

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 22 July 2020 at 6.00 pm. (Online/Virtual meeting).

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Wingfield (Chair)
Councillor Jane Salmon (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Humaira Ali
Councillor Peter Babudu
Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Helen Dennis
Councillor Gavin Edwards
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Victoria Olisa
Councillor Leanne Werner
Martin Brecknell (Co-optee)

OTHER MEMBERS

PRESENT: Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Rebecca Lury

OFFICER SUPPORT: Norman Coombe, Head of Corporate Team, Legal Services
Everton Roberts, Head of Overview and Scrutiny (Acting)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alice Macdonald.

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

There were no late items of business.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Victor Chamberlain declared an interest in item 5 'Strong in Southwark (Southwark LGBTQ+ Community Consultation 2018-19)' as he was LGBTQ.

4. MINUTES

It was reported that the minutes would be submitted to the next meeting for approval.

5. STRONG IN SOUTHWARK (SOUTHWARK LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY CONSULTATION 2018-19)

The overview and scrutiny committee received a presentation (available on the meeting agenda page) from Nathan Lewis, Chair of the Southwark LGBT Network and Catherine Negus Healthwatch Southwark Manager on the needs and experience of the Southwark LGBT communities and on the report Southwark LGBTQ+ Community Consultation 2018/19 circulated in the agenda.

Areas highlighted from the report were:

- LGBT concerns around inclusivity of the health service
- Lack of awareness of LGBT specific health care services in the borough
- Higher mental health need – loneliness and isolation playing a big part
- Steep rise in Chem sex
- Need for Trans specific support

The committee also heard from the deputy leader and cabinet member for culture, leisure, equalities and communities.

Following questions and discussion, the overview and scrutiny committee agreed to refer the matter onto the deputy leader and cabinet member for culture, leisure, equalities and communities to take forward the report recommendations through the appropriate decision making processes and also to refer on the recommendations relating to partner organisations for consideration.

Given the time that had passed since the consultation and the report being written, the chair invited both the Chair of the LGBT Network and Healthwatch manager to submit any additional comments / recommendations that were not included in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the deputy leader and cabinet member for culture, leisure, equalities and communities be recommended to take forward the report recommendations through the appropriate decision making processes and also to refer on the recommendations relating to partner organisations for consideration.

6. INTERVIEW WITH THE POLICE BOROUGH COMMANDER, COLIN WINGROVE

The overview and scrutiny committee heard from Police Borough Commander Colin Wingrove.

Police Borough Commander Wingrove provided the committee with some information as to his background and informed the committee of his priorities and areas of focus. Areas highlighted were as follows:

- London's and the national response to Covid-19
- Future Impact on communities experiencing high degree of trauma, economic and educational difficulties – police response in terms of empathy and support
- Bearing down on violent crime / public space violence
- Domestic abuse and violence against women and girls
- Reviewing hate crime approach
- Burglary – historically high levels of domestic burglary
- Community engagement
- Recruitment – increasing opportunities as an employer (recruiting more from BAME communities)
- Serious youth violence and youth crime – looking at interventions that aren't police enforcement interventions
- Community harm and exploitation – identifying individuals concerned.

Following the presentation, Commander Wingrove answered questions from members of the committee.

The committee also heard from Councillor Evelyn Akoto, cabinet member for community safety and public health.

7. LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT - POST COVID - REVIEW AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS [REFERRAL FROM CABINET]

The committee heard from Councillor Rebecca Lury, deputy leader and cabinet member for culture, leisure, equalities and communities and Rebecca Towers, Director of Leisure. The committee also heard from David Bibby and Mark Basker, representatives of Everyone Active, Sue Harding, service user of a number of leisure centres and Paul Stokes, Head of Programmes, Public Health.

Following the introduction of the report, members asked questions of the cabinet member, Director of Leisure and representatives of Everyone Active. Questions were asked around the following:

- Performance of contract pre-covid - Better understanding of why some of the council objectives were not being met.
- Granting of money during period closed in the context of not meeting all council objectives and dividends being taken from company.
- Conditions put around the funds allocated to SLM?
- Assurances sought around ensuring that the council is getting what it is paying for and that money is being spent as it should be. Also that not going to get drop off in performance if contract is going to come to an end.
- Castleview Events Limited and their consideration and contributions to SLM in light of their significant turnover. Why council contribution only option?

It was clarified at the meeting by David Bibby that Martin Bell received £2m dividends from Castleview (not £15.5m). David also reported that Mr Bell would not draw any further dividends until such time as things were back on track.

- Discussions being held with London Councils, other local authorities and government around keeping leisure centres open.
- Provision for some form of clawback mechanism if it transpires that further dividends have been paid within the next financial year.
- Questions around users of the service, including particular target groups, such as people from low income families and people with ill health.
- Information requested in respect of year on year contract performance targets and outcomes for each specific area to enable comparison about how the contract has been delivered from 2016 up to March 2020 (start of lockdown).
- Question around leisure service contract being delivered jointly with other local authorities via charitable trusts or other cooperative models.

It was agreed that consideration be given as to whether this issue come back to overview and scrutiny committee or whether answers to questions outside of the meeting would be sufficient.

8. WORK PROGRAMME 2020-21

RESOLVED:

1. That the work programme as at 22 July 2020 be noted.
2. That the following work programme items be agreed for the remainder of the year:
 - Post Covid-19 review (across Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission),
 - Continuing the work on climate/pollution and transport (Environment Scrutiny Commission)
 - Health inequalities (Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission)
 - opportunities for young people (Education and Business Scrutiny Commission)
 - Harnessing community liaison/mutual-aid groups (Housing Scrutiny Commission)
 - regeneration/planning strategy (Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

9. HEALTHWATCH SOUTHWARK ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

10. CABINET RESPONSE TO OSC RECOMMENDATIONS ON COVID 19

RESOLVED:

That the response to the overview and scrutiny committee recommendations be noted.

11. CABINET RESPONSE TO OSC RECOMMENDATIONS ON BUDGET SETTING

RESOLVED:

That the response to the overview and scrutiny committee recommendations be noted.

The meeting ended at 9.44pm

CHAIR:

DATED: