

Decisions of the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17 October 2011

Present:

- * Councillor Hugh Rayner (Chairman)
- * Councillor Brian Salinger (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

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| Maureen Braun | * Barry Rawlings |
| * Dean Cohen | * Alan Schneiderman
(substituting for Kath McGuirk) |
| * Brian Gordon | |
| * Alison Moore | * Rowan Turner |
| * Susette Palmer
(substituting for Jack Cohen) | |

*denotes Member present

Also in attendance:

Councillor Richard Cornelius – Leader of the Council

1. MINUTES (Agenda Item 1):

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2011 be approved.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS (Agenda Item 2):

Apologies for absence had been received from:

- Councillor Kath McGuirk (who had been substituted for by Councillor Alan Schneiderman); and
- Councillor Jack Cohen (who had been substituted for by Councillor Susette Palmer).

An apology for late arrival had been received from Councillor Brian Gordon.

Apologies for absence had also been received from the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Tom Davey, and the Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Coleman, who had been invited to attend for agenda item 6 (Call-ins).

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 3):

Member:	Subject:	Interest Declared:
Councillor Hugh Rayner	Agenda Item 6 (Call-ins: Housing Strategy)	Personal but non-prejudicial interest as a director of a property company that receives a proportion of income from the local authority

Councillor Brian Salinger	Agenda Item 6 (Call-ins: Housing Strategy)	Personal but non-prejudicial interest as a director of a property company
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4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Agenda Item 4)

None.

5. MEMBERS ITEMS (Agenda Item 5)

None.

6. MATTERS REFERRED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE RELATING TO KEY DECISIONS (Agenda Item 6):

In presenting the item, the Chairman asked Members to consider the council's approach to pre-decision scrutiny and call-in. The Committee were advised that a number of items that had been subject to pre-decision scrutiny had also been called-in, resulting in Cabinet Members being reluctant to attend scrutiny meetings twice on the same subject. The Chairman suggested that the Committee should consider and agree an approach to pre-decision scrutiny and call-in rather than the Constitution being amended in this regard.

Members noted the comments of the Chairman and identified that the power to call-in decisions should be retained if Cabinet / Cabinet Members had not taken on board to comments made by scrutiny committee Members at pre-decision stage. A Member commented that where scrutiny had made recommendations to Cabinet pre-decision, Cabinet should be required to formally respond and provide details of whether recommendations had been accepted or rejected.

The Chairman undertook to keep the situation under review and discuss at a future meeting if necessary.

(A) Cabinet on 14 September 2011:

The Committee considered the following decision of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 September 2011 and asked questions of the Leader of the Council in respect of the following:

Decision Item No:	Subject:
6	Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing Housing Strategy

The Committee decided not to refer the above matter back to the Cabinet for reconsideration.

(B) Cabinet on 14 September 2011:

The Committee considered the following decision of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 September 2011 and asked questions of the Leader of the Council in respect of the following:

Decision Item No:	Subject:
7	Report of the Leader of the Council Regeneration Strategy

The Committee decided not to refer the above matter back to the Cabinet for reconsideration.

(C) Cabinet on 14 September 2011:

The Committee considered the following decision of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 September 2011 and asked questions of the Leader of the Council in respect of the following:

Decision Item No:	Subject:
8	Report of the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment North London Waste Authority – Inter-Authority Agreement

The Committee decided not to refer the above matter back to the Cabinet for reconsideration.

During consideration of the item above, Councillor Gordon entered the meeting at 7.24pm. Following consideration of the above item, Councillor Moore left the meeting at 8.17pm.

7. COUNCILLOR CALLS FOR ACTION (Agenda Item 7)

None.

8. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS / SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATE (Agenda Item 8)

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the position relating to the currently convened task and finish groups and overview and scrutiny panels.

Members commented that the current process of the Committee formally approving the membership of Task and Finish Groups had, in some circumstances, impacted on the progress of the Groups. The Overview and Scrutiny Manager advised the Members that there was no constitutional requirement for appointments to of Task and Finish Groups to be approved by the Committee. Accordingly, this requirement could be disregarded to facilitate more flexible working arrangements for scrutiny reviews.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. the Committee note the progress of the currently convened Task and Finish Groups and Overview and Scrutiny Panels as set out in the report.**
- 2. the Committee agree that Task and Finish Groups appointments are no longer required to be formally ratified by the Committee.**
- 3. the Committee recommend that a Task and Finish Group be established to**

review the Local Tenancy Strategy.

4. **the Chairmen of the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee discuss arrangements for progressing the work of the Safeguarding in Organisations Working with Children Task and Finish Group (paragraph 9.5 refers).**

9. CABINET FORWARD PLAN (Agenda Item 9)

The Committee considered the Cabinet Forward Plan for the period September to December 2011.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Forward Plan be noted.

10. BUSINESS MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME (Agenda Item 10)

RESOLVED that the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme, as set out in the Appendix, be agreed.

11. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT (Agenda Item 11)

None.

The meeting finished at 9.02pm