and council assembly meetings to be held in the building and requested officers ensure that this can be realised, particularly given the recent Democracy Commission draft report recommendations. He also noted the concern that the cuts will impact on the running costs of library.

RESOLVED

The committee resolved to write to the cabinet lead to ask if partnerships with Learn Direct & Sure Start have been explored to reduce costs and to request the outline plan to cover the library's operational costs, given the impending cuts.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

8.1 The following works programmed items are due to be covered at the next meeting on 30 November 2010:

- i) Question and answer session with Cllr Ward, Cabinet member for culture, leisure, sport and the Olympics
- ii) Update and review of Aylesbury Regeneration Scheme
- iii) Report detailing regeneration funding spent locally over the last 5 years , including funds generated by Section 106 and grants made available under 'Cleaner, Greener , Safer', with mapping to assess where money has been spent by Community Council area , with particular reference to considering how this money has impacted on employment and enterprise.

CHAIR:

DATED:

[EXEC ONLY]

DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CALL-IN UNDER SECTION 18 OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES IS MIDNIGHT, [DATE].

THE ABOVE DECISIONS WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTABLE UNTIL AFTER THAT DATE. SHOULD A DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE BE CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY, THEN THE RELEVANT DECISION WILL BE HELD IN ABEYANCE PENDING THE OUTCOME OF SCRUTINY CONSIDERATION.