

Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee - 9 May 2016

Non-confidential minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee held at on 9 May 2016 at 7.30 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** O'Halloran (Vice-Chair), Comer-Schwartz, Doolan, Kay,
O'Sullivan, Russell, Andrews, Chowdhury and Jeapes
Also Present: **Councillors:** Hull, Shaikh and Greening

**Councillor Una O'Halloran (Vice Chair)
in the Chair**

- 225** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)**
Councillors Gallagher and Ismail
- 226** **DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item 2)**
None
- 227** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)**
None
- 228** **TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)**
RESOLVED;
That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 March be confirmed and the Chair be authorised to sign them
- 229** **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (Item 5)**
None
- 230** **PUBLIC QUESTIONS (Item 6)**
The Chair outlined the procedure for Public questions and filming and recording of meetings
- 231** **CHAIR'S REPORT (Item 7)**
None
- 232** **SCRUTINY REVIEW TAX AVOIDANCE - DRAFT REPORT (Item 8)**
RESOLVED:
That the Scrutiny report on Tax Avoidance be approved and referred to the Executive for consideration
- 233** **EXECUTIVE MEMBER - VCS ANNUAL REPORT (Item 9)**
The Executive Member for Economic Development, Councillor Shaikh, was present for discussion of this item and made a presentation to the Committee.

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

- A new Voluntary and Community Sector Development team has been established inter alia to have greater emphasis on developing outcome driven, effective

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partnerships with the VCS and help build capacity in the sector and support the sector to attract investment

- A VCS strategy has been established for 2016-2020
- A whole Council approach is being taken bringing together funding from CE, Housing and Adult Social Services, CCG and aligning monitoring processes
- VCS grants fund of £2.67 m secured for VCS grants, including advice, and the VCS Grants fund of £1.163m has been protected
- New grant funding arrangements will begin in September 2016
- The Community Chest fund in 2015/16 attracted 102 community groups applying for funding and 57 community groups were awarded funding of just over £222,000
- Ward Partnerships are informal arrangements to support local democracy and the view was expressed that some Ward Partnerships were more effective than others and met more regularly. It was noted that the arrangements were being looked at and resourcing
- The Local Initiatives Fund (LIF) has a budget of £240,000 per financial year - £15000 per ward and 174 local projects were awarded funding in 2015/16. Concern was expressed that LIF monies were being used to subsidise cuts in budgets to voluntary organisations
- The view was expressed that there is a need to emphasise social value when awarding contracts and it was stated that this is being taken on board
- It was stated that the Council were looking to provide premises at reduced rents to assist voluntary organisations and aligning VCS with housing community development work
- There is a challenge to get larger organisations to work with local providers to provide services
- Assistance is being given to smaller organisations to help them to prepare a financial strategy and Islington had protected funding more than other Local Authorities. In addition DIA are funded by the Council to assist VCS groups

The Chair thanked Councillor Shaikh for her presentation and attending the Committee

234 SCRUTINY REVIEW - KNIFE CRIME, MOBILE PHONE THEFT ETC. - DRAFT REPORT (Item 10)

Reference was made to the Stop and Search Monitoring Group and that this should link in with the recommendation on Stop and Search.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the following amendments –

Recommendation 7-line 4 after the word panel insert the words ‘young people’. In addition add the following sentence – ‘That liaison take place with the Stop and Search Monitoring Group in order that both the public in general and young people can hold the Police to account’

Recommendation 8 – add the words at the end – ‘The Council works to improve universal youth services throughout the borough, with a good geographical spread’

Recommendation 9 – add the words at the end – ‘Put in clear criteria for exclusions to make the process more transparent and ensure liaison takes place with schools to ensure permanent exclusion rates, especially at primary level are kept to a minimum’

Recommendation 13 – add new sentence – ‘ In addition policies and practices be put in place to ensure that those considered most at risk of offending/re-offending are kept under constant review to reduce the risk of offending/re-offending of this cohort of young people’

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Recommendation 15 – after the word ‘reviewed’ insert the words – ‘and a Pan London approach be developed with the Mayor of London’

235 SCRUTINY TOPICS 2016/17 - VERBAL (Item 11)

The Chair stated that any suggestions for scrutiny topics should be made to the Chair following Annual Council on 12 May

The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m

CHAIR