

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee - 15 May 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held at Committee Room 4, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 15 May 2017 at 7.00 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Champion (Chair), Hamitouche (Vice-Chair), Russell, Gallagher, Heather and Jeapes

Councillor Rowena Champion in the Chair

118 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Raphael Andrews.

119 DECLARATIONS OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item 2)

There were no declarations of substitute members

120 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

121 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2017 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

122 PUBLIC QUESTIONS (Item 5)

There was none.

123 CHAIR'S REPORT (Item 6)

There was no Chair's report

124 ARRANGEMENTS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE (Item B1)

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

125 **REGENERATION OF RETAIL AREAS - (TO FOLLOW) (Item B2)**

“The Head of Economic Development, Projects and Transport Planning presented the report to the Committee.

In the discussion the following points were made:

- The Committee agreed that in light of the recommendations that emanated from the Islington Fairness Commission on issues around corporate social responsibility and evidence gathered during its scrutiny exercise, it would be appropriate to include a recommendation that encouraged firms and businesses within the borough to undertake its social responsibility of assisting young people seriously.
- A suggestion to include a recommendation about the cost and speed of broadband, not only to businesses but to street traders, was agreed, although it was understood that the Council does not have direct control over this.
- The draft recommendation in relation to parking be reworded. Members acknowledged that consideration be given to supporting businesses by providing sufficient loading bays in and around retail areas rather than a recommendation reviewing Council parking policy and its pay-and-display parking. It was noted that the borough was well served by public transport for visitors, so car usage should not be encouraged.
- On the issue of business rates, the Committee requested that an update would be provided once there was more clarity on Central Government’s devolution proposals for business rates.
- In response to a question on whether the Council could protect existing businesses from being dislocated due to rent increases, especially after the regeneration of retail areas had been completed, Members were advised that the Council had no control over private rents. The Officer however stated that with new developments the Council could in some instances secure affordable workspace and its planning policies the Council also had some control over the size of new retail units, securing smaller units that were more affordable by virtue of their size.
- A suggestion to include a recommendation that both the Council and businesses continue to work together to address the removal of waste concerns was agreed.
- A recommendation that businesses consider consolidating their deliveries was agreed; a practice which has had a positive impact in the West End area of London by reducing traffic and congestion as firms and businesses have coordinated their suppliers in terms of deliveries and the removal of waste.
- It was agreed that recommendations in the draft report and additional recommendations raised in the report be circulated to all members of the Committee before its full consideration at the July meeting.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report and the amended draft recommendations be circulated before the next meeting.

126

CCTV SCRUTINY REVIEW - 12 MONTH REPORT BACK (Item B3)

The Technical Services Manager updated Members on progress of the recommendations of the July 2016 Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee report on CCTV.

In the discussion the following points were made:

- Members were advised that CCTV works and door entry replacement works are undertaken in line with the Council's asset management strategy to replace life expired components when work is required.
- Minor ancillary works like tree pruning and other minor security measures such as bollards, isolated lightning improvements, entry gates and works to door entry systems are now addressed by the concierge, estate services and ASB team, however in the future these issues would be considered as part of the major works programme.
- In response to a question on issues of privacy and effectiveness, the Technical Services Manager informed Committee that yearly audits are now being undertaken by the Concierge team to accurately audit the current CCTV provisions in place and that a Privacy Impact Assessment formally assess the ongoing need for CCTV and any subsequent changes to the system in line with current legislation.
- Members were informed that information/data from CCTV surveillance was shared among partners especially with regards to addressing anti-social behaviour and that in the future input from other stakeholders such as the Police and Crime Prevention Officers would be included into information that will fed into the process of designing CCTV equipment.
- Officers acknowledged that recent CCTV schemes had highlighted the essence for an improvement in dialogue with residents especially on promoting the benefits of CCTV monitoring and the cost. He indicated that the use of electronic notice boards, electronic communication in conjunction with established methods such as resident project meetings would ensure transparency especially with the residents.
- With regard to the use of mobile CCTV, the meeting was advised that it was important to recognise that the dynamics of crime and anti-social behaviour tends to move especially where there are crime convictions in specific areas and that mobile CCTV has the advantage of being more responsive to the movement of crime and antisocial behaviour.
- In response to a question on the effectiveness of CCTV monitoring, members were informed that evidence gathered especially from Tenancy Management Systems were used especially when undertaking enforcement actions against tenants. Similarly in cases where CCTV were being managed by concierges, potential crimes were reported to the relevant teams.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the report be noted.

127 WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18 (Item B4)

The Chair invited members to consider topics or aspects of the Council services for the Committee to scrutinise during the 2017/18 Municipal Year and suggested that Members take the opportunity to speak to relevant officers before the next meeting.

In relation to previously scrutinised items which had been considered within the last two years, Committee agreed that an update from relevant officers might be sufficient.

Members requested that an Officer update on Air quality should be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

A number of topics were discussed such as village principle, Air quality/Mayor funding, recycling, renewable energy and fuel poverty, however it was agreed that this should be deferred to the next meeting at which a decision would be made on what item to scrutinise.

A suggestion for site visits to Gillespie Park and the Bunhill Heat and Power Energy centre to be facilitated by relevant Officers was noted.

RESOLVED:

1. That an update on Air Quality be included on the agenda for the next meeting.
2. That site visits to the Gillespie Park and the Bunhill Heat and Power Energy centre be facilitated by Officers.

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm

CHAIR