London Borough of Islington

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee - 1 March 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held at Committee Room 4, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 1 March 2016 at 7.00 pm.

Present: **Councillors:**   James Court (Chair), Diamaid Ward (Vice-Chair), Theresa Debono, Mouna Hamitouche, Gary Heather, Clare Jeapes and Caroline Russell

Councillor James Court in the Chair

23   **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Marian Spall.

24   **DECLARATIONS OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item A2)**
There were no substitute members.

25   **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item A3)**
There were no declarations of interest.

26   **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item A4)**

RESOLVED:
That the minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting on 1 February 2016 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

27   **PUBLIC QUESTIONS (Item A5)**
Public questions would be taken during the relevant agenda items.

28   **CHAIR'S REPORT (Item A6)**
There was no chair's report.

29   **SMART CITIES SCRUTINY REVIEW- WITNESS EVIDENCE (Item B1)**
Joe Dignan from Future Cities, Catapult gave evidence.

In the presentation and discussion the following points were made:
- Catapult worked to accelerate innovation, to grow business and the economy and to make cities better. It undertook practical projects across 12 UK cities and 4 continents.
- The Urban Innovation Centre was created by Catapult and was a place for businesses, academics and city leaders to discuss and develop the cities of the future. Urban innovators could work there together to turn new technologies and processes into real products and services that would be scaled up and used in cities around the world. These urban innovators included data scientists, urban designers and anthropologists. The resident innovators were Ordnance Survey Geovation Hub, Intel ICRI, Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities, Hypercat City and Igloo Regeneration.

- The Urban Innovation Centre had hosted 25 visits from overseas delegations in the last 6 months. Networking events were held at the centre each week.
- PAS 181 provided standards to benchmark against.
- In Belfast, a project had been undertaken in relation to business rates and ascertaining whether buildings were live.
- Smart cities worked best when there was an innovation team which solely focussed on smart cities work and reported to the Chief Executive. They could become an income generating team.
- One project involved creating and building air sensors. They were being used to monitor air quality outside schools.
- Last year Catapult had worked with Bristol. Bristol had 1,500 street assets with sensors and this would be increased to 47,000 which would create a mass of data that could be turned into information.
- A planetarium in Bristol had been upgraded to be a data visualisation centre. The gaming community and small and medium enterprises had been asked to explore the potential uses of the data.
- A 3D model of Bristol had been produced.
- Bristol had an elected mayor who provided a lead on smart cities work. The mayor received his allowance in local currency – the Bristol Pound.
- The Treasury's Digital Transformation Plan would be published soon.
- In Scotland, there was an alliance of seven cities plus a virtual smart city.
- It was anticipated that in the future there would be more recognition that smart cities were critical to economic growth, that IT companies would no longer be seen as the leaders of smart cities and that cities would look for funding in a different way.
- An all party parliamentary group had been set up.
- In Vienna there was a super department called TINA which ensured collaborative working between departments.
- Peterborough had won a 2015 World Smart City Award for its Living Smart and Circular Urban Laboratory.
- Catapult Future Cities 'City Academy' had been attended by Camden and Islington. Suppliers were invited in and were given a challenge. They were invited to come back with a plan and any plans would then go through the procurement process.
- In London, work was being done on the future of stations.
- Work was taking place in Glasgow on the future of university campuses.
- In Bristol, a scheme was taking place to assist those with Alzheimer's stay independent for longer. Measures including skype meant people could remain in their own homes for longer and residential care was only used when the Alzheimer's became more advanced.
- A city co-ordination management centre had been set up in Bristol which included an NHS centre and a university.
- Catapult worked with groups that wanted to be proactive.
- It was important to audit data sets and turn data into information which could be used to make a difference.
- Work should start with a good idea and an innovation team should progress it. Funding could often be obtained from various sources after ideas had been formulated.
- Bristol was undertaking work with troubled families. The DCLG had funding available if it could be proven that work was helping families.
- Islington Council was trying to enable residents to do more online whilst trying to ensure that those who were not online, were not excluded. More work was required to facilitate inclusion and accessibility.

RESOLVED:

That the evidence be noted.

30   CCTV SCRUTINY REVIEW - WITNESS EVIDENCE (Item B2)
Garrett McEntee, Technical Services Manager gave witness evidence.

In the presentation and discussion the following points were made:
- The CCTV service had over 1,000 cameras. There were 12 concierge sites; two of which were managed by TMO's with the remaining 10 managed by the council. The offices were opened between 16-24 hours a day. The CCTV was in operation on 33 estates. There were 6 roof access systems which included 11 cameras.
- Maintaining CCTV helped to support crime prevention measures, helped to address anti-social behaviour, improved the quality of residents' lives, provided a crime and anti-social behaviour deterrent and assisted with crime investigation.
- Capital Improvement Work involved maintaining the existing equipment rather than implementing new schemes.
- CCTV repair works were carried out by the Housing Repairs Team. Maintenance works included six monthly maintenance and an annual service. Responsive repairs were undertaken to address minor repair works i.e. breakdowns and equipment failure.
- When repairs work was undertaken, all the equipment i.e. cameras, recording equipment and the PA systems were serviced and cleaned
- Breakdown information was recorded and sent to repair officers.
- Data was uploaded into the maintenance programme.
- The CCTV Capital Improvement Strategy considered capital investment availability, the forward improvement plan, any technical need for the proposed works, resident and stakeholder feedback, crime and anti-social behaviour, officer consultation feedback, other capital improvement projects and alternative security measures.
- The service was trying to work more closely with stakeholders, particularly when upgrading installations.
- The Capital Improvement Strategy allocated resources to the places it was most needed.
- When CCTV was being considered there had to be a clear stated purpose for CCTV plus consultation and engagement with the public and partners. The solution had to be proportionate and have the potential to meet the stated purpose and there had to be a regard to privacy and family life. Home office guidance stated that deployment should not continue for longer than necessary, however it was impractical to remove cameras and the problem could then return.
- There had to be a balance between public protection and individual privacy.
- Different sites required different solutions. Scheme design considerations included a clear understanding of security concerns and the options available, the size of the site to have CCTV coverage, equipment specification (which was a changing field), assessment of operational issues, assessment of managerial implications and clarification on objectives and outcomes to be achieved i.e. crowd control, theft reduction and unauthorised entry.
- On the Elthorne Estate, a wall which had been used by congregating youths linked to gangs had been removed and this had stopped them from congregating there.
- Following a request from residents on one estate to install more CCTV, the Crime Prevention Officer put forward a number of recommendations which included a small increase in cameras plus a number of alternative security measures including an 'A' frame which would allow cyclists through but only if they dismounted. Pushchair and wheelchair access was more restricted but this could be alleviated by having the base a little wider. Another alternative measure was to fit bollards across footpaths which were wide enough to allow wheelchair access. Old fashioned paving stones were irregular and difficult to ride over quickly and helped to slow bikes down.

Restrictive seating could act as alternative security measure. It could help to address youths congregating around seating and bin enclosures could be designed so it was not possible to hide. Ladder guards design could be improved to improve security and prevent access to restricted/less secure areas.

- A CCTV dome camera could provide effective CCTV. People on the ground could not see in which direction the camera was pointing.
- Other ways to improve security included to improve lighting and estate visibility, make better use of fences, prune trees and remove hedge overgrowth, remove congregation focal points, remove non-illuminate areas, install suitable lighting where scaffolding was being used and address door entry failures.
- Concerns were raised that alterative security measures could affect accessibility and amenity for residents. Garrett McEntree stated that it was important to consider each specific site and the requirements and alternative security measures and this would be included in the stakeholder process.
- The council had a seven year capital investment programme, some projects were being funded by Section 106 money and CCTV priorities were being identified in line with the asset strategy.
- The project delivery process map involved a feasibility analysis/commissioning document, consultation with internal and external crime prevention bodies, a ballot/consultation requirement, scheme design, scheme procurement and scheme implementation.
- Some areas and estates had more CCTV than others.
- More work could take place to make the service more responsive to residents' comments.
- Work was being done to categorise cameras with problems e.g. near trees or poor lighting so they could be managed as a group. A database was being set up to assist with this.
- Work was taking place with the Geographic Information System (GIS) team to map every camera in the borough.
- Depending on the specification, each camera cost approximately £3500 to install. The maintenance cost could be provided to the committee.
- It was not possible to provide crime data comparisons pre and post CCTV installation as the CCTV team mainly focussed on anti-social behaviour rather than other types of crime.
- It was important to use the data the CCTV provided. The concierge officers worked with the anti-social behaviour team and the police would be called if they were required. Taking action was a deterrent to those who committed crime and/or anti-social behaviour.
- Work was taking place to develop a performance indicator.
- Work was taking place to correlate anti-social behaviour work with incidents. This would be completed by the 1st/2nd Quarter 2016/17.
- The committee would be provided with a map of the general areas of the cameras in the borough.
- In response to a question from a member of the public about how smart the CCTV was, the officer advised that as technology improved the CCTV became smarter. More tracking was now taking place and equipment such as trip wires and motion sensors were being introduced. Sherlock was a new system that could search through historical data quickly. This would be an area for more development in the future.
- In response to a question from a member of the public about the number of crimes, the officer advised that every time a request for CCTV was made, this was recorded and a report was written on the database. The concierge service generated approximately 1600 anti-social behaviour and crime reports each year.

RESOLVED:
That the evidence be noted.

31   WORK PROGRAMME (Item B3)
RESOLVED:
That the work programme be noted.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm

CHAIR