

**Decisions of the Business Management
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

16 November 2011

Present:

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

Councillors:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Maureen Braun | Kath McGuirk |
| * Dean Cohen | * Alison Moore |
| * Jack Cohen | * Barry Rawlings |
| * Brian Gordon | * Rowan Turner |

*denotes Member present

Also in attendance:

Councillor Joanna Tambourides – Cabinet Member for Planning

1. MINUTES (Agenda Item 1):

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2011 be approved.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS (Agenda Item 2):

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Kath McGuirk. The Committee were advised that Councillor Alan Schneiderman had been nominated to attend in place of Councillor McGuirk. However, Councillor Schneiderman had subsequently been unable to attend the meeting.

An apology for late arrival had been received from Councillor Rowan Turner.

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

| Member: | Subject: | Interest Declared: |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Councillor Brian Salinger | Agenda Item 8 (Finchley Church End Town Centre Strategy) | Personal but non-prejudicial interest as a property owner in the Finchley Church End area |

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):

None.

7. COUNCILLOR CALLS FOR ACTION (Agenda Item 7)

None.

8. FINCHLEY CHURCH END – DRAFT TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY (Agenda Item 8)

The Committee considered the pre-publication draft of the Finchley Church End Town Centre Strategy. Members were advised that the Strategy was expected to be presented to Cabinet on 14 February 2012. The Committee noted that delivery of the Strategy would be dependent on development opportunities coming forward.

Councillor Brian Salinger, having declared an interest in Item 8, left the meeting for the duration of the item.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. the Committee welcomes the Finchley Church End Town Centre Strategy and recommend that the following aspects be given further consideration:**
 - Proposed changes to parking arrangements in the Town Centre and the opportunity to enhance trade;**
 - Pedestrian routes and interactions with traffic; and**
 - Encouraging development of the evening economy to increase diversity and viability of the Town Centre**
- 2. the Committee request that consideration be given to engaging in dialogue with the Post Office to review opportunities for relocation of post office facilities in the Finchley Church End Town Centre.**
- 3. the Committee recommend that the launch of the Finchley Church End Town Centre Strategy be used as an opportunity for the council to encourage the development a Business Forum in the area.**
- 4. the Committee request that the Cabinet Member for Resident Safety and Engagement give consideration to the development of a scheme to enable local artists / educational establishments to use vacant properties in the Finchley Church End Town Centre to enhance the street scene.**
- 5. the Committee recommend that consultation on the draft Strategy takes into account the Christmas trading and holiday period and is extended accordingly.**
- 6. the Committee recommend that opportunities to access Transport for London Local Implementation Plan funding and other relevant funding streams be explored following Cabinet's agreement of the Finchley Church End Town Centre Strategy in early 2012.**

- 7. the Committee recommend that the development of a Retail Diversity Plan be considered to support the Finchley Church End Town Centre Strategy.**

During consideration of the item above, Councillor Turner entered the meeting at 7.48pm.

9. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS / SCRUTINY PANELS – RECOMMENDATION TRACKING (Agenda Item 9)

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the implementation of recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups and Scrutiny Panels which had been accepted by Cabinet.

The Chairman requested an update on the progress of the Early Intervention (Children's Services) Task and Finish Group. The Committee were advised that the Chairman of the Task and Finish Group and Scrutiny Office had been discussing the content of the report and it was the officer's view that the report and recommendations needed to be revisited before consideration by the Committee.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. the information contained within the report and appendix in relation to the progress made in implementing Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group/Panel recommendations be noted.**
- 2. in relation to the Road Resurfacing Task and Finish Group, Officers be instructed to:**
 - provide a response to recommendation ii) (page 45) relating to the use of standard materials for footway repairs across the highway network;**
 - circulate details of the Footways Survey undertaken during 2010/11 (page 45) to Committee Members;**
 - provide details of the amount of Transport for London Local Implementation Plan funding used for footway maintenance in 2010/11.**
- 3. the Committee welcome the positive impact of the recommendations made by the Homelessness and Young People Task and Finish Group.**
- 4. Officers note the concern of the Committee regarding the lack of progress made with the Health and Social Care Integration Task and Finish Group.**

10. CABINET FORWARD PLAN (Agenda Item 10)

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

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Forward Plan be noted.

11. BUSINESS MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME (Agenda Item 11)

RESOLVED that:

- 1. the Forward Work Programme, as set out in the Appendix, be agreed.**

2. **Officers be requested to present a report the Housing Allocations Scheme Six Month Review to the 9 January 2012 meeting.**

12. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT (Agenda Item 12)

Following comments made by the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance in the local press in relation to the council's frozen investments in Icelandic Banks; the Committee discussed the potential impact of the recent court judgement and implications for the council.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance be requested to provide Members of the Business Management and Budget and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committees with an update on the council's frozen investments in Icelandic Banks.

The meeting finished at 8.35pm