

**Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday 25 March 2014**

Non-confidential minutes of the meeting of **Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee** held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on **Tuesday 25 March 2014 at 7.30pm.**

Present: **Councillors:** Troy Gallagher, (Chair), Claudia Webbe, Phil Kelly, Raphael Andrews, and Tracy Ismail
Also Present: **Councillors:** Andy Hull

COUNCILLOR TROY GALLAGHER IN THE CHAIR

596 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kaya Makarau Schwartz and Terry Stacy

597 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item A2)

None

598 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (Item A3)

None

599 MINUTES (Item A4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3 March 2014 be confirmed and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

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600 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (Item A5)

None

601 CHAIR'S REPORTS (Item A6)

None

602 ITEMS FOR CALL IN (Item B1)

None

603 SCRUTINY REVIEW – PROCUREMENT REVIEW – FINAL REPORT (Item C1)

Councillor Andy Hull, Executive Member for Finance and Performance, was present for discussion of this item.

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

- Recommendation 3 should be amended to read – Undertake a radical overhaul of the current system of checks of work to ensure that the quality and consistency of contractors work, especially in relation to housing contracts and repairs, in order to ensure tenants
- Recommendation 4 should be amended to read – Ensure that contractors are complying with the Council requirement to pay all their staff the London Living Wage
- Recommendation 5 should be amended to read – To consider whether the use of Commensura is essential. In addition to consider how the use of agency staff can be reduced and be replaced by the use of directly employed staff. This could include the use of peripatetic groups of staff that are employed to cover vacancies and sickness and designing jobs in particular areas to make them more accessible to local residents with childcare responsibilities, predominantly women
- Recommendation 7 – the addition of in line 4 after the word and the words – including details of the length of time agency and consultancy staff have been employed and any extensions granted to their contracts.
- Recommendation 8 - should be amended to read – it was noted that during the course of the scrutiny Commensura Ltd. Had agreed to provide regular reports concerning the diversity profile of agency staff supplied via the contract with them. However, the Committee feel that the equalities information should have been submitted previously and should be submitted when any agency staff/consultants are employed. In addition work should be undertaken with the Strategy and Equality unit to improve guidance with regard to equalities in procurement
- Recommendation 9 should be amended to read – To raise the threshold for seeking competitive tenders from £100,000 to £172,514, the current financial threshold requiring advertisement in Europe. This will enable smaller local suppliers to compete for work up to this higher level, because it will only require them to submit quotes.
- Recommendation 12 – delete the word continue and insert the word ensure
- Recommendation 13 – the addition of the words – A report back on a quarterly basis should be submitted by the Procurement Board to a sub group of Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee, consisting of four Members appointed by the Committee to undertake regular monitoring, review and oversight of contract spend
- Recommendation 14 – should be amended to read – Discuss with other London Councils building a coalition arrangement to reduce the number of agency staff/consultants employed on a limited company basis and to ensure that such staff are only employed on a short term basis and in specialist fields

RESOLVED:

That subject to the above amendments the report be agreed and submitted to the Executive for consideration

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The Chair thanked Councillor Hull and officers for attending.

604 CHAIR OF REGENERATION AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE – PRESENTATION (Item C2)

Councillor Tracy Ismail, Chair of Regeneration and Employment Committee, was present for discussion of this item and made a presentation to the Committee.

Councillor Ismail outlined the work carried out by the Committee and stated that the current scrutiny review report on small businesses had been agreed by the Committee and would now be submitted to the Executive.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

The Chair thanked Councillor Tracy Ismail for attending.

605 QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT (Item C3)

Councillor Andy Hull, Executive Member Finance and Performance was present for discussion of this item and outlined the report.

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

- Reference was made to the high incidence of mobile phone theft in the borough and that this often took place on stolen bicycles and scooters. It was stated that Councillor Andrews should discuss this with the Executive Member Community Safety with a view to asking the Police to consider theft of bicycles and scooters, which is seen as low level crime, as more of a priority given the link to mobile phone theft
- The Youth Council should be approached as to ideas for combating mobile phone theft
- The Quarter 4 Performance report should include a briefing on comparative data with other London Councils on some key indicators
- Members should be informed as to how it is intended to achieve the targets around the number of households in temporary accommodation
- Members commented that the work on boiler replacement was excellent however it was important that this did not reduce over the Spring and Summer months
- Reference was made to the recruitment of foster carers and that this needed to be improved. It was stated that Members should be informed of the drop out rate of people who after initially registering an interest in becoming a foster carer then do not proceed as they go through the process of preparation. The view was expressed that this may be because the process is seen as bureaucratic
- Whilst the ethnic diversity of foster carers in the borough was good there was a need for more recruitment
- Reference was made to the wording in paragraph 5.12 of the report that referred to increase the proportion of young black people arrested and that this was not the intention and needed to be rephrased for future reports

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and the information requested above be made available to Members

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S&P

The Chair thanked Councillor Hull for attending.

606 DISCUSSION ITEMS (IF ANY) (Item D)

None.

607 CONSIDERATION OF PLANS (Item E)

None

608 REPORTS OF REVIEW CHAIRS (Item F)

None.

609 MONITORING REPORT (Item G1)

None

610 URGENT NON-EXEMPT MATTERS (Item H)

None.

611 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS (Item 1)

None.

612 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS FOR CALL IN (IF ANY) (Item J)

None.

613 URGENT NON EXEMPT ITEMS (Item K)

None.

614 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Item L)

None.

615 VOTE OF THANKS

It was moved by Councillor Phil Kelly and seconded by Councillor Tracy Ismail and –

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That a cordial vote of thanks be accorded to the Chair for the services rendered during the current municipal year.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm

CHAIR