



AGENDA FOR THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Members of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee are summoned to the meeting which will be held on **24 February 2015 at 7.30 pm.**

John Lynch
Head of Democratic Services

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Despatched : 16 February 2015

Membership

Councillors:

Councillor Troy Gallagher (Chair)	Councillor Una O'Halloran
Councillor Gary Doolan	Councillor Olly Parker
Councillor Michael O'Sullivan	Councillor Caroline Russell
Councillor Martin Klute	Councillor James Court
Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz	Councillor Satnam Gill
Councillor Osh Gantly	Councillor Jenny Kay

Substitutes:

Councillor Alice Perry	Councillor Jilani Chowdhury
Councillor Alex Diner	Councillor Richard Greening
Councillor Gary Heather	Councillor Robert Khan
Councillor Raphael Andrews	Councillor Nick Wayne
Councillor Paul Smith	Councillor Flora Williamson
Councillor Clare Jeapes	Councillor Mouna Hamitouche MBE

Quorum: 4 Councillors

A. FORMAL MATTERS **Page**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declaration of Substitute Members
3. Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest

If you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest*** in an item of business:

- if it is not yet on the council's register, you **must** declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent;
- you may **choose** to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that is already in the register in the interests of openness and transparency.

In both the above cases, you **must** leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If you have a **personal** interest in an item of business **and** you intend to speak or vote on the item you **must** declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent but you **may** participate in the discussion and vote on the item.

***(a) Employment, etc** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.

(b) Sponsorship - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect of your expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of your election; including from a trade union.

(c) Contracts - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between you or your partner (or a body in which one of you has a beneficial interest) and the council.

(d) Land - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.

(e) Licences- Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.

(f) Corporate tenancies - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which you or your partner have a beneficial interest.

(g) Securities - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

This applies to all members present at the meeting.

4. To approve minutes of previous meeting 1 - 4
5. Matters Arising from the minutes

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

7. Chair's Report

B. ITEMS FOR CALL IN - IF ANY **Page**

C. SCRUTINY AND MONITORING REPORTS **Page**

8.	VCS Annual Report	5 - 6
9.	Welfare Reforms update	
	To follow	
D.	REPORT OF REVIEW CHAIRS	Page
E.	DISCUSSION ITEMS - IF ANY	Page
F.	MONITORING RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES, TIMETABLE FOR TOPICS, WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN	Page
G.	URGENT NON EXEMPT MATTERS	
	<u>Any non-exempt items which the chair agrees should be considered urgently by reason of special circumstances. The reason for urgency will be agreed by the Chair and recorded in the minutes.</u>	
H.	EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS	
	<u>To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business in the remaining items on the agenda any of them are likely to involve the disclosure of exempt or confidential information within the terms of the access to information procedure rules in the constitution and if so, whether to exclude the press and public during discussion thereof.</u>	
I.	CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS FOR CALL IN - IF ANY	Page
J.	EXEMPT ITEMS	
	<u>The Public may be excluded from meetings whenever it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that exempt information would be disclosed.</u>	
K.	OTHER BUSINESS	Page

The next meeting of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee will be on 2 March 2015. **Please note all committee agendas, reports and minutes are available on the council's website:**

www.democracy.islington.gov.uk

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London Borough of Islington

Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee - 22 January 2015

Non-confidential minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee held at on 22 January 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Gallagher (Chair), Shaikh (Vice-Chair), Doolan,
O'Sullivan, O'Halloran, Parker, Russell, Gill and Kay
Also **Councillors:** Hull and Watts
Present:

Councillor Troy Gallagher in the Chair

- 73 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)**
 Councillor Osh Gantly, Martin Klute and Kaya Comer Schwartz
- 74 **DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item 2)**
 None
- 75 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)**
 None
- 76 **TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)**
 RESOLVED:
 That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 06 January 2015 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them
- 77 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (Item 5)**
 None
- 78 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS (Item 6)**
 The Chair outlined the procedure for dealing with Members questions and filming and recording at meetings
- 79 **CHAIR'S REPORT (Item 7)**
 The Chair stated that due to the number of agenda items due to come to forthcoming meetings there was a need to convene an additional meeting of the Committee in February or March and a date would be notified to Members in the near future
- 80 **BUDGET REPORT TO EXECUTIVE ON 15-01-15 (Item 8)**
 Councillor Andy Hull, Executive Member Finance and Performance, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Watts and Mike Curtis, Director of Finance and Property Services, were present and outlined the Budget report.

During consideration of the Budget the following main points were made –

- It was noted that Council funding from the Government had reduced BY £100m since 2010, which equated to the loss of £1000 per household in the borough
- The Council had to make savings of £37m in 2015/16 and Islington had suffered the ninth largest reduction in Government funding in the country

Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee - 22 January 2015

- Despite this the Committee noted that GCSE results had improved significantly, 1800 new affordable homes had been built in the borough, services to those with moderate needs had been maintained, and that there had been a fall in youth unemployment
- Noted that it was proposed to raise the Council Tax by 1.99%, which equated to a 40p per week increase in Band D Council Tax band. Islington Council Tax, despite this moderate increase, would still be lower than the London average and those of neighbouring inner London Boroughs
- The Committee welcomed that the LLW was now paid to 98% of all Council and its contractors staff
- Whilst it was noted that regretfully, because of the Budget reductions 211 posts were being deleted, 50% of these were either vacant posts or staff wishing to take voluntary redundancy. £1m had also been saved in reductions to senior management
- The Committee welcomed that front line services such as Libraries, Children's Centres etc. had been retained
- The Committee noted that there was likely to be further reductions in Local Government spending in future years that would result in funding reducing to levels not seen since the introduction of the NHS
- The Committee congratulated the Executive, and in particular the Executive Member Finance and Performance, on the Budget proposals that retained services for the most vulnerable at a time of severe Government funding reductions
- It was noted that the 'roadshows' to discuss the Budget had taken place with residents and that they had not previously understood the extent of the Budget reductions that the Council faced and were likely to face in future years. Residents spoke highly of services that they were in receipt of
- It was felt that there was a need to develop a strategy to lobby the Government about the effects of future funding reductions in Local Government
- It was noted that there had been concern expressed over the proposal to impose a diesel charge, however the Council felt that this was an appropriate measure environmentally, given the evidence of the dangers of diesel pollution on health
- The Committee welcomed the provision in the budget for the continuation of the Resident Support scheme, given that the Government had made no Local Welfare provision from 2015/16
- The Committee noted that this had been part funded by reducing the number of refuse collection vehicles required by moving towards a communal kitchen waste and green waste removal service

RESOLVED:

That the above comments be forwarded to the Executive for consideration

The Committee thanked Councillors Hull and Watts and the Director of Finance and Property Services for attending

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INCOME GENERATION (Item 9)

Kevin O'Leary, Director of Environment and Regeneration, was present and outlined the report to the Committee.

During consideration of the report the following main points were made –

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- The Chair stated that the income generation proposals for savings in the medium and longer term would be considered by the Committee on 2 March for approval and submission to the Executive

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted and note the parallel PV Task and Finish Group and Community Energy Scrutiny review that are taking place
- (b) That the Executive Member Finance and Performance include a capital bid of £1,103,794 (and associated revenue costs), to fund the investment and additional income of £135,995 in the Budget Proposals 2015/16 report to the Executive on 12 February 2015 to reflect the income anticipated from the activities outlined in the report

The meeting ended at 8.00p.m.

CHAIR

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Annual Report of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee

Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee, 24 February 2015

Background

- The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Committee is responsible for overseeing the Council's engagement with the Islington community and voluntary sector and ensuring value for money and fairness in the allocation of council resources to the sector.
- In 2014/15 the Council will spend just over £41m on services delivered by the voluntary sector. Around half of this goes to Islington based organisations. However, as the Council faces the biggest reductions in government funding since the Second World War, it is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain resources at this level.
- Despite government cuts, the Council is determined to continue making a real difference in the areas that matter most to local people. The voluntary sector is a key partner in this endeavour but it will also need to adapt to a harsher financial climate. The Council and the VCS will have to work more closely with less money in new and creative ways to meet the challenges that lie ahead.
- The VCS Committee meets six times a year and, under its [Terms of Reference](#), is required to make an annual report to the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee on its activities. This year's report covers the period from March 2014 to February 2015.

During 2014/15 the VCS Committee:

- Agreed £2.3m of funding to support local organisations working with some of Islington's most vulnerable residents by extending current grant awards from the **VCS Grants Fund** and **Advice Fund** for 12 months to 31 March 2016. This will provide time for the Council and the VCS to work together to develop the resiliency of the voluntary sector and consider how best to support local organisations beyond 2016. Discussions will be informed by the feedback from a consultation with the VCS in summer 2014 and by recommendations from the Annual VCS Conference held in the Assembly Hall in November.
- Awarded **Discretionary Rate Relief** (DRR) to 173 local organisations at a cost to the Council of approximately £275,000 per year. Awards are for five years until 31 March 2020. DRR is a cost effective way to support organisations providing local benefit as councils only have to pay 30% of the cost of giving it. The rest is funded by central government and the Greater London Authority. New applications for DRR will now be considered by the VCS Committee twice a year.

- Agreed around 200 proposals submitted by ward councillors for awards from the **Local Initiatives Fund**. These awards enable councillors to respond directly to priorities in their ward and fund small projects sitting outside of mainstream funding programmes that might not otherwise receive resources. Each ward has £20,000 per year to allocate (proposing to reduce to £15,000 per year from April 2015).
- Ratified around 50 grant awards from **Islington Community Chest**. This is a very popular scheme providing small grants to local community organisations with a turnover (in most cases) of less than £50,000 a year. The programme is administered by the Cripplegate Foundation which tops up the Community Chest with its own resources and offers a capacity building service to all groups that receive a grant. The Council's contribution is £200,000 per year.
- Awarded small grants totalling £16,000 per year from the **Community Festivals Fund**. For 2015/16 the VCS Committee has agreed to adopt a more strategic approach and will fund a smaller number of key festivals – between £1,500 and £4,000 per event – providing borough-wide benefit.
- Offered 10 Islington-based community organisations and charities **free hire of Islington Assembly Hall** for an event. These have included a world health day for older people (Islington Mental Health Forum), annual school sports awards (Sport Islington) and a spring ball (Cubitt Artists).
- Approved Islington Council's contribution of £231,000 to the **London Boroughs Grants Committee** for 2015-16. This scheme funds organisations providing services across London, many of which meet local priorities such as tackling poverty, reducing crime and providing decent and affordable housing. The net benefit for Islington residents is estimated to be £400,000 per year.

Signed by:



Lela Kogbara
Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Community Partnerships)
12 February 2015

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