

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 7 September 2015 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G01B - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Gavin Edwards (Chair)
Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai
Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor Maisie Anderson
Councillor Catherine Dale
Councillor Tom Flynn
Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Johnson Situ

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Ian Wingfield

OFFICER SUPPORT: Shelley Burke – Head of Overview & Scrutiny
Fitzroy Williams – Scrutiny Officer

1. APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Fleming and Martin Brecknell, co-opted member of the committee

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

Item 8 – call-in re site for location of new Canada Water Leisure Centre had been added to the agenda (Overview & Scrutiny procedure rules 24.3 a)

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

- 3.1 There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the committee's 15th June meeting were agreed. Officers were asked to note action points clearly in addition to the video recording of the meeting

5. RIGHT TO BUY FOR HOUSING ASSOCIATION TENANTS

Lord Kerslake attended the meeting to discuss the government's proposals on right to buy for housing association tenants. He set out his critique of the scheme, arguing that it is flawed in its current form.

Lord Kerslake suggested some sensible exemptions that should be considered in the scheme: rural properties, properties that had received no government money pre-1975, specialist housing, new build/redevelopment sites (this could be accompanied by a scheme of housing association new building designed for sale). Councils might want to draw up their own proposed list of amendments. He also suggested that the scheme could be varied to provide a smaller cash discount accompanied by an interest free equity loan, reducing the requirement to draw on receipts from local authorities. He also felt that there should be a specific agreement that London should not lose out under this scheme.

Follow up actions:

Cllr Flynn attending meeting to gather views from local housing associations
Committee to aim for final report to be produced by December

VIDEO - RIGHT TO BUY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MU2Ootr63I&list=PL_maFEOk7e9jNrXthDtAvka23nnJqQkgC

6. CABINET MEMBER INTERVIEW - COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD - DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT AND CULTURE INTERVIEW

Councillor Ian Wingfield attended for his portfolio interview. He answered questions about payment of the minimum wage in the borough, progress on apprenticeships, business space in Canada Water, Lewisham & Southwark College

Follow up:

Cllr Wingfield to provide breakdown and further detail on apprenticeships – those established so far and anticipated performance against targets

VIDEO - CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT AND CULTURE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbitcp5lrBI&index=4&list=PL_maFEOk7e9jNrXthDtAvka23nnJqQkgC

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEScNR0cCis&list=PL_maFEOk7e9jNrXthDtAvka23nnJqQkgC&index=5

7. COUNCIL RENTS FOR VOLUNTARY AND BUSINESS PREMISES

8. SITE FOR LOCATION OF NEW CANADA WATER LEISURE CENTRE - CALL-IN

The committee heard from residents living by the proposed site, residents of the wider area, the Canada Water Consultation Forum, the cabinet member for Regeneration and New Homes and officers.

The committee resolved:

- that the decision be formally referred back to the cabinet member for Regeneration and New Homes for reconsideration
- that the consultation takes place at the same time for all residents in the affected area of the proposed site and those in the wider area
- that in order to reassure affected residents regarding the consultation on the proposed new site for the Canada Water leisure centre, the cabinet member should give a public commitment to review the council's decision to have a preferred site should the consultation receive overwhelming public opposition
- that the consultation be amended to include details of the options that have been considered and rejected, including other sites within the footprint of the land where the council owns the freehold and whether or not the existing Seven Islands can be demolished and rebuilt, in addition to the preferred option of the council
- that the consultation should include space for additional comments and suggestions to be put forward. This would include details of the options, including full costs for all options; and possible time scales for all options.

VIDEO - CALL-IN CANADA WATER LEISURE CENTRE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwZoDz0swbs&list=PL_maFEOk7e9jNrXthDtAvka23nnJqQkgC&index=2

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEI6Fv4k5Z4&index=3&list=PL_maFEOk7e9jNrXthDtAvka23nnJqQkgC

Meeting ended at 11.00 p.m.

CHAIR:

DATED: