

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee - 17 April 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held at Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD - Islington Town Hall on 17 April 2018 at 7.30 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Champion (Chair), Andrews, Russell, Heather and Jeapes

Councillor Rowena Champion in the Chair

201 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)

Apologies were received from Councillors Hamitouche, Doolan and Perry-Clark.

202 DECLARATIONS OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item 2)

There were no declarations of substitute members.

203 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

204 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2018 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

205 PUBLIC QUESTIONS (Item 5)

There were no public questions.

206 CHAIR'S REPORT (Item 6)

The Chair noted that it was the last meeting of the municipal year and thanked all members, officers and witnesses involved during the review exercise for all their input and contributions.

207 SCRUTINY REVIEW HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING IN ISLINGTON - FINAL REPORT (Item B1)

The Committee considered the final report and recommendations and made a number of changes and suggestions. The following main points were noted in the discussion:

- The Committee agreed that recommendation 1 be rephrased so as to make it clearer.
- Members agreed to replace the word 'Target' with the word 'Prioritise' in recommendation 2.1.
- A suggestion on whether highlighting within the report the need to encourage composting especially through garden groups on housing estates was noted. In response the Waste and Street Scenes Manager advised that an action plan would be developed as a result of the Committee's review and recommendations and this

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issue would be addressed.

- Members agreed that as part of the decision making process, the word 'statutory' be deleted from recommendation 5.4 as this would restrict report authors when writing committee papers.
- Members agreed that an additional recommendation relating to working with residents be included in the report as residents should play a vital role in decision making issues such as siting and design of bins in conjunction with caretakers.
- Members were advised of an error to be amended on page 14 of the report which stated that Camden's recycling rate had increased following the Council's decision to change from weekly to fortnightly collection. Evidence indicated that the change in regime was reported to have resulted in an increase in recycling tonnage.
- In response to suggestions that the issue of promoting and raising awareness amongst residents regarding nappy disposal be given prominence in the report especially as the Council participates in the nappy voucher scheme, the Waste and Street Scene Manager advised that although the Service provides workshops for residents, there is no evidence to indicate that this would result in any significant increase in recycling rates. Members agreed a recommendation to provide all new parents with information about the nappy voucher scheme and method of disposals.
- With regards to evidence given by both North London Waste Authority and London Resource that changes to fortnightly collections and providing containers to residents would result in an increase in the recycling rates, Members acknowledged that this was not practical especially with Islington housing mix and the demographics of the population.

RESOLVED:

That subject to amendments to the recommendations in the report and the inclusion of two additional recommendations highlighted above, the report be agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm

CHAIR