

Item No. 13.	Classification: Open	Date: 24 March 2020	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Response to Recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Brandon Estate	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Newington	
Cabinet Member:		Councillor Evelyn Akoto, Community Safety and Public Health	

FOREWORD - COUNCILLOR EVELYN AKOTO, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

In October 2019 I attended a community meeting on the Brandon Estate following the tragic murder of Clinton Evtoba, where a range of concerns regarding the estate were raised. At the meeting I promised to report back on specific issues and to work in partnership with the community moving forward to find practical solutions to addressing the concerns raised by residents.

The council subsequently appointed a director to lead on the Brandon Estate, raising the profile of current and future work relating to the Brandon housing estate, and I took on responsibility as lead cabinet member to oversee this work. This has enabled us to coordinate work and ensure a consistent approach to delivering for residents on the Brandon.

Implementing the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, arising from the meeting on 11th November, has been central to this work. We have now strengthened governance arrangements which has increased oversight of the cabinet member, ward councillors and senior officers, and has improved engagement with community representatives.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations form part of ongoing work to develop a wider strategic approach to delivery of services on the Brandon estate, continuing to engage and ensure alignment with other council-wide initiatives. This includes priorities such as the Great Estates Programme, the Youth Provision Review, the Resident Participation Framework and the Social Regeneration Framework.

I look forward to building on the good work that's been achieved and we continue to achieve across the Brandon community. We have made good progress together in recent months. Equally I know that some of things we are working on have taken longer to resolve than we would hope but I am sure by continuing to work with residents, TRA chairs and ward councillors on the Brandon Estate, we can further build on the progress we have already made together.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Cabinet agree the recommendations arising from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and note progress of actions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee discussed issues on the Brandon Estate at its meeting of 11 November 2019. The session had been requested by ward councillors in relation to concerns about some aspects of the council's response to three murders on the estate. The committee heard from ward councillors, tenants and residents association (TRA) chairs, the cabinet member for community safety and public health and senior council officers.
3. The areas of concern identified at this meeting were the delay in decision making around installing CCTV cameras, slowness of progress in establishing a young people's hub at the Jack Hobbs Club, the nature of the council's engagement with residents, heating outages and the system of compensation for outages.
4. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee subsequently made the below recommendations at the Cabinet meeting of 17 December 2019:
 - 1) That a core group of councillors, officers and residents meets regularly to review progress against the issues. This group should undertake a holistic review to ensure that all the strands of work in hand meet residents' needs. The group should work transparently by publishing documents such as action plans with RAG rating and minutes of its meetings.
 - 2) That a clear timetable is set out and delivered for full access to the Jack Hobbs Club by April 2020.
 - 3) That the housing scrutiny commission's review of district heating networks should include Brandon as one of its case studies. This should include the question of how compensation for heating outages is paid – i.e. whether it can be credited to bank accounts instead of rent/service charge accounts.
 - 4) That an investigation be undertaken into the amount of time it took to implement the new CCTV, and that a report arising from the investigation be provided to the overview and scrutiny committee.
 - 5) That cabinet considers the recommendations and request that the relevant cabinet member reports back within eight weeks.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The table below responds to each of the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and sets out the corresponding actions that have taken place to date.
6. In addition to implementing the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations, a strategic approach is under development to build on progress made in responding to residents' needs and concerns and to ensure alignment with other council-wide initiatives such as the Great Estates Programme, the Youth Provision Review, the Resident Participation Framework and the Social Regeneration Framework.

	Recommendation	Cabinet Response	Follow up actions
1	That a core group of councillors, officers and residents meets regularly to review progress against the issues. This group should undertake a holistic review to ensure that all the strands of work in hand meet residents' needs. The group should work transparently by publishing documents such as action plans with RAG rating and minutes of its meetings	Agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance arrangements are in place to ensure increased lead member and ward councillor oversight as well as increased oversight and engagement of residents. • A RAG rated issues log has been in place since November 2019. This is updated and shared weekly with TRA chairs and ward councillors. • Since November 2019, the lead member, officers and TRA chairs have met on a number of occasions in relation to specific issues. Regular monthly meetings are now in place. • In addition, the lead member is supported by a fortnightly teleconference with ward councillors and a weekly briefing with officers. • A quarterly newsletter has been created to communicate key information to residents. The first edition was distributed to all residents across the Brandon Estate in December 2019.
2	That a clear timetable is set out and delivered for full access to the Jack Hobbs Club by April 2020	Agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair and refurbishment works on the Jack Hobbs Club commenced in October 2019. A meeting was held between officers, councillors and TRA chairs on 10 December 2019 to review progress. A timeline was agreed with all internal and external works, including installation of required furniture and equipment, completed at the end of February 2020 and full access available to the community thereafter. • The programme of major works was completed at the end of February. Additional repairs arose after these works were agreed and are being urgently progressed. Further details of these works and monitoring will be undertaken through the council's issues log. • The Jack Hobbs Club is open for community use and youth activities are taking place on every weekday evening. These activities are publicised locally to further raise awareness of club. As an example, the calendar of activities in place for March-April 2020 are set out in Appendix 1. • The Property team has identified suitable alternative premises for the Latin American Disabled People Project (LADPP) which is currently based at the Jack Hobbs Club. Subject to legal and due diligence processes, the

	Recommendation	Cabinet Response	Follow up actions
			move is expected to be completed by June 2020.
3	That the housing scrutiny commission's review of district heating networks should include Brandon as one of its case studies. This should include the question of how compensation for heating outages is paid – i.e. whether it can be credited to bank accounts instead of rent/service charge accounts	Agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This work is being taken forward by the housing scrutiny commission as part of its review of district heating. Agendas and minutes of the housing scrutiny commission meetings are available at http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=520 The Council's complaints policy (which incorporates compensation) is under review and the issue of how compensation for heating outages is paid is being considering as part of that review.
4	That an investigation be undertaken into the amount of time it took to implement the new CCTV, and that a report arising from the investigation be provided to the overview and scrutiny committee	Agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In February 2019, Brandon TRA chairs and ward councillors were invited to the CCTV control room to discuss camera coverage on the estate and to demonstrate how the CCTV team works to pro-actively and reactively respond to crime and anti-social behaviour across the borough. The CCTV team subsequently undertook consultation and site surveys for a permanent six camera system in the Brandon 3 TRA area and obtained an indicative quote for equipment and installation. This quote was passed to Housing & Modernisation for consideration. In March and April 2019, discussions took place to identify funding for the new CCTV system. In May 2019 funding was identified and notification was sent to the CCTV team in June 2019. The CCTV team held a meeting in June 2019 to review and confirm the locations of the cameras. A detailed specification of works was requested from the contractor and it was expected that extensive engineering and transmission works would be required for the CCTV network to become operational. The specification of works was received from the contractor in July and an order for equipment was subsequently placed with an expected lead time of

	Recommendation	Cabinet Response	Follow up actions
			<p>6-8 weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works began in September 2019. Due to the complexity of the project and the need for extensive engineering and transmission works, an estimated completion date of 31 October 2019 was reported to the Director of Communities and to the lead member. • The CCTV works were completed in early November 2019. The timescales for both the lead in and the installation works are in line with projects of this nature. • TRA chairs and ward councillors have visited the control room and positive feedback was received. The CCTV team is continuing to work with residents, ward councillors and police colleagues.

Policy implications

7. The implementation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations and the development of a wider strategic approach will be aligned to the delivery of Council Plan priorities and to a range of strategies related to the concerns raised by residents such as the Resident Participation Framework and the Social Regeneration Framework.

Community impact statement

8. The implementation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations will have an impact on the Brandon community by delivering a number of improvements in response to concerns raised by residents.
9. In delivering these recommendations, the council will continue to be mindful of its public sector equality duty under the Equality Act (2010), giving due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between different groups, to foster good relations between different groups and to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.

Resource implications

10. There are no resource implications arising from this report.

Legal implications

11. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial implications

12. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Brandon Estate Update CCTV Decision Making Process CCTV Re-deployable Process Flow Chart	Scrutiny Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Fitzroy Williams 020 7525 7102
Links (please copy and paste into your browser):		
http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s85665/Brandon%20Estate%20Update%202.pdf		
http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s85734/CCTV%20decision%20making%20process.pdf		
http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s85735/Fig%201%20-%20CCTV%20FLOWCHART.pdf		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Jack Hobbs Club Youth Activities Programme, March-April 2020

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Cllr Evelyn Akoto, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health	
Lead Officer	Stephen Gaskell, Head of Chief Executive's Office	
Report Author	Susan du Toit, Senior Strategy Officer	
Version	FINAL	
Dated	11/03/2019	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
List other officers here		
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		11/03/2020