

**Decisions of the Budget & Performance
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

1st September 2010

Members

- * Councillor Darrel Yawitch (Chairman)
- * Councillor Mark Shooter (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

- | | |
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| * John Marshall | * Alex Brodkin
(substituting for Alison
Moore) |
| * Hugh Rayner | Julie Johnson |
| * Brian Salinger | * Alan Schneiderman |
| * Brian Schama | |
| * Daniel Seal | |

(* denotes member present)

Also attending:

Councillor Andrew Harper
Councillor Brian Coleman

Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Families
Cabinet Member for Environment

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd July 2010 be approved.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor Alison Moore (for whom Councillor Alex Brodkin substituted), and from Councillor Julie Johnson.

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS (INCLUDING WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS)

There were no such declarations.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None.

5. MEMBER'S ITEMS

None.

6. MANAGING THE RISING LEVELS OF ACTIVITY IN CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

The Committee received a report outlining the impact of consistently higher levels of children's social care activity in Barnet over the previous two years, including the impact on performance and the anticipated future levels of demand.

Members and officers agreed that improving the attainment of children in care was of a significant priority for the authority. The Committee noted the compelling arguments for early intervention, and welcomed the emphasis placed on this.

The Committee discussed the placing of children outside the borough, with officers agreeing to investigate the relocation of some social workers to Kent.

RESOLVED –

- 1. The Committee notes the matters contained within the report and recommend that the authority encourage the provision of mentoring and vocational schemes by local businesses for children in care, particularly those businesses contracted by the authority.**

7. REDUCING WASTE AND INCREASING RECYCLING RATES IN BARNET

The Committee received information outlining only incremental increases in recycling and waste reduction over the last few years and noted the strategy in place to address this.

The Committee noted the imminent procurement of the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) Recycling contract, and the likely need for integration of waste collection services across those boroughs within the NLWA. The Cabinet Member re-affirmed that collections of residual rubbish would continue to operate on a weekly basis.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That Members of the Committee be provided with the Waste Action Plan.**
- 2. That the Cabinet Member be invited to write to Councillor Shooter on the topic of a borough carbon reduction strategy.**
- 3. That officers be asked to investigate the feasibility of placing a sticker containing recycling instructions in the lid of residents' bins to indicate which material is suitable for recycling, and the correct box for it to be placed in.**
- 4. The Committee affirms the importance of recycling education in schools and encourages officers to continue their efforts in this area.**

5. **That officers be asked to investigate the instigation of a recycling reward scheme, similar to the scheme currently being offered by Maidstone Borough Council.**
6. **That officers be asked to continue to work with supermarkets to encourage recycling facilities be installed at their sites.**
7. **That Members of the Committee do communicate any further views on further potential action, directly to the Cabinet Member.**

8. PARKING POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

The Chairman agreed to vary the order of business to allow this item to be considered at this point in the agenda.

The Committee received an overview of the parking service in the borough, and noted that the Cabinet Member was formulating proposals to Cabinet to consider the outsourcing of this service, in common with many other boroughs. The Cabinet Member emphasised that any proposals would have to proceed through all the appropriate channels including consultation and approval. It was envisaged that any potential outsource of the service would be contracted in such a way as to allow the authority to maintain control of parking operations.

The Committee affirmed the need for balance between revenue generation and not placing an undue burden on the residents of the borough. The Committee were informed that parking wardens were not issued with targets for the issuing of parking tickets.

RESOLVED –

1. **That, in considering any future proposals, the Committee encouraged the authority to balance the need to generate revenue from parking without placing an undue burden on residents of the borough.**
2. **That the Committee strongly endorsed the proposal to move to cashless operations.**

9. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE RESULTS FOR QUARTER 1 2010/11

The Committee were pleased with the new method for scrutinising performance information, and agreed to Scrutinise two further areas in depth when receiving the Quarter 2 performance results on November 25th 2010.

RESOLVED –

1. **That at its meeting of November 25th 2010, the Committee consider detailed reports relating to performance in the follow areas:**

- **Housing and Homelessness**
- **Customer Services**

10. DRAFT ESTATES STRATEGY

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to conduct pre-decision Scrutiny on a draft estates strategy. They discussed how best the authority should manage its buildings in the current economic climate, and received assurances from officers that the authority had no current plans to dispose of its property assets.

The Cabinet Member for Environment confirmed that any proposals around allowing local communities to manage allotments would involve the authority maintaining its freehold on them.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That consideration be given by the authority as to options for assets not required for the authority's operational portfolio.**
- 2. That Members of the Committee be encouraged to communicate any further views to officers on the draft documentation.**
- 3. That the Estates Strategy be considered further at the Committee's meeting of November 25th 2010.**

11. CABINET FORWARD PLAN

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the Committee note the Forward Plan of key decisions.**
- 2. That the Committee receive the Sustainable Communities Strategy at its meeting of November 25th 2010 for pre-decision Scrutiny.**

12. BUDGET & PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its work programme for 2010/11.

RESOLVED-

- 1. That the progress of the Committee's work programme in 2010/11 be noted.**

2. **That the meeting of 27th October 2010 consider the latest budget and financial forward planning position.**

13. ANY ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were no items.

The meeting concluded at 10:00pm.