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**Housing and Community Engagement
Scrutiny Commission**

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Housing and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission held on Monday 26 April 2021 at 6.30 pm (Online/Virtual meeting)

PRESENT:	Councillor Gavin Edwards (Chair)
	Councillor Damian O'Brien (Vice-Chair)
	Councillor Radha Burgess
	Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
	Bassey Bassey (co-opted member)
	Ina Negoita (former co-opted member)
OFFICER SUPPORT:	Everton Roberts, Head of Scrutiny

1. **APOLOGIES**

   Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hamish McCallum and Cris Claridge.

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

   The chair gave notice of an additional late item which had not been listed with the initial main agenda: Item 8 – Scrutiny Review of Community Hubs (Draft Recommendations).

   The chair also reported that due to technical problems relating to the publication and displaying of agenda documents on the council website, that the agenda had been republished.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. MINUTES

   RESOLVED:

   That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2021 be approved as a correct record.

5. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF COMMUNAL AREAS AND RESIDENT EXPERIENCE ON SOUTHWARK ESTATES (DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS)

The chair of the commission introduced the recommendations under consideration and explained the rationale for the recommendations which were based on the discussions and suggestions made by the commission members throughout the scrutiny review.

The commission discussed the recommendations and put forward suggested amendments.

The commission agreed the recommendations subject to the following:

- Recommendation 4a – include additional sentence around asking residents whether KPIs are being met and what they want to see as KPIs.

- Recommendation 4b - consideration be given on how residents who are digitally excluded being able to report also. Including suggestion of being able to report by way of SMS texting.

- Recommendation 6 - Express the need for ownership of protocol and senior officer level.

In addition to the discussion on the recommendation, Ina Negoita raised concern over KPIs connected to tenant management organisations in respect of repairs and the accumulation of money which was held in TMO bank accounts. She expressed that this was an on going issue over a number of years.

Councillor Damian O'Brien explained that he and his ward councillor colleagues had been looking at this issue for a particular TMO and stressed that it was a complex issue which they had been looking into..

The Chair explained that this aspect had not been an issue that the commission had received evidence on and therefore felt it would not be appropriate to discuss

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or include as part of the recommendations arising from this particular scrutiny review.

The chair indicated that there were a number of TMOs across the borough and that this issue should be put on the work programme for the coming year.

RESOLVED:

1. That the scrutiny recommendations be agreed subject to the incorporation of the suggestions referred to above.

2. That the issue raised by Ina Negoita in respect of TMO's be recommended for inclusion in the commissions work programme for 2021/22 year.

6. **PROCESS FOR SCRUTINY COMMISSION SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL CONSULTATION IN RESPECT OF TENANT ENGAGEMENT STRUCTURES**

The chair indicated that it was not possible for the commission to agree a submission when the scope of the consultation was unknown. The commission would look at the issue when the consultation exercise commenced.

7. **WORK PROGRAMME 2020-21 (AND 2021-22)**

There were no suggestions for the 2021-22 work programme considered under this item.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme as at 26 April 2021 be noted.

8. **SCRUTINY REVIEW OF COMMUNITY HUBS (DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS)**

There were no additional suggestions or recommendations made.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations as set out in the agenda be approved for submission to cabinet.

The meeting ended at 7.18pm

CHAIR:

DATED: