

Council Meeting
14 DECEMBER 2010

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER
AGENDA ITEM 5.3

5.3.4 JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At its meeting of 13th July 2010, Council agreed to appoint a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) with the London Boroughs of Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington to jointly engage with the NHS on the North Central London Service and Organisation Review and to respond, in due course, to the formal consultation thereon.

Council is asked to agree the Terms of Reference for the JHOSC as set out in Appendix A.

RECOMMEND - That the Terms of Reference of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the London Boroughs of Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington be agreed.

5.3.5 CORRECTION TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS 36 and 37

Councillor Geof Cooke has asked some minor corrections be made to his Supplementary Questions asked at the meeting on the 2 November 2010. The corrections are highlighted in bold in Appendix B.

RECOMMEND – That the corrections to Supplementary Questions 36 and 37 be noted.

Aysen Giritli
Democratic Services Manager

APPENDIX A

Terms of Reference of Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

1. To engage with NHS North Central London on strategic sector wide issues in respect of the commissioning of health services across the area of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington; and
2. To scrutinise and respond to stakeholder engagement, the consultation process and final decision in respect of any sector wide proposals for reconfiguration of specific services in the light of what is in the best interests of the delivery of a spectrum of health services across the area of, taking account of:
 - The adequacy of the consultation being carried out by the health bodies including the extent to which patients and the public have been consulted and their views have been taken into account
 - The impact on the residents of those areas of the reconfiguration proposals, as set out in the consultation document
 - To assess whether the proposals will deliver sustainable service improvement
 - To assess whether the proposed changes address existing health care inequalities and not lead to other inequalities
 - The impact on patients and carers of the different options, and if appropriate, which option should be taken forward
 - How the patient and carer experience and outcomes and their health and well-being can be maximised whichever option is selected
 - Whether to use the joint powers of the local authorities to refer either the consultation or final decision in respect of any specific proposals that constitute a substantial variation or development to local health services to the Secretary of State for Health.
3. The joint committee will work independently of both the Executive and health scrutiny committees of its parent authorities, although evidence collected by individual health scrutiny committees may be submitted as evidence to the joint committee and considered at its discretion.

4. To maintain impartiality, during the period of its operation Members of the Joint Committee will refrain from association with any campaigns either in favour or against any of the reconfiguration proposals. This will not preclude the Executives or other individual members of each authority from participating in such activities.
5. The joint committee will aim work together in a spirit of co-operation, striving to work to a consensual view to the benefit of local people.”

APPENDIX B

Question 36

Councillor Geof Cooke

The Council's street lighting PFI contractor customarily blocks the pavement while replacing lamp columns. On average per lamp column, for how long do pedestrians have to walk in the road and what is done by the Council to minimise that time?

Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman

It is not possible to provide a definitive timescale per lamp column, as the works required at each location may vary depending on site circumstances and underground obstructions. It is not customary to block the whole of the pavement while replacing lamp columns. However, on those rare occasions where the whole of the footway on one side of the road is closed due to an excavation the opposite side is, whenever possible, left unobstructed at that point and signage is installed to guide pedestrians to that effect. Therefore, one would expect the general public to cross the road and use the unobstructed footway. Unfortunately, it is not possible to prevent those pedestrians who seem to prefer to walk along the road to pass the guarded excavation from doing so.

If Councillor Cooke wishes to report such cases I am sure Officers will deal with them.

Supplementary Question 36

Councillor Geof Cooke

Is it not the case that the Council's contractors **habitually** go along a road digging holes around existing lamp columns and blocking off the pavement; and then leaving the road for days on end before they come back and complete the work? And isn't the absence of an answer to the last part of my written question an indication of **the** future shape of things to come because this contract is not being supervised properly?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan, Leader of the Council

I'm afraid that you have 2 different contractors – you have got the contractors who go and fix the lamp post and you have got the contractor who does the electrical work. That is standard practice as I am sure you do not want people who fix lamps getting involved in electrical work and it is against health and safety. Actually, do you know what, we have replaced so many lamps around the Borough and the only one complaint that I have ever had is you, Councillor Cooke.

Question 37

Councillor Geof Cooke

When notified by a utility of a need to dig up the road for a non-urgent purpose e.g. to fix a significant but not catastrophic water leak, what is the average delay between the Council receiving the request and the permitted date for the work to be done?

Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman

Most of these works take less than 3 days to complete and are classified as Minor Works. The notice we require (from us receiving a permit request to works starting) is 3 working days. If the works duration is between 3 and 10 days then the notice we require is 10 days. There is also the ability to shorten this time by early start request from the utility.

Supplementary Question 37

Councillor Geof Cooke

Would you be surprised to learn that I reported a water leak to the **area water company** and was astonished to learn that it would take 2 weeks to fix, and eventually they did it in a bit less than that. But, when I complained or queried the delay I was told that the fault was with Barnet because of the delay in giving permission for that to happen. Have I been misinformed? And, if so by whom?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan, Leader of the Council

I've obviously got no idea and cannot really deal with your case whilst in the Council Chamber. Sorry.